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Recognition Policy of the Distance Education Council (DEC)

Recognition Status

- I. Provisional Recognition
- II. Continuance of Provisional Recognition
- III. Post Facto Recognition
- IV. Regular Recognition
- V. Territorial Jurisdiction
- VI. Approval to Study Centres

I Provisional Recognition

The Distance Education Council (DEC) gives provisional recognition to Universities/ Institutions who apply to DEC for offering programmes through distance education mode. Provisional recognition is accorded to Institutions that satisfy the minimum criteria prescribed by DEC for starting or for offering programmes in distance mode. Provisional recognition certifies or provides the authority to offer programmes in distance mode. The DEC maintains that all programmes are to be approved by the statutory bodies of the university and also by other regulatory bodies in the country, wherever required. Further it is the responsibility of the Institution concerned to take any such approval.

Provisional Recognition is an interim measure provided to the institutions for a period of one year.

II Continuance of Provisional Recognition

Such Institutions which are given provisional recognition and subsequently apply to DEC for Regular recognition are given continuation of the recognition till the Expert Committee visits the Institution, and the decision is taken regarding its regular recognition.

III Post Facto Recognition

Post facto recognition is accorded to ODL Institutions that were offering programmes in distance mode prior to the establishment of DEC and before the introduction of the Recognition Scheme by DEC in 2003. Post Facto recognition is accorded to such institutions who apply to DEC seeking post facto recognition. For such institutions, Post Facto recognition is accorded in view of the demand from their students and also from the employers in the light of the Gazette Notification No. 44 of the Govt. of India dated 1st March 1995. The Post Facto recognition is accorded to such institutions only from 1st March 1995 or from the date of commencement of Distance Education programmes which ever is later.

IV Regular Recognition

It is mandatory for all ODL Institutions to apply to DEC for regular recognition of their Institution as well as their programmes offered through distance mode. The regular recognition is valid for a minimum period of 3 years and a maximum period of 5 years.

V Territorial Jurisdiction

The Distance Education Council has decided not to insist on territorial jurisdiction to be followed by institutions in offering programmes through distance and online modes and on that matter, universities should be governed by their own Acts and Statutes.

VI Approvals to Study Centers

The DEC does not consider giving approvals to Study Centers of any distance education institution as opening of Study Centers and Regional Centers is an internal policy matter of the institution/ university concerned, as per the provision in their own Act/ Statutes.