



**INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION
(Effective from July 2017)**

Accreditation - (Cycle -3)

**PEER TEAM REPORT ON
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
U-0260
Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
695034**

Section I:GENERAL INFORMATION

1.Name & Address of the institution:	UNIVERSITY OF KERALA Thiruvananthapuram Kerala 695034
2.Year of Establishment	1937
3.Current Academic Activities at the Institution(Numbers):	
• Faculties/Schools:	16
• Departments/Centres:	43
• Programmes/Course offered:	64
• Permanent Faculty Members:	211
• Permanent Support Staff:	1400
• Students:	3236
4.Three major features in the institutional Context (As perceived by the Peer Team):	1. Good academic ambience and infrastructure 2. Good research culture 3. Good extension activities
5.Dates of visit of the Peer Team (A detailed visit schedule may be included as Annexure):	Visit Date From : 13-06-2022 Visit Date To : 15-06-2022
6.Composition of Peer Team which undertook the on site visit:	
Chairman:	Ramachandram Sirandas
Member Co - ordinator:	Pradeep Kathal
Member:	ATUL TRIPATHI
Member:	Usha Arora

Member:	Chidananda Reddy Patil
Member:	K Muthuraman Kannayan
Member:	Ishwarchandra Pandit
NAAC Co - ordinator:	Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar

Section II: CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

*Observations (Strengths and/or Weaknesses) on each qualitative metrices of the key Indicator under the respective criterion***(This will be a qualitative analysis of descriptive nature aimed at critical analysis presenting strength and weakness of HEI under each criteria)**

<i>Criterion1 - Curricular Aspects (Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrices(QIM) in Criterion1)</i>	
<i>1.1</i>	<i>Curriculum Design and Development</i>
1.1.1 QIM	Curricula developed and implemented have relevance to the local, national, regional and global developmental needs which is reflected in Programme outcomes (POs), Programme Specific Outcomes(PSOs) and Course Outcomes(COs) of the Programmes offered by the Institution.
<i>1.2</i>	<i>Academic Flexibility</i>
<i>1.3</i>	<i>Curriculum Enrichment</i>
1.3.1 QIM	Institution integrates crosscutting issues relevant to Professional Ethics ,Gender, Human Values ,Environment and Sustainability into the Curriculum
<i>1.4</i>	<i>Feedback System</i>

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 1

University of Kerala, a State University, offers 60 Post Graduate (LOCF), 4 Postgraduate Diploma (LOCF) and 46 M.Phil. Programmes, along with Ph.D. and PDF programmes. The University follows Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) across all its programmes. The University has a system in place to revise the syllabus periodically. It has introduced 17 new academic programmes. To enrich the curriculum the University offers 187 value-added courses. The University uses student centric active learning methods like case studies, individual and group projects, field studies, regulatory experiments, exploratory surveys and music therapy etc. University has developed an action plan in this regard. Projects/internships for all programmes are made mandatory. Curriculum Revision Workshops along with peer/social review involving teachers/alumni/parents/professionals/R&D-experts/industry, vetted by Department Council, CSS Academic Committee, and final approval by Academic Council is carried out periodically. The University follows transparency and democratic practices through confidential students' feedback. It conducts Annual Academic Audit in each Department. To sensitize students with cross cultural issues relevant to gender, environment, professional ethics, the institute supplements the curriculum to a large extent. Gender Audit was carried out in the University in 2017 and 2021. Women/girls representation in students/research scholars and staffs is significant. The University conducts many activities for women like yoga and self-defense training, legal awareness sessions on women related laws, debates and discussions on gender issues. It addresses issues of deprivation, marginalization, environmental protection, balanced regional development, equity, access and inclusivity. The environmental and sustainability concerns are addressed by including them in the curriculum. The University adopts the ethical guidelines of DST and other funding agencies. A formal feedback system on curriculum from stake holders is in place. However, the feedback obtained from all stakeholders needs to be systematically analysed and effectively implemented.

Criterion2 - Teaching-learning and Evaluation (Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion2)

2.1	<i>Student Enrollment and Profile</i>
2.2	<i>Catering to Student Diversity</i>
2.2.1 QIM	The institution assesses the learning levels of the students and organises special Programmes for advanced learners and slow learners
2.3	<i>Teaching- Learning Process</i>
2.3.1 QIM	Student centric methods, such as experiential learning, participative learning and problem solving methodologies are used for enhancing learning experiences
2.3.2 QIM	Teachers use ICT enabled tools including online resources for effective teaching and learning process.
2.4	<i>Teacher Profile and Quality</i>
2.5	<i>Evaluation Process and Reforms</i>
2.5.3 QIM	IT integration and reforms in the examination procedures and processes (continuous internal assessment and end-semester assessment) have brought in considerable improvement in examination management system of the institution
2.6	<i>Student Performance and Learning Outcomes</i>
2.6.1 QIM	The institution has stated learning outcomes (generic and programme specific)/graduate attributes which are integrated into the assessment process and widely publicized through the website and other documents
2.6.2 QIM	Attainment of Programme outcomes, Programme specific outcomes and course outcomes are evaluated by the institution
2.7	<i>Student Satisfaction Survey</i>

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 2

The University has adopted Learning Outcome-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) in 2020. The University uses active learning methods like seminars, assignments, discussions and interactive sessions with emphasis on both theory and practicum. The University also encourages collaborative learning strategies. The University uses students' feedback for improving learning processes. The University ensures Problem Solving Skills through multifarious learning activities including practicum. The University promotes research, based on endemic biodiversity. The University maintains a herb garden *Tulaseevanam* as part of an attempt *ex situ* conservation of endangered and indigenous herbs and to facilitate bio-learning. The University also initiated the Harithalayam Project to enlighten students about importance of green cover. The University imparts training to students to practice rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge.

The University is IT enabled and digitally connected, supported by a Tier-3 Data Centre. The University has developed its own interfaces such as Learning Management Systems (LMS), UoK Meet, KU Padasala, Safe Exam Browser. Teachers use ICT facilities for effective teaching with LMS. The University has a Manuscript Library (ORI), which has the Asia's largest collection of manuscripts and rare documents. The University has set up its own LMS to manage online OBE courses, for assignments, seminars, quizzes, attendance, discussion forums, online examinations, etc.

The University uses a centralized admission and allotment process for PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes. The University follows a Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation process under the Credit and Semester System (CSS). The University assesses the students' performance through continuous assessment strategies and end semester examinations. The Students Grievance Redressal System is in place. The progress of the students is monitored from entry to exit. The University of Kerala has a comprehensive digitized certificate depository where students can download 14 documents which include mark-sheets and provisional certificates.

The University has made an effort to develop programme outcomes, programme specific outcomes and uploaded the same in the University website. However, a proper mechanism to evaluate the attainment of these outcomes needs to be strengthened.

**Criterion3 - Research, Innovations and Extension
(Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion3)**

3.1	<i>Promotion of Research and Facilities</i>
3.1.1 QIM	The institution's Research facilities are frequently updated and there is a well defined policy for promotion of research which is uploaded on the institutional website and implemented
3.2	<i>Resource Mobilization for Research</i>
3.3	<i>Innovation Ecosystem</i>
3.3.1 QIM	Institution has created an eco system for innovations including Incubation centre and other initiatives for creation and transfer of knowledge.
3.4	<i>Research Publications and Awards</i>
3.5	<i>Consultancy</i>
3.5.1 QIM	Institution has a policy on consultancy including revenue sharing between the institution and the individual and encourages its faculty to undertake consultancy.
3.6	<i>Extension Activities</i>
3.6.1 QIM	Extension activities in the neighbourhood community in terms of impact and sensitising students to social issues and holistic development during the last five years.
3.7	<i>Collaboration</i>

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 3

The University has set up a two-tier system to formulate and streamline quality research, consisting of the Research Council and the Departmental Doctoral Committees (DDC). The University provides fellowships not covered under any other scheme. The University offers 40 Post-Doctoral Fellowships of Rs. 20,000 /- per month, for a maximum period of two years. The University has constituted research and academic excellence awards for the faculty members. The University has established a state-of-the-art Central Laboratory for instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF). The University also has Campus computing facility, laboratory for media studies and language laboratories. The University promotes interdisciplinary research culture and has established collaboration with other research institutions. There is a provision for providing seed money to faculty members to encourage research.

During the assessment period, start-ups were encouraged with initial grants. Twenty-four patents have been published during the period. The University has awarded 907 Ph.Ds. during the last five years.

The University has a Consultancy Cell (UCC) for enabling, overseeing and managing its consultancy services. The University has a benefit sharing policy. It has organised periodically workshops/seminars on Research Methodology, Intellectual Property Rights, entrepreneurship and skill development during the last five years. Faculty members have published quality research papers with good index and impact factor.

The institute seems to be socially responsive through its extension activities. The University frames an overarching Extension and Institutional Social Responsibility Policy. During the period of COVID-19 the University has donated Rs. 6.5 crores to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund and has also contributed Rs. 55 lakhs to the Govt. of Kerala to create a pandemic resilient society. In addition, it organises activities like Neighbourhood and Beach Clean-up, Anti-Plastic Campaign, Gender Sensitization, Career Guidance, Fish Census, Psychological Counselling, Blood Donation Drives, Vocational Skills Trainings, tree plantation drives etc. The University has an active NSS unit.

The institute has received awards and recognitions for extension activities from government and government recognised bodies. The University has collaborative activities and MOUs with industry and

institutions for research, and internships. Also, it has 176 functional MoUs with institutions/industries in India and abroad for internship, on-the-job training, project work, student/faculty exchange and collaborative research during the last five years.

Research leading to innovation needs to be encouraged.

**Criterion4 - Infrastructure and Learning Resources
(Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion4)**

4.1	<i>Physical Facilities</i>
4.1.1 QIM	The institution has adequate facilities for teaching - learning. viz., classrooms, laboratories, computing equipment, etc.
4.1.2 QIM	The institution has adequate facilities for cultural activities, yoga, games and sports (indoor & outdoor); (gymnasium, yoga centre, auditorium, etc.,)
4.1.3 QIM	Availability of general campus facilities and overall ambience
4.2	<i>Library as a Learning Resource</i>
4.2.1 QIM	Library is automated using Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) and has digitisation facility
4.3	<i>IT Infrastructure</i>
4.3.2 QIM	Institution has an IT policy, makes appropriate budgetary provision and updates its IT facilities including Wi-Fi facility
4.4	<i>Maintenance of Campus Infrastructure</i>
4.4.2 QIM	There are established systems and procedures for maintaining and utilizing physical, academic and support facilities - laboratory, library, sports complex, computers, classrooms etc.

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 4

The University spreads over 400 acres with adequate built up area. It has adequate physical and academic support resources. The campus is Wi-Fi enabled. It has two campuses with 43 teaching and research Departments, many specialized research centres and 3 regional centres.

It has 207 ICT enabled classrooms with air-conditioning. Each department has one ICT-enabled seminar hall with adequate seating capacity. There are two 200 seating seminar halls, 5 large auditoriums and 4 open-air auditoriums. There are two central libraries, 5 state-of-the-art language labs, full-fledged Archaeological Museum, Geological Museum, Media Laboratory, Weather and Air Monitoring Station, Astronomical Observatory and Seed Bank. Beside, each department has its own library. The total number of books adds to more than 10 lakhs. The University has spent Rs. 193.84 crores for infrastructure augmentation during the last five years. Further, 8 theatre-classrooms and 35 multimedia classrooms worth Rs. 10 crores are being set-up. The University has also spent Rs. 66.47 crores for maintenance of academic and physical facilities during the last five years. The campus is mostly disable friendly with facilities like ramps, lifts and disable friendly washrooms. However, some old buildings are to be made disabled friendly.

The University has a Senate Hall (2000 capacity) and a Golden Jubilee Hall (1000 capacity), fitness training centre, gymnasium, multipurpose indoor court, 8 shuttle courts and 4000 sqm playground. It has Sports Hostel offering residential facilities for prospective athletes.

It uses ILMS-KOHA software for the management of resources. It provides separate web portals to the students and staff. The University ensures 'state-of-the-art' infrastructure such as Tier three Data Centre, LAN connected computers, servers, 24/7 wifi connectivity, firewall security system, 1 GBPS internet, OFC backbone network (10GBPS) etc. The University has two 11KV substations with backup facility guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. Three solar power plants are also installed in the University. It offers free health services through health centres. The University has seven students hostels with a capacity of 937 and an International Youth Hostel; however, there is need for more hostels. There is a separate hostel besides quarters for faculty members.

**Criterion5 - Student Support and Progression
(Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion5)**

5.1	Student Support
5.2	Student Progression
5.3	Student Participation and Activities
5.3.2 QIM	Presence of Student Council and its activities for institutional development and student welfare.
5.4	Alumni Engagement
5.4.1 QIM	The Alumni Association / Chapters (registered and functional) contributes significantly to the development of the institution through financial and other support services.

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 5

About 76% of the students have been benefitted by the scholarships and freeships provided by the Institution, Government and non-government agencies (NGOs) during the last five years. Guidance for competitive examinations and career counselling is offered by the institution.

The University has a transparent mechanism for timely redressal of student grievances including sexual harassment and ragging cases. Placement needs further strengthening. The performance of students in SLET/NET, etc is good. A total of 616 students won awards/medals for outstanding performances in sports/ cultural activities at inter-university/ state/ national/international levels. Database for progression towards, higher education/ placements needs to be centrally maintained across the departments.

The University has a student council called the Kerala University Union, with elects its representatives. The students have their representation in various statutory/non-statutory bodies such as IQAC, Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council, ICC, committees for CSS Grievances, Hostel Monitoring, Hostels and Canteen. The University organizes sports and cultural events frequently. It has a registered Alumni Association besides Departmental Alumni Associations which are functional.

***Criterion6 - Governance, Leadership and Management
(Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion6)***

6.1	<i>Institutional Vision and Leadership</i>
6.1.1 QIM	The institution has a clearly stated vision and mission which are reflected in its academic and administrative governance.
6.1.2 QIM	The effective leadership is reflected in various institutional practices such as decentralization and participative management.
6.2	<i>Strategy Development and Deployment</i>
6.2.1 QIM	The institutional Strategic plan is effectively deployed.

6.2.2 QIM	The functioning of the institutional bodies is effective and efficient as visible from policies, administrative setup, appointment, service rules and procedures, etc.
6.3	<i>Faculty Empowerment Strategies</i>
6.3.1 QIM	The institution has a performance appraisal system, promotional avenues and effective welfare measures for teaching and non-teaching staff .
6.4	<i>Financial Management and Resource Mobilization</i>
6.4.1 QIM	Institutional strategies for mobilisation of funds and the optimal utilisation of resources
6.4.4 QIM	Institution conducts internal and external financial audits regularly
6.5	<i>Internal Quality Assurance System</i>
6.5.1 QIM	Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has contributed significantly for institutionalizing the quality assurance strategies and processes by constantly reviewing the teaching learning process, structures & methodologies of operations and learning outcomes at periodic intervals.
6.5.3 QIM	Incremental improvements made for the preceding five years with regard to quality (in case of first cycle), Post accreditation quality initiatives (second and subsequent cycles).

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 6

The University has vision, mission and goals in tune with the objectives of higher education. It has a defined organisation structure. The University promotes a culture of decentralisation. Academic autonomy is also ensured through a decentralized three-tier system in all 43 Teaching Departments functioning under 11 Schools with 16 Faculties. The University has an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). Healthy relationship with all the stakeholders has been observed during the visit.

The University has the Governor of Kerala as its Chancellor. The administrative set-up complies with the Acts, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. The University promotes a culture of decentralisation and participative management through various committees.

The University has many appreciable welfare schemes for teaching and non-teaching staff such as Group Welfare Scheme, Life Insurance Scheme, Accident Insurance Scheme, Family Benefit Scheme, free medical facilities at the Health Centres, Medical Reimbursement for staff and family. The University organises professional development/administrative training programs for teaching and non-teaching staff. Contractual staff and faculty members are to be adequately compensated with good remuneration.

A formal performance appraisal system for teaching and non teaching staff is in place. In order to ensure accuracy and transparency in utilisation of funds the University conducts internal as well as external audits. Funds mobilisation through research projects and consultancy needs to be encouraged further.

The University receives annual grants from the State Government. Towards the salary and the development. The University also mobilizes revenue through many other sources like Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund (KIFB), RUSA, and other research funding agencies. The University also generates internal funds through examination branch.

The IQAC, constituted as per NAAC norms has initiated few strategies and processes in the University for post re-accreditation in 2015, monitors and reviews teaching-learning methods. To enhance professional development of teaching and non-teaching quality, it has organised seminars/ workshops/ conferences. Outcome based education needs to be strengthened.

***Criterion7 - Institutional Values and Best Practices
(Key Indicator and Qualitative Metrics(QIM) in Criterion7)***

7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

7.1.1 QIM	Measures initiated by the Institution for the promotion of gender equity during the last five years.
7.1.3 QIM	<p>Describe the facilities in the Institution for the management of the following types of degradable and non-degradable waste (within 500 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste management • Liquid waste management • Biomedical waste management • E-waste management • Waste recycling system • Hazardous chemicals and radioactive waste management
7.1.8 QIM	Describe the Institutional efforts/initiatives in providing an inclusive environment i.e., tolerance and harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socioeconomic and other diversities (within 500 words).
7.1.9 QIM	Sensitization of students and employees of the Institution to the constitutional obligations: values, rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens (within 500 words).
7.1.11 QIM	Institution celebrates / organizes national and international commemorative days, events and festivals (within 500 words).
7.2	<i>Best Practices</i>
7.2.1 QIM	Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.
7.3	<i>Institutional Distinctiveness</i>
7.3.1 QIM	Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 7

The University is gender sensitive. Gender Audit was carried out in the University in 2017 and 2021 and the University has realigned some courses according to Gender Audit. Women representation in students/teaching and non-teaching staff is significant. The University has Internal Complaints Committee, counselling for women, Gender Justice Forum in Departments, Common rooms for ladies, women security personnel, Women's club, Day-care facility, Yoga and self-defense training, legal awareness sessions on women related laws and debates and discussions on gender issues. Guest lectures and workshops on prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace are organised by the institution from time to time.

It has facilities for alternative sources of energy and energy conservation measures. A three-tier waste management system is in place. e-waste is collected and disposed of as per government guidelines.

The University offers Diploma programme and certificate courses in Human Rights, M. Phil. Programme in Human Rights, Generic course on Human Rights to the PG students of Education Department to sensitize the students about constitutional obligations. It has defined code of conduct for students, teachers, administrators and other staff and is displayed on the University website. Various activities are done to promote national values and the University also observes national festivals and anniversaries of national personalities.

The best practices of the University include- providing fellowships to research scholars is not covered under any other scheme; and participative management at various levels and outreach activities by NSS.

The University has adopted environmentally sustainable practices through Harithalayam, carbon free campus and solar energy.

The University has tried to make the campus carbon free by pressing into service electric buggies and bicycles.

The campus is divyangana friendly.

Qualitative assessment of research outcomes for societal benefits.

Section III:OVERALL ANALYSIS (based on Institutional strengths.Weaknesses,Opportunities & Challenges(SWOC)(up to 500 words))

Overall Analysis

•Visionary, pro active and supportive management with committed, dedicated and disciplined administration, staff and students.

- Locational advantage.
- Clean and green and well maintained campus with good learning ambience.
- Emphasis on extension and outreach activities.
- Unstinted support by the state government.
- Spacious campus for further expansion.
- Healthy relationship with all the stakeholders.
- Student representation on various bodies.
- Use of ICT in teaching learning.
- Strong statr-up culture and entrepreneurial orientation.

Section IV:Recommendations for Quality Enhancement of the Institution

(Please limit to ten major ones and use telegraphic language)
(It is not necessary to indicate all the ten bullets)

- A rich collection of manuscripts in ORI needs to be digitalised and highlighted under various schemes of the Ministry of Culture, under Government of India.
- Considering the high demand ratio in some programmes, adequate number of seats be increased.
- Participation of research scholars in shouldering teaching load and practicals.
- Hostel accommodation be increased for students.
- Academic programmes need to be strengthened with job oriented courses in line with NEP.
- Multi-disciplinary research be promoted.
- Recruitment against the vacant faculty positions be initiated.
- Outcome based education needs to be strengthened.
- Eco system for innovation activities needs to be created.
- Allumni association needs to be strengthened.

I have gone through the observations of the Peer Team as mentioned in this report

Signature of the Head of the Institution
Seal of the Institution

Signature of the Peer Team Members:

Sl.No	Name		Signature with date
1	Ramachandram Sirandas	Chairperson	
2	Pradeep Kathal	Member Co-ordinator	
3	ATUL TRIPATHI	Member	

4	Usha Arora	Member	
5	Chidananda Reddy Patil	Member	
6	K Muthuraman Kannayan	Member	
7	Ishwarchandra Pandit	Member	
8	Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar	NAAC Co-ordinator	

Place: Date