

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(MOU)

BETWEEN



BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION), CHENNAI

An autonomous body of

Ministry of Education, Government of India

&



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA

Central University of Karnataka

Established by an Act of Parliament in 2009

Under Ministry of Education, GoI

for

**Implementation of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) under the
National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) of Ministry of Education,
Government of India.**

BOAT (SR), Chennai

1 of 10

Central University of Karnataka
कुलसचिव / REGISTRAR
कर्नाटक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
Central University of Karnataka
कलबुरगि / KALABURAGI



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
कर्नाटक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA
(Established by an Act of Parliament of India in 2009)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (here in after referred to as "MoU") is executed on the 23rd July 2025 at Central University of Karnataka.

BETWEEN

BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION), CHENNAI

An autonomous body of

Ministry of Education, Government of India

AND

Central University of Karnataka

Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai [BOAT(SR)] under the Department of Higher Education, an autonomous body of Ministry of Education, Government of India and **Central University of Karnataka** enter into this understanding that an apprenticeship ('on-the-job' training) component of a minimum of 6 months which is integrated in the final year of technical as well as non-technical Degree programmes may be covered under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS). These will be provided with stipendiary coverage at a rate as prescribed by the Government of India, NATS, in line with the Office Memorandum No.16-6/2024-TS.VII dated 20/12/2024 (Attached as Annexure I) received from the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

1. About BOAT (SR)

- 1.1. Established in 1969, Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, is an autonomous organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- 1.2. The Board is functioning at 4th Cross Street, C.I.T. Campus, Taramani, Chennai – 600113.

BOAT (SR), Chennai

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Central University of Karnataka
कुलसचिव / REGISTRAR
कर्नाटक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

- 1.3. The major function of the Board is to implement and monitor the provisions of The Apprentices Act 1961, as amended in 1973 and 2014, so far as they relate to the training of Graduates in Technical as well as General streams, in exercise of powers conferred to the Board under Section 23 of the said Act.

2. About Central University of Karnataka

The Central University of Karnataka (CUK) has been established by an Act of the Parliament (No. 3 of 2009) at Kalaburagi, Karnataka. It is one of the 16 new Central Universities established by the Government of India during the UGC XI Plan Period to address to the concerns of 'equity and access' and to increase the access to quality higher education by people in less educationally developed districts which have a Graduate Enrolment Ratio of less than the national average of 11%.

The CUK, with its territorial jurisdiction all over Karnataka has been initiated its activities from the academic year beginning August 2009 in keeping with the philosophy of achieving and maintaining the highest levels of academic excellence, sensitivity to equity and access in enrolment and recruitment and emerging as a premier national educational and research institution in the country.

The University has 654 acres campus, situated near Kadaganchi village in the district of Kalaburagi, Karnataka State. It is claimed that CUK is the first Central University to move to its permanent campus in a short time among the new ones. The main objective of this growing University is to integrate teaching, learning, training, research, innovation and skill development with an aspiration to excel in undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral studies. The University offers programmes in six major areas: Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Management, Sciences, and Engineering. The University is working towards making the campus green, energy efficient and sustainable.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. "UGC" shall mean the University Grants Commission.
- 3.2. "HEI" shall mean (i) Universities included under section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 (ii) Deemed to be Universities under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 (iii) Institutions funded by Central or State Governments and empowered to award degrees. (iv) Affiliated/ Autonomous/ Constituent colleges of the Universities.
- 3.3. "AEDP" shall mean **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme**, a programme enabling a student admitted to an undergraduate programme of the Higher Education

Institution, recognized as per the UGC Act, 1956, to pursue apprenticeship training as a mandatory integrated component of the Degree programme in compliance with these guidelines. The said AEDP programme shall adhere to all the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time as applicable to the programme, and as per guidelines issued by Government of India.

- 3.4. “**Board**” shall mean BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION), CHENNAI [BOAT (SR)] which is an autonomous body of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- 3.5. “*CUK*” shall mean *Central University of Karnataka*.
- 3.6. “**NATS**” shall mean National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, the flagship programmes of Ministry of Education, Government of India for Skilling Indian Youth in various trade disciplines. NATS under the provisions of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, both as amended from time to time till date, offers Graduates practical, ‘hands-on’, ‘On-the-Job-Training (OJT)’ based skilling opportunities for a duration of one year for technical courses, and six months to three years for non-technical courses.
- 3.7. “**NATS 2.0 Portal**” shall mean the national portal for NATS having the URL <https://nats.education.gov.in>;

4. Background

- 4.1. National Education Policy, 2020, emphasizes to bridge the Education-Employability gap among students. Apprenticeship is a tried and tested model to improve the employability of students.
- 4.2. In accordance with that, UGC has issued revised Guidelines for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP) in 2025 under which HEIs are required to offer Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP) at undergraduate level, with a mechanism of industry-academia linkages and outcome-based learning of students.
- 4.3. The objectives of the AEDP are as follows:
- 4.3.1. To enhance the employability of students pursuing Undergraduate level Degree programmes through a stipendiary apprenticeship.

- 4.3.2. To focus on outcome-based learning in all Degree programmes to achieve graduate attributes and desired proficiency levels.
- 4.3.3. To promote active linkage between HEIs and industries/establishments.
- 4.3.4. To bridge the skill gap in the industries by effectively implementing AEDP in partnership with HEIs and/or Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOATs)/ Board of Practical Training (BOPT).

5. Purpose of the MoU

- 5.1. The specific purpose of this MoU is to establish a relationship and cooperation between the Board and the Central University of Karnataka to ensure that the industrial training component of the final year Degree programme is covered as apprenticeship under NATS. NATS is governed under the provisions of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992 as amended thereafter.

6. Applicability of the MoU

- 6.1. The MoU shall be applicable for all AEDP courses recognised as per The UGC Act, 1956 and considered to be compliant by UGC as mentioned in the AEDP Guidelines 2025, to pursue apprenticeship training as an integrated component of the Degree programme in compliance with these guidelines. The said AEDP programme shall adhere to all the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time as applicable to the programme.
- 6.2. The MoU shall be applicable for all AEDP courses falling under the ambit of a statutory or regulatory body/council other than UGC as mentioned in the AEDP guidelines, after taking prior approval of their concerned statutory or regulatory body/council and in compliance with its guidelines.
- 6.3. All the provision (s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time shall supersede all or any clause of this MoU in case it is found conflicting in nature.
- 6.4. This MoU and activities mentioned therein shall cover the institutions guided by Central University of Karnataka and students of these institutions. It will be the responsibility of the Heads of institutions to motivate the participation of students in the activities.

7. Period of MoU

- 7.1. This MoU will come into effect from the date of signature by both parties and will be valid for an initial period of four years, however, will be reviewed at every academic year end.
- 7.2. The MoU will be renewed after taking review of the earlier activities as per mutual understanding of both parties, unless terminated or replaced with a new MoU.
- 7.3. The MoU may be modified or terminated by one month written notice to the other party.
- 7.4. The termination of MoU shall not affect the commitment and on-going activities which are planned or are being executed at the time of termination.

8. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

- 8.1. The Board shall register and onboard Establishments, students, and HEIs onto the NATS 2.0 portal.
- 8.2. The Board shall make the provision for the NATS 2.0 portal to manage the AEDP apprenticeship lifecycle for students enrolled in Apprenticeship Embedded Degree programmes of eligible HEIs, which offer an apprenticeship component of a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 1.5 years (for 3 year undergraduate) and a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 2 years (for 4 year undergraduate programmes), as per UGC guidelines, amended from time to time.
- 8.3. The Board shall mandate stipendiary apprenticeships for AEDP courses under NATS only for apprenticeship spells in the last year of the course.
- 8.4. The Board would undertake the responsibility to provide apprenticeships to all eligible students as per the Apprenticeship Act and facilitate interactions between HEIs and Establishment. BOATs/BOPT shall ensure the arrangement of the apprenticeship program, with the requisite support from concerned HEIs, State and District Departments/Authorities.
- 8.5. The Board shall support the HEIs and industry partners in their process of devising a framework for the assessments of apprentices, which may be congruent to the overarching guidelines followed by HEIs.

- 8.6. The Board will organize workshops/ seminar/ meetings with establishments/ industries and industry associations with support of HEIs to promote Apprenticeship Training through AEDP under NATS.
- 8.7. The Board shall be responsible for issuance of 'Certificate of Proficiency (CoP)' through NATS 2.0 portal subject to the training establishment uploading all requisite information for generation of such Certificates.
- 8.8. The financial support of Government share of stipend to student will be available only while undergoing Apprenticeship Training component in final year of undergraduate level programme.
- 8.9. (i) The BOAT shall ensure that provisions of Apprenticeship rule 1992 is fully implemented by Establishment. The BOAT will ensure set up of Beneficiary Identification Systems which will monitor the payment processes. The BOAT will make available Grievance Redressal systems to handle scenarios related to stipend payment grievances. (ii) After ensuring that the establishment has filled the monthly ROP details of the apprentices, BOAT would transfer through DBT the prescribed share of the minimum prescribed stipend by Government of India via Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism of the NATS 2.0 portal.
- 8.10. The Board may provide technical support for the NATS 2.0 portal to HEIs interested in implementing AEDP, on mutually agreed terms.
- 8.11. HEIs may seek to involve the Board in the development of the plan for onboarding HEIs, establishments, and students on the NATS 2.0 portal
- 8.12. The Board shall ensure adherence to the guidelines related to training and other mandated compliances, as applicable.
- 8.13. The Board shall onboard all Establishments/Industries on the NATS 2.0 portal, and shall facilitate the signing of the Tripartite Agreement between the Establishment/Industry, Student, and the relevant HEI on the portal, at least 12 weeks prior to the start of the respective apprenticeship spell
- 8.14. The Board shall identify relevant contact personnel for HEIs to raise grievances about and during the course of the apprenticeship. The Board shall convey the grievance redressal process before the start of the first apprenticeship spell to all eligible HEIs, ensuring that the students have a pathway and an escalation mechanism to protect and

service their well-being and safety, and to seek recourse and redressal when their safety and well-being is undermined.

- 8.15. The Board shall set up Beneficiary Identification systems to support establishments in monitoring of apprentices' attendance and payment processes. The BOAT will make available Grievance Redressal systems to handle scenarios related to stipend payment grievances.

9. Roles and Responsibilities of the Central University of Karnataka

- 9.1. The Central University of Karnataka shall help in mobilizing eligible institutions and its students to help in the awareness and sensitization of NATS. They shall also be involved in several awareness and outreach events which will be conducted by BOATs/ BOPT frequently throughout the year.
- 9.2. The collaborating HEI shall submit the list of courses and adopted AEDPs in the annexure as a part of the MoU signing procedure.
- 9.3. The Central University of Karnataka shall promote HEIs to register themselves as establishments and engage apprentices for their own administrative or teaching assistance roles.
- 9.4. The Central University of Karnataka shall encourage eligible HEIs to set up AEDP courses or convert their existing courses into AEDP courses, to promote the bridging of the skill gap by providing industry-relevant training in the form of apprenticeships to students.
- 9.5. All eligible HEIs shall ensure adherence to their roles and responsibilities as mentioned in the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time as applicable to the programme as well as all the provision(s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time.
- 9.6. The AEDP programme falling under the ambit of a statutory or regulatory body/council other than UGC shall be offered with the prior approval of the concerned statutory or regulatory body/council and in compliance with its guidelines.
- 9.7. Students pursuing AEDP study shall, after enrolment with the respective BOAT/ BOPT on the NATS 2.0 portal (<https://nats.education.gov.in>), be eligible for

apprenticeship in the following manner:(i) Students would be eligible for apprenticeship under NATS in the final year of their degree program;(ii) In the event a student enrolled in a 4 year degree program and the HEI allows the option of exiting by obtaining a degree within 3 years, the 3rd year shall be considered the final year for apprenticeship;(iii) Apprenticeship shall not come in the way of any student continuing higher education irrespective of the name of the degree or certificate program; and(iv) GoI contribution in the stipend shall be governed by rules/policy of the GoI from time to time.

- 9.8. Eligible HEIs are required to engage students of the final year, to enable the above in experiencing and implementing NATS to the fullest.
- 9.9. The eligible HEIs may support the AEDP Programme by identifying nearby promising establishments and ensuring their onboarding onto the NATS 2.0 portal, with the assistance of the Board. The eligible HEIs shall ensure that once all the eligible students are enrolled on NATS 2.0 portal, they are directed to join the concerned establishments for undergoing apprenticeship training for the period as demanded in the course curriculum and guided by UGC guidelines, as amended from time to time, which is minimum 6 months and maximum 1.5 years (for 3 year undergraduate programmes) and a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 2 years (for a 4 year undergraduate programme) for students enrolled in Apprenticeship Embedded Degree programmes of the institution.
- 9.10. The eligible HEIs shall ensure that all such students execute the Tripartite Agreement of Apprenticeship through the NATS 2.0 portal with the training establishment immediately by joining as apprentices.
- 9.11. The eligible HEIs shall include a digital banner/ poster about NATS and a redirecting link on the landing page of their official website, which will lead to NATS 2.0 portal with URL <https://nats.education.gov.in>.
- 9.12. The eligible HEIs may include Apprenticeship Training placements as part of their Placement Cell processes.
- 9.13. The eligible HEIs and Board may impart new-age skills under NATS viz. AI, ML, IoT, Block chain, and more to make the youth aware of and immersed in these skills.

- 9.14. The eligible HEIs may establish NATS Facilitation Centers in their campus, which will help in the facilitation of NATS awareness, NATS 2.0 portal registrations, issue resolution, and more so that more aspirants will enroll for AEDP courses.
- 9.15. The eligible HEIs may integrate concepts from the industry training in their course curriculum, as relevant and in consultation with the establishments.
- 9.16. The eligible HEIs are expected to track the outcomes of the pass-outs from such programmes for a period of at least 1 year, and recommended for up to 5 years, after the completion of the programme to assess the employment and education pathways pursued by such candidates and contribute to the further development of AEDP. These details shall be shared with BOAT as well.
- 9.17. The eligible HEIs shall facilitate establishing an Apprenticeship Alumni Connect to further students' interest and awareness of NATS.
- 9.18. The eligible HEIs shall identify a SPOC (Single Point of Contact) to coordinate and facilitate with the concerned establishments for the smooth and successful completion of the apprenticeship training.
- 9.19. Both the parties to nominate and inform the names of their coordinators for effective communication and ease of activities along with communication details.
- 9.20. The eligible HEIs shall mandatorily submit a list of all the programmes covered under AEDP in the prescribed format and nomenclature for onward submission to the NATS 2.0 Portal team so that the courses could be listed on the NATS 2.0 Portal and made available for the students for selection during their enrollment process.

10. Notices

- 10.1. Any notice or other communication under this MoU shall be given in writing and delivered by hand, sent by post, facsimiled transmission, or e-mail.

11. Amendment

- 11.1. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the Guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time as applicable to the programme.

11.2. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the provision(s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time.

11.3. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the provision(s) and directions of the Ministry of Education, as issued from time to time.

12. Force Majeure

12.1. Neither party shall be liable to the other for failure or delay in the performance of any of its obligations under this MoU for the time and to the extent such failure or delay is caused due to acts of God, natural disaster, fire, floods, explosions or earthquake, epidemic or quarantine restrictions, serious accidents, war, insurrection or riots, strikes, legal necessity or labor troubles, or any other cause beyond the party's reasonable control, provided that sufficient notice of such occurrence of force majeure is communicated to the other party.

13. Signatures

13.1. This MoU constitutes in principle to proceed and work out more detailed modalities to operationalize the same between the parties. No amendments consent or waiver of terms of this MoU shall bind either party unless in writing or signed by both parties.

13.2. Both the parties agree and assure each other about the secrecy and maintaining the privacy of all sorts of communication and details of students during the period of MoU and thereafter.

All the above contents are read over and understood by both the parties to this MoU.

Hence, the MoU is executed on 23rd day of July month 2025.

First Party: Signed on behalf of BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION), CHENNAI  Shri. Vijay Shanker Pandey, Director, BOAT(SR), Chennai Date:	Second Party: Signed on behalf of Central University of Karnataka  Prof. Channaveer R. M Registrar Date:
Witness: 1 	Witness:2