**PART ONE**

**PROFILE OF UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION OF BANGLADESH**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh was established under the President’s Order (P.O.) No. 10 of 1973. The UGC is the apex and statutory body of the universities of Bangladesh. The main objectives of instituting the UGC were to (a) promote and coordinate university education, (b) monitor, and maintain the standard of university education, (c) assess the needs in terms of funding for the public universities, and (d) advise the Government on various issues related to higher education and research in Bangladesh.

**1.1 Composition**

Under Section 4(I) of the President’s Order No. 10 of 1973 and its amendment in 1998, the UGC consists of the following members:

Chairman : 1

Full-Time Members : 5

Part-Time Members : 9

The part-time members are three Vice-Chancellors by rotation, three Deans/ Professors of the Universities (of which the Vice-Chancellors are not members) by rotation, and three nominees of the Government: Secretary, Ministry of Education, Member of the Planning Commission, and a representative of the Ministry of Finance (not below the rank of a Secretary). The tenure of the part-time members is 2 years.

**1.2 Role**

The major responsibilities entrusted to the UGC are to receive funds from the Government and allocate and disburse those funds to the public universities for their maintenance and development. After necessary assessment and scrutiny of the requirements of the universities, the UGC places them before the Government for necessary approval. Formulating plans for the development of higher education, examining and evaluating various development projects and programs of the Public Universities, advising and putting forward recommendations to the Government about various aspects of higher education are also important functions of the UGC. In this respect, the role of UGC is mainly advisory in nature.

Besides, the Private University Act 2010 has provided the UGC with the authority to supervise, monitor and regulate theactivities of the Private Universities in Bangladesh. As a result, the UGC has been empowered with the legal authority to advise, supervise and regulate higher education at Private Universities in Bangladesh.

Thus, the role and functions of the UGC have now been increased significantly compared with the previous years. The UGC is presently functioning on the basis of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Order, 1973, Private University Act 2010, a number of individual acts of 37 Public Universities (as each public university is established by an act of Parliament) and a Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE) Rules. The above mentioned rules and regulations are not adequate for the UGC to function smoothly and efficiently with a view to ensuring quality higher education. Therefore, the UGC should be empowered with necessary power and authority.

**Relation with the Universities**The universities of Bangladesh do not act directly with the Government. They communicate with the UGC which acts as a spokesman for the universities and plays a pivotal role in presenting the problems and demands of the universities to the Government.

**Relation with the Government**The statutory obligation of the UGC to the Government emanates from the President’s Order No. 10 of 1973. As per Section 12 of the Order, the Commission shall prepare a report, not later than the first day of March each year, on the activities and performances of the universities for the year ending on the previous thirty-first day of December and submit it to the Government for its appraisal. The Government shall cause the report to be laid before the Parliament.

Further, as per Section 11 of the Order “the Commission shall cause to be maintained such books of accounts and other books in relation to its account in such form and in such manner as may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, be prescribed”.

**Relation with the Parliament** The constitutional obligation of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh to the Parliament has been laid down by President’s Order No. 10 of 1973 [Section 11(1), (2), (3) and (4)]. Each year the UGC submits an Annual Report to the National Parliament through the Ministry of Education along with the observations and recommendations to enhance the quality of higher education in the country. This also includes annual accounts of the Commission together with the audit report thereon.

**1.3 Structure of UGC**

The UGC consists of the office of the Chairman, the offices of the full-time Members and the offices of eight Divisions. The activities of the office of the Chairman and 8 (eight) Divisions are elaborated below:

**2. OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

The role of the office of the Chairman is very crucial in its nature as **it** assists the Chairman in strategic planning and monitoring of the entire Commission, conducts regular review, formulation and implementation of strategic initiatives. It prioritizes the key areas of focus and actively follows up on strategic and operational issues, on behalf of the Chairman.

**2.1 Function**

The Chairman of the Commission complying with all the formalities and directives with seal and signature sends the relevant documents to the concerned ministries and agencies. He looks after the overall functions and administration of the Commission.

International Cooperation and Collaboration (ICC) Section, Public Relations (PR) Section and Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE) Section are under the direct control of the Chairman. The Members of the Commission oversee the rest of the Divisions and their activities.

**2.2 Composition**

The Office of the Chairman is headed by the Chairman of the UGC who is supported by a Private Secretary (Deputy Secretary), a Protocol Officer, a Personal Officer and a number of staff.

**3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION (ICC) SECTION**

ICC Section is an integral part of the Chairman’s Office. It was formed in 2011 especially to facilitate congregation of Bangladeshi participants in different international programs. Since the emergence of the Section, it has been playing a significant role.

**3.1 Functions**

Key Functions of ICC Section are to:

* Deal with all matters relating to International Cooperation and Collaboration in higher education;
* Administer various Scholarship and Fellowship programs such as JSPS, SAARC Scholarship and Fellowship, SAARC Chair and similar other programs;
* Explore opportunities of funding for University Faculty Members and UGC Personnel to facilitate their participation in various foreign and international trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences and similar other programs;
* Facilitate various trainings sponsored by the British Council and similar other foreign organizations;
* Conduct admission test of South Asian University (India), run and managed by SAARC;
* Deal with foreign funded/collaborative joint research projects such asJSPS-RONPAKU-UGC Joint Research Project and RONPAKU-UGC (PhD Dissertation) program;
* Disseminate the information of different scholarship and fellowship programs offered by different international organizations;
* Administer Commonwealth Scholarship (Academic and Open) and Commonwealth Medical Fellowship programs;
* Deal with University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) program;
* Deal with various scholarships, awards and prizes sponsored by the UNESCO Commission.

**3.2 Composition**

ICC is comprised of an Additional Director, a Deputy Secretary, a Senior Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, an Administrative Officer and supporting staff.

**4. PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION**

**4.1 Functions**

The main responsibilities of the Public Relations Section are to:

* Communicate with different news agencies/media and newspapers regarding the activities of the UGC;
* Perform responsibilities with respect to printing and publication of UGC Bulletin, UGC Diary, etc.
* Take necessary steps to publish the news of the activities of the UGC such as workshops, seminars and similar other events;
* Collect, preserve and disseminate information/data from different universities related to higher educational activities at home and abroad;
* Maintain protocol, public relations and information services;
* Prepare abstracts on articles especially at tertiary level education which are written by renowned educationists and
* Perform other duties assigned by the Commission.

**4.2 Composition**

The Public Relations Section under the Chairman’s Office of the Commission consists of the Additional Director, Deputy Secretary, Senior Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary (Information), Computer Operator, PR Assistant-cum-Photographer, Office Assistant-cum-Computer Typist and Office Assistant.

**5. CROSS BORDER HIGHER EDUCATION (CBHE) SECTION**

**5.1 Functions**

The key responsibilities of CBHE Section are to:

* Process applications submitted to the UGC for setting up branch campuses or study centers of foreign universities (known as CBHE institutions) in Bangladesh;
* Supervise and monitor the activities of branch campuses/study centers of foreign universities approved by the Government for their operation in Bangladesh;
* Advise the Government on various issues relating to the CBHE institutions in Bangladesh;
* Maintain statistics and information relating to the CBHE institutions and
* Formulate plans and policies for improvement of quality of CBHE institutions.

**5.2 Composition**

The Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE) Section is headed by the Chairman, UGC who is assisted by the Secretary of the Commission, a Deputy Director, a Computer Operator and a number of supporting staff.

**6. SECRETARIAT AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

The role and functions of the Secretariat and Administration Division are to provide secretarial and general services to the UGC. There are a Secretariat and five Sections under this Division. The activities and functions of these Sections and offices are outlined below.

**6.1 Functions of the Secretariat**

The functions of the Secretariat are:

* Drawing and disbursing functions of the Commission;
* Coordination of the works of other Divisions;
* Arranging meetings of the Commission;
* Selecting candidates for foreign scholarships, fellowships, etc.;
* Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), pacts/agreements with national and international bodies;
* Formulation of new policies/legal documents relating to higher education;
* Reviewing of existing policies/ legal documents relating to higher education and the Higher Education Institutions (HEI);
* Implementing all decisions relating to the Secretariat and Administration Division.

**6.2. Functions of the Administrative Section**

The functions of the Administrative Section are:

**6.2.1 Personnel Matters:**

* Maintain personal files and records of the employees of the Commission;
* Prepare and maintain a complete database of the employees and provide necessary information to the authority/ministry as per requirement;
* Maintain files of all kinds of leave, increments, seniority list, pay and allowances of the officers and staff of the Commission;
* Deal with retirement and pension benefits of the employees;
* Deal with the disciplinary matters in relation to the officers and staff of the Commission;
* Collect information and prepare replies to the questions of the National Assembly and submit the same to the Government as per requirement;
* Maintain files of the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) of the employees of the Commission;
* Maintain liaison with the Government, universities and other Government and semi-Government organizations on different matters/issues;
* Provide necessary information to the Government with regard to the establishment of Private Universities;
* Process and nominate staff and officers of the Commission with respect to all local and foreign trainings;
* Frame Rules/Regulations/Statutes etc. of the UGC and the Universities under the guidance of the UGC;
* Perform the functions with respect to manpower planning such as creation of posts, recruitment, promotion, upgradation and placement of manpower to different Divisions and
* Provide incentives to its manpower in the form of Time-Scale and Selection Grade Scale honorarium to the employees.

**6.2.2 Security Matters**

* Prepare security plan and take necessary measures for maintaining overall security at the UGC office building and other installations and
* Prepare appropriate duty roster for the security personnel and deploy them at different important points/places for maintaining overall security at the UGC office building and the office-cum-residence buildings at Dhanmondi and UGC residential area.

**6.3 General Services and Estate Section**

The role and functions of the General Services and Estate Section are to provide general services to the UGC. The activities and functions of this section are outlined below:

**6.3.1 Transport**

* Discharge duties with respect to transportation and route management of the employees of the Commission;
* Discharge duties for the maintenance of log books, tax-token, fitness and insurance papers of the vehicles owned by the UGC and
* Discharge duties with respect to maintenance and preservation of the vehicles.

**6.3.2 Support Services**

* Perform duties with regard to all sorts of repairing and maintenance works of the Commission’s assets and properties;
* Repair and maintenance of all office equipment, machineries, furniture and fixtures of the Commission;
* Prepare room planning and accordingly,allocate office room to the officers and staff of the Commission and
* Maintain the generator and power station of the office building.

**6.3.3 Estate**

* Repair, renovate and maintain all buildings and installations of the UGC;
* Maintain electricity, water and gas lines of UGC office building, UGC residential area, residence of Chairman and Members;
* Maintain records of all assets and properties;
* Collect and pay municipal tax and other bills;
* Allocate quarters to the staff and officers of the UGC;
* Entertain complaints with regard to supply of water, electricity, gas and telecommunication services and take measures to bring them to order;
* Arrange payments of bills of utility services like electricity, water, gas and telephone of the Commission and
* Discharge duties pertaining to the matter of municipality taxes i.e. land and buildings of the Commission.

**6.3.4 Procurement**

* Purchase and procure office equipment, machineries, vehicles, furniture and fixtures and
* Procure and distribute stationery items for the store of the UGC.

**6.4 Legal Section**

The key roles of this Section are to:

* Deal with all matters relating to legal affairs;
* File case(s) in the court against the institutions/persons for violation of provision relating to establishment and operation of Private University and cross-border institution as a plaintiff;
* Defend cases that have been filed against the Commission;
* Give opinion on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), pacts, agreements and similar legal documents;
* Provide legal opinion on other matters as decided by the Commission.

**6.5 Medical Section**

The main function of the Medical Section is to provide primary and emergency health services to the Chairman, Members and employees of the Commission.

**6.6 Composition**

The Secretariat and Administration Division is headed by a Secretary who is assisted by Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Senior Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Medical Officer and a number of other officers and staff.

**7. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS DIVISION**

The role and functions of the Finance and Accounts Division are to oversee the management of the financial affairs of the UGC and Universities with respect to Accounts and Financial matters and also to assist the UGC in its financial decision making process.

**7.1 Functions**

The key functions of the Finance and Accounts Division are to:

* Assess the financial needs of the UGC and all Public Universities and help the management for funding of these institutions;
* Visit Public and Private Universities and hold meetings, group discussions with the concerned officials of the universities;
* Examine the financial aspects of the universities to ensure that the funds provided by the Government are spent for the purposes for which these are earmarked;
* Scrutinize intensively and critically the revenue budgets of the universities and the UGC and other specific financial proposals and recommendations which are forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance under Mid-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) for consideration of grants and arrange inclusion thereof in the revenue budget of the Government;
* Negotiate the quantum of grants with the above mentioned Ministries prior to final placement before the Parliament;
* Make budgetary allocations for the universities according to their needs vis-à-vis the availability of funds with the approval of the Commission after the annual budget is approved by the Government;
* Draw budgeted funds from the Government Exchequer in four equal quarterly installments and disburse it to the universities on the basis of the budgetary allocation;
* Verify the usage and utilization of funds by the universities by analyzing the periodic financial statements prepared by and received from the universities;
* Examine the pre-determined budgetary allocations vis-à-vis the actual income and expenditure periodically from the financial statements of universities and in this process, exercise budgetary control and monitor the performances through analysis and reporting;
* Draw funds from the Government as honorarium for the National Professors for disbursement among them;
* Deposit and disburse all development checks to all Public Universities which are drawn from Chief Accounts Office by Planning and Development Division of the UGC;
* Under the Private University Act 2010, Section 45, the prescribed forms of Accounts and Financial Reports are prepared by Finance and Accounts Division which are followed by Private Universities;
* Examine Audit objections of the UGC and prepare necessary Broad Sheet Reply (BSR) on behalf of the UGC;
* Make necessary arrangements with the role and opinion of the UGC regarding Public Accounts Committee as and when required;
* Prepare Annual Work and Action Plan of Universities and the UGC to meet up audit objections through bilateral and tripartite meeting, maintain liaison with the Ministry of Education, Audit Directorate, other offices and the universities regarding Audit related matters;
* Prepare monthly audit reports showing cumulative audit objections statement of universities and the UGC, send it to the Ministry of Education for necessary action;
* Furnish opinion of the Commission for Broad Sheet Reply of universities and send it to the Audit Directorate /Ministry of Education.

**7.2 Composition**

The Finance and Accounts Division is headed by a Director who is assisted by an Additional Director, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors and a number of officers and staff.

**8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

The role and functions of the Planning and Development Division are to formulate plans for overall development of the university education of the country. Apart from physical and infrastructural development of Public and Private Universities, major thrust in the planning of university education is to bring necessary improvement in the standard and quality of university education.

The Planning and Development Division has constantly been trying to bring real and meaningful improvement in development activities and to establish accountability and transparency in the operating procedure of development projects undertaken by the universities.

**8.1 Functions**

The key functions of the Planning and Development Division are to:

* Formulate development plans for the university education sub-sector;
* Examine, analyze and appraise the development schemes submitted by the universities;
* Formulate Annual Development Program (ADP) and Annual Foreign Exchange Budget (AFEB) for the university education sub-sector;
* Formulate plans for establishment of new universities in the country and new institutes and departments in the existing universities;
* Inspect, supervise and report on the progress of the development projects undertaken by the universities;
* Collect, analyze and interpret statistical data relating to the university education;
* Monitor and evaluate the development projects undertaken by the university education sub-sector;
* Ensure proper, smooth and timely implementation of development projects under the university education sub-sector;
* Collect monthly, quarterly, yearly reports including completion reports of the development projects of the universities and transmit those reports to the Ministry of Education and other agencies with necessary comments of the UGC;
* Foster linkage programs with foreign universities and research organizations through TAPP for transfer of technology and
* Hold monthly review meetings in the UGC and attend various review meetings held in the Ministry of Education, Planning Commission and other national and international agencies.

**8.2 Composition**

The Planning and Development Division is headed by a Director who is supported by an Additional Director, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors, Administrative officer and a number of officers and staff.

**9. RESEARCH SUPPORT AND PUBLICATION DIVISION**

The Research Support and Publication Division of the UGC contributes to the promotion of higher education through (i) Academic Staff Development Research Program for supporting regular research projects; (ii) Research Support Fund for partial financial support to the research activities; (iii) UGC Awards for outstanding research work; (iv) Award of MPhil, PhD and Post-Doctoral Fellowship; (v) UGC Professorship; (vi) Rokeya Chair and (vii) UGC Merit Scholarship.

The Research Support and Publication Division is also responsible for publishing the annual report, quinquennial report, monthly bulletin, UGC profile, research reports, proceedings of seminars and symposia and publication of texts and reference books written by university teachers. Moreover, the Division is responsible for developing and maintaining the UGC Library.

**9.1 Functions**

The main functions of the Research Support and Publication Division are to:

* Administer short and long term research programs of the UGC conducted by university teachers;
* Administer UGC Award Program;
* Administer UGC Merit Award Program;
* Arrange seminars, symposiums, and workshops on higher education in the country;
* Compile and publish the annual report, quinquennial reports, monthly bulletin, research reports, seminar proceedings, university level text and reference books, UGC Brochure;
* Provide necessary information and statistics to the concerned ministries and relevant bodies;
* Provide library services to the researchers and
* Carry out other responsibilities as assigned by the authority from time to time.

**9.2 Brief Description of Programs Administered by the Research Support and Publication Division**

**9.2.1 Academic Staff Development Research Program**

The UGC introduced this scheme since its inception in 1973 with a separate annual grant from the Government to help teachers of the Public Universities for their academic enrichment and sustainable development of Bangladesh.

This scheme is divided into three disciplines namely, (i) Arts and Humanities, (ii) Social Sciences, and (iii) Science and Technology. The Science and Technology is again divided into six areas: Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Engineering Sciences.

**9.2.2 Research Support Fund**

To assist higher education and research activities in the country, especially to support and coordinate research activities in the universities, the UGC established the Research Support Fund in 1982. The objectives of this fund are to:

* provide financial help to university teachers to carry out research;
* provide partial travel grants to university teachers to participate in national and international conferences, seminars, symposiums, etc.;
* provide fund to university teachers to write text and reference books or translate books for graduate and postgraduate students;
* provide partial grants to MPhil and PhD students of the universities under the UGC Fellowship Program.

**9.2.3 UGC Award**

To recognize and encourage the university teachers for their outstanding research works and publications, the UGC introduced this Award in 1980. Initially, only five teachers were recognized for their outstanding performances. Later, in 2004, by an amendment of regulations, twelve UGC awards were introduced to be awarded annually in the following disciplines: two in Arts and Humanities, Law and Education, two in Social Sciences, two in Physical and Biological Sciences, two in Agricultural Sciences, two in Engineering and TechnicalEducation and two in Medical Sciences. In 2009, the disciplines were rearranged as follows: one in Arts and Humanities, one in Law and Education , one in Agricultural Sciences, one in Forestry and Environment, one in Social Sciences, one in Trade, one in Botany, one in Chemistry, one in Physics and Math, one in Technology, one in Clinical Pharmacy and one in Medical Sciences.

The award consists of a cash amount of Tk. 20,000 (twenty thousand), a certificate and a crest. A good number of teachers have so far received this award for their outstanding contribution to research.

**9.2.4 UGC Professorship**

The UGC Professorship was initiated in 2003 for utilizing the services of distinguished university professors, who have either retired or attained the age of 65 years, but are still capable of rendering valuable services to the nation. The tenure of the UGC Professorship is 2 years, but depending on his/her contribution, the tenure can be extended for another term.

**9.2.5 Rokeya Chair**

The Rokeya Chair was established at the 111th meeting of the UGC in 2007 and started its function as per the Commission’s decision to honor the educationists and researchers who have special contributions to the cause of women’s education, leadership, women empowerment and development.

**9.2.6 UGC Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

**1. Objective**: The main objective of the post-doctoral Fellowship is to promote and expand the quality of higher education and research in Bangladesh.

**2. Eligibility:** The candidate must be a faculty of a public university in Bangladesh, and he/she must have a Ph. D degree.

**3. Age Limit:** The candidate should be less than 50 years of age on the date of advertisement.

**4. Tenure of Fellowship and its Number:** The tenure of the Fellowship will be one year, effective from the date of joining the program. A maximum of five Fellowships will be offered in one academic year.

**5. Fellowship Amount:** The amount of the Fellowship is Tk. 20,000 (twenty thousand) per month.

**6. Permissible Research Expenses:**

* A maximum amount of Tk. 10,000 (ten thousand) may be paid for the preparation of the report. This will be paid upon submission of the final report and the corresponding vouchers for the expenses.
* A maximum amount of Tk. 20,000 (twenty thousand) may be paid for the procurement of raw materials and data collection. This may be paid upon submission of the half-yearly report and the final report, along with relevant vouchers for the expenses.

**7. Other Conditions:**

1. Post-doctoral Fellowship is a full-time occupation, and the Fellows must obtain study leave/deputation from their respective universities.
2. The Fellow will pursue his/her research under the supervision of a senior Professor of the university in which the Fellow will work.
3. The Fellow may carry out his/her research work in a research institute or industrial laboratory under the joint supervision of a university Professor and a senior scientist of the research institute/industry.
4. While applying for a Fellowship, an applicant must mention the name of the university/research institute/industry, where he/she wishes to carry out research work, and also the name of the Professor/scientist under whose supervision the work will be carried out. Further, a detailed research plan, clearly stating the rationale of the work, the objectives, methodology and significance, duly approved by the proposed supervisor/s, must be submitted.
5. After completion of the Fellowship program, the Fellow will submit a detailed report of the research output, duly forwarded by the supervisor. The report will be evaluated by a three-member committee headed by a UGC member. The Fellow will have to revise the report, if required, as per recommendations of the committee.
6. Members of the evaluation committee will be paid an honorarium of Tk. 5000 (five thousand) for each report.
7. During the tenure of the Fellowship, the Fellow is not entitled to take up any other paid employment including working under another project involving financial benefit.
8. It is expected that the Fellow will publish the research findings in peer-reviewed journals or as peer-reviewed books/monographs. The support of the UGC must be acknowledged and a copy of such publications must be submitted to the UGC.
9. The Fellowship money will be disbursed to the Registrar of the University in two installments, the first after submission of the joining letter and second after submission of the half-yearly progress report by the Fellow.
10. The monthly Fellowship allowance will be paid to the Fellow as a crossed check by the Registrar every month against a bill endorsed by the supervisor.
11. The permissible research expenses will be paid to the Fellow directly by the UGC upon submission of a bill with necessary vouchers countersigned by the supervisor.
12. A Fellow will be allowed a maximum period of one month with full Fellowship to stay abroad for work relevant to the proposed research or for attending/participating in conferences. The expenses may be regarded as permissible research expenses within the limit of Tk. 20,000 (twenty thousand) and no additional financial support will be given for such visits.
13. If a Fellow discontinues his/her Fellowship without completing the tenure, he/she will have to pay back the money received against the Fellowship.
14. The Supervisor will receive an honorarium of Tk. 10,000 (ten thousand) upon acceptance of the final report.

**9.2.7 UGC PhD Fellowship**

The UGC offers the UGC PhD Fellowship to the teachers of Public Universities and Government Colleges to pursue a PhD degree. The UGC started the UGC Junior Research Fellowship in 1977-78. Later in 1990, this UGC Junior Research Fellowship was changed to UGC PhD Fellowship. Initially, this Fellowship was offered to 18 teachers. Later, the number was increased to 100 as per the decision of the 108th UGC meeting held in 2005.

**9.2.8 UGC MPhil Fellowship**

A two-year UGC MPhil Fellowship was initiated in 1997. Initially, the UGC offered 20 Fellowships. Now this number has been increased to 50. Teachers of the Public Universities and Government Colleges are eligible for this Fellowship.

**9.2.9 UGC Merit Scholarship**

To encourage and inspire the meritorious students of the Public Universities of Bangladesh, the UGC introduced the UGC Merit Scholarship in 1982. Initially, the number of the scholarships was only 18. Later, it was gradually increased to 49 at the 90th meeting of the Commission in 1999. Presently, the UGC Merit Scholarship is awarded to those who secure the highest marks/grades in each faculty of the Public Universities.

**9.2.10 Scholarship for Blind Students**

The UGC offers a scholarship for blind but meritorious students of Dhaka University with a view to enhancing his/her higher education capabilities.

**9.2.11 Prime Minister Gold Medal**

The Prime Minister Gold Medal is awarded to the outstanding students who secure the highest marks/grades in the Bachelor Degree (Hons.) examination in each faculty of Public Universities. Usually, the Prime Minister Gold Medal award ceremony is held at the Prime Minister’s Office in presence of the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

**9.2.12 Janata Bank Merit Scholarship**

The Janata Bank Merit Scholarship is also offered through the UGC. This scholarship, introduced in 1991, aims at motivating the meritorious students of the Public Universities. The terms and conditions of this scholarship are similar to that of the UGC Merit Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to 6 (six) students each year from the oldest Public Universities.

**9.2.13 Equivalence of Foreign Degrees**

Each year, a good number of students from Bangladesh go abroad to pursue higher studies and return after completion of their graduation. The UGC scrutinizes the awarded degrees and issues a certificate of equivalence in order to compare these foreign earned degrees with those offered by Public Universities of Bangladesh.

**9.2.14 Publication and Information**

In compliance with Section 12 of the President’s Order No. 10 of 1973, the UGC has to present an Annual Report to the Government of Bangladesh to be laid before the Parliament. This report, incorporated with the information collected from different Public and Private Universities of Bangladesh, reflects the annual performance of the universities.

Besides the Annual Report, the UGC publishes a Five Year Report, UGC funded research projects, research reports, monographs, proceedings, selected textbooks for graduate and postgraduate courses based on the information mentioned above. So far, the Commission has published 113 books and reports, and some textbooks on Business Studies with financial support from the World Bank. Moreover, schemes for writing and publishing textbooks for the higher education level have also been undertaken.

**9.2.15 Information Cell**

Major responsibilities of this Cell are to collect, organize and store statistical information and data relating to the students, teachers, employees, development and financial activities of the universities. Moreover, collection, retrieval and documentation of all relevant higher educational information are continuously being carried out by this Cell.

**9.2.16 UGC Library**

The main functions of the UGC Library are to:

* Collect, analyze, preserve and disseminate information on higher education;
* Establish a Central Reference Library through cooperative acquisition, storage and retrieval of information;
* Coordinate and strengthen the library services among the university libraries of Bangladesh;
* Create library network among universities of Bangladesh and
* Consolidate participation in the national and international information system.

**9.3 Composition**

The Research Support and Publication Division is headed by a Director who is supported by Additional Directors, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors and a number of officers and staff.

**10. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING DIVISION**

Information Management, Communication and Training Division is a new division of the UGC formed on 24April 2011 to enhance the strategy, policy, administrative, financial and research activities in the higher education sector using information and communication technology.

**10.1 Functions**

The aims and objectives of the Division are to:

* Assist UGC Authority to enhance ICT activities in the higher education sector;
* Build cooperation and relation with different ministries and organizations for exchange of information of the higher education sector;
* Collect, analyze and disseminate information of higher education sector through web interface;
* Build archive for information of the UGC and higher education sector;
* Build, manage and operate IT infrastructure at the UGC to manage information flow through internet;
* Build, manage and operate the UGC automation services;
* Manage and operate the UGC website;
* Manage and operate Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), UGC Digital Library (UDL);
* Manage and coordinate the activities of Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN);
* Manage and operate Private University Management Information System (PUMIS) and
* Provide hardware and software support in the UGC.

Since its establishment, the Division has been putting its best effort to achieve the above aims and objectives. Several remarkable milestones have already been achieved in this regard. Major activities performed in the last years by the sections of the division are furnished below:

**10.1.1 Information Management Section**

The main objective of this Section is to provide information management services within the UGC and higher education sector. Under this Section, following activities are carried out to provide better service for the development of higher education and research in Bangladesh:

* Maintenance of the UGC website;
* Maintenance of Private University Management Information System (PUMIS);
* Data Archive;
* Processing e-GP and
* Developing HEMIS.

**10.1.2 Network and ICT Section**

The main objective of this Section is to build and manage network infrastructure for smooth ICT activities in the UGC and to establish global connectivity for higher education sector. Day to day activities carried out by this Section include the following:

* Maintenance of UGC LAN;
* Hardware maintenance and
* Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN).

**10.1.3 UGC Digital Library (UDL) Section**

With a view to providing more access to electronic information resources by the academic community in Bangladesh, UGC Digital Library (UDL) was launched in June 2012. UDL is hosted by the UGC and funded by the World Bank’s Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). The major objectives of UDL are to:

* Provide access to high quality and scholarly electronic resources to all universities at substantially lower rates of subscription;
* Promote rapid and efficient access to online information to the users and to promote the use of ICT in teaching and learning in the member universities;
* Provide technical support to member universities regarding e-resource access;
* Evaluate the usage of the subscribed resources regularly;
* Identify new resources that are required to be subscribed for universities;
* Promote interaction and inter-library cooperation among the participating universities;
* Organize training for the librarians, researchers and faculty members of the participating institutions to optimize the use of e-resources;
* Build up awareness regarding e-resources among the universities and
* Maintain UDL website (www.udl-ugc.gov.bd) including own webmail.

**10.1.4 Training Section**

Under the Section, various training programs are conducted for professional development of the UGC personnel.

**10.2 Composition**

IMCT division is headed by a Director who is assisted by Additional Director/Deputy Chief Engineer, Sr. IT Engineer, System Analyst, IT Engineer, Deputy Director, Computer Programmer, Network Engineer and a number of officers and staff.

**11. PRIVATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION**

It has been observed that every year a large number of students aspiring to admission into public universities are deprived of higher education due to the limitation of available seats in the public universities of the country. With a view to solving this problem, the Government has accorded permission for establishment of universities in the Private Sector by enacting the Private University Act, 1992. However, the Act of 1992 (amended in 1998) could not meet the ever-growing challenges in maintaining and ensuring the quality of higher education, transparency and accountability in the managerial level of private universities.

Subsequently, Private University Act, 2010 was passed in the National Parliament in July 2010. The Act has been designed and formulated with the object of ensuring and enhancing transparency, accountability, dynamism, good governance and quality of higher education in Private Universities.

**11.1 Functions**

The main functions of the Private University Division are to:

* Facilitate and monitor the academic, administrative and financial activities of Private Universities in accordance with the Private University Act, 2010 and coordinate with the Ministry of Education with the object of ensuring quality education at Private Universities;
* Scrutinize the application with project proposal of newly proposed Private Universities received through the Ministry of Education;
* Arrange visit for proposed university campus by a 2-3 member inspection team headed by one of the Members of the Commission;
* Inspect the physical infrastructure and other facilities of the proposed university and send report to the Government;
* Take necessary action for giving approval of proposed course curricula of the approved university;
* Arrange visit along with the relevant expert from Public Universities to oversee the facilities of laboratory, equipment, library and others for the proposed courses/programs;
* Nominate members for the syndicate of Private Universities;
* Prepare guidelines/policies for conducting syndicate, recruitment and promotion of teachers in order to ensure quality education and enhance higher education of the Private Universities;
* Collect updated information of the Private Universities;
* Organize seminar, symposium regarding various issues of Private Universities;
* Prepare standard syllabus guidelines, teacher recruitment policy, admission policy, uniform grading system, etc.;
* Recommend to take necessary actions against any kind of irregularities in Private Universities and
* Circulate and publish different important circulars, memorandums, reports, announcements etc. for public concern.

**11.2 Composition**

The Private University Division is headed by a Director who is supported by an Additional Director, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors and a number of officers and staff.

**12. PUBLIC UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

The Public University Management Division started its function as an independent Division in 2013. Prior to the formation of this division, all the activities related to Public Universities were channeled through Public University Section under Administrative Division. At present, there are 38 (Thirty eight) Public Universities in Bangladesh. As per establishment, there are 05 (Five) categories of Public Universities in Bangladesh which are:

* General University;
* Engineering and Technology University;
* Science and Technology University;
* Agricultural University and
* Medical University.

**12.1 Functions**

The key functions of the Division are to:

* Undertake various measures for expansion and development of higher education in Bangladesh through Public Universities;
* Administer the activities of quality enhancement and quality assurance in higher education;
* Ensure academic, administrative and financial discipline in Public Universities through continuous monitoring and supervision of their activities;
* Approve new faculties, departments, institutes and personnel for all Public Universities;
* Conduct inquiry (or provide assistance to the competent authority) to prevent corruption and irregularities in the Public Universities;
* Formulate draft of various rules, regulations, principles and policies for smooth operation of Public Universities;
* Provide support to the Government with opinions/suggestions on various issues of higher education;
* Provide assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in preparing Organogram of Public Universities and
* Formulate drafts of laws for establishment of new Public Universities in the country.

**12.2 Composition**

The Public University Management Division is headed by a Director who is supported by Additional Director, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors and a number of officers and staff.

**13. STRATEGIC PLANNING, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION DIVISION**

The Strategic Planning, Quality Assurance and Right to Information Division of the UGC contributes to the promotion of higher education through (i) amassing information for higher education acts and the systems introduced at tertiary level education of different countries around the globe; (ii) scrutinizing and assessing the academic systems, acts and policies followed by different countries around the world; (iii) promoting quality education at tertiary level institutions; (iv) communicating with the external quality assurance bodies of different countries and establishing linkage with them; (v) collecting, preserving and realizing the Right to Information Act of Bangladesh.

**13.1 Functions**

The salient functions of the Strategic Planning, Quality Assurance and Right to Information Division are to:

* Ensure quality education at tertiary level institutions;
* Collect acts of higher education from different countries around the world;
* Collect information about the systems of tertiary education in different countries of the world;
* Determine the role and contribution of women in higher education;
* Collect, preserve and evaluate the policies followed by different countries on credit transfer system, student exchange program etc.;
* Communicate with the external quality assurance bodies of different countries and establish linkage with them;
* Prepare reports on the policies introduced by different countries for the development of higher education and its expansion;
* Collect, preserve and realize the Right to Information Act of Bangladesh.

**13.2 Composition**

The Strategic Planning, Quality Assurance and Right to Information Division is headed by a Director who is supported by Additional Directors, Deputy Directors, Senior Assistant Directors, Senior Research Officers, Assistant Directors and a number of officers and staff.