

# Sreenarayanaguru Open University Kollam

## ABSTRACT

SOU- Academics- Eligibility for Admission and Employment- Only for Degree from Universities & Higher Education Institutions and modes of learning approved by UGC- Orders issued.

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### AcA1 SECTION

UO No: 885A/AcA1/1/2025/SOU

Kollam, Date: 31/05/2025

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- Read: (1) UGC (ODL Programmes & OL Programmes) Regulations, 2020  
(2) UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of Undergraduate Degree and Postgraduate Degree) Regulations, 2025  
(3) UGC (Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to Qualifications Obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2025

### ORDER

The University Grants Commission (UGC), through multiple statutory communications and public notices, has unambiguously directed all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across India to **adhere strictly to the recognition norms** governing the validity of degree certificates. Only those degrees obtained through **Regular, Open and Distance Learning (ODL), or Online (OL) modes** from **UGC-approved institutions**, within the scope and period of recognition, are to be considered **legitimate and valid** for further academic pursuits and employment.

In view of these directives, and in order to uphold **academic sanctity, regulatory compliance and accountability, and the long-term credibility** of both the University and its learners, **Sreenarayanaguru Open University (SGOU)** hereby mandates the following with **immediate effect**:

#### **1. Degrees Must Originate from UGC-Recognized Institutions**

Only those candidates whose qualifying degrees awarded by **HEIs recognized by the UGC** at the time of admission and **for the specific programme and mode (Regular/ODL/OL)** including qualification obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions will be considered **eligible** for admission to various programmes and for employment under SGOU. Any degree obtained from an institution not recognized by UGC or not authorized to offer a specific programme in the specified mode will be **declared invalid for admission and employment** and shall be **disqualified at any point of time**.

#### **2. ODL/Online Degrees – Verification is Mandatory**

For degrees earned via **ODL or Online modes**, the following criteria are **mandatory**:

- The awarding university must have **UGC-DEB approval** for the exact programme during the academic year of the candidate's enrollment for that particular programme.
- It is the **candidate's responsibility** to verify this through official UGC records and retain valid and original proof.



### Consequences of Non-Compliance:

- If the above condition is not met or verifiable, **SGOU reserves the absolute right to reject the application or cancel the admission at any stage, including during or after the programme, without prior notice.**
- SGOU will **not entertain any appeals, claims, or refunds** in such cases. The responsibility lies solely with the learner.

### 3. Invalid Modes and Questionable Credentials

SGOU will **not recognize** the following qualifications for admission and employment:

- Degrees obtained through **Private Registration, Off-campus centers, or Franchise arrangements** that are not explicitly approved by UGC.
- Degrees from **foreign universities** not accredited by their national regulators or not recognized in India.
- Degrees awarded by **institutions blacklisted or derecognized** by UGC or state regulatory bodies at the relevant time as notified by UGC (Clause 7 of UGC (ODL Programmes & OL Programmes) Regulations, 2020).

No **equivalency certificates, academic concessions, or exceptions** shall be granted under any circumstances, in these cases.

### 4. Submission of Fraudulent, Forged, or Unrecognized Degrees

SGOU adopts a **zero-tolerance policy** toward any attempt to mislead or falsify academic credentials. If a candidate is found to have submitted a forged, tampered, or invalid degree certificate for admission and employment:

- The admission will be **immediately cancelled**, regardless of the academic stage, on submission of Fraudulent, Forged, or Unrecognized Degrees.
- Employment under the University will be cancelled with immediate effect.
- A **detailed investigation** will be initiated.
- **Legal action** will be pursued under relevant penal provisions.
- The matter may be reported to the original issuing authority and law enforcement agencies.

### 5. Learner's Sole Responsibility

It is the **sole responsibility of the applicant** to:

- Ensure that their qualifying degree meets all regulatory standards.
- Cross-check the institution's recognition and programme approval status from UGC's official database or website.
- Submit valid, authentic, and verifiable certificates.

It is reiterated that the **onus of proof and validity lies entirely with the candidate.** Ignorance of UGC norms, misinformation from third-party agents, or unverifiable claims will **not absolve the learner, of the responsibility.** Failure to produce valid



proof will result in **disqualification**, and SGOU will neither be liable nor entertain appeals, legal challenges, or refund claims in such instances.

## 6. Wider Implications and Institutional Integrity

This policy is rooted in the necessity to:

- Preserve the **academic excellence and legal validity** of SGOU's programmes.
- Protect genuine learners from the **future denial of employment, certification, or higher education** due to invalid qualifications.
- Ensure **institutional integrity** in line with national educational objectives and reforms.

SGOU's compliance with UGC's statutory framework is not just a legal mandate but a **moral and academic obligation**. Hence, SGOU remains committed to protect the quality of its academic ecosystem and the interests of its genuine learners by strictly enforcing these measures.

## 7. Final Declaration

**This order shall be binding and irrevocable.** All Schools, departments, admission authorities, Regional Centres, and Learner Support Centers are instructed to ensure **strict, uncompromising adherence to this order**. Non-compliance will attract **disciplinary and legal actions** for those responsible.

This order is issued in the interest of maintaining the **sanctity of higher education** in full alignment with the **University Grants Commission regulations**, and to protect learners from the adverse consequences of enrolling admission at SGOU with degrees from unrecognized institutions.

**Issued in the interest of academic excellence, legal compliance, and the long-term well-being of our learner community.**

Orders are issued accordingly.

  
**REGISTRAR**

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File.No.AcA1/1/62/SOU/2021

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