

Modalities for implementing 'Twinning arrangement' with
Foreign Higher Education Institutions

The transformation in higher education includes providing academic choices to students to opt for courses and institutions which shall enhance his/her knowledge, skills and exposure to a different learning environment to enable to develop their academic paths. The University has provided multiple exits to students pursuing undergraduate programmes in the Departments/Centres/ Colleges, after completion of specific Levels of study. However, it is also equally important to allow a semester away to students of the Departments/Centres/Colleges in between a programme to a Foreign Higher Education Institution (FHEI). Such students shall be able to take advantage of the exposure to the FHEI, account the credits earned from there for the purpose of grant of degree/ qualification and still get the degree from the University of Delhi. Accordingly, the University has formulated the following modalities for twinning arrangement by the committee constituted for the same.

1. Definitions

- i. **Credit** – a credit is a unit by which the course work is measured. One credit is equivalent to one hour of teaching (lecture/tutorial) or two hours of practical/practicum/fieldwork per week
- ii. **Colleges** – means those institutions which are covered under section 2(a) of the Delhi University Act, 1922
- iii. **Departments** – means departments which are listed under Statute 9B of the Statutes of the University of Delhi
- iv. **FHEI** – Foreign Higher Education Institute – means (i) a higher education institution duly established or incorporated or recognised in a foreign country and (ii) offering academic research programmes at the undergraduate and/or higher levels, with whom the University has signed Memorandum of Understanding
- v. **Host institution** – refers to the FHEI which receives an exchange student for a semester who otherwise is enrolled in a degree programme of the University of Delhi or its Colleges
- vi. **Learning agreement** – is an agreement between the student, parent institution and the host institution detailing the courses, credits, duration, and other attendant matters related to the twinning programme
- vii. **Parent institution** – refers to the University of Delhi where the student is enrolled in a degree programme

- viii. **Simultaneous degree programmes** – means pursuance of two academic programmes, one in full time physical mode and another in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)/Online mode
- ix. **Twinning arrangement** – it is a collaborative arrangement whereby students enrolled with the University (i.e. in a Department/Centre/College of the University of Delhi) may undertake a semester away of their programme of study in a FHEI. The credits earned by the student from the FHEI shall be accounted for the purpose of grant of Diploma/Degree, provided the credits are not earned from overlapping course contents/curriculum
- x. **University** - means the University of Delhi as incorporated by the Delhi University Act, 1922

2. Operationalization

- 1) A twinning arrangement with FHEI is a provision where students enrolled in any degree programme in the Department/Centres/Colleges of the University of Delhi shall be allowed to pursue study for a semester in a FHEI and earn credits from the host institution which shall be accounted for the purpose of securing the requisite credits for grant of such degree to which he/she has been enrolled in the parent University.
- 2) The aim of the twinning arrangement is to provide wider exposure, range of multidisciplinary approaches, pedagogy, research, internships, projects and global connect.
- 3) The University may initiate the collaborative arrangements whereby students enrolled in any programme offered in the university departments or colleges may undertake their programme of study partly in India and partly in the Foreign Higher Educational Institution, complying with relevant UGC Regulations, 2022, for a period of one semester.
- 4) Eligible FHEI: The eligibility criteria of a FHEI to be considered for collaboration for twinning arrangement shall be -
 - a. Foreign Higher Educational Institutions with comparative or higher QS World ranking/ Times Higher Education (THE) ranking to that of University of Delhi; [FHEIs of comparable ranking to that of University of Delhi means those FHEIs whose ranking in any of the last three years is within the range of 25% lower than the rank of the University in that year].
 - b. In case the FHEI's ranking is not within the range prescribed at (a) above, the QS world ranking of a discipline of a FHEI to which a student seeks to opt for twinning arrangement should be comparative or higher than the QS world/ Times Higher Education ranking of that specific discipline of the University; [Discipline of the FHEIs of comparable ranking to that of University of Delhi means those

disciplines of FHEIs whose ranking in any of the last three years is within the range of 25% lower than the discipline rank of the University in that year].

- 5) The International Relations office may identify the FHEIs with whom the University has active MoUs which satisfies the above eligibility; explore its concurrence for participating in a twinning collaboration; and then include the clause for collaborating for twinning degree programmes in their MoUs/ signing a fresh MoU with provision for twinning.
- 6) With respect to other FHEIs where there is no active MoU, the International Relations office may approach such FHEI for their intent/interest for such collaboration.
- 7) The College/Department which already has MoU(s) with FHEI(s) may be requested to submit existing signed MoUs to the International Relations Office so that the University can endorse those MoUs for the purpose of initiating the twinning arrangement with those FHEIs that fulfil the eligibility mentioned at Clause 2(4). The College/Department shall act as the facilitator of the Twinning arrangement.
- 8) It is desirable that there be an alignment between the academic calendars of the FHEI and the University for the successful execution of the twinning collaboration.
- 9) The International Relations Office shall publish prominently on the main website of the University as well as that of the International Relations office, the list of FHEIs along with their collaborating departments/subject domains with whom the students may explore the possibility of pursuing twinning arrangement.
- 10) Mapping of courses of the degree program of the University with that of the FHEI with which twinning arrangement is to be established shall be done prior to initiating exchange of students.
- 11) Learning agreements shall be signed between the University of Delhi and the FHEI for each student participating in twinning arrangement. Similar steps shall be followed for projects and internships engagement in FHEI.
- 12) An Academic Expert Committee shall be constituted which shall examine the applications for signing of Learning Agreement. The mapping (mentioned in point 10) shall be undertaken by this Committee. The Academic Expert Committee shall comprise of the following:
 - A. Dean, Academic Affairs - Chairperson
 - B. Chairperson, International Relations or Nominee

C. Controller of Examinations

D. Dean of the respective Faculty

E. Chairperson, Research Council (for research related matters/ Head of Department of the respective applicant (for PG students)/ the relevant Principal of the College (for UG students)

F. Joint Registrar (Academic) - Member Secretary

- 13) The Committee constituted to determine the modalities for initiating Twinning arrangement, Dual and Joint Degrees shall deliberate and recommend the approval process for the collaboration.
- 14) A student may be allowed to pursue one semester in FHEIs with a minimum of 12 credits and maximum of 26 credits.
- 15) If a student fails to qualify a course in FHEIs, he/she shall earn equal number of credits from the course(s) as recommended by the Academic Expert Committee of this University.
- 16) The Degree shall be awarded by the University where the student is enrolled.
- 17) The twinning arrangement between the two universities shall be implemented through an MoU and benefits /facilities to the students shall be extended based on bilateral basis as per MoU. These MoUs must be signed prior to the start of academic session so that courses can be mapped and announced to benefit interested students for such twinning arrangement.
- 18) Undergraduate students of the University of Delhi, enrolled from the academic year 2022-23 onwards, may be allowed to opt for semester away in a FHEI under the twinning arrangement only in the IIIrd, Vth and VIIth semesters, to ensure that the student completes the relevant qualification from the parent university, which shall award it.
19. Twinning arrangement may be made accessible to meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds through the following ways:
 - a. Two to four outstanding meritorious students belonging to economically weaker background shall be supported by the University for undergoing twinning arrangement in a FHEI.
 - b. The University may also tap its alumni base as well as CSR funds from corporates to provide sponsorship for the twinning arrangement in FHEIs for such students.

- c. Objective criteria shall be laid down for the purpose of selecting such student(s) from amongst the applicants.
 - d. Wherever liberal scholarship is being provided by a FHEI, those options shall be leveraged for those meritorious students belonging to economically weaker background.
20. The International Relations office shall propose the process for initiation and establishment of collaborations for the purpose of twinning arrangement and any other attendant matter pertaining to exchange of students through such arrangement including course content, fee structures, medical, liability and other relevant insurances, as well as accommodation and other logistics.
21. The International Relations office shall provide all necessary information on their website for the purpose of informing the students of the opportunities available to them.