PEER TEAM REPORT ON
Institutional Accreditation (Second Cycle) of
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 695 034, KERALA

Section I: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Name & Address of the Institution	**Kerala University** Thiruvananthapuram 695 034, Kerala
1.2 Year of Establishment	**1937**
1.3 Current Academic Activities at the Institution (Numbers)	
• Faculties/ Schools	**16**
• Departments/Centres	**Arts: 13; Science: 16; Commerce: 1; Social Science: 7 Others: 4 (Total: 41)**
• Programmes Courses offered	**PG: 45; MPhil: 45; PhD: 42; Diploma: 13; and Certificate: 18 (Total: 163)**
• Permanent Faculty Members	**157 (Temporary: 68)**
• Permanent Support Staff	**1040 (including contract staff)**
• Students	**3190 (Men: 692 and Women: 2498)**
1.4 Three major features in the institutional context (as perceived by the Peer Team)	• A State University, affiliating in nature, with its main campus in Kariavattom and the other campus at Senate House, Thiruvananthapuram with a few satellite campuses. • The University offers PG, MPhil and PhD programmes and also Certificate and Diploma programmes in Languages, Social Sciences, Fine and Performing Arts and Pure Sciences including a few Engineering subjects. • It caters to a large number of women students.
1.5 Dates of visit of the Peer Team	**January 14 to January 17, 2015** (A detailed visit schedule has been attached.)
1.6 Composition of the Peer Team which undertook the on-site visit:	
Chairperson	**Prof. M.M. Salunkhe** (Founder VC, Central University of Rajasthan) VC, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik

Members	**Prof. M.K. Durga Prasad** Former VC, Krishna University, Machilipatnam **Prof. A.K.D. Dwivedi** Director, National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, Chandigarh **Prof. Mehraj Ud din** Vice Chancellor i/c, Central University of Kashmir **Dr. B.P. Sanjay** (Founder VC, Central University of Tamil Nadu) Professor and Director, Dept of Communication, Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad **Prof. A. Joseph Dorairaj,** Professor of English, Gandhigram Rural University, Tamil Nadu **Prof. K.V. Ramaswamy** Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research, Mumbai **Prof. Pachauri, J.P.** Professor & Head Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, HNB Garhwal University, Garwhal **Prof. Dinesha K.V.** Professor, Indian Institute for Information Technology, Bangalore
NAAC Officer	**Dr. Sujata P. Shanbhag** Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore 560 072

Section II: CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS *Observations (Strengths and/or Weaknesses) on Key-Aspects*	
2.1 Curricular Aspects	
2.1.1 Curricular Design and Development	• Curricula is in tune with the vision and mission of the University. • There are a few professional courses and a few courses in thrust areas in Science, Engineering and Technology. • Some programmes are innovative and job-oriented. • Departments have the freedom to bring in curricular reforms.
2.1.2 Academic Flexibility	• The University offers 42 PhD, 45 MPhil, 45 PG and a few Diploma and Certificate programmes. • The University follows the Semester system. • There is academic flexibility by way of Elective and Optional courses and a few inter-disciplinary courses.

	• Some departments offer programmes for international students (Semester India Programme).
2.1.3 Curriculum Enrichment	• Curriculum is revised periodically. • Curriculum revision through workshops and other academic in-puts needs to be improved. • Curriculum is enriched by dissertation at the PG level. • 13 new programmes were introduced in the last five years. • There are a few add-on courses conducted during week-ends by CACEE.
2.1.4 Feedback System	• Feedback from students about the courses offered and the teachers handling these courses is collected. • A regular and formal mechanism for collecting feedback from other stakeholders is yet to be evolved.
2.2 Teaching-Learning and Evaluation	
2.2.1 Student Enrolment and Profile	• Information about courses offered and the admission procedures are published both in print and electronic media, including the University website. • Girl students constitute more than 75% of the student population. • There are some foreign students in a few Departments. • Admissions are made on the basis of merit and entrance test. • The University follows Government norms for students' admission.
2.2.2 Catering to Student Diversity	• Many Departments conduct remedial classes. • There are limited facilities for the physically challenged students in terms of infrastructure and academic resources. • Department-wise induction programmes are organized for freshers.
2.2.3 Teaching-Learning Process	• The University follows the academic calendar prepared at the beginning of the academic year. • The faculty members use the lecture method predominantly. In some courses, teaching includes field-work and practicals. • A few eminent persons, including Nobel laureates, have delivered lectures under ERUDITE programme launched by Kerala State Higher Education Council. • Departments have the freedom to innovate in terms of teaching-learning methods.

2.2.4 Teacher Quality	- Most teachers are PhD holders. - A few teachers have international exposure. - The dependency on contract/guest faculty is high. - There are some Emeritus, Adjunct and Visiting Professors.
2.2.5 Evaluation Process and Reforms	- The university follows the Semester System. - The examination system consists of Continuous Internal Evaluation and End Semester examination (ratio is: 40:60). - The CoE's office is partially automated.
2.2.6 Student Performance and Learning Outcomes	- Students' performance in all programmes is good. - Students' academic progress is regularly monitored through assignments and periodical tests. - Learning outcomes and graduate attributes are yet to be articulated.

2.3 Research, Consultancy and Extension

2.3.1 Promotion of Research	- The university promotes research and all departments and some Centres have taken up research earnestly. - A good number of PhDs have been produced. - PhD scholars without UGC assistance are given university stipends. - The research portal helps research scholars keep track of their research progress.
2.3.2 Resource Mobilization for Research	48 Major/Minor Research Projects with a financial outlay of around 2.5 crores have been undertaken. - The University received DST-PURSE grants to the tune of Rs.9 crores in 2010-11. 9 departments have been granted SAP and 11 departments DST-FIST status.
2.3.3 Research Facilities	- The library with good e-resources provides a conducive atmosphere for promoting research. - DST-FIST and PURSE funds have facilitated procurement of sophisticated equipments, computers and appropriate software. - The Genomics centre funded by state government is functional.
2.3.4 Research Publications and Awards	- The faculty have a good number of peer-reviewed journal-publications to their credit. - A few faculty members serve on the editorial boards of some established national and international journals. - Some faculty members have received awards and foreign fellowships. - The Department of Chemistry along with Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology has filed three patents. - The University brings out 14 Journals.

2.3.5 Consultancy	• The University has formulated consultancy norms. • A good amount has been generated through consultancy during the assessment period.
2.3.6 Extension Activities and Institutional Social Responsibility	• Centre for Adult, Continuing Education and Extension has adopted two schools and works for their development. • NSS has undertaken useful extension and outreach activities. It has campaigned against liquor. • The University won the State level best NSS Volunteer Award in 2013 and the Indira Gandhi National NSS Award in 2013. • Bhoomitrasena club is active in campus cleaning and planting of trees.
2.3.7 Collaborations	• Collaborative mechanism is evident in a few departments and Centres. • Several MoUs have been signed with national and international agencies/institutions. • Industry-University collaboration through MoU/ agreements is limited.
2.4 Infrastructure and Learning Resources	
2.4.1 Physical Facilities	• The Kariavottam campus is located on a 359.26 acres and the Senate House campus is located on 17.00 acres with a total built-up area of 144656 sq. mts. (including satellite campuses). • There are 6 hostels (2 for men and 4 for women). • Physical facilities include Bank, ATM, Post Office, etc. • Sports and games facilities are good; there is a 400 metre synthetic track for athletics. • The University has its own off-set press and an 11 KV substation feeder. • The University has two health centres.
2.4.2 Library as a Learning Resource	• The University library is stacked with about 335181books with access to online journals through INFLIBNET; it subscribes to a few well-known databases. • Each department has its own well-stacked library. • The Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library has a prize possession of about 65,000 palm leaf collections.
2.4.3 IT Infrastructure	• Staff members have been given laptops/computers with Internet connectivity. • The campus has Wi-Fi hotspots. • A few administrative sections have been partially automated. • There are a few e-enabled classrooms.
2.4.4 Maintenance of Campus Facilities	• The University engineering unit looks after maintenance. • The overall hostel facilities are good. • There is adequate provision in the budget for maintenance.

2.5 Student Support and Progression	
2.5.1 Student Mentoring and Support	- Students receive scholarship/freeship from Government schemes. - Anti-Ragging Committee, Students' Grievance Redressal Cell, Cell to Combat Sexual Harassment, Placement Cell and Career Guidance and Counselling Cells are in place. - Health insurance has been provided to students. - Coaching classes for competitive exams are organized.
2.5.2 Student Progression	- Drop-out rate is very low. - In many departments, students' progression from PG to research is good. - A good number of students have cleared NET/JRF. - The University Employment Bureau helps in career counselling and guidance.
2.5.3 Student Participation and Activities	- Students participate in various curricular, co- and extra-curricular activities. - Kerala University Youth Festival is a major event attracting a large number of students from affiliated colleges - Students participate in inter-university competitions and have won prizes. They came first in the South Zone Youth Festival three times in recent years. - Students' Union is active. Students' representation is there in the Syndicate, Senate and Academic Council.
2.6 Governance, Leadership &Management	
2.6.1 Institutional Vision and Leadership	- The vision, mission and goals of the university are in tune with the general objectives of higher education. - The university has a well-defined organizational structure.
2.6.2 Strategy Development and Deployment	- Many Standing Committees have been constituted which ensure smooth administration. - Statutory bodies like the Syndicate and the Senate meet regularly. - The legal wing looks into cases filed against the University.
2.6.3 Faculty Empowerment Strategies	- Faculty members are given additional administrative responsibilities. - Teachers are motivated to attend refresher courses and/or Orientation programmes and conferences and seminars as part of their academic empowerment. - Enrichment programmes are conducted for the non-teaching staff. - Employees' Cooperative Society looks after the welfare of the employees.
2.6.4 Financial Management and Resource Mobilization	- The University is financially supported by the UGC and the Government of Kerala. - The School of Distance Education, University Institutes of Technology and Management are major sources of revenue.

	• There is resource mobilization through Major and Minor Research Projects of UGC, DST and other agencies/organizations.
2.6.5 Internal Quality Assurance System	• The IQAC is functional. • IQAC coordinates academic audits of various departments. • The IQAC needs to be proactive and undertake academic activities regularly.
2.7 Innovations and Best Practices	
2.7.1 Environment Consciousness	• The university campus is clean and green. • Electronic waste is disposed of scientifically. • Solar energy has been harnessed. • The Department of Botany maintains a herbal garden.
2.7.2 Innovations	• Public-Private Partnership for developing and optimizing infrastructure • Heritage manuscripts are being digitized.
2.7.3 Best Practices	• The University has taken steps to acquire and preserve rare manuscripts. • Field work is an integral component of teaching-learning • Employees' and Students' welfare activities are well coordinated • The University has initiated and encouraged Centres of Study and Research.

Section III: OVERALL ANALYSIS	
3.1 Institutional Strengths	• Qualified and competent faculty • A good demand for almost all courses • Centre for International Academics attracts foreign students • A strong support-base for promoting cultural and sports activities. • International Centre for Kerala Studies is vibrant • Good infrastructure
3.2 Institutional Weaknesses	• A large number of guest/contract teaching and non-teaching staff • Many departments without Professors and a couple of departments with a single faculty • Coordination between University and their outstation Centres is weak

	• Lack of University-Industry interaction • Lack of formal mentoring and counselling systems • University does not have adequate clarity with regard to Choice-Based Credit System
3.3 Institutional Opportunities	• Scope for promotion of value-based education • Transparency and performance enhancement through ERP • Incentivizing achievers for better productivity • Scope for producing outstanding sportspersons • Scope for mobilization of funds
3.4 Institutional Challenges	• Filling up vacant posts and addressing the issue of large number of guest/contract faculty • Raising adequate funds through consultancy and MoUs • Tapping into the resources of well-placed alumni • Streamlining the fairly large number of Centres • Exploring the possibility of becoming a University with Potential for Excellence • Attracting faculty at the national level

Section IV: Recommendations for Quality Enhancement of the Institution

- Take steps to fill up the vacancies

- Establish central instrumentation facilities with state-of-the-art technology

- E-Governance could be further strengthened and moved towards paperless administration

- Timely declaration of results and strict adherence to academic calendar

- Go in for a better placement mechanism

- Core faculty to enhance to teaching-learning resources in outstation centres

- Make the campus differently-abled friendly

- Strengthen mentoring and counselling systems

- Go in for more MoUs at national and international levels

- Design courses with strong industrial linkages for providing employment opportunities to students

- Strengthen research culture in university departments and especially in the affiliated colleges

- Encourage teachers to go for PDF and undertake sponsored research projects

- Encourage teachers to innovate and apply for patents

- Introduce more inter- and multi-disciplinary courses

- Activate and energize Alumni Association

- Institutionalize grievance redressal and feedback mechanism

- Arrange for more lectures by eminent academicians drawn from all over the country

I agree with the observations of the Peer Team as mentioned in this report.

Signature of the Head of the Institution

Signatures of the Peer Team Members:

Name and Designation		*Signature with date*
Prof. M.M. Salunkhe	Chairperson	
Prof. M.K. Durga Prasad	Members	
Prof. A.K.D. Dwivedi		
Prof. Mehraj Ud din		
Prof. B.P. Sanjay		

Prof. A. Joseph Dorairaj **Dr. K.V. Ramaswamy** **Prof. Pachauri J.P.** **Prof. Dinesha K.V.**		
Dr. Sujata P. Shanbhag	NAAC Coordinator	

Place: Thiruvananthapuram   **Date: 17-01-2015**

राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

Quality Profile

Name of the Institution : University of Kerala

Place : Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Criteria	Weightage (W_i)	Criterion-wise Weighted Grade Point ($Cr\,WGP_i$)	Criterion-wise Grade Point Averages ($Cr\,WGP_i / W_i$)
I. Curricular Aspects	150	430	2.87
II. Teaching-Learning and Evaluation	200	580	2.90
III. Research, Consultancy and Extension	250	750	3.00
IV. Infrastructure and Learning Resources	100	320	3.20
V. Student Support and Progression	100	320	3.20
VI. Governance, Leadership & Management	100	290	2.90
VII. Innovations and Best Practices	100	340	3.40
Total	$\sum_{i=1}^{7} w_i = 1000$	$\sum_{i=1}^{7}(Cr\,WGP_i) = 3030$	

$$\text{Institutional CGPA} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{7}(Cr\,WGP_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{7}W_i} = \frac{3030}{1000} = \boxed{3.03}$$

Grade = $\boxed{A}$ Descriptor = $\boxed{\text{VERY GOOD}}$

Date : March 03, 2015

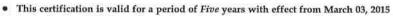*Director*

- This certification is valid for a period of *Five* years with effect from March 03, 2015
- An institutional CGPA on four point scale in the range of 3.01 - 4.00 denotes A grade (Very Good), 2.01 - 3.00 denotes B grade (Good), 1.51 - 2.00 denotes C grade (Satisfactory)
- Scores rounded off to the nearest integer

EC(SC)/05/RAR/054