

Introduction to IGNOU and ODL

<https://youtu.be/JUio7X-x2wg>

Hello Learners! Welcome to IGNOU, Indira Gandhi National Open University.

At the outset I congratulate you for being a learner of the largest university of the country. With a student strength of more than 3 million on the roll, it has the widest network of student support services. It is the only central university under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India which gives quality education through the open and distance mode. Needless to say that the degrees provided by the university are internationally valid. With its 2000 Learner Support Centres spread across the country, it is available anywhere and everywhere you want.

In IGNOU as a learner you have a lot of flexibilities. You can study here at your own convenience from any place in the country. You can learn and earn, look after your families and pursue your dreams, study in a regular college or university and earn an additional certificate at the same time. Academic counselling sessions are organized on Sundays and holidays where you can clarify your doubts and discuss the assignment questions. However, attendance at the counselling sessions is not compulsory. We encourage you to attend these classes and take advantage of the facilities. As IGNOU is a national university, you have national mobility. You can move from one Regional Centre to another Regional Centre, one Study Centre to another Study Centre as and when required. Your age, class, caste, gender, religion don't matter here. There is no room for any kind of discrimination.

Once you become eligible to take exams, you can take exams two times in a year in June and December at any place of your choice in the country. You can take exams of one or two courses at a time and can complete a programme at your own convenience within the maximum period. You enjoy both freedom and autonomy here. Hence you also become responsible for the consequences of your own actions.

Now let us discuss what you should do as a learner in an open and distance mode of education. As a learner in this mode of education, you have a great responsibility. You have a strong desire to acquire an additional qualification, enhance your knowledge and upgrade

your career opportunities. That's the reason why you have opted open and distance education. So it is your responsibility to complete the programme in time.

As a responsible learner you should:

- Download your I-Card from the University Website(www.ignou.ac.in) or collect the I-Card from the Study Centre.
- Make use of the Student I-Card Digital/ Hard Copy for availing all facilities in the Regional Centre, Learner Support Centres and appearing the examinations.
- Read the self-learning materials thoroughly and note down the difficult points/important points on the margins for discussion in the counselling sessions
- Attend the academic counselling sessions/practical sessions sincerely and actively participate in the sessions
- Submit the assignment responses/Project Reports(wherever applicable) at the Learner Support Centres in time and get receipts for the same
- Reregister yourself for next year/semester in time if you are a student of semester-based programmes and Bachelors Degree or Masters Degree Programmes
- Fill in the exam forms in time and appear all the examinations regularly
- Keep regular touch with the Learner Support Centres
- Visit the website of the Regional Centre(www.rcpatna.ignou.ac.in) at regular intervals for updated information
- Keep the names, mobile numbers and email IDs of your Coordinator, officers of the Regional Centre in charge of various student support services from the website of the Regional Centre given under the head Student Corner(<http://rcpatna.ignou.ac.in/Ignou-RC-Patna/userfiles/file/whom-to-contact.pdf>)
- Read the messages received from IGNOU/Regional Centre carefully and act accordingly.

In addition to the above, you should actively participate in the extension, outreach and extra-curricular activities organized by the Regional Centres/Study Centres from time to time to show your commitment to social causes.

Wish you a joyful stay and happy learning in the university.