



22 May, 2020

Nalanda sets an Example for Remote Teaching and Examination within the Academic Calendar

During the outbreak of Covid-19 and lockdown period, Nalanda University under the leadership of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor sets an example for Remote teaching and Examination, Evaluation etc. Due to various initiatives taken by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the University ensured to canvas possibilities and positivism; so that teaching, learning, examination, essential services were not at all disrupted and there was no outright stagnant of activities. Teaching, sharing of materials and readings, supervision of masters Dissertations, conduct of examinations, evaluation and declaration of result were held remotely as per the Academic Calendar of the University. Keeping in view the present health crisis like Covid-19 and with the presence of a large number of international students, the University sets the goals with periodic review and regular meetings through video conference by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to deal with the pandemic situation and sets an example.

An overview of the initiatives taken by the University is presented below:

1. Periodic Review

- Under the guidance and direction of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University prepared an early action plan on safety measures due to Covid-19 pandemic and reviewed the situation and arrangements through periodic meetings.
- In order to decide the course of action for safety, health and security measures for Covid-19, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor periodically reviewed the situation through several meetings with Deans of Schools, Faculty Members and Senior Administration from time to time during the lockdown period.

2. Teaching

- In compliance with the advisory issued by the Government of India, classes were suspended in physical mode with immediate effect, students in the Residence Halls were repatriated to their homes while teaching from different platform of digital mode were explored and activated.



- All faculty members engaged with students virtually, conducted online classes, evaluation of dissertations/assignments and sharing of course materials with the students were shared through various online platforms like Google Classroom, Blackboard, Google Meet, Zoom, Skype, Web-Ex etc.
- The Deans were asked to submit weekly reports to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.
- The faculty were asked to register for an Online Workshop with QASPIR on Online Learning for Faculty organized by Associations of Indian Universities (AIU). (Registration fee to be borne by Nalanda University).

3. Examination

- In compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to ensure that the future prospects of students (for ex: higher studies, Ph.D., job etc.) are not hampered in anyway, the teaching was completed and the examinations were held as per the Academic Calendar of the University.
- The End Semester examinations were held through digital mode/remotely and all most all students of Masters, Ph.D. appeared for the examinations. One student of SBS who was away in USA and due to Covid Pandemic restrictions at his home state could not appear for the exam. It was directed by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor that he may be allowed to appear for the exam when situation gets improved at his locality and a different slot will be allotted to him with a new set of questions.

4. Evaluation and Results

- The faculty regularly supervised the dissertations of students of Fourth Semester and dissertations were completed in all respects and submitted.
- Evaluation process is due to be completed and Results will be declared by May 30, 2020 as per the Academic Calendar.

5. Health and Security of Students and Faculty

- During the lockdown period, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor directed the University health centre to check the health status of international faculty and students on a day to day basis with frequent reporting.



- It was again directed by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to minimize stress and ensure psychological wellbeing of the students residing in the hostels and faculty and measures were taken to engage them in Yoga and Meditation while maintaining social distance.
- Reports on the health status of international students and faculty were submitted to the State Government of Bihar when requested.

6. Ensuring Security

- It was ensured that no visitor/outsider enter the campuses as well as residence halls and no outside food be delivered to anybody.
- All the employees were directed to work remotely and to take all precautionary measures of lockdown and social distancing while ensuring that essential services are performed.
- While the security guards continued with their duties, it was ensured that they undertake regular medical check-ups and other assistance to the security guards, when required, were provided.

7. Essential Services

- Since the University is housed in residential campus wherein students, faculty and non-teaching stay in campus/ at Rajgir within a close vicinity of the University, essential services such as providing of electricity & water, availability of internet, ensuring hygiene, disbursement of salary, 24x7 availability of doctors at the University health centre etc. were ensured.

8. Smooth Repatriation of Students

- Prior to the declaration of national lockdown, in compliance with the advisory issued by the Government of India, the University ensured that the students in the Residence Halls be repatriated to their homes.
- The Indian students, two students from USA and 13 students from Bhutan had a safe passage back home with the help of their respective embassies before the nation-wide lock down.
- With assistance from respective Embassies, students from Vietnam and Myanmar had a smooth repatriation to their homes after completion of all



FRRO formalities. The University extended support with providing all possible facilities required in this regard.

9. Admission for the session 2020-21

- In compliance with the time to time directions by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to ensure that the academic career/future of a student is not hampered in anyway, the Admission Committee continued with its process of online admission for the session 2020-21 including scrutiny of applications, conduct of interview through Skype etc. with submission of weekly reports on the progress of the admission to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.

The Way Forward

Though there is a lot of despair surrounding the current COVID-19 scenario, Nalanda University under the leadership of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor ensured to canvas possibilities and positivism. Despite the prevailing health crisis situation, the Academic Calendar was maintained, and the University had already planned for the new academic session. The University is well equipped to cope up with the new challenges as new opportunities and with the present strategies, it may not be very difficult to sustain or continue with the teaching learning programmes in the coming wave of paranoia, if any. Crisis times are unlike normal times and they require different sets of skills to deal with and here Nalanda sets the example and shows the way forward.

Nalanda University

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