

Law (1926) Department.
(*Education*)

Circular SERIES.

G.O. No. 1182

DATED 28-6-1926

[Despatch Abstract.]

University.

Indian students proceeding to foreign ~~countries~~ ^{universities} -- knowledge
of a modern European language -- High Commissioner's letter -- recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Please quote the undermentioned reference and address any further communication to—
The Secretary to the
High Commissioner for India,
(Education Dept.),
42, Grosvenor Gardens,
London, S.W. 1.
Reference **H.C.** Edn. S.89/1.

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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

42, GROSVENOR GARDENS,

LONDON, S.W. 1.



20th May, 1926.

2nd June. L. de 1407 B
22/6/26

FROM :- THE JOINT SECRETARY to the HIGH COMMISSIONER
for INDIA.
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

TO :- THE SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS,
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS, INDIA.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit herewith for the information of the Government of Madras and for such action as they may consider necessary a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Vice Chancellors of the Universities in India on the subject of the teaching of modern European languages to students proposing to proceed out of India for further study.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Thomas Quigley
JOINT SECRETARY.

Please quote the under-mentioned reference, and
address any further communication to—
The Joint Secretaries to the
High Commissioner for India
Edn. (Indian Students Department),
42, Grosvenor Gardens,
London, S.W. 1.
Reference I.S. Edn. S. 89/1.

Telephones—

Victoria 9720-5 } Ext. No. _____
(6 lines)

Telegraphic Address—

HICOMIND, SOWEST, LONDON.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,
42, GROSVENOR GARDENS,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

18th May, 1926.



FROM

The JOINT SECRETARY to the
HIGH COMMISSIONER for INDIA,
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

TO

The VICE CHANCELLORS of ALL INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

Sir,

The attention of the High Commissioner has recently been called to the increasing difficulties experienced by Indian students in this country in obtaining admission into British Universities and in securing good degrees owing to their ignorance, on the commencement of their studies here, of any modern European languages other than English.

2. A knowledge of at least one modern European language is generally required from all students entering Universities in this country. Indian students, otherwise well qualified, who are unable to produce satisfactory evidence in this respect, often find it difficult to secure admission to a good University. Thus at the University of Oxford, the authorities are anxious that all students should pass the first Public Examination not later than the end of the first academic year. As a knowledge of French is necessary for this purpose, the Colleges are most reluctant to consider for admission applicants who have not already attained a sufficient standard in this language, and

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who, if admitted, would have to begin an elementary course, necessitating private tuition and consequent sacrifice of time from the real degree work with which the Colleges are naturally most concerned.

At Cambridge the prescribed courses of study for the various Tripos examinations naturally involve an adequate knowledge of French and German, as well as, in some cases, of Italian and Spanish.

Similar requirements are prescribed by the various Faculties at other Universities. Thus in the University of London the regulations for the Faculty of Economics, which Indian students join in considerable numbers, lay down that no candidate at the Intermediate examination shall be approved in the subject of Economics unless he can show the capacity to read with intelligence either French or German whilst in the Final B.Sc. (Economics) examination one paper consists of two passages from French and German works for translation and comment, and candidates are required to satisfy the examiners in both these languages. At the Intermediate examination in Science, questions are set involving the translation of passages in French or German, whilst for the Final B.Sc. Examination both French and German are required.

The Regulations for the Honours B.Sc. degree in Pure and in Applied Science at the Armstrong College (University of Durham) prescribe a paper in French or German and (in the case of Applied Science) Spanish or Italian, to test the candidate's ability to translate into English unseen passages from technical or scientific works in these languages.

In the University of Birmingham candidates before being admitted to the degree of B.Sc. are required to pass an examination in French and German showing that they possess a knowledge sufficient to enable them to read scientific treatises

or memoirs in these languages.

At the University of Manchester, candidates before sitting for the Final Examination for the Degree of B.Sc. must produce satisfactory evidence to the Faculty that they can read scientific literature in French or German or in any other language approved by the Faculty.

In the Final B.Sc. examinations, both Pass and Honours of the University of Leeds a paper is set containing passages of French and German for translation into English relating to the principal subject or subjects of a candidate's degree course.

At the Scottish Universities a test of the candidate's ability to translate from French and German is included as part of the Honours examination whilst all students who look forward to reading for Honours or to engaging in research are very urgently recommended to acquire at as early a period in their course as possible such a knowledge of French and German as will enable them to read scientific works in these languages with ease.

In the University of Wales, French or German is required for the Honours examination in Pure Science.

3. These particulars have been given in some detail in order to emphasise the fact that a knowledge of at least one modern European language is required by practically every British University from students reading for degrees in various subjects.

It may also be pointed out that the Preliminary examinations of the various professional bodies (Medicine, Law, Accountancy etc.) in this country similarly involve a knowledge of at least one modern language.

4. An English student as a general rule studies at least one modern European language before proceeding to a University. Consequently an English student is not unfavourably affected by the regulations relating to admission or the granting of degrees which have been referred to above. An Indian student on the other hand has usually no knowledge of any European language other than English on his arrival in this country. In the case of some Universities such as Oxford, it is in such circumstances exceedingly difficult to secure his admission. In other Universities the Indian student finds it necessary after admission to begin the study of an entirely new language. He is thus handicapped by having to take an extra subject at a time when all his energies are required for the course of study or training he has embarked upon under conditions entirely different from those to which he has become accustomed during his Indian university or college life. The difficulty becomes specially acute in the large number of instances where an Indian student as a recognition of his Indian degree is allowed to shorten his course for a degree in this country by one or more years.

5. Apart from the question of securing good degrees at British Universities it is hardly necessary to emphasise that for Indian students who come to Europe for Western instruction in such subjects as Science, Economics, Education, etc., a reading knowledge of French or German or preferably both, is essential if they are to return to India adequately equipped with a competent knowledge of modern European developments and trends of thought. There is evidence to show that Indian students are now coming in increasing numbers to work under well known authorities in their special subjects, not only in this country but also in France and Germany, and it has been found that even Indian



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graduates with distinguished records at their own universities have been obliged to take up the elementary study of French or German after their arrival in Europe.

6. The High Commissioner has no accurate knowledge of the facilities at present available at the Indian Universities for learning modern European languages, but he hopes that the authorities of Indian Universities will give due consideration to this matter. It is suggested that if no facilities exist at present, arrangements might possibly be made for special classes in one or more of the modern European languages such as French or German being provided for students who intend eventually to come to Europe for further study. Students who attend these classes and satisfactorily pass such tests as the University consider it desirable to impose may perhaps be furnished with an official certificate, definitely testifying to an adequate reading knowledge of the selected language or languages, for submission to the British or European University to which admission is desired. If the University of finds it practicable to adopt a system of this nature, Sir Atul Chatterjee is confident that its students who propose to proceed out of India for further study will find their chances of admission to a good university and securing a degree there considerably improved whilst they will be in a much better position to utilise opportunities and facilities open to all students in Europe and America.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Thomas Quinlan

The Secretary to the Govt. of
Madras. Education Department,
MADRAS. INDIA. JOINT SECRETARY.

Date.	Initials.
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Law (Eds)

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