



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Higher Education Department – Admission to Undergraduate Programmes – Eligibility of Diploma and Industrial Training Institute (ITI) qualified candidates in accordance with the National Credit Framework (NCrF) – Policy approved – Orders issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (L)DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.530/2026/HEDN Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 01-08-2026

Read 1 Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Technical Education(SBTE) dated 29.10.2024.

2 Letter No. DTETVM/2112/MS/2025-C4(ACA) dated 08.04.2025 from the Director of Technical Education.

3 Representation dated 29.06.2026 from Albertian Institute of Science and Technology.

4 Minutes of the State Level Academic Committee (SLAC) of the Kerala State Higher Education Council held on 29.1.2026.

5 Letter No. KSHEC(4)-A7/719/MS/Direct/2026 dated 06.02.2026 from the Kerala State Higher Education Council

ORDER

The State Board of Technical Education(SBTE) in its meeting held on 29.10.2024 proposed to Government through the Director of Technical Education to issue necessary orders to consider the Diploma holders also eligible for higher studies where pass in class 12(10+2) is stipulated as the eligibility criteria.

The State Level Academic Committee(SLAC) of the Kerala State Higher Education Council(KSHEC) considered the similar matter

in its meeting held on 29.01.2026.

The National Credit Framework (NCrF), jointly institutionalized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and associated statutory bodies, establishes a unified meta framework integrating school education, vocational education, and higher education. This integration is operationalised via institutionalised credit accumulation, credit transfer matrices, and flexible academic pathways. The overarching objective of the framework is to facilitate horizontal and vertical student mobility by anchoring academic and vocational curricula to internationally and nationally bench marked qualification levels.

The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) extensively reviewed the prevailing criteria governing the eligibility of Technical Diploma and Industrial Training Institute (ITI) credential holders seeking admission to conventional Undergraduate Programmes within the State. To foster equity and accessibility, the Council recommended the statutory alignment of university level admission profiles with the explicit level descriptors mandated by the National Credit Framework (NCrF). The specific structural equivalences recommended by the Council are detailed below:

(i) A post Class 12 Two-Year Polytechnic Diploma(LET) and a post Class X Three Year Polytechnic Diploma are mapped to NCrF Level 4.5, establishing structural parity with the successful completion of the first year (first two semesters) of a standard Bachelor's Degree.

(ii) An Industrial Training Institute (ITI) qualification successfully completed after Class X, complemented by the prescribed statutory 12 credit language component, is recognized at NCrF Level 4.0, rendering holders eligible for conventional Undergraduate matriculation.

The Government having evaluated the comprehensive recommendations of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, and with a view to ensuring seamless academic progression between vocational streams and higher education configurations, are pleased to accord formal administrative sanction to enforce the following admission

policy across all Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUGP) hosted by State Universities and their affiliated colleges :

Direct Matriculation into the First Year (Level 4.5 Stream)

Candidates possessing an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) certification completed after Class X, provided they have successfully acquired the mandatory additional language credits prescribed under NCrf operational mandates, or matching criteria specified by the UGC from time to time are eligible for admission to the first year of any Four Year Undergraduate Programme.

Lateral Entry into the Second Year (Level 5.0 Stream)

(i) Candidates who have successfully completed a post Class X Three Year Technical Diploma awarded by the State Board of Technical Education, or an equivalent technical qualification formally recognized by the Government, shall be eligible for direct lateral entry into the Second Year (Third Semester) of a Four-Year Undergraduate Programme.

(ii) Candidates possessing a valid Two Year Diploma completed after Class XII(Lateral Entry), issued by the State Board of Technical Education, or any alternative technical credential recognized by the State Government as strictly equivalent thereto.

The Director of Technical Education is hereby instructed to formally communicate this Order to all Universities, autonomous institutions, and polytechnics within the state, and shall act as the nodal coordinating authority to ensure uniform state wide implementation. It is also ordered that this Order shall officially come into force with effect from the Academic Year 2027–28, and shall govern all undergraduate admissions executed during and after the said academic period.

(By order of the Governor)

RAJESH M
JOINT SECRETARY

To:

The Director of Technical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council.

The Senior Joint Director (Polytechnic Stream)&Controller of
Technical Examinations

The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities in Kerala.

The Registrars of all Universities in Kerala.

The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Accountant General (A&E), Kerala, Kottayam.

The Information & Public Relations Department (Web & New Media).

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Section Officer