

Programme Project Report - PPR

Name of School : School of Computer and Information Sciences

Name of the Programme: Master of Computer Applications (MCA)

S.No.	Name of the Programme	Master of Computer Applications (MCA)
a.	Programme's Mission & Objectives:	The broad objective of the MCA programme is to prepare graduate students for productive careers in software industry and academia by providing an outstanding environment for teaching and research in the core and emerging areas of the discipline. The Programme's thrust is on giving the students a thorough and sound background in theoretical and application-oriented courses relevant to the latest Computer software development. The programme emphasizes the application of software technology to solve mathematical, computing, communications/networking and commercial problems. This Master's degree programme has been designed with a semester approach in mind. The first year courses are aimed at skill development in Computers using various technologies , the second year is more focused on core courses providing conceptual framework and the third year provides the specialization..
b.	Relevance of Programme with HEI's mission and goals:	MCA is relevant to IGNOU's mission and goals in the following manner: MCA provides access to higher education and is offered to provide opportunities in the area of ICT to a large segment of population including those persons who are in remote areas, rural areas, socially disadvantaged, economically backward and those who cannot afford to study full time due to employment and other issues.
c.	Nature of prospective target group of learners:	<p>The following are the natures of prospective group of learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Learners who are deprived of pursuing a career in Computer Applications due to their employment (ii) Learners who could not get admission in premium institutions for admission to MCA (iii) Learners who did not pursue Mathematics at both 10+2 and graduation (iv) Learners who do not have access to Master's level education <p>The following are eligibility conditions for admission to MCA programme: Any Bachelor's degree of minimum 3 (Three) year duration from a recognized University and Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level or at graduation level. If not studied Mathematics at 10+2 level, the student is required to pursue and pass the BCS-012 course concurrently with IGNOU MCA.</p>

		<p>A student who completes all courses of 1st and 2nd semesters of MCA is awarded with Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications. Also, a student who registers for admission to 1st semester of IGNOU BCA and re-registers in all the remaining semesters of BCA will be offered admission to 3rd semester of MCA.</p>
d.	<p>Appropriateness of programme to be conducted on in open & distance learning mode to acquire specific skills & competence:</p>	<p>The programme is highly appropriate to be conducted in ODL mode to acquire specific skills and competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Learners attend theory classes at designated Learner Support Centres (LSCs) where there are qualified academic counsellors with requisite experience (ii) The designated LSCs also have Computer labs where learners of MCA do practicals such as programming, networking, Database Design, Web Designing, Software Design and Development, Soft skills etc. (iii) It may be noted that , with advances in the Computer Hardware and Software technologies, a learner can also use his/ her laptop to further enhance his/her skills apart from availing facilities of Computer Lab at LSCs.
e.	<p>Instructional Design:</p>	<p>The University has adopted a multiple-media approach for imparting instruction to its learners for its various programmes of study. The University follows the Systems approach to instructional design. The programme was designed after undertaking need analysis; identifying and defining the target group; selection of appropriate media; course design and development; pilot testing and launch of the programme; and periodic revision. The self instructional format is used for developing Self Learning Material (SLM) in print and multiple media. Print is the predominant mode of instruction supplemented with audio and video programmes; face to face counselling sessions; interactive radio counselling (IRC) (Gyan Vani); educational TV broadcasts (Gyan Darshan); and web based counselling (Gyan Dhara). The following are components of Instructional Design of MCA :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Self Learning Materials (Printed course material) for each of the 31 courses including all theory, practical & project courses are made available to all the MCA learners (ii) The course material is also available online for download (iii) Large number of video lectures are available for courses of MCA online (iv) Interactive Radio Counseling (IRC) is done

		<p>through Gyan Vani for the benefit of learners</p> <p>(v) Support through various web technologies is available to resolve queries etc.</p> <p>(vi) Counseling is held for all theory , practical and project courses</p>
f.	Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation:	<p>Admissions Admission is mainly done online. To fulfill the mandate of inclusiveness there is a provision for submission of application offline as well.</p> <p>Curriculum Transaction Curriculum is transacted mainly through printed Self Learning Materials (SLMs), Face to face counselling sessions (theory/ practical), audio and video programmes, interactive radio counselling (IRC) (Gyan Vani), educational TV broadcasts (Gyan Darshan) and web based counselling (Gyan Dhara). For practical based courses practical sessions are conducted in face to face mode (which is compulsory component).</p> <p>Evaluation Evaluation includes both continuous assessment (through assignments and viva-voce) and semester end assessment (through term end theory examinations, term end practical examinations, project evaluation and project viva-voce). All components of assignment carry a weightage of 25% and all components of term end examination carry a weightage of 75%.</p>
g.	Requirement of the laboratory support and library resources:	<p>Laboratory Support Laboratory support to all MCA learners is provided at Learner Support Centers. Prior to activation of a LSC for MCA, a team of IGNOU staff visit the prospective LSC to confirm that the center meets all software and hardware requirements of MCA. A total of 540 hours of hands on training and practical counseling is provided through Computer Labs.</p> <p>Library Resources Learners have access to library resources at LSC, Regional Centre and Main Campus of the University.</p>
h.	Cost estimation of the Programme and the provisions:	<p>Programme development is an ongoing process and the programme is already on offer. However, before development of the programme, cost analysis was done at the level of the School in coordination with Planning and Development Division (there is a dedicated full fledged Planning and Development Division for the policy planning of the University). The University has dedicated budgetary provisions for programme development at the level of School, Material Production and Distribution (there is a dedicated full- fledged Material Production and Distribution Division for material production and distribution) and Electronic Media Production Centre (there</p>

		<p>is a dedicated full- fledged Electronic Media Production Centre for electronic media production). Digital media production (there is a dedicated full- fledged Inter University Consortium for production of MOOCs and digital media)and delivery of the program through its dedicated Divisions namely Regional Services Division which oversees the operations of all Regional Centres and LSCs; E support Unit, Student Registration Division, Student Evaluation Division and Student Service Centre at the HQs.</p>
i.	<p>Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes:</p>	<p>Quality Assurance mechanism: The University has its policies, procedures and mechanisms for quality and standards including the following methods adopted for quality assurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard norms and procedures for establishment of study centers, • Standard norms for appointment of academic counselors, evaluators; • Taking help of external experts in maintaining quality of evaluation • All Study centre and examination centers are regularly monitored by University. • 2% assignment are being monitored by faculty of school to ensure the quality of continuous evaluation <p>The University has standardized its courseware based on the credit system. To further standardize its courses it has developed its own house style. There is a mechanism in place for continuous quality assessment for design, development and delivery of its academic programmes. The quality is assured at different phases by statutory bodies of the University namely: School Board of Studies, Academic Programme Committee, Planning Board and Academic Council. Programme evaluation is the norm before undertaking revision of the programme. The above mechanism has been followed for this programme also.</p> <p>Expected programme outcomes After completing MCA, learners may get into jobs associated with any activity related to Software Development such as Developer, Analyst, Tester and eventually as Project Leader, Project Manager etc.</p>