

Statement: On the JNU administration's 17 August circular on intake

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On 17 August, the JNU administration issued Guidelines to work out the intake for the research programmes of Centres/Schools. The formula provided will lead once again to extremely low to zero admissions across the university.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

GUIDELINES TO WORK OUT INTAKE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Date: 17/8/2017

Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the subject cited above, the following points may be taken into consideration:

1. As per the UGC Regulations 2016, only regular faculty/Teacher can be appointed as supervisor. Thus, superannuated faculty, re-employed faculty, research scientist, part-time/ad-hoc/guest teacher(s) and faculty without Ph.D degree are not eligible to act as supervisor and, hence, may not be taken into consideration to work out intake.
2. The students who have been de-registered from the M.Phil./Ph.D. programme should not be included in the current strength of the students of the respective programme.
3. The number of students enrolled under 9(b) clause of Ph.D. Ordinance of JNU will be considered as possible vacant seat while calculating intake positions for the Academic Year, 2018-19.
4. The number of students who are in final year of the Ph.D. programmes, as per the Ordinance, will be considered as possible vacant seat while calculating intake positions for the Academic Year, 2018-19.
5. In view of the minimum period required to complete M.Phil./Ph.D. research work, as per the UGC regulations 2016 and the academic interest of the students, it is advised that the faculty who are going to retire/superannuate by June 2021 should not take new Ph.D. student(s) for guidance; and the faculty who are going to retire/superannuate by June 2020 should not be supervisors for M.Phil. students admitted in the Acad. Year, 2018-19.
6. The M.Phil./Ph.D. students registered under the faculties who have been retired/superannuated/resigned and/or are going to retire/superannuate by July 2018 should be transferred to the other faculties in due course of time. However, the number of students who are not going to submit their dissertation/thesis by July 2018, their seats will not be treated as vacant.
7. The number of students who are registered in 3rd Semester of M.Phil. (integrated M.Phil./Ph.D. Programme) and students who are registered under provisional Ph.D. will be considered as continuing students of integrated M.Phil./Ph.D. Programmes for the purpose of calculation of intake for the Ph.D. Programme for the Acad. Year, 2018-19.

8. The number of students who are registered in M.Phil. Programme for the Academic Year, 2017-18, in the Monsoon Semester 2017 and doing course work will be considered as continuing students of M.Phil. Programme for the purpose of calculation of intake for M.Phil. Programme for the Academic Year, 2018-19.
9. The M.Phil./Ph.D. students to whom supervisors are yet to be allotted may be tentatively adjusted against the faculties who have vacancies to enable the Admission Branch to decide the number of intake.
10. The faculty members who have excess number of students, as per UGC Regulation 2016, may continue with the present number of students as supervisor. However, he/she can take new intake only after the number comes down to the limit prescribed in the UGC Regulation 2016.
11. The details may be provided in the attached format.

In view of the above, it is requested to kindly draw the intake of your Centre/School as per the UGC Regulation 2016 and the guidelines given above. It is also requested to kindly send the same to the Assistant Registrar (Evaluation) (E-mail: dr_eval@mail.jnu.ac.in) in the attached format latest by 24th August, 2017 (Thursday).

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(Prof. Milap Punia)
Director of Admissions

These Guidelines should, first of all, immediately convince teachers that the JNU administration has been misleading the JNU community all along, when it has said that the UGC Regulations 2016 need to be implemented verbatim and there can be no process of harmonisation with JNU Rules. **As can be seen in the formula provided for calculating intake, the JNU administration has sensibly listened to teachers' suggestions that PhD IV year students and 9(b) students need not be counted. The UGC Regulations 2016 are therefore, the JNU administration admits, not set in stone.**

Nevertheless, JNUTA cannot accept the formula for counting intake as yet, for the following reasons:

First of all, the formula circulated has not been passed by the Academic Council of the University, and therefore the proposal is a violation of the JNU Act, 1966, by which it is only the Academic Council of the university that can determine the intake of the university's Centres and Schools.

Second, since the impact of this formula is intended to be one that will reduce seats for admission, it will lead to egregious violation of the Central Educational Institution (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006. It consequently also violates the UGC Regulations 2016, whose Clause 5.2.3 requires adherence to national and state reservation policy.

Third, the suggestion offered by the formula that faculty set to retire by 2020/2021 should not be counted in as potential research supervisors for the calculation of intake is in blatant contravention of the UGC Regulations 2016, which state that any full time regular faculty of the university with a

PhD degree can supervise research.

Fourth, the JNUTA does not accept supervision caps for faculty based on rank. Not only are these caps measures that reduce intake, leading to CEI violations, they also severely disadvantage early to mid career teachers in terms of API points vis-a-vis the category of research supervision. Further, the caps are based on a pathological misunderstanding of research: young faculty play perhaps the most important role in catalysing and developing new research, and to starve them of research students is not in the best interests of intellectual inquiry.

Fifth, this formula directly contradicts the JNU administration's July 14 Circular that announced that the UGC Regulations 2016 would have no retrospective effect. If there is no retrospective application of the IUGC Regulations for students, there can be none for teachers as well, and the supervision counter of all faculty must be set to zero from 2017-18.

Consequently, only the numbers of students that faculty are supervising from the 2017-18 batch can be relevant. As the bulk of the research programmes of the university had zero admissions for 2017-18, that zero will carry over for the 2017-18 admissions as well.

Sixth, the formula misreads the UGC guidelines to conclude that intake is to be determined along the sole criterion of availability of research supervision. In fact, the UGC Regulations ask for a simultaneous consideration of the interests of research scholars and other academic and physical facilities available in determining the intake.

Seventh, the formula fails to take into account what an integrated

M.Phil./PhD research programme is, by which the number of M.Phil. and PhD students per supervisor should not be treated as completely unrelated numbers. Furthermore, counting both M.Phil. Years I and II as supervision is not only ludicrous, it also makes a mockery of the UGC Regulations themselves, which clearly make obtaining a minimum grade in the coursework an eligibility condition for progressing to the dissertation stage.

The JNUTA counsels the JNU administration not to repeat the mistakes of the 2017-18 admissions, which have had such disastrous consequences in terms of violations of the CEI Act and Constitutional guarantees on reservation. It reiterates the demands made by the members of the 143rd Academic Council that the only way forward is through consultation and discussion. In particular, we draw the JNU administration's attention once again to the motion moved by more than 40 AC members of 143rd AC, which proposed that a representative Committee of the university be entrusted with the task of examining the manner in which the UGC Regulations 2016 may be adopted through a process of harmonisation with the JNU Act, Statutes, inclusive admission policy, and its character a research university. Although this motion was never discussed in the 143 AC ([full text here](#)) a Committee reporting to the AC is the only route forward.

Ayesha Kidwai

Pradeep Shinde

President

Secretary

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