

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (FOREIGN UNIVERSITY) PROGRAMME

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q.1 When the Quality Improvement (Foreign University) Programme was approved by AICTE?

Ans. Quality Improvement (Foreign University) Programme was approved in the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of AICTE held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Q.2 What is the short form of Quality Improvement (Foreign University) Programme?

Ans. The short form of the Quality Improvement (Foreign University) Programme is QIP (FU).

Q.3 Why do the country need faculty essential to have PhD?

Ans. Following factors have led to the need for faculty to have PhD qualifications:

- (i) The UGC has declared that for appointment of faculty as Assistant Professor at Higher Education level will be based on PhD i.e. All Assistant Professor to have PhD by 2021.
- (ii) Government of India bringing all out efforts on `Make in India' as truly worthy to Indian context that will reduce brain drain from the country or can reverse the trend in bringing back the talent from abroad, introduce such technologies that are more conducive for India's progress.
- (iii) To make Indian faculty at par excellence with faculty in similar colleges / universities in developed countries like USA, UK, Canada, Germany, Netherland, Japan, China, New Zealand and Australia.
- (iv) Government of India laying emphasis on inducing culture of innovations and research among students and faculty.

Q.4 What are the objectives of QIP (FU)?

Ans. The objectives of QIP(FU) programme are as follows:

- (i) To open an opera of avenues for faculty pursuing Doctoral programme leading to award of PhD degree from a foreign university / institution.
- (ii) To fill the large gap among the faculty having PG degrees in AICTE approved institutes to obtain PhD degree
- (iii) To reduce local competition
- (iv) Besides strengthening of present research scenario in the Country, the horizons may be expanded to other developed countries –
  - a) who have highly qualified faculty who can help or guide PhD scholars,
  - b) More number of funding agencies

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- c) Universities have best of facilities like laboratories, libraries, publications etc. for conduct of research work
- d) Opportunities for employment are more and beyond teaching
- (v) To make the Indian faculty as competitive as that of International faculty and known globally.

Q.5 What is the major difference between QIP and QIP(FU)?

Ans. QIP was launched by the Government of India in 1970 to help the faculty to pursue M.Tech and doctoral programme leading to award of PhD degrees from any University within the country.

Whereas the QIP(FU) being the extension of QIP and its main objective is to help faculty to pursue only doctoral programme leading to award PhD degree from any of the top 500 foreign university / institution accredited by QS ranking, THE ranking and Shanghai ranking.

Q.6 Names of the foreign universities / institutions from where the faculty may pursue PhD?

Ans. The faculty is open to pursue its PhD from any of the 500 Top ranking foreign universities / institutions mentioned in the QS ranking, THE ranking and Shanghai ranking. The respective lists are placed at Annexures I to III under the Heading List of the World Universities.

Q.7 What is the eligibility criteria for faculty who can undertake doctoral degree programme?

Ans. The Eligibility criteria of the faculty who could pursue PhD in foreign university / institution is as given below:

- Full time regular / permanent faculty members of AICTE recognized Degree Level Colleges are eligible to apply.
- The candidate should possess: -
  - Three year teaching experience at graduate level.
  - A Master's degree in the appropriate branch.
  - Admission offer in PhD programme from the Foreign University of Listed ranking system in previous five years.
- Age must be below 40 years for general and 45 years in case of reserved category.

Q.8 What are the subjects available for the faculty to pursue his / her PhD?

Ans. The subjects chosen by the faculty should be from among the list of core subjects / courses approved by the AICTE during 2017 or later added or modified as the case may be.

Q.9 Whether the eligibility criteria for pursuing PhD in foreign university / institution can be relaxed?

Ans. No. The faculty aspiring for admissions in doctoral degree in foreign university / institution should fulfill the criteria mentioned in the Scheme document on the cut-off date mentioned by the foreign university / institution.

Q.10 Whether the faculty who has already got PhD is eligible to again pursue PhD from foreign university / institution by taking advantage of QIP (FU)?

Ans. No. The faculty who has already obtained PhD shall not be eligible for undertaking PhD under QIP(FU).

Q.11 Whether the faculty who is pursuing PhD by availing scholarship under QIP programme can be considered under QIP(FU)?

Ans. The faculty who has obtained admission for PhD degree in Indian University and is pursuing and obtained scholarship from AICTE under its QIP programme or from any other schemes of Government of India / funding agencies in India shall not be considered for QIP (FU).

Q.12 What financial support shall AICTE provide to faculty who pursue PhD from foreign university / institution under QIP (FU)?

Ans. On production application in format supported with valid documents conveying that the faculty has obtained admission in doctoral programme leading to award of PhD degree in the top ranking 500 foreign university /college and authenticated by its parent University / college in India alongwith filled-up Mandate form, the faculty shall be provided Scholarship @Rs.25,000/- pm for first year of the programme only.

Q.13 Why scholarship under QIP (FU) is provided for 1<sup>st</sup> year i.e. first 12 months only?

Ans. AICTE shall provide scholarship @ Rs.25,000/- per month to each faculty who has obtained admission and started pursuing PhD degree in the foreign university / institution for 1<sup>st</sup> year i.e. for 12 months. It is well conceived that there is dearth of funds available in the form of scholarships / fellowships / student assistantships and also other grants etc. which are provided to the students etc. by the foreign universities and other international agencies, which the faculty pursuing PhD may easily procure.

Q.14 What are the documents that the faculty is required to submit to AICTE for availing scholarships under QIP(FU)?

Ans. The desirous faculty after obtaining admission in doctoral programme in the foreign university / institution and completion of all the formalities as prescribed by the foreign university / institution or as mentioned by the respective country and obtained visa etc. must submit the following:

- (i) Duly filled application form along with copies of documentary proof
- (ii) Duly filled Mandate form
- (iii) Recommendation by the Head of the parent university / college in India
- (iv) Copy of the 'Undertaking' that the faculty has furnished to its parent university / college in India

Q.15 What the parent university / institute in India will provide to the faculty who obtains admission in any of the foreign university / institution based on QS ranking / THE ranking and Shanghai ranking?

Ans. On production of valid proof by the faculty for obtaining admission in the PhD in the foreign university / institution the parent university / institution in India shall provide the following support to the faculty:

- (i) To relieve the faculty as per the schedule to facilitate his / her joining at the foreign university / institution
- (ii) To treat the faculty on deputation or study leave for a period of 3 years which is extendable by 6 months and in special cases by another 6 months only on production of recommendation of the research supervisor along with the progress made so far under his / her chosen field of research.
- (iii) To provide full salary for the study period

Q.16 For pursuing PhD in foreign university / institution, what type of 'Undertaking' shall be required to be furnished by the faculty to his / her parent university / college in India

Ans. The faculty, before leaving for PhD in foreign university / institution is required to furnish an 'Undertaking' that stipulates the following:

- (i) That during his PhD, he / she shall submit quarterly progress reports to the parent Institute till his / her PhD is completed and thesis submitted.
- (ii) That on completion of PhD from University / institution, he / she will return to India and serve his / her parent university / college for a period of five years;
- (iii) That in case the faculty discontinue or fails to complete or submit PhD dissertation / thesis due to his / her personal reasons shall be liable for disciplinary action leading to recover entire salary etc. paid to him / her.

- (iv) That in case he / she does not return to India after completion of PhD shall be liable for prosecution under rules and regulations of the University and State government.

Q.17 Under what circumstances do the faculty shall be liable to return the scholarship amount to AICTE?

Ans. Under the following circumstances the faculty is liable to return the scholarship paid by AICTE:

- (i) If the faculty do not pursue the PhD degree from the beginning or discontinue in-between due to his/ her personal reasons or unable to complete the PhD;
- (ii) Have not furnished Quarterly progress reports to the Institute and AICTE
- (iii) Utilize the scholarship amount other than the purpose for which it is sanctioned;
- (iv) If found guilty under the law of the foreign country and / or deported to India;
- (v) If found not to have complied with the terms and conditions mentioned in the 'Undertaking' furnished to the parent institute in India

Q.18 What are dos and don'ts for faculty who intends to pursue PhD from foreign university / college?

Ans. The **Do's** for the faculty are as follows:

- (i) Obtain admission in doctoral programme in any of the foreign university / institution based on QS ranking, THE ranking and Shanghai ranking, through his / her own efforts by following the procedure defined by the foreign university / institute and substantiate all supporting documents etc. as asked for.
- (ii) Before applying take the permission or NOC from its parent university / college.
- (iii) Should make itself clear of all the terms and conditions specified by the foreign university / institution with regard to award of scholarship / student assistantship / fellowship and any other grant and also for boarding and lodging.
- (iv) Should liaise with the foreign university / institution in obtaining visa.
- (v) Should make its arrangements for lodging in and around the campus of the foreign university / institution.
- (vi) Before leaving the country he / she has furnished an Undertaking to its parent university / college in India.

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The **Don'ts** for the faculty:

- (i) Should not act which denotes of his / her being an unworthy citizen of India.
- (ii) Should not indulge in such activities which are against the laws of that country.
- (iii) Should avoid joining any group that works against the sovereignty of India
- (iv) Should not incur expenditure or take up any kind of loan while pursuing PhD as AICTE shall not liable for any such activities.

Q.19 What are the salient features of existing QIP and QIP (FU)?

Ans. The salient features of existing QIP and QIP (FU) are as follows:

S.No.	QIP (Existing)	QIP(FU)
1	Regular faculty	Same
2	94 QIP centres which includes several IITs/NITs/Central Universities	Top <b>500</b> universities / institutes (based on QS, Times ranking / Shanghai ranking) in the world
3	Admission through QIP Nodal centres	Admission by candidate's own efforts
4	For pursuing M.Tech. and PhD	For pursuing only PhD
5	3 years duration	3 years duration extendable to 6 months and further by 6 months in special cases.
6	TA is paid for four visits during contact period	NIL
7	Fellowship Rs. 15,000 per month by AICTE through QIP centres.	Rs.25,000/- per month for 1 <sup>st</sup> year of the program only
8	Paid annually	Paid monthly in the Bank in India only
9	Salary paid by the Parent institute	Same
10	Three years of Bond with Parent Institute	Undertaking to be furnished by the faculty at the time of leaving that after completion of PhD, he/she will return to India and serve the parent institute for <b>five years</b> .