

Dated 25 April 2023

**THE BRITISH COUNCIL**  
- and -  
**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is dated 25 April 2023.

### PARTICIPANTS:

- (1) **THE BRITISH COUNCIL**, incorporated by Royal Charter and registered as a charity (under number 209131 in England and Wales and number SCO37733 in Scotland), with its principal office at 1 Redman Place, Stratford, London, E20 1JQ, United Kingdom (the "**British Council**");  
and
- (2) **DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA** seated at office of Mantralaya, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mumbai- 400032

### BACKGROUND:

- (A) The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organization for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.
- (B) The Government of Maharashtra is the governing authority for the Indian state of Maharashtra
- (C) The Participants wish to collaborate to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation between Maharashtra and UK to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of Maharashtra state.

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Participants have jointly decided to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of Maharashtra state by creating opportunities for young people of the state by improving access to high quality education and internationally benchmarked assessments; skills and qualifications for young people; and the exchange of culture, creativity, and ideas. This would support the states young people in accessing more opportunities to succeed both domestically and internationally for a peaceful and prosperous world.
- 1.2 Both Participants will mutually accept in lines with the ambitions of the Government of Maharashtra and its work to improve opportunities for young people, quality higher education and skills development.

## 2 AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

Both parties will hereby decide to work in the following areas:

- 2.1 Explore support towards internationalization of higher education in the state of Maharashtra, which includes but is not restricted to research and mobility.  
Both parties will endeavour to:
- develop and strengthen international partnership and collaboration in new and emerging areas with established UK institutions and corresponding institutions in Maharashtra
  - enhance capacity of Maharashtra's Higher education Institutions for Internationalisation
- 2.2 Expand the existing collaboration through programmes like Going Global Partnership to initiate knowledge transfer and partnership between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Maharashtra state and the UK to initiate Transnational Education partnership dialogues and create awareness and understanding of successful models for implementation.
- 2.3 Explore the creation of joint funded mobility/scholarship opportunities for students and faculty by:
- developing projects that enhance mobility at both student and faculty level between both countries focusing on research and internationalisation of HEIs.
- 2.4 Build the capacity of faculty in teaching, learning and leadership in state universities, government and aided colleges by:
- empowering leadership development amongst teaching faculty at HEIs through capacity building workshops in collaboration with Maharashtra State Development faculty academy and relevant higher education organisations in the UK.
- 2.5 Build sustainable partnerships and collaboration between Universities & HEIs of both the countries to enable them to undertake high quality, joint research projects in mutually accepted areas.
- 2.6 Provide capacity building for international officers to support the internationalization agenda under the New Education Policy (NEP) through face-to-face workshops and training, mentoring and knowledge exchange as well as virtual and face-to-face capacity building.
- 2.7 Create and sustain platforms for sharing of knowledge and information in areas of mutual interest through webinars, jointly delivered conferences, workshops, study visits, engagement in communities of practice and other appropriate means as accepted in relevant areas such as quality enhancement of Higher education institutions, process for setting up articulation arrangements for implementing joint and dual degrees, creating frameworks and standards of gender equity and inclusion, supporting set of incubation centres etc, for example Library resources or Higher Education Institutions resources. Any proprietary, free resources, course or

materials owned by respective university will be negotiated on a case-to-case basis, with the concerned UK higher education institutions and decided mutually.

- 2.8 Both parties will work towards creating a world class curriculum in Maharashtra Higher Education institutions that are responsive to local and global needs through capacity building, sharing information and ideas in partnerships with UK higher education institutions.
- 2.9 British Council will work with the Government of Maharashtra towards improving skills and confidence of young people in the state through the exchange of information and delivery of programmes that enhance ability of young people in English language, through curriculum reforms, teacher capacity building face to face or virtually, through arts and cultural activities that may be accepted between the parties from time to time.
- 2.10 Support Maharashtra state universities aspiration to improvement of quality focusing on the parameters set out by ranking bodies, and expert quality assurance organisations and relevant bodies through review of policy, practice and capacity enhancement as mutually decided.
- 2.11 Support the state of Maharashtra develop high quality online and distance education qualification in partnership with UK higher education institutions who have expertise and knowledge in the area through sharing knowledge of curriculum development, design of student experience and rigorous assessment.
- 2.12 Both parties will engage in high level policy dialogues and study visits as may be organised on mutually accepted themes the betterment of higher education institutions and deepen, policymakers and implementers understanding of current context and need of institutions and support the creations of an enabling environment for fostering excellence.

To enable the implementation of this MoU, it is proposed that a working group to be constituted comprising of representatives from the Government of Maharashtra and the British Council. The terms of reference of the working group to be defined and mutually decided between both the parties.



3 **AMENDMENT**

3.1 This MoU may be amended at any time by the mutual written arrangement of the Participants.

4 **TERMINATION**

4.1 This MoU may be terminated by either Participant giving six months written notice. The Participants will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with.

4.2 Termination will not affect the validity of any contract made under this MoU.

5 **DISPUTES**

5.1 Any disputes about the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved by consultations between the Participants and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

5.2 In the event of a dispute, the Participants will attempt in good faith to negotiate an amicable resolution. If this is unsuccessful, a dispute will first be escalated to Director West India at the British Council and Principal secretary, Department of Higher and Technical education at the Government of Maharashtra. If this process fails to reach an understanding, the dispute is to be resolved by the arrangement of the respective Chief Executives of the Participants.

6 **TERM AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

6.1 The Participants hereby decide that the duration of this MoU will be **three** years from the date of signing, which will also be the Effective Date of the MoU.

6.2 This MoU may be extended by mutual written arrangement and decisions of the Participants.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS**

7.1 The Participants wish to emphasise that this MoU is not intended to be legally binding.

7.2 The Participants hereby decide to negotiate to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement to accompany any future contractual negotiations and exchanges of confidential information.

7.3 Neither Participant will hold the other Participant accountable for any fees, charges or other costs incurred in relation to this MoU.

**IN WITNESS** whereof the Participants have entered into this MoU on the date set out above.

**Signed by the duly authorised representative of the British Council**

Name:	Rashi Jain	Signature:	
Position:	Director West India	Date:	

**Signed by the duly authorised representative of Government of Maharashtra**

Name:	Vikas Chandra Rastogi IAS	Signature	
Position:	Principal Secretary, Department of Higher and Technical Education	Date:	