

BITS, Pilani is a Deemed to be University established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, and is therefore empowered to conduct educational programmes and confer degrees that are specified under Section 22 of the UGC Act. No separate permission is required for this purpose.

In the context of the recent Public Notice dated 11-03-2015 issued by the UGC, on **Professional Courses in Engineering & Technology through ODL mode**, we would like to provide the following clarifications.

The Work Integrated Learning Programmes ('WILPs') of BITS, Pilani are different in spirit and pedagogy from traditional Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. It is a partnership / arrangement between BITS as a University and the collaborating organization, whose ultimate aim is to build competencies and to attain advancement of technical workplace skills.

WILPs cannot be categorized as an ODL programmes due to the reasons stated hereunder:

- Enrollment is permitted only to suitably qualified, employed professionals having specified educational qualifications, with adequate and relevant work experience, to programmes that are closely aligned with their work profiles.
 - Enrollment also requires endorsement of the employer, and a commitment from the employer to provide necessary support (including that of a qualified mentor) and facilities to enable effective work integrated learning. The rationale for permitting only qualified employed professionals to enroll under WILPs alongwith the consent from the employer is with the objective that the skill and knowledge enhancement attained by the employee through these WILPs would ultimately benefit, add value to the organization and increase productivity.
 - A judicious combination of synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction is used, for regular and effective interaction between the students and faculty members, to maintain the necessary academic rigor and standards of instruction.
 - WILPs are characterized by person-centered approach with the same rigor and standards at par with the on-campus system of education. There is no replacement of inter-personal communication of conventional classroom based education since most WILP courses are conducted in a manner akin to actual classroom teaching through a combination of onsite lectures as well as online lectures through video conferencing ensuring two way communication between experienced and practicing professors of BITS and students.
 - The pedagogy of WILP is based on the successful and established methodologies followed by BITS for on-campus education system without compromising on the duration of the programme, methodology of study, assessment and programme completion requirements which are comparable to programmes offered in regular mode on campus. All the programmes under WILP follow a credit based system at par with the on-campus education system.
 - For each WILP course there is an instructor who is a BITS faculty responsible for conduct of the course as well as a qualified mentor (being a senior professional from the student's employee own organization who agrees to act as a mentor and a resource person for strengthening work-study integration) at the work place to provide structured guidance to the employee for the duration of the programme, which infuses a strong component of teacher-student interaction.
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