

Brief Note about Jawaharlal Nehru University

Jawaharlal Nehru University constituted under the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act 1966 (53 of 1966) came into existence in 1969

The vision and mission of Jawaharlal Nehru University as stated in its Act 53/1966 is reproduced here under:

“The University shall endeavor to promote the study of the principles for which Jawaharlal Nehru worked during his life-time, National integration, social justice, secularism, democratic way of life, International understanding and scientific approach to the problems of society”.

Towards this end, the University shall:

- (i) foster the composite culture of India and establish such departments or institutions as may be required for the study and development of the languages, arts and culture of India;
- (ii) take special measures to facilitate students and teachers from all over India to join the University and participate in its academic programmes;
- (iii) promote in the students and teachers an awareness and understanding of the social needs of the country and prepare them for fulfilling such needs;
- (iv) make special provisions for integrated courses in humanities, science and technology in the educational programmes of the University;
- (v) take appropriate measures for promoting inter-disciplinary studies in the University;
- (vi) establish such departments or institutions as may be necessary for the study of languages, literature and life of foreign countries with a view to inculcate in the students a world perspective and international understanding;
- (vii) Provide facilities for students and teachers from other countries to participate in the academic programmes and life of the University.

Academic Programmes and Curriculum development

In order to offer academic programmes and conduct research, the JNU has so far established ten Schools and four Special Centres . Out of the ten Schools, the School of International Studies, the School of Social Sciences and the

School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies have different Centres, while other Schools are of a unitary nature and have no Centre.

All these Schools/Centres promote interdisciplinary studies – a unique feature of JNU.

Unlike other universities, the JNU's educational philosophy is reflected in its academic structure which is broad based and has interdisciplinary functioning within the Schools/Centres/Special Centres. Therefore, the basic academic units of the University are not single discipline departments but multidisciplinary Schools of Studies. A School has been visualized as a community of scholars from various disciplines which are linked with each other organically in terms of their subject-matter and methodology as well as in terms of problem areas. Each School is made up of a number of Centres which function within the broad framework of a School. Centres are discipline-based and inter-disciplinary.

JNU has undergraduate programmes only in foreign languages offered by the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies. All other programmes are at the level of Masters, M.Phil/Pre-Ph.D. and Ph. D. As a major post-graduate and research University in the areas of natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, the University has completed about 42 years and has acclaimed the status of international repute for its unique modern techniques in terms of teaching and research. University since inception has been following semester system and internal evaluation system with credit assigned to each course. It has been following the pattern of grading system on a 10-point scale [0 to 9].

JNU is innovative with regard to its academic structure and the revision of curricula is a continuous and an ongoing process. The revision of curricula is discussed by the faculty in the Centres where two outside experts also participate. At the School level, a Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR) deliberates upon research courses and programmes. The Board of Studies of the School also has experts from outside the school/university. Revision of courses is an ongoing process in the academic structure. The revision is initiated by individual faculty member(s) depending on requirements with a view to keep pace with the changing needs. In every Board meeting the old courses are revised and/or new courses are introduced.

Keeping the spirit of the interdisciplinary character of the University, the courses are structured in such a way that in addition to the prescribed compulsory courses in the discipline concerned, the students are encouraged to opt for optional courses from other Centres/Schools to benefit from the faculty of other Centres/Schools

The University follows Semester system, two semesters in a year. The system has been in vogue in the University since its inception. Each course is for the duration of one semester and it is assigned a specific number of credits. The number of credits to be assigned to a course is determined by the Board of studies of the School on the recommendation of the Centre concerned. Evaluation is done by the concerned course teacher with the exception of M. Phil dissertation and Ph. D. thesis. In the internal evaluation system seasonal work is assigned equal weightage with the end-semester examination. The pattern and schedule of seasonal work is prescribed by the Board of studies of the School on the recommendation of the Centre concerned and is made known to students at the commencement of each semester. The University organises teaching through Lectures, Tutorials, Seminars, Term-papers etc. These assignments are linked with a course having a number of credits with prescribed contact hours. .

Unless a student obtains prescribed grades and credits in optional courses, he/she will not be qualified for award of degree. Further the Student has to obtain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average at the end of each semester to become eligible to move to the next semester.

There are many inbuilt academic flexibilities for the student to improve the performance and complete the program.

As the University is mainly involved in instructional and research programmes, it is not limited to classroom activities with fixed hours. Being a residential University with hostels and residences of teachers intermingled, the students' instructional and research activities goes beyond classroom hours and normal office hours.

The emphasis of the University is to strengthen inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach in keeping the changing needs of society and recognition of fact that knowledge is indivisible and accordingly a structure of Schools and Centres of teaching has been established.

Recognized Institutions

As per the provisions of Act 5(13) of the JNU Act, University has so far recognized Six Defense Institutions and thirteen research Institutions for the award of various degrees of JNU as per the provisions of the relevant ordinances.

Students Admission

The Jawaharlal Nehru University has taken certain special measures to ensure that students from all parts of India and also from other countries of the world are able to join and benefit from teaching and research Programmes offered by the University.

Reservation in admission for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC and physically challenged categories is provided as per the Government of India norms. Deprivation points, up to a maximum of 10 points, are provided to the socially deprived category of candidates. This is a unique feature of the JNU admission policy and is intended to provide better opportunities to socially deprived category. It is worth noting that JNU introduced this provision as early as 1995, even before the Government of India introduced the reservation policy for candidates belonging to backward classes.

Admission to the University is based on performance in the entrance examination conducted all over India in about 80 centres including one in Kathmandu. The final selection is based upon performance in the written examination, viva and also the deprivation points. The success rate for the aspirants is about two per cent. In addition to normal intake, University has also got the provision of admitting up to 15 per cent foreign students. Students from about 40 countries are studying in JNU for various full time programme in addition to the students enrolled for a semester or two as non-degree casual students.

Out of the total strength of students, about 65 per cent are enrolled for the M.Phil/Ph.D. programme; 25 per cent for Masters and rest for the Undergraduate.

Quality Teaching

The quality of the University depends on the quality of faculty members. Because of the academic flexibility and freedom, JNU has been able to attract the best talent in different subjects to join the University as faculty members. The faculty selection is made in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes and as per the UGC guidelines. The JNU faculty is widely known for excellence in teaching and research. They have been participating in many national/international conferences besides organizing them. They are also serving as resource persons in academic staff college and in many other refresher orientation courses. They are also members of many committees constituted by the Government, research institutions and many Universities. Their innovative methods of teaching and evaluation attract many students to aspire for joining in different programmes of JNU.

Research

JNU has been promoting research by students and faculty. Faculty members have been able to attract competitive research grants from many national and international funding agencies. Currently, more than 300 research projects are running in the University. Research grants are also received from DST, DBT, ICMR, CSIR, UGC, ICSSR, ICHR, ICCR, Ministries, European Union, European Commission, Ford Foundation, Wellcome Trust etc. In

addition to research projects, faculty members are also encouraged to undertake consultancy projects. University has also set up an Advanced Instrumentation Research facility where state of the art equipments have been installed to meet the requirements of many science schools/special centres. University has also set up an Intellectual Property Management (IPM) Cell to facilitate filing of patents and technology transfers.

Publications :

The faculty of the University has been regularly publishing many research journal articles, books; contributed chapters in books; presented papers in national and international conferences/workshops and delivered several lectures outside the University.

Extension Activities and Outreach Programmes

The Schools & Centres actually participate in the University level initiatives in these matters and are committed to ensure social justice and empowerment of the underprivileged.

Women, children and underprivileged sections of the society are educated about key features of environmental quality and health, e.g., water portability, quality and human health and environmental conservation. Extension activities are organized specially to mark special events like the Earth day, Environment Day, Biodiversity year, various programs on rain water harvesting and biodiversity conservations.

Many schools are also organizing Summer training programmes for the students and faculty of other colleges and Universities; open day for students including school children on National science day etc.

Collaboration

University has academic collaboration with many national and international organizations and universities. The academic collaboration with international universities allows exchange of faculty, students, joint research projects, joint seminars etc.

Many international Universities are showing keen interest in having academic collaboration with JNU and JNU has signed MoU with about 150 international Universities from several countries all around the Globe.

JNU Campus

The JNU campus is spread over 1000 acres of undulated terrain. Every School/Special Centre is situated in separate buildings. Each School/Centre has class rooms for teaching, rooms for faculty and nonteaching staff. The Science schools have their own laboratories and their own Central

Instrumentation Facilities. There are separate buildings for Central Administration. There is a Central Library with a carpet area of 1 lac square feet situated in a nine-storey building. There are several hostels and residential quarters to accommodate students, faculty members and non-teaching staff. Most of the students are staying on the campus. There is a Convention Centre commissioned recently. Many new buildings are under construction.

The maintenance of infrastructure and buildings is undertaken by the Engineering Branch of the University.

WEBSITE :

The University has already initiated steps to develop an informative website (<http://www.jnu.ac.in/>). A lot of information relevant to students, faculty and staff is readily made available on JNU website. This includes admission procedure, declaration of entrance examination results, downloading of admit cards, fellowships, scholarships, fees, reservation, facilities – hostels, guest houses, medical facilities, disabilities support, placements, tenders, Schools/Centres information, recent events, important rules and regulations, information required to be displayed under RTI Act etc.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION:

In order to ensure effective administration the University proposes to train the administrative staff and officers of the University. The introduction of e-governance would invariably necessitate training and retraining of clerical, administrative staff and officers. This is proposed to be done by providing on the job training and also deputing administrators to attend training programmes, seminars and conferences for effective administration.

FINANCE :

Among the central universities in India, JNU is one of the few universities to keep up its commitment made to UGC and MHRD by submitting its accounts for the Financial Year 2004 – 2005 in the Accrual form or accounting.

To impart our experience, the University conducted a training programme on accrual system of accounting for the Finance Officers of Central Universities in July, 2006.

At the instance of UGC, the JNU had organized two-day workshop on “Conversion from Cash Accounting to Accrual Accounting System” on 11-12 July, 2006 in the Administrative Block of the University. Finance Officers of various Central Universities were invited to attend the workshop. In all, Finance Officers and Deputy Finance Officers from Seven Central Universities

participated in the said workshop. A few senior officials from MHRD and UGC also participated in the said workshop.

The two-day workshop was followed by an interaction session where lectures on General Principles and Conventions on accounting system vis-à-vis Accrual Accounting System were discussed. Basics of Accrual Accounting System and the elements involved in the changeover from cash accounting to accrual accounting system were the main issues and the lectures by experts were delivered on these aspects. The workshop was found to be very fruitful by the participants and the participants desired that such type of workshop should be held at regular intervals.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS:

A number of research scholars are recipient of fellowship/scholarship on the basis of having qualified their UGC-NET examination. Some of the students are awarded State Govt. Scholarship, sponsored fellowships and merit-cum means scholarships.

To promote higher education, JNU (supported by UGC) has enhanced fellowship amount to all registered M. Phil./Ph. D. Students [M. Phil - Rs. 3000/- and Ph. D. – Rs. 5000/-] from 1st April, 2007. JNU has already been supporting BA/MA students by providing Rs. 1500/-p.m. fellowship from its own resources. **As a result, every full time enrolled student of JNU receives financial assistance.**