

— BEFORE YOU ENROL

15 Questions to Ask Any University Before Enrolling



The exact questions our counsellors ask on behalf of students.

Covers placements, exam format, faculty, hidden fees, and post-admission support.

Read each question aloud with the admissions rep. A hesitant or vague answer is itself an answer. Don't proceed without all 15 addressed.

✓ PLACEMENTS & CAREER OUTCOMES Q1 - Q3

- 01 What is the *median* CTC from last year's batch — and can you share the NIRF placement data URL right now?**
Anyone can quote the highest package. The median tells you what a typical graduate actually earns. If they can't share the NIRF URL on the spot, the number is unverified.
- 02 Which are the top 5 companies that *hired* from your programme last year — not partner companies, actual hirers?**
"500+ hiring partners" is a reach list, not a placement record. Ask for the companies that made actual offers to actual students — with offer letter proof if possible.
- 03 What percentage of students who *sat* for placements received offers — not the percentage of the total batch?**
"90% placement" often means 90% of the students who opted in — which could be 30% of the class. Ask for the denominator. Sit-to-offer ratio is the only honest number.

📅 EXAM FORMAT & ACADEMIC STRUCTURE Q4 - Q6

- 04 Are exams conducted online (proctored at home) or at a physical exam centre — and how far is the nearest centre from my city?**
Online proctored exams require a stable internet connection and a webcam. Physical centres require travel. Either way, confirm this before you enrol — not after your first semester.
- 05 How many hours of live classes per week are mandatory — and are sessions recorded if I miss one?**
Working professionals often enrol in online programmes. If attendance is mandatory and sessions aren't recorded, missing one class due to work could affect your grade. Clarify before committing.
- 06 What is the policy if I fail a semester exam — how many attempts do I get, and does each re-attempt cost extra?**
Re-attempt fees are a known hidden cost. Some universities charge ₹2,000–₹5,000 per paper per attempt. This is not disclosed upfront. Ask explicitly — and get it in writing.

👤 FACULTY & TEACHING QUALITY Q7 - Q9

- 07 What is the full-time faculty-to-student ratio for online students specifically — not the campus ratio?**
Online programmes often run with a fraction of the on-campus faculty. A university with 1:20 on campus can have 1:200 online. The online ratio is the only number that applies to you.
- 08 Are the faculty members who teach online the same as those on campus — or is there a separate pool of contract instructors?**
Many online programmes are taught by adjunct or part-time instructors, not the professors featured in the brochure. Ask to see the faculty page specifically for the online programme.
- 09 Can I speak with a current student from this specific programme — not a featured testimonial, an unscripted conversation?**
Any university can produce a polished testimonial video. A university confident in its product will connect you with a real student in 24 hours. Reluctance to do this is a red flag.



10 Is the fee quoted today the complete, all-inclusive fee — or are there separate charges for exams, study material, convocation, or the degree certificate?

Exam registration fees, LMS access charges, study kit fees, and even degree certificate printing costs are frequently not included in the headline fee. Ask for a written fee breakup for all 2–3 years.

11 What is the refund policy if I withdraw in the first 30 days after payment — and is this policy documented in writing?

UGC has a refund policy for online programmes. If a university's stated policy conflicts with it, the UGC policy applies — but you need to know both to enforce your rights.

12 Are semester fees locked for the full duration — or can the university revise fees each academic year?

Mid-programme fee hikes of 10–20% are not uncommon. If fees aren't locked in the offer letter, you have no recourse when Year 2 costs more than Year 1. Get a multi-year fee schedule in writing.



RECOGNITION & POST-ADMISSION SUPPORT

13 Will my degree certificate carry your university's full name and seal — or will it show a partner institute, study centre, or intermediary's name?

This is what your employer will see and verify. If the degree says anything other than the UGC-entitled university's name, it may fail background verification at your next job. Ask for a sample certificate upfront.

14 Is this programme AICTE-approved (for B.Tech / MBA / MCA) — and can you share the AICTE approval letter or portal reference number right now?

UGC entitlement and AICTE approval are two separate requirements for technical programmes. If they can't share the approval number immediately, it may not exist. Do not accept "it's in process" as an answer.

15 Who is my named point of contact after admission — and what is their direct number and email, not the general helpline?

General helplines are for pre-sales. After you pay, you need a named person responsible for your academic journey. If no one can give you a name and direct contact on the spot, that's a preview of the support you'll receive.



FROM OUR COUNSELLORS

The quality of answers to these 15 questions tells you more than any brochure. A university that answers confidently, with documents, in under 24 hours — is a university worth considering. One that hedges, redirects, or asks you to "trust us" on any of these points — isn't. Save this list. Use it every time.