

क्रमांक/Ref. No. BUSS/Foreign Students/2022-23

Dated:10.03.2025

To

The Registrars of the universities having Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa Colleges
Directors/ Deans/Principals of all Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa Colleges

Sub: Guidelines for Promotion and maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions/Universities Imparting Graduate Programs in Indian System of Medicine – reg.

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the subject mentioned above, The Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa is hereby forwarding a copy of approved guidelines in respect of Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions/Universities Imparting Graduate Programs in Indian System of Medicine for information and implementation.

Enclosure: - As above

डॉ. के. जगन्नाथन
Dr. K. Jagannathan
अध्यक्ष, यूनानी, सिद्धा और सौवा-रिग्पा बोर्ड
President, Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa
भारतीय चिकित्सा पद्धति राष्ट्रीय आयोग
National Commission for Indian System of Medicine
पंजाबी बाग (पश्चिम), नई दिल्ली-110026
Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi-110026

Copy:

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of AYUSH, Ayush Bhawan B-Block, GPO Complex INA, New Delhi – 110023
2. The Chairperson, NCISM
3. President of all boards, NCISM
4. Members of all boards, NCISM
5. Health Secretaries of all State Govt./Union Territories dealing with the Education of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa.
6. Commissioners/Directors of ISM & H of all State Govt. /Union Territories.
7. Under Secretary, AACCC, Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Bhawan B-Block, GPO Complex INA, New Delhi – 110023 (aaccc-admn-ayush@gov.in)
8. Guard file

Dr. K. Jagannathan
President, Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa,
NCISM

National Commission for Indian System of Medicine
Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India
New Delhi



**Guidelines for Promotion and Maintenance of
Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian
and Foreign Educational Institutions/Universities
Imparting Graduate programs
in Indian Systems of Medicine
(2025)**

Office: T-19, 1st & 2nd Floor, Block -IV, Dhanwantari Bhawan,
Road No.-66, Block-IV Punjabi Bagh (west) NEW DELHI – 110026

PREAMBLE

In an era of global interconnectedness and educational advancement, the importance of fostering robust academic collaboration between Indian and foreign educational institutions has never been more pronounced. Recognizing the rich heritage and profound contributions of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM) to global health and well-being, the NCISM (National Commission for Indian System of Medicine) is committed to promote and maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence in the field.

These guidelines are to facilitate and enhance the collaboration between Indian institutions and their international counterparts in delivering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Indian System of Medicine. They aim to ensure that such collaborations are founded on principles of mutual respect, academic rigor, and cultural sensitivity, while upholding the integrity and quality of ISM education.

The overarching goal of these guidelines is to create a framework that supports the seamless integration of diverse educational practices and pedagogical approaches, fostering an environment where innovation and tradition coalesce to advance the practice and understanding of Indian System of Medicine. By setting forth clear standards and practices, we endeavour to nurture partnerships that contribute to the global dissemination of ISM knowledge and foster a shared commitment to excellence in healthcare education.

Through these guidelines, the NCISM intends to build a sustainable and dynamic international network of ISM institutions of U.G. /P.G., for global academic programs in Indian System of Medicine.

Table of Contents

1. Expert Members of the Committee for prepared Guidelines.....	1
2. Guidelines	2
3. Definitions.....	2
4. General Considerations.....	2
5. Procedure for Collaboration.....	4
6. Procedure for Application.....	4
7. The Admissions.....	5
8. Duration of the Graduation Program.....	6
9. Nomenclature of the Degree Awarded.....	6
10. The Faculty.....	6
11. Intake Capacity.....	7
12. Pattern of the Graduation Program.....	7
13. Pattern of the Study.....	7
14. Examination and Assessment.....	7
15. Migration of Student during Study.....	7
16. Compulsory Rotatory Internship.....	7
17. Infrastructure and ManPower Including Teachers etc.....	8
18. Assessment and Rating.....	8

Expert Members of the Committee for prepared Guidelines

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Vd. JayantDeopujari	Chairperson, NCISM
2.	Dr. B.S.Prasad	President, Board of Ayurveda, NCISM
3.	Dr.Rakesh Sharma	President, Board of Ethics and Registration for Indian System of Medicine, NCISM
4.	Dr. K.Janaganthan	President, Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, NCISM
5.	Dr.RaghuramBhat U.	President, Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Indian System of Medicine, NCISM
6.	Dr.Kamlesh Kumar Dwivedi	Member, Board of Ayurveda, NCISM
7.	Dr.AtulBabuVarshney	Member, Board of Ayurveda, NCISM
8.	Dr.Mathu Kumar	Member, Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, NCISM.

Guidelines

Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions/Universities parting Graduation/Post Graduation program in Indian Systems of Medicine.

(These guidelines are developed in accordance with the decisions of 20th NCISM meeting held on 05.07.2024.)

1. Definitions

- a) **“Collaboration”** for the purpose of these guidelines, means an arrangement between an Indian Education Institution and a Foreign Education institution, put in to a place through an instrument of written agreement for the purpose of twinning leading to the award of Degree(s).
- b) **“Degree”** means a degree awarded by an Indian Education Institution/university in Indian System of Medicine in accordance with the provisions of the relevant acts.
- c) **“Foreign Educational Institution”** means (a) an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country and offering undergraduate/postgraduate programs in its home country and, (b) which offers or proposes to offer program(s) of study leading to the award of Degree(s) through conventional face-to-face, but excluding distance mode, in a twinning arrangement with any Indian Educational Institutions/university;
- d) **“Indian Educational Institutions/University”** means any recognised institution/university established in India under relevant act and running an Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Sowa-Rigpa college in India, recognised by the Commission and the degree granted by the institution/university is included in Schedule II of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 or Section 35 of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020.
- e) **“Joint Degree”**, for the purpose of these guidelines, means a single degree jointly awarded by the Indian Educational Institution/university and the collaborating foreign Educational Institution.
- f) **“Twinning Program”** means a program of study where by students enrolled with an Indian Educational Institution may complete their program of study partly in India, complying with relevant NCISM regulations, and partly in the campus of Foreign Educational Institution/university in its home country in which it is primarily established or incorporated.

2. General considerations-

- (1) The Indian university willing to collaborate with a foreign educational institution/university, to impart education in any Indian Systems of medicine under NCISM act 2020 shall have,
 - (a) A good track record in terms of maintaining minimum standards and shall have ‘A’ grade rating by the rating agency approved by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board of NCISM,

- (b) Experience of at least ten years or have at least two batches of students graduated, whichever is earlier, in offering educational program(s) in Indian System of medicine in India.
 - (c) The institutions run by the central/state governments, UTs shall be exempted from the section 2(1)(b) of this guidelines;
 - (d) Its academic and hospital infrastructure, along with human resources shall meet the requirement of the relevant regulations under NCISM act 2020;
 - (e) The Indian Educational Institution, affiliated to Indian University, shall obtain proper approval from the university concerned for collaborating with Foreign Educational Institution(s)/university for conducting program(s) of study leading to the degree(s);
- (2) A Foreign Educational Institution collaborating with an Indian Educational Institution shall satisfy the following criteria or conditions-
- (a) Shall be accredited by an Assessment and Accredited agency, with the highest grade (in case of graded accreditation) or threshold level (in case of threshold accreditation), in their homeland.
 - (b) Have operative arrangements in India through Indian Educational Institution(s) by way of collaboration.
 - (c) Abide by any other condition(s) prescribed by the Government of India and National Commission for Indian System of Medicine from time to time.
- (3) All institutions, Indian or foreign, involved in collaborating, twinning or other forms of partnership arrangements shall satisfy the following criteria and conditions;
- (a) The academic requirements and other details of the programs of study shall be made public by displaying prominently in the website, before the commencement of the programme by the Indian educational institutions concerned.
 - (b) No program of study and/or research shall be offered which is against national security and territorial integrity of India.
 - (c) The educational institution concerned shall also abide by any other conditions Specified by the government of India and NCISM from time to time.
 - (d) Wherever foreign exchange is involved, the educational institution, Indian and/or foreign, shall abide by and comply with the relevant regulations, norms, notifications and instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.
 - (e) Matter relating to the grievances of students including legal matters relating to the collaboration shall be addressed by the Indian educational institution entering into academic collaborations.
- (4) The Indian Educational Institute and its staff appointed/deputed under collaborative program shall follow all civic rules of the country, where they are appointed/deputed.

3. Procedure for collaboration:

- (1) Any Indian educational institution collaborating with a foreign educational institution shall have to enter into a written memorandum of understanding or agreement with the foreign educational institution concerned.
- (2) Provided that no memorandum of understanding or agreement shall be entered into by an Indian educational institution collaborating with a foreign educational institution unless the Indian educational institution concerned has obtained prior approval of the commission.
- (3) Provided that after approval of the commission the memorandum of understanding or agreement shall be signed by both the partner in institutions and a copy of such memorandum of understanding or agreement shall be forwarded to the commission and shall also be uploaded on its website by the Indian educational institution.
- (4) The draft memorandum of understanding or agreement should incorporate the provision that the credits awarded by the Indian educational institution under the degree programmes covered in the qualification shall be accepted by the foreign educational institution not only for the collaboration but for all other purposes including academic mobility.
- (5) Further the minimum duration of the program of study covered under collaboration in the foreign educational institution shall not be less than three years for undergraduate programmes and one and half year for the postgraduate programme. The remaining two and half years of undergraduate education and one and half years of post-graduate education may be completed in the Indian campus of the Indian Educational Institute/university.

4. Procedure for application

- (1) It is understood that before submission of the application, the applicant should have gone through and understood the NCISM act 2020 and the relevant regulations and guidelines there under.
- (2) The Indian educational institution shall submit an application to enter into the memorandum of understanding with foreign education institution to the commission.
- (3) The local Indian Embassy/consulate shall be kept well informed by the Indian Educational Institution/ University who is willing to start collaborative program in
- (4) Indian System of medicine with the foreign educational institution/university and shall submit a clearance certificate in prescribed format from the Indian embassy/consulate of that country if required.
- (5) After getting the approval from the commission the Indian educational institution may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the foreign educational institution.

- (6) The Indian educational institution shall thereafter apply online to the Medical Assessment and Rating Board on the dedicated NCISM portal and also upload along with the application a digitally certified copy of draft memorandum of understanding/agreement and details about the foreign educational institution including infrastructure, Facilities available for instruction, faculty, specified fee, details of the course and curriculum, requisite funds for operations for a minimum period of three years and other terms and condition of collaboration if any.
- (7) The medical assessment and rating board after receiving the online application along with draft memorandum of understanding or agreement shall acknowledge online the receipt of the application. The deficiencies in the proposal if any shall be communicated and additional documents if any required shall be asked for within a period of 30 working days.
- (8) The medical assessment and rating board shall consider the application or disapprove the application based on the various factors including quality of education, overall merit of the proposal, fees to be charged, credibility of the foreign educational institution as well as Indian educational institution.
- (9) In case medical assessment and rating board disapprove the proposal, a letter of rejection shall be issued to the institution and such letter shall be displayed on the NCISM website.
- (10) Incomplete application shall not be entertained.
- (11) The non-refundable application fee of Rs. One lakh and the processing fee of Rs. Five lakh shall be paid through NEFT to the NCISM account.
- (12) The application fulfilling all the necessary documents as listed in the annexure shall be accepted and processed for assessment by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board of NCISM,
- (13) The approval for such collaborative programmes shall be given by Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Indian Systems of Medicine.

5. The admissions:

- (1) The admissions in such collaborative programs shall be on the merit basis only, preferably through entrance examination conducted by the same university but not through NEET/AIAPGET
- (2) The minimum qualification for admission in the Graduation Program shall be Twelfth Standard pass with science subjects or its equivalent qualifications recognised by the country where the said campus exists.
- (3) The transfer from the collaborative program from outside India campus to the regular bachelor's program in Indian campus shall not be allowed.
- (4) The graduates from the outside India campus of the Indian universities or foreign universities, who are not Indian citizens or NRI shall be eligible to appear for the Post Graduate Entrance Examination in India only after passing the Exit examination & after getting Students Visa following due procedures prescribed by the Government of India for the foreign nationals.

6. Duration of the Graduation Program:

- (1) The duration of the Graduation Program run by Indian Universities in collaboration with the foreign Educational Institutions/ universities outside India and giving degree from the mother university shall be five and half years' duration i.e., four and half years of teaching and training and one-year internship as described in this regulation.
- (2) For equivalence with the Graduation program recognised by the Commission, the Graduation Program run by the foreign university duly recognised by the competent authority of a country outside India shall not be less than five and half years duration i.e., four and half years of teaching and training and one year internship thereafter in a hospital.

7. Nomenclature of the Degree awarded:

- (1) Nomenclature of the degree awarded by the Indian University shall be as per the NCISM act and the relevant regulations i.e., Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS), Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS) and Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS). The degree shall be recognised as per section-35 of NCISM act.
- (2) Nomenclature of the degree awarded by the foreign university may be little bit different but the degree program shall be as per section 6 (2) of these guidelines.

8. The faculty:

- (1) The eligibility criteria for the faculty shall be as per the norms specified in the concerned regulations i.e., NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations-2022, NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Unani Education) Regulations, 2022, NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Siddha Education) Regulations, 2022 and NCISM (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Sowa-Rigpa Education) Regulations, 2022.
- (2) The number of faculties per subject and in total shall be as specified in the concerned regulations i.e., the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum essential standards, assessment and rating for undergraduate Ayurveda colleges and attached teaching hospitals) Regulations, 2024 and similar regulations regarding Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa as the case may be.
- (3) The salary of the teachers shall be as per the acts and regulations of the country where campus is situated.
- (4) The college may appoint a Professor of Practice for not more than 10% of the teaching hours and these teaching hours may be converted in to 'teacher's days' as mentioned in the concerned regulations, to maintain the minimum standards of Education.

9. Intake Capacity:

Intake capacity for the colleges governed by these guidelines shall be fifty or hundred students per academic session.

10. Pattern of the Graduation Program:

- (1) The collaborating Foreign Educational Institution/university running twinning program with the Indian Educational Institution and having teaching Ayurveda hospital in their country may complete all teaching, training and other academic activities in their home country and after examination may give Joint Degree recognised under subsection (1)(2)(3) of the section 36 of the NCISM act 2020, to the students after completion of the one-year rotatory internship in the attached teaching hospital.
- (2) The Indian or foreign Educational Institution running collaborative twinning program under these regulations but who couldn't establish an Ayurveda Hospital outside India for some statutory reasons, may opt for hybrid mode of teaching and training for the students. In hybrid mode the teaching and training of the first and second professional, except clinical training, shall be conducted in the campus of the Foreign Educational Institution and the teaching and training of the third professional and internship shall be completed in the Indian campus of the Indian educational Institutions.

11. Pattern of the study:

The pattern of the study for collaborative program(s) shall be as per section 9 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Ayurveda Education) Regulation-2022 and similar regulations regarding Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa as the case may be.

12. Examination and Assessment:

The Examination and Assessment of the collaborative program(s) shall be as per section 11 and 12 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Ayurveda Education) Regulation-2022 and similar regulations regarding Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa as the case may be.

13. Migration of student during study:

No migration of student from collaborative twinning program to the regular Graduation program in India shall be allowed as the admissions in India are through NEET only.

14. Compulsory Rotatory Internship:

Compulsory Rotatory Internship of the student shall be as per the relevant regulations of the regulatory authority of the country.

15. Infrastructure and Man power including teachers etc.:

Indian Educational Institution conducting collaborative twinning program under these guidelines shall follow all other relevant regulations regarding infrastructure, manpower, academic activities etc. under National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act 2020.

16. Assessment and Rating:

- (1) Assessment and Rating of the Indian Educational Institution shall be done as prescribed in the relevant regulations of the NCISM.
- (2) Assessment and Rating of the Foreign Educational Institution shall be done by the assessment and rating agency of their home country.