

Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of the Centre of Excellence (COE) established at State Universities of Odisha under OHEPEE

Preamble: A number of Centres of Excellence have been selected to be established at the State Universities of Odisha under the World Bank program Odisha Higher Education Plan for equity and Excellence (OHEPEE). The State universities were asked to submit their Institutional Development Plans (IDP) and proposals for specific COE to the OHEPEE and Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) as per the Operational Manual. The Concept of COE has been mooted with an objective of creating nuclei of excellence in faculty research in specific cutting edge areas of natural sciences, Engineering Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences at the state Universities. This is a sequel to the State Government's financial grant to Utkal University for opening a central instrumentation centre (CIC) and other measures towards research upgradation. The idea is to promote and facilitate research in both fundamental and application oriented themes of interest to the state.

All the five universities selected under OHEPEE (except Open University) had submitted 12 proposals for establishing such centres. The proposals were sent for review to two different domain experts who are nationally renowned in the respective areas. The reviewers were provided a format where they critically assessed and commented on the relevance, research gap, methodology, expected outcomes, budget and feasibility of the proposals. They evaluated the proposals on a scale of 10 and also submitted suggestions for their improvement.

On receipt of the reviews, they were analysed and the concerned teams led by respective Vice Chancellors from the universities were invited for discussion during the signing of MOU at the OSHEC. The

meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman, OSHEC in the presence of PD, OHEPEE who is also Member Secy, OSHEC. The University teams were apprised of the comments from the reviewers and requested to submit a revised proposal including the detailed objective, methodology, budget, manpower, equipment list as well as the expected deliverables.

Since creation of COE is a first in the state, it was decided to designate few nationally renowned domain experts as academic mentors to each proposal. The mentors will closely monitor the progress of research, provide suggestions, guidance and suggest mid-course corrections if deemed necessary. The expenditure towards mentor's TA, Hospitality and Honorarium would be paid out of the project funding by the University. The frequency of consultation with the mentor will depend on the specific nature of the project and the need of the lead investigator. It is suggested that the team members of COE have more frequent interaction in the first year to shape the focus and then have periodic visits once or twice a year. The possible names for mentors were discussed and agreed to by the respective universities. The COE coordinators were requested to immediately get in touch with the mentors to make the proposals more focused on objectives and outcomes. Following the discussions, MOU were signed with each University. In view of its novelty, the following operating procedures would be followed regarding implementation of the COE.

1. Financial:

Normally, the Budget will be released in five equal installments. In case the COE has incorporated civil infrastructure, the designated fund will be released to PWD based on the estimates submitted by them. The COEs would need to discuss their user requirements with the concerned Engineer of PWD, Govt. of Odisha. For all other expenses under COE not specified here, OGFR, OHEPEE Finance Manual and /or

procedures followed by the respective universities (as per their acts, statute and Financial Manual) would apply. Submission of audited account will be pre requisite for release of fund in successive years.

2. Man Power :

The COE will recruit manpower under the following categories under project mode

1. Research Associates (RA) or Post Doctoral Fellows (PDF):

a. These would be recruited on the basis of an all India advertisement in one national and one local news paper apart from e-mail publicity to various groups having domain expertise in specific area.

b. Must have a Ph.D. degree in closely related area with at least 3 publications in Web of Science or Scopus indexed journals. He must also have a first class in Bachelor or Masters degree from a recognized university

c. The Consolidated monthly emoluments would be Rs. 30,000/- pm at the lowest and Rs. 40000/- pm at the highest with an increment of 5% per year on satisfactory performance based on achievement of set milestones.

d. The applicant would be required to give a seminar on his research area in presence of an assessing committee consisting of the Vice Chancellor of the university, COE coordinator, the mentor to the project, one domain expert to be chosen by the Vice Chancellor (equivalent to Professor rank academician), VC OSHEC or his nominee (at least a Professor rank academician). The appointment would be renewable annually after an academic review by the VC.

e. The RA or PDF as the case may be would be required to work both in the lab or in the field and would be required to publish at least 1 per year in WSC indexed journal paper on the area of work being done at the COE

f. The maximum number of RA/ PDF per COE is limited to 2 in number. Composite COEs (Sl.nos 2, 3, 7 and 8 in the list attached) can have a maximum of 4 RA / PDF.

2. **Research fellows** will be taken from UGC / CSIR JRF or Odisha Research Incentivisation Scheme. Since these Scholars are being paid from the above schemes, there is no provision for their payment from the COE.

3. Technical /Research Assistants :

a. Recruited through advertisement in Local paper

b. Applicants must hold a second class masters degree in the relevant discipline with at least 55% marks in aggregate.

c. must be less than 30 years of age on the last date of advertisement

d. Experience with field work, computer, instruments and research or field work would be preferred.

e. To be selected through an interview committee to be constituted by the coordinator of the COE and approved by the Vice Chancellor. A nominee of Chairman, OSHEC will be a member

f. Gross emoluments will not exceed Rs. 12000 pm with fixed term appointment renewable annually.

g. The maximum number of Technical /Research Assistants per COE is limited to 2 in number.

4. Office Assistant:

a. Minimum 12th pass with age not exceeding 25 years as on the last date of advertisement

b. Elementary knowledge of Computers and office work

c. To be selected through an interview (committee to be constituted by the coordinator of the COE and approved by the Vice Chancellor.

- d. Gross emoluments will not exceed Rs. 8000/- pm with fixed term appointment renewable annually
- e. One Office Assistant is allowed per COE.

Broad Timeline:

The date of sanction / transfer of funds to the university will be the start day for the respective COEs.

1. Start day to 3 months : Recruitment, Drawing up technical specification of equipment and discussion with works department (if applicable)
2. 3 months to six months : Recruitment completion, Procurement started. Research Plan finalization into phases
3. Six months to one year : Start of Deliverables
4. Nov-Dec every year : Annual Reviews and recommendation for next year's funding

Annual Reviews :

Every year, during November to December, the COEs will undergo an Annual Review. The reviewing will be done by a review committee consisting of the following members

1. Vice Chairperson, OSHEC
2. VC of Concerned University
3. PD, OHEPEE
4. Mentor/s of the COE
5. One External Domain Expert to be selected by OSHEC

Each COE will make a presentation based on the work carried out. Satisfactory progress of the project will enable release of next year's funding. The funding for the annual review will be borne by OHEPEE.

Publications/ Patents/ projects :

Apart from other translational deliverables, the COEs are expected to publish high quality papers, books and apply for Patents. The publications must necessarily be in High quality journals (WSC or PUBMED indexed). Books if any must be reviewed. The papers must address a research gap and open new pathways of further research. Data or information generation must be in relevant areas and must not be marginal. As far as possible, minor incremental research is to be avoided.

Every COE must write and apply for other funded project to national agencies. At the end of 3 years, each COE must aim to have at least a crore worth of funded project.

Every publication must acknowledge funding from OHEPEE and Government of Odisha.

Details of COEs Being Established

Sl.	Title of COE	University	Sanction in Rs. Crore	Mentor
1.	Centre for Nano science and Technology for development of sensors	Berhampur	3.0	Dr. NK Sahoo sahoonk@gmail.com
2.	Centre for Bio resource management and energy conservation material development	Fakir Mohan	4.0	Prof. Naresh Mishra nareshcmishra@gmail.com Prof SP Adhikary vcfmuniversity@gmail.com
3.	Centre for Environment and	Ravenshaw	2.87	Prof. BC Bishen

	Public Health			Prof Tominath Das tonada51@gmail.com
4.	Centre for Odishan Studies	Ravenshaw	1.0	Prof. KK Basa kishorkbasa58@gmail.com
5.	Centre for Regional Development Studies	Sambalpur	1.0	Prof KK Mishra kkmssin@gmail.com
6.	Centre for Natural Products and Therapeutics	Sambalpur	4.0	Prof. Pratap Panda RPRC 09439831495
7.	Centre for Integrated omics and computational biology	Utkal	4,2	Prof SP Adhikary vcfmuniversity@gmail.com
8.	Centre for Studies on tribal and marginalized communities	Utkal	2.65	Prof KK Mishra kkmssin@gmail.com
9.	Centre for Human Capital Development	Utkal	2.0	Prof. Biswajit Patnaikdirector@asbm.ac.in

782