

Despite Admission Fluctuations, KU Fills Open Merit and Reserved Category Seats, Adapts to Evolving Educational Landscape"

Srinagar Nov 8: In response to recent reports about a perceived "Dip in Student Admissions" at the University of Kashmir (KU), the institution is keen to offer a comprehensive clarification that paints a more complete picture of the situation. The University of Kashmir wishes to highlight its steadfast commitment to academic excellence and its ability to adapt to changing circumstances, ultimately resulting in a positive response from students.

It is essential to emphasize that all available seats under Open Merit and Reserved Categories at the University of Kashmir have been successfully filled. This accomplishment reaffirms KU's status as a premier educational institution in the valley, bolstered by its impressive positive increase in its academic rankings. These rankings owe their success primarily to the hard work and commitment of the students themselves and the introduction of new courses, expanding its academic offerings and receiving a positive reception from students. This underlines KU's ability to evolve and meet changing educational demands.

A closer look at the admissions landscape reveals that the decrease in student admissions primarily affects the self-financed quota. This decline can be attributed to a shifting educational landscape in the region. In the past, KU was the sole provider of postgraduate programs, but recently, other reputable institutions of the valley have also introduced their postgraduate programs.

Despite this competition, over 90% of self-financed quota seats are filled, with a few exceptions in programs like MA Linguistics, MA Persian, MA English, MA Arabic, and others. Some programs, including MA Sanskrit, MA Hindi, M Sc Electronics, MA Persian, and MA Linguistics, have seen decreasing student interest, possibly due to changing preferences and various factors.

The adoption of the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) at the undergraduate level has changed postgraduate program application criteria. Previously, candidates could apply for a minimum of eight programs or courses, but now they can apply for two or three programs if they've earned the required 24 credits, aligning with UGC guidelines.

The University of Kashmir is actively addressing the challenge of vacant seats in self-financed PG courses and is working diligently to make these programs more appealing to attract more candidates and fill the vacancies.

In professional courses like the 4-Year B.Tech program, all seats under Open Merit and Reserved Categories are filled through the Lateral Entry mode, with some candidates on a waiting list, showing high demand. However, a few entry-level (1st semester) seats are vacant due to a lower number of candidates taking the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), a national-level requirement for B.Tech admission at the University of Kashmir. At national also certain professional courses like B.Tech, MBA etc are witnessing a decline ,therefore KU is no exception.

The University of Kashmir remains dedicated to quality education and adaptation to the changing educational landscape. Admission fluctuations do not imply a

decline in its reputation. KU, in collaboration with its students, strives for academic excellence, introducing new courses to meet evolving educational needs. It remains a regional leader in higher education with a significant impact.