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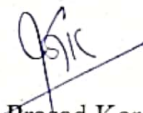
Date: 17th May, 2025

CIRCULAR:-

Attention of all the Principals of the Affiliated Colleges, Directors of the Recognized Institutions and the Head, University Departments are hereby informed that the recommendations made by the Academic Council at its meeting held on 04th December, 2024 vide Item No. 9.19 and subsequently approved by the Management Council at its meeting held on 15th April, 2025 vide item No. 2 and that in accordance therewith **Guidelines for Multidisciplinary Integrated, Dual, Joint, and Twinning Degree Program** under NEP 2020 was approved as per appendix with effect from the academic year 2024-25.

(The said circular is available on the University's website www.mu.ac.in).

MUMBAI – 400 032
17th May, 2025


(Dr. Prasad Karande)
REGISTRAR

To,

The Principals of the Affiliated Colleges, Directors of the Recognized Institutions and the Head, University Departments.

AC/9.19/04/12/2024

MC/2/15/04/2025

Copy forwarded with Compliments for information to:-

- 1) The Chairman, Board of Deans,
- 2) The Deans, Faculties of Science & Technology, Commerce and Management, Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies,
- 3) The Chairman, All Board of Studies,
- 4) The Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluation,
- 5) The Director, Department of Students Development,
- 6) The Director, Department of Information & Communication Technology,
- 7) The Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Vidyanagari,
- 8) The Deputy Registrar, Admissions, Enrolment, Eligibility & Migration Department (AEM).

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :-	
1	The Deputy Registrar, (Admissions, Enrolment, Eligibility and Migration Dept)(AEM), dr@eligi.mu.ac.in
2	The Deputy Registrar, Result unit, Vidyanagari drresults@exam.mu.ac.in
3	The Deputy Registrar, Marks and Certificate Unit,. Vidyanagari dr.verification@mu.ac.in
4	The Deputy Registrar, Appointment Unit, Vidyanagari dr.appointment@exam.mu.ac.in
5	The Deputy Registrar, CAP Unit, Vidyanagari cap.exam@mu.ac.in
6	The Deputy Registrar, College Affiliations & Development Department (CAD), deputyregistrar.uni@gmail.com
7	The Deputy Registrar, PRO, Fort, (Publication Section), Pro@mu.ac.in
8	The Deputy Registrar, Executive Authorities Section (EA) eau120@fort.mu.ac.in He is requested to treat this as action taken report on the concerned resolution adopted by the Academic Council referred to the above circular.
9	The Deputy Registrar, Research Administration & Promotion Cell (RAPC), rapc@mu.ac.in
10	The Deputy Registrar, Academic Appointments & Quality Assurance (AAQA) dy.registrar.tau.fort.mu.ac.in ar.tau@fort.mu.ac.in
11	The Deputy Registrar, College Teachers Approval Unit (CTA), concolsection@gmail.com
12	The Deputy Registrars, Finance & Accounts Section, fort draccounts@fort.mu.ac.in
13	The Deputy Registrar, Election Section, Fort drelection@election.mu.ac.in
14	The Assistant Registrar, Administrative Sub-Campus Thane, thanesubcampus@mu.ac.in
15	The Assistant Registrar, School of Engg. & Applied Sciences, Kalyan, ar.seask@mu.ac.in
16	The Assistant Registrar, Ratnagiri Sub-centre, Ratnagiri, ratnagirisubcentar@gmail.com
17	The Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Vidyanagari, director@idol.mu.ac.in
18	Director, Innovation, Incubation and Linkages, Dr. Sachin Laddha pinkumanno@gmail.com
19	Director, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (DLLE), dlleuniversityofmumbai@gmail.com

Copy for information :-	
1	P.A to Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, vice-chancellor@mu.ac.in
2	P.A to Pro-Vice-Chancellor pvc@fort.mu.ac.in
3	P.A to Registrar, registrar@fort.mu.ac.in
4	P.A to all Deans of all Faculties
5	P.A to Finance & Account Officers, (F & A.O), camu@accounts.mu.ac.in

To,

1	The Chairman, Board of Deans pvc@fort.mu.ac.in
2	Faculty of Humanities, Offg. Dean 1. Prof.Anil Singh Dranilsingh129@gmail.com Offg. Associate Dean 2. Prof.Manisha Karne mkarne@economics.mu.ac.in 3. Dr.Suchitra Naik Naiksuchitra27@gmail.com
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3	Chairman, Board of Studies,
4	The Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluation, dboee@exam.mu.ac.in
5	The Director, Board of Students Development, dsd@mu.ac.in DSW directr@dsw.mu.ac.in
6	The Director, Department of Information & Communication Technology, director.dict@mu.ac.in

As Per NEP 2020

University of Mumbai



Guidelines for Multidisciplinary Integrated, Dual, Joint & Twinning Degree program

(With effect from the academic year 2024-25)

Multidisciplinary Integrated, Dual, Joint, and Twinning Degree Program

1. Definitions:-

- a) **Course:** A basic unit of education and/or training. It means a paper taught for at least one semester as a part of a subject and is a program component. All courses need not carry the same weightage. A Collection of courses forms a program of study.
- b) **Dual Degree:** Two degrees or academic programs to be pursued simultaneously. The degrees for such programs shall be conferred by the Host/ Primary HEI/ University and Participating/ Collaborating HEI/ University, separately and simultaneously, upon completion of the degree requirements of the HEI and/or their affiliating Universities.
- c) **Fees:** It means all fees, including tuition fees, developmental/other heads of fees, payable by the students enrolled for the course (s) / program (s) of study by either Host/ Primary HEI/ University or Participating/ Partnering/ Collaborating HEI/ University or both.
- d) **Higher Education Institutions (HEI):** The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are empowered to award degrees by themselves or through their affiliating universities under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956.
- e) **Host/ Primary HEI/ University:** The first or primary or host HEI/ University where the student is enrolled in the first Semester and/ or the HEI/ University from which the student intends to graduate and receive a degree.
- f) **Integrated Degree**
- g) **Joint Degree:** Single Academic Degree Programme to be designed and pursued jointly by the Host HEI and Collaborating HEI. The Curriculum is to be designed jointly in such a way that the students must earn at least 30 percent of the total credits from each of the Host HEI/ University and Collaborating HEI/ University. The Degree is awarded jointly by both- Host HEI and Collaborating HEI (or jointly by affiliating Universities of the Host and Collaborating HEI) with a single Degree Certificate.
- h) **Participating/ Partnering/ Collaborating HEI/ University:** The HEI/ University collaborating with Host/ Primary HEI where student joins courses to earn credits under the Dual/ Joint/ Twinning Programme.
- i) **Programme:** The Programme /Programme of study means a higher education programme pursued for the degree specified by the Commission under Section 22 (3) of the UGC Act. It also refers to a collection of courses in which a student enrolls and which contributes to meeting the requirements for the awarding of one or more Certificates/ Diplomas/ Degrees.

- j) **Statutory/ Regulatory Body:** It means a body established or incorporated under a Central Act of India to regulate standards of general and professional programs of study and award of degrees in its area of concern. e.g. AICTE, NCTE, PCI etc
- k) **Twinning Degree:** The Collaborative arrangement whereby students enrolled with Host HEI/ University may undertake their programme of study partly in the Collaborating HEI/ University, however, credits earned by the student from the Collaborating HEI/ University shall not exceed 30 percent of the total credits for the programme. The degree under the Twinning arrangement shall be given solely by the Host HEI/ University.

2. Background:

NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to facilitate multiple pathways to learning involving both formal and non-formal education modes. It also underlines the need to offer the students a multidisciplinary education through a wide range of disciplines including Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities, and Languages, as well as Professional, Technical, and Vocational Subjects in a holistic manner to make them thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals. It also stresses the need to enable an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deeper level.

UGC, vide Guidelines for Pursuing Two Academic Programmes Simultaneously (April 2022), has asked all HEIs/ Universities to make appropriate changes to enable students desirous of pursuing two academic programs simultaneously. UGC guidelines on Multidisciplinary Institutions (September 2022) present details on the Collaboration between two HEIs for the award of Dual degrees to facilitate students to take up the first degree at the host institution and the second degree at the partnering institution. On the basis of recommendations given by the Taskforce for Implementation of NEP 2020 in Maharashtra through the Report of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar Committee (October 2020 - June 2021), the Higher & Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra had constituted the R D Kulkarni Committee to draft the guidelines for the Design of Structure and Curriculum of Multidisciplinary Four Years and Dual Degree Programme with Multiple Entry and Exit Options for implementation in Maharashtra State, which had submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra in October 2022. Subsequently, to ensure the smooth implementation of NEP 2020 in Maharashtra State, the Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof Nitin Karmalkar was constituted vide Government Resolution No. NEP-2022/ CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated December 26, 2022. The Steering Committee, in its meeting held on June 07-08, 2024, recommended the report on the Multidisciplinary Dual, Joint, and Twinning Degree Program for implementation in HEIs/ Universities of Maharashtra State.

Under the collaborative arrangement, single-stream HEIs such as Education, Science, Engineering, Commerce, Management, and Law can integrate their programs with those of nearby Multidisciplinary HEIs to enhance the inter-trans-/multi-disciplinarity of their programs. The multidisciplinary HEIs may also seek collaboration in case they are willing to expand further by adding more programs. It is, therefore, essential to capitalize on the strengths and willingness of HEIs to offer multidisciplinary programs through the facilitation of Collaboration and Cooperation in offering degree programs in innovative ways in the larger interests of aspiring Students, Parents, Employers/ Industries, and the Nation. On the other hand, with the rapid increase in demand for higher education, many eligible Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have started several programs in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/ Online Learning mode to meet the career goals of students, thus eliminating the barricade of the physical proximity of the HEIs. Thus, the holistic implementation of the Multidisciplinary Dual/ Joint/ Twinning Degree Program at Maharashtra State HEIs and Universities, in both formal and non-formal education modes, assumes major significance and will improve students' employability potential, problem-solving ability, critical thinking, creative abilities and appreciation of different perspectives.

3. Twinning Degree Program

1. Under a Twinning arrangement, students enrolled with a Host/ Primary HEI/ University in Maharashtra may undertake one/two semesters of their program (with an upper limit of 30% of total Credits) at a partnering HEI/ University in the state of Maharashtra or in India complying with relevant UGC regulations.
2. The Scheme and Curriculum of the Twinning Degree Program, designed collaboratively by two HEIs/ Universities, shall enrich learners' overall capabilities and skills. The Curriculum Design will be governed by GR No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated 20th April 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated May 16, 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023. The Credit Transfer Mechanism under Twinning Mode will have to be worked by the collaborating HEIs (with due approval of competent authorities of their Affiliating Universities)/ Collaborating Universities through entering into MoUs.
3. The Degree under Twinning Arrangement shall be given solely by the Host University/ Affiliating University of Host HEI.
4. The partnering HEIs shall ensure that the credits earned by the students shall not be from the overlapping course contents/curriculum.
5. Credits to be earned by the students from the host and partnering HEIs/ Universities shall be obtained through conventional mode.
6. Each HEI/ University shall issue a transcript for their respective courses,

with a remark indicating that the student has taken certain modules at the partner institution, wherever applicable.

7. The collaborating HEIs/ Universities shall make provisions for exit pathways for students who are unable to complete the Twinning Program with clear specification with respect to future acceptance of credits earned by the students.
8. Fees as applicable for the entire duration of the program shall be made public at the time of admission. It should be reasonable and affordable to all sections of the society.

4. Multidisciplinary Joint Degree program.

1. The curriculum for the Joint Degree Program shall be designed jointly by the collaborating HEIs/ Universities.
2. The Curriculum is to be designed in such a way that the students must earn at least 30 percent of the total credits from each of the Host HEI/ University and Collaborating HEI/ University. The Curriculum Design and the Credit Transfer Mechanism will be governed by GR No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated 20th April 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated May 16, 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023. The Scheme and curriculum of the Joint Degree Program shall be designed to enrich Learners' overall capabilities and skills.
3. Under these guidelines, the Joint Degree or Diploma or Certificate programs shall be governed by the Regulations notified by the UGC and the respective Statutory/Professional Councils, wherever applicable.
4. The Academic calendar, evaluation scheme, and credit structure of both collaborating HEIs/Universities shall be the same.
5. Credits earned for the course(s) at Collaborating Universities shall count towards the degrees jointly awarded by these Universities. On completion of the program, the Joint Degree shall be awarded by both the participating Universities with a single Degree certificate. Each Collaborating University shall issue a transcript for their respective courses, with a remark indicating that the student has taken certain modules at the partner institution.
6. In case of collaboration between two HEIs of the same University, the host and collaborating/participating HEIs shall enter into MoUs with due approval of this MoU from the competent authorities of the University. The affiliating University will award the Joint Degree and issue the transcript indicating the courses the student has pursued at the Host and Partner HEIs.
7. In case of collaboration between two HEIs affiliated with two different Universities, the host and collaborating HEIs shall enter into MoUs with due approval of this MoU from the competent authorities of both Universities. Both affiliating Universities will award the Joint Degree and issue the transcript indicating the courses the student has taken at the Host and

Partner HEIs.

8. Fees as applicable for the entire duration of the program shall be made public at the time of admission. It should be reasonable and affordable to all sections of the society.
9. The collaborating HEIs/ Universities shall make provisions for exit pathways for students who are unable to complete the Joint Degree program with clear Specifications with respect to future acceptance of credits earned by the students.
10. All other provisions related to offering of Joint Degree Program shall be decided mutually by the participating Institutions conforming to the respective rules, regulations, and ordinances of their respective Universities.
11. The collaborating HEIs/ Universities shall ensure that the credit earned by the students shall not be from overlapping course contents/ curriculum.

5. Multidisciplinary Dual Degree Program

1. The state universities in Maharashtra shall allow their students to pursue two academic programs simultaneously by devising the mechanisms and necessary approvals through their competent authorities (BoS, Faculty, BoD, AC, and MC).
2. Once Admitted, the students enrolled in the host HEI/ University will take up the first degree at the host HEI/ University and the second degree at the Partnering/ Collaborating HEI/ University leading to the award of Dual Degrees separately and simultaneously.
3. These guidelines shall apply only to students pursuing academic programs other than Ph.D. programs.
4. Under these guidelines, the Curricular Framework for Individual Degrees (UG Certificate or UG Diploma or 3/ 4 Years UG Degree or 1/2 Year PG programs) shall be governed by the Regulations notified by the UGC, the respective Statutory/Professional Councils, wherever applicable and GR No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated 20th April 2023, G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated May 16, 2023 and G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023, of Govt of Maharashtra. The Scheme and Curriculum of the Dual Degree program shall be designed to enrich Learners' overall capabilities and skills.

5. Mode of conduct of two full-time academic programs as part of the Dual Degree program

- A. The collaborating HEIs/ Universities can design two full-time academic programs, as part of the dual degree program, in the physical mode.
- B. Alternatively, the students can pursue two academic programs- one in full-time physical mode and another in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/Online Learning mode. Here the students can pursue the freedom

of choosing a second Degree (Online Mode) just by communicating the HEI/ University in writing. The Host HEI need not opt for collaboration.

- C.** Both academic programs, as part of the Dual Degree program, can be pursued through ODL/Online Learning Mode.

The Degree or Diploma or Certificate programs under ODL/Online Learning mode shall be pursued with only such HEIs that UGC-Distance Education Bureau/Statutory Council recognizes for running such programs.

- 6. In case the two degrees, to be pursued as part of the Dual Degree program, are to be offered in physical mode, then the host and partnering HEIs/ Universities must enter into an MoU in the best interests of Students.

- A.** In case of collaboration between two HEIs of the same University, the host and collaborating/participating HEIs shall enter into MoUs with due approval of this MoU from the competent authorities of the University. The affiliating University will award both degrees and issue the transcript indicating the courses the student has pursued at the Host and Partner HEIs.

- B.** In case of collaboration between two HEIs affiliated with two different Universities, the host and collaborating HEIs shall enter into MoUs with due approval of this MoU from the competent authorities of both Universities. Each affiliating University will award the corresponding degrees and issue the transcript indicating the courses the student has taken at the Host and Partner HEIs.

- C.** The student can pursue both academic programs simultaneously in the physical mode provided that the host and collaborating HEIs are located within the periphery of 5-20 km (exact magnitude of Proximity and Periphery to be decided by Competent Authorities of the Universities) and the class timings for one program in the host HEI do not overlap with the class timings of the other program in the Collaborating HEI. In other words, the physical proximity of the host and collaborating institutions should be such that they can share physical and human resources and ensure easier student and faculty mobility.

- D.** In the case of the non-proximity of the host and collaborating HEI and the offer of both academic programs in physical mode, the courses corresponding to these two different programs of Dual Degree would be pursued in separate semesters.

- 7. The Host and Collaborating HEIs/ Universities as well as students must ensure to avoid the overlapping of courses under six different verticals while choosing the courses under the Dual Degree Program. Thus, they shall ensure that the credits earned by the students shall not be from the overlapping course contents/curriculum, and the student shall submit to only one examination and evaluation process for each of the courses by the institutions in which he/she has registered for that course.

- 8. The collaborative Dual-major degree program should be naturally feasible,

be offered with the idea of bringing flexibility and interdisciplinarity for the students, and be based on innovative combinations based on skills, competency, and market requirements leading to the realization of new career and employment opportunities for the students. Thus, the choice of second degree should be made depending on what the student desires to explore in the future.

9. To encourage Dual Degree Programs across the Multidisciplinary domain, HEIs/ Universities need to make appropriate changes concerning admission policy and academic rules and regulations. T.C. and Migration shall not be made compulsory while conducting admission to the second academic program in Collaborating HEI.
10. The collaborating HEIs/ Universities shall make provisions for exit pathways for students who are unable to complete the Dual Degree program with clear specifications concerning the future acceptance of credits earned by the students.
11. Fees will be applicable as per the host institute for the first degree, and for the second degree, the fee structure of the partnering institution will be applicable. Fees as applicable for the entire duration of the program shall be made public at the time of admission. It should be reasonable and affordable to all sections of the society.
12. Host and Collaborating HEIs/ Universities should promote scholarship/ fellowship/ financial assistance to attract socially and economically weaker students for the Dual degree program.
13. The HEIs/ Universities must devise, articulate, and execute the rigorous plan for sensitization of stakeholders on the implementation of the Dual Degree Program.
14. HEIs/ Universities entering into academic collaborations, for Dual Degree programs, shall address matters relating to the grievances of students and the legal matters relating to the collaboration.

References:

- 1) UGC Guidelines for pursuing two academic programs simultaneously, April 2022.
- 2) Prof R. D. Kulkarni Report on structure and curriculum of 4 year and dual multidisciplinary degree programs with multiple entry-exit options for implementation in State University of Maharashtra (Chapter V), Accepted by Higher and Technical Education Dept, Govt of Maharashtra, October 2022.
- 3) UGC Guidelines for Transforming Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions, September 2022.
- 4) GR No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated 20th April 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated May 16, 2023/ G.R. No. NEP-2022 /CR No. 09/VISHI-3 dated July 04, 2023, Higher and Technical Education Dept, Govt of Maharashtra.