Pilot Program: International Graduate Students from India

Admitting Students with 3-Year Undergraduate Degree

Recruitment of top-quality international graduate students by US universities is facing new and perhaps sustained challenges amid changing geopolitical circumstances around the globe. A large number of US universities are adopting innovative recruitment strategies to grow their international student enrollments, especially international graduate student enrollments. At Oregon State, in order to meet the goals in the University’s Strategic Plan, the discussion to increase international graduate student enrollment has focused on implementing key strategies, including improving the visibility of OSU amongst top-quality institutions worldwide, enhancing our recruitment strategies, streamlining the graduate admissions process, reducing decision-making time on graduate applications, and offering competitive funding in the form of assistantships/fellowships.

Although OSU’s current graduate admissions policy allows programs to apply for exceptions for deserving students, it prohibits the acceptance of students with a 3-year undergraduate degree from India into OSU’s master’s programs. While OSU’s doctoral programs have benefited greatly from the presence of international students, our master’s programs have not been able to take advantage of a growing market of top-quality undergraduate students from India – a country with a long-standing tradition of higher education and with one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

In fall 2011, under the direction of the Provost and Executive Vice President, the Division of International Programs constituted a taskforce to review and discuss our current graduate admissions policies and to examine the possibility of considering students with 3-year undergraduate degree from India for admissions into our master’s programs. The findings of the taskforce and the concept of the pilot were discussed with the leadership and faculty in the Colleges of Business and Public Health and Human Sciences.

The taskforce recommended admitting a specified number of high-achieving students with a three-year undergraduate degree from top-tiered accredited Indian universities into our MBA and MPH programs for two years (2013-2015). At the end of the pilot period, the taskforce, along with leadership in the two Colleges, will evaluate the outcome of the program based on standardized criteria to measure student success.

The pilot program will involve accepting a limited number, to be specified by the two Colleges, of top-quality students with an undergraduate degree from certain top-ranked and accredited Indian universities. Under the pilot program, faculty in both the MBA and MPH programs at OSU will review applications using program-specific admissions criteria. Once admitted, the students’ performance will be tracked for grade point average and graduation rates.

1 The Graduate Council in 2007-2008 reviewed the graduate admissions criteria and discussed admission of students with 3-year Bachelor’s degree specifically from Bologna countries. The GC concluded that, “...as long as the exception process is clearly articulated and there is a process available, we should continue to allow the department chairs and admissions groups to decide which 3-year degrees are equivalent” (GC Meeting minutes, February 1, 2007).
2 Taskforce members: Amy McGowan, Brenda McComb, Gigi Bruce, Jim Coakley, Sunil Khanna, and Valerie Rosenberg.
At the end of this period, a team of faculty and administrators from the COB, PHHS, the Graduate School, will review the program and report the outcome to the Provost and Executive Vice President so that modification and or continuation of the program can be considered.

**Higher Education System in India: An Overview**

Since the system of higher education in India differs from the United States, it is important to understand some of the key characteristics, including the three-undergraduate degree program and the accreditation system, that are unique to the Indian system. Although India’s higher education system is rapidly transforming, it owes much to India’s colonial past. The Indian university system follows a three-tiered degree structure – undergraduate, master, and doctorate and a network of colleges affiliated with degree granting universities. While the instruction takes place in affiliated colleges, the university is responsible for drafting and revising the syllabi, conducting examinations, and awarding degrees.

**Accreditation and Assessment of Higher Education**

In order to regulate the higher education system, the Indian government established the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1956 and adopted the University Grants Commission Act (UGC Act)\(^3\). The UGC Act defines the UGC as the apex charged with regulating the quality of higher education in India. The UGC accredits all federally-funded or state-funded universities. It also maintains a rigorous database of government-accredited universities eligible to award degrees. In 1994, the UGC founded the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) to improve the quality of higher education and to establish a nation-wide system of accreditation and assessment of universities/institutions that are funded by the Federal of state government. Both the NAAC and the NBA recruit university vice-chancellors, deans, principals, and department heads to serve as members of these national-level accrediting bodies.

The primary responsibility of both the NAAC and the NBA is to assess and accredit universities based on a clearly defined process\(^4\) and criteria that include the curriculum, teaching and student assessment, infrastructure and resources, student support, and institutional management. Institutions that complete the process successfully and qualify for accreditation are graded on a 100-point scale\(^5\). The UGC website provides a list of all accredited universities/institutions\(^6\). These include institutions of national importance, universities (federally or state funded), and “deemed universities.”

---

\(^3\) Under the UGC Act, “…the right of conferring or granting degrees shall be exercised only (a) by a University established or incorporated by or under the Central Act, or a State Act; or (b) by an Institution deemed to be University or an institution specially empowered by an Act of the Parliament to confer or grant degrees.” For additional details, please see The University Grants Commission Act 1965 and Rules and Regulations Under the Act. University Grants Commission, Government of India, 2002. ([http://www.ugc.ac.in/policy/ugc_act.pdf](http://www.ugc.ac.in/policy/ugc_act.pdf))

\(^4\) A university undergoes the accreditation process in a step-wise manner under the guidance of the NAAC. First, the university prepares a self-study report which is evaluated by the NAAC. This evaluation is followed by a site visit by the NAAC team of accreditors. Finally, based on the outcomes of the first two steps, the NAAC awards accreditation and assigns an accreditation grade to the university.

\(^5\) Grade A = 85-100; Grade B = 70-85; Grade C = 55-70. The grading scale is heavily weighed (70%) toward teaching and learning resources. The remaining 30 points are used to evaluate institutional management and sports.

\(^6\) Please also see [http://www.ugc.ac.in/](http://www.ugc.ac.in/).
Accredited universities in India award three-year Bachelor Degrees in arts (B.A.), science (B.Sc.), and commerce (B.Com.). Each Bachelor degree can be awarded as a “pass or general” or as an “honors” degree. All “pass or general” degrees require students to study English and one Indian language in addition to two or three core disciplinary areas. All “honors” degrees require students to complete coursework in an area of specialization in addition to taking courses in “subsidiary” and “qualifying” disciplines. The key distinguishing feature here is that, unlike in the US universities, Indian universities do not designate the subsidiary or qualifying courses as “background” or “baccalaureate core.”

**Pilot Program: Scope and Structure**

The Graduate School and the academic colleges, with oversight from the Graduate Council and support from the Division of International Programs will work to implement the pilot. The pilot is designed to identify and recruit top-quality graduate students to the two professional degree programs (MBA and MPH), and to increase diversity in our international graduate student population. OSU’s partnership with INTO University Partnerships allows us a strategic advantage to use their global recruitment network and experience to market OSU’s programs, assist in identifying top-quality students, and facilitating recruitment of the students to OSU’s MBA and MPH programs.

The Colleges of Business and Public Health and Human Sciences have agreed to accept a maximum number of 15 students each. The following minimum criteria for admission will be used to ensure that the programs only accept top-quality students into the two professional degree programs (see Diagram 1). Each College also requires letters of recommendation, statements of objectives, etc.

**Minimum OSU Evaluation Criteria**

1. OSU GPA requirement: ‘First Class’ or 60% out of 100% is generally equivalent to a ‘B’ average. Minimum GPA varies by individual school grading scale. Students must have 60% on the last two years of graded undergraduate coursework and any work completed after the undergraduate degree.

2. English Language Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOEFL</th>
<th>Paper - 550, Internet - 80 (with minimum sub-scores of 18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper - 500, Internet - 61 (possible Conditional Admission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.0 (possible Conditional Admission)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MBA Admissions Criteria**

1. Only students with an undergraduate degree from a UGC accredited or NAAC designated as “A or above” ranked university in India will be allowed to apply under the pilot program (see Annexure 1).

2. Minimum acceptable undergraduate GPA is a ‘First Class’ 60% out of 100%, which is generally equivalent to a ‘B’ average. Minimum GPA varies by individual school grading scale. Students must have ‘First Class’ on the last two years of graded undergraduate coursework and any work completed after the undergraduate degree.
3. Minimum acceptable language proficiency score is 575 on the paper-based TOEFL test; 91 total with minimum subscores of at least 22 on the internet-based version or a minimum score of 7 on the IELTS. The OSU MBA program does not offer conditional admission.

4. Minimum acceptable GMAT is 500, and verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sub-scores in at least the 20th percentile.

MPH Admissions Criteria

1. Only students with an undergraduate degree from a UGC accredited or NAAC designated as “A” ranked university in India will be allowed to apply under the pilot program (see Annexure 1).

2. Priority will be given to students interested in the Biostatistics and Epidemiology tracks in the MPH program.

3. Minimum acceptable undergraduate GPA is 60% out of 100% on the last two years of graded undergraduate coursework and any work completed after the undergraduate degree.

4. Prerequisite coursework: Students requesting admission to a specific program area will have successfully completed significant undergraduate foundational coursework in their area of interest. All MPH tracks require successful completion of an undergraduate course in statistics. In some instances, a lack of prerequisite entrance coursework may result in provisional program admission.

5. Minimum acceptable language proficiency score is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL; 80 total with minimum subscores of at least 18 on the internet-based version or a minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS. Conditional admission may be considered in some cases.

6. Minimum acceptable GRE scores are generally around 500 in each GRE category (verbal and quantitative) and a minimum score of 4.5 in the analytical category is used as the guideline for acceptance to the MPH program. MPH applicants may submit MCAT scores.

Evaluation of the Pilot Program

Standardized data on student performance will be used to evaluate the outcome of the pilot program on an annual basis.

1. Grades in individual courses
2. Overall GPA
3. Graduation Rates
Diagram 1: Admissions Criteria for the Three-Year Undergraduate Degree Pilot Program

Applicant from India with 3-year Undergraduate Degree

Indian institution accredited by UGC or received an “A or above” rating by the NAAC

Meets OSU minimum Graduate School requirements for GPA and language proficiency

Qualified for admission to MBA/MPH meeting departmental minimum requirements and accepted by department committee

Applicant admitted. Letter of Admission and I-20 sent to student

Student evaluated throughout program of study, including GPA, relevant background, and program fit

Program reports annually to the Graduate Council on student progress. At the end of three-year period, final recommendation made

Institution not accredited by UGC or did not receive NAAC “A or above” rating: Application denied

Does not meet minimum requirements: Application denied

Either does not meet minimum department standards or otherwise not suitable: Application denied
Annexure 1: Indian Universities Accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) or National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

Note: This is a comprehensive list that includes names and locations of universities accredited either by the UGC or by NAAC. This list includes only those NAAC accredited universities that have received an A or higher accreditation grade. Unlike the NAAC, the UGC does not use a grading system for accreditation.

Arunachal Pradesh
1. Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (UGC)

Assam
2. Assam University, Silchar (UGC)
3. Tezpur University, Tezpur (UGC)

Andhra Pradesh
4. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam* (NAAC Grade = A)
5. Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad (UGC)
6. Osmania University, Hyderabad* (NAAC Grade = A+)
7. University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad* (NAAC Grade = A+)

Bihar
8. Central University of Bihar, BIT Campus, P.O. - B.V. College, Patna (UGC)

Chhatisgarh
9. Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhatisgarh (UGC)

Delhi
10. Guru Gobin Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi (NAAC Grade = A)
11. Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi* (UGC)
12. Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi* (UGC)
13. Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi (NAAC Grade = A)
14. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi* (NAAC Grade = A)
15. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi (UGC)
16. The University of Delhi, Delhi* (UGC)

Gujarat
17. Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (UGC)
18. Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (UGC)
19. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad (UGC)
20. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University (UGC)
21. Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (UGC)
22. Gujarat University (UGC)
23. Sardar Patel University, Vallab Vidyanagar (UGC)
24. Saurashtra University, Rajkot (UGC)

Himachal Pradesh
25. Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamashala (UGC)

Haryana
26. Central University of Haryana, Gurgaon (UGC)
27. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (UGC)
28. Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak (UGC)

Jammu & Kashmir
29. Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar (UGC)
30. Central University of Jammu, Jammu (UGC)

Jharkhand
31. Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi (UGC)
Karnataka
32. Bangalore University, Karnataka* (NAAC Grade = A+)
33. Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga (UGC)
34. Manipal University, Mangalore, Karnataka* (NAAC Grade = B+)

Kerala
35. Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod (UGC)

Madhya Pradesh
36. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (UGC)
37. Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (UGC)

Maharashtra
38. Bharti Vidyapeeth University/Pune, Maharashtra (NAAC Grade = A)
39. Gohkale Institute of Politics & Economics/Pune, Maharashtra (NAAC Grade = A+)
40. Mumbai University/Mumbai, Maharashtra* (NAAC Grade = A+)
41. Symbiosis International University/Pune, Maharashtra* (NAAC Grade = A)
42. Tata Institute of Social Science/Mumbai, Maharashtra* (NAAC Grade = A+)
43. Pune University (UGC)
44. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (UGC)
45. Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (UGC – Deemed)
46. Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (UGC – Deemed)

Mizoram
47. Mizoram University, Aizwal (UGC)

Meghalaya
48. North Eastern Hill University, Shillong (UGC)

Manipur
49. Manipur University, Imphal (UGC)

Nagaland
50. Nagaland University, Campus Kohima, Lumani (UGC)

Orissa
51. Central University of Orissa, Koraput (UGC)

Pondicherry
52. Pondicherry University, Puducherry* (UGC)

Punjab
53. Central University of Punjab, Bathinda* (UGC)
54. Punjab University (UGC)
55. Guru Nanak Dev University (UGC)
56. Lovely Professional University (UGC)

Rajasthan
57. Central University of Rajasthan, Jaipur (UGC)

Sikkim
58. Sikkim University, Sikkim (UGC)

Tamil Nadu
59. Alaagapa University, Karaikudi (NAAC Grade = A)
60. Anna University, Chennai* (NAAC Grade = A+)
61. Bharartiar University, Coimbatore* (NAAC Grade = A)
62. Central university of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvarur (UGC)
63. Periyar University, Salem (NAAC Grade = B+)
64. University of Madras, Chennai* (NAAC Grade = A)
Tripura
65. Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, Agartala (UGC)

Uttar Pradesh
66. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh* (UGC)
67. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow (UGC)
68. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi* (UGC)
69. Shobit University, Noida (UGC)
70. University of Allahabad, Allahabad* (UGC)
71. Amity University (UGC)

Uttarakhand
72. Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal (UGC)

West Bengal
73. Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan (UGC)
74. Calcutta University (UGC)

*The MBA program will consider applicants who have received an undergraduate degree from these universities.