

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 353
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

Establishment of foreign university campuses in the country

353 # **Smt. Maya Naroliya:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposals from foreign universities to set up its campuses in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of these proposals and the criteria set to ensure accessible and quality education for Indian students; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to evaluate the proposals received from these foreign universities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): A number of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) have expressed interests to establish their branch campuses in India, under the two enabling regulations, issued by the Government in line with the objectives of National Education Policy 2020:

- University Grants Commission (UGC) (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023, and
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022.

UGC has issued 13 Letters of Intent (LoIs) to FHEIs from Australia, Italy, United Kingdom and USA to set up their campuses at various places in India including Bengaluru (Karnataka), Delhi NCR, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu). Among these, University of Southampton, UK commenced its courses in August 2025 at its campus in Gurugram, Haryana.

Under IFSCA Regulations 2022, approvals have been accorded to 5 universities from Australia and UK (Northern Ireland) for operating offshore branch campuses in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Among these 5 universities, Deakin University, Australia commenced its courses in July, 2024, and University of Wollongong, Australia commenced its courses in November, 2024.

Both regulatory frameworks are designed to ensure that the education imparted in India is of the same standard as that offered at the parent campuses abroad, while also ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Only FHEIs ranked within the top 500 globally ranked universities are eligible, and applicants must submit the latest accreditation or quality assurance reports from recognized bodies. The qualifications awarded by FHEIs under the UGC Regulations shall be recognized and treated as equivalent to any corresponding qualification awarded by Indian Higher Educational Institutions, and no further equivalence from any authority would be required.

UGC has instituted a single-window clearance mechanism and constituted a high-powered Standing Committee to evaluate the proposals for establishment of FHEI campuses in India. The Committee examines the applications and makes recommendations to the Commission. Based on these recommendations, UGC grants in-principle approval and issues a Letter of Intent.
