



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
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UGC Guidelines for establishing University-Industry Inter-Linkage Centres in Universities

1. Preamble

The significance of university-industry interactions has become an important agenda of higher education on policy-making front at both national and institutional levels. It is well-known that today the country faces a dissonance and disconnect between higher education and its relevance to industry, a demand-supply mismatch as the economy is in need of more 'skilled' workforce as also managers and entrepreneurs than the country produces annually. This is so, because a majority of the existing Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) remain almost disconnected with the requirements of the workplace, as they are yet to incorporate the specific requirements of various industries in their curriculum in an innovative and flexible manner while producing well-groomed graduates. A crying need is felt more than ever for taking integrated initiatives towards knowledge acquisition and up-gradation of skilled human competencies in universities and colleges to address the emerging needs of the economy so as to ensure that the graduates have adequate knowledge and skills to get suitably employed or become entrepreneurs and thereby meet the economic and industrial needs at the regional and national levels. This need can be fulfilled by creating and operating suitable collaborative arrangements between the Higher Educational Institutions and industries. Unlike the "outreach" programmes of HEIs which imply a one-way delivery of expertise and knowledge, such engagement between universities and industries carry the idea of mutuality and sharing of knowledge and expertise. There are many areas of collaboration between universities and industries which are mutually beneficial. Participation of expertise available in the Faculty of the universities in offering consultancy services to industries and assisting their R & D activities and participation of industries in placements and internships of students of universities and in their skill development and employability are cases in point. Considering the importance of the issue, the UGC is contemplating to launch a Scheme of setting up of University-Industry Inter-linkage Centers (UIL Centres) in the universities, which become an effective, goal-oriented and mutually-enriching mechanism.

