

UGC to invite bids for global institutes

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New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) will start the process of inviting applications for establishing World Class universities from Wednesday onwards, and the government aims at having a list of 20 such institutions by March 2018.

Establishing world class institutions or Institutions of National Eminence among higher education institutions is one of the ambitious projects of the current Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) through which they want to increase the number of international students in the country and catapult the institutions in the world rankings.

Currently the government has capped the percentage of foreign students who can be admitted to public institutions at 15 per cent, this number will be doubled in these institutions. Institutions of National Eminence will be allowed to admit up to 30 per cent of foreign students in their campuses. The hiring of foreign faculty in

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■ The selected institutions will enjoy a number of relaxation from the government, in terms of deciding the course, curriculum, opening up of a new centre and deciding the fee. They will be free from government autonomy.

these institutions will also be increased from the current number.

According to officials in UGC, three categories of institutions—public and private and new private institutions will be open to send their entries to the government. “The public institutions that have been featured in top 50 in NIRF, private institutions and new private institutions that want to do better can apply with the government,” said a senior official in the HRD Ministry.

“The established institutions need to give a 15-year plan of action as to how do they plan to take the institute forward in terms of academics,” he said.