

Incubating Institutional Excellence

KIRF Manual

KERALA INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK



The Kerala State Higher Education Council

Constituted by Kerala State Legislature by notification No.19536/Leg. Uni.3/2007/Law Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 15 October 2007

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ കൗൺസിൽ

KIRF Manual

Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework

Incubating Institutional Excellence

(Revised)



2025



The Kerala State Higher Education Council

Constituted by Kerala State Legislature by notification No.19536/Leg. Uni.3/2007/Law Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 15 October 2007

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ കൗൺസിൽ

The Kerala State Higher Education Council

KIRF Manual

Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework

Incubating Institutional Excellence

KIRF

. Documentation Division
October 2025

Published by The Kerala State Higher Education Council
Science and Technology Museum Campus, Vikas Bhavan P.O,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695033, Kerala State, India

www.kshec.kerala.gov.in

Phone:0471-2301293, Fax: 0471 2301290



All Rights Reserved. Published

List of Abbreviations

AIAPGET	: All India AYUSH Post Graduate Entrance Test
AIEEA	: All India Entrance Examination for Admission (ICAR)
AILET	: All India Law Entrance Test
AISHE	: All India Survey of Higher Education
AR	: Accreditation and Rankings
ARWU	: Academic Ranking of World Universities
CAT	: Common Admission Test
CLAT	: Common Law Admission Test
CSR fund	: Corporate Social Responsibility Fund
CTET	: Central Teacher Eligibility Test
CUET	: Common University Entrance Test
DNB PDCET	: Diplomate of National Board – Post Diploma Centralised Entrance Test
EP	: Entrepreneurship
EWS	: Economically Weaker Section
FDA	: Facilities for Differently Abled Students
FGL	: First Generation Learners
FQE	: Faculty Qualification and Experience
FRU	: Financial Resources and their Utilisation
FSR	: Faculty Student Ratio
GATE	: Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
GEE	: Metric for Entrance Examinations
GO	: Graduation Outcomes
GPAT	: Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test
GRE	: Graduate Record Examination

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

GT	: Adoption of Green Technology
GUE	: Metric for University Examinations
HEIs	: Higher Education Institutions
IEDCs	: Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Centres
INI CET	: Institute of National Importance – Combined Entrance Test
INI-SS	: Institute of National Importance – Super Specialty
IPR	: Intellectual Property Rights
JEE Main/JEE Advanced	: Joint Entrance Examination- Main/Advanced
Joint CSIR-UGC NET	: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research -UGC NET
KDRE	: Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence
KIRF	: Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework
KSHEC	: Kerala State Higher Education Council
NAAC	: National Assessment and Accreditation Council
NBA	: National Board of Accreditation
NEET-PG	: National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Post Graduate
NEET-SS	: NEET-SS: National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Super Specialty)
NIRF	: National Institutional Ranking Framework
OE	: Online Education
OI	: Outreach and Inclusivity
PG-ICAR	: Postgraduate Entrance Examination of Indian Council of Agricultural Research
PG-LLM	: Postgraduate – Master of Law
PH	: Placement and Higher Studies

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

QS	: Quacquarelli Symonds
RD	: Region Diversity
RFCS	: Research Footprint/ Consultancy/Startups
RI	: Research Impact
RP	: Research Productivity
SAAC	: State Assessment and Accreditation Centre
SEJ	: Number of e-Journals Subscribed
SET	: State Eligibility Test
SI	: Social Inclusiveness
SS	: Student Strength
STSO	: Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook
TET	: Teacher Eligibility Test
THE	: Times Higher Education
TLR	: Teaching, Learning and Resources
UGC-JRF/NET	: UGC-Junior Research Fellowship/National Eligibility Test
VC	: Venture Capital

Executive Summary	1
Section A	2
1. Introduction	2
2. KIRF –Vision	3
3. Scope of KIRF	3
4. Eligibility for assessment and ranking	4
5. The Assessment Process	4
6. Focus of Assessment	4
7. Procedural Details	5
Section B	7
I. Methodology for Ranking of Academic Institutions in Kerala	7
Overview	7
Eligibility for Ranking	8
Salient Features	9
Data Collection and Sources	9
Reference Date	10
Errors and Correction Policy	10
Implementation Details	11
II. Parameters and Metrics for Ranking	12
Teaching Learning & Resources (TLR)	15
1.1. Student Strength (SS)	16

1.2.	Faculty Student Ratio (FSR)	17
1.3.	Faculty Qualification and Experience (FQE)	18
1.4.	Online Education (OE)	18
1.5.	Number of e-Journals Subscribed (SEJ)	19
1.6.	Financial Resources and their Utilisation (FRU)	19
2.	Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)	22
2.1.	Research Productivity (RP)	22
2.2.	Research Impact (RI)	22
2.3.	Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	23
2.4.	Research Footprint/ Consultancy/Startups RFCS)	23
3.	Graduation Outcomes (GO)	25
3.1.	Metric for University Examinations (GUE)	25
3.2.	Metric for Entrance Examinations-(GEE)	25
3.3.	Placement and Higher Studies (PH)	25
4.	Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)	27
4.1.	Region Diversity (RD)	27
4.2.	First Generation Learners (FGL)	27
4.3.	Facilities for Differently Abled Students (FDA)	27
4.4.	Social Inclusiveness (SI)	28

5. Scientific Temper & Secular Outlook (STSO) and Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)	32
5.1. Imparting Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO)	32
5.2. Adoption of Green Technology (GT)	32
5.3. Accreditation and Rankings (AR)	32
5.4. Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)	33
General Instructions	35
Guidelines for Submitting Research Publications for Ranking	35
Guidelines for Citations and h-index	36
Guidelines for Patents Granted and Published	36
Glossary of Terms	38

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

Executive Summary

The document presents a methodology to rank Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the State. The Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) is a set of metrics for ranking of academic institutions, based on the parameters agreed upon the oversight committee set up by Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC). The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will be the implementing agency and the ranking will be carried out annually.

KSHEC shall invite institutions interested to participate in the ranking exercise to register on the KIRF Website created by KSHEC. The data shall be uploaded on an online facility created for this purpose. KSHEC with the help of suitably identified partner agencies will undertake authentication of data, wherever felt necessary, and where feasible.

KSHEC will extract the relevant information from this data and through software, compute the various metrics and rank institutions based on this data.

Section A

1. Introduction

Institutional rankings have important impact on higher education institutions. Ranking is a comparison of performance, visualised by means of a hierarchical table and repeatedly published by a third party. Accounting for the institutionalisation of rankings in higher education lead to an empirical investigation into when and how each of the elements constituting them entered discourses on academic quality and excellence. The World University Ranking serves as a resource for students choosing universities and for global scholar mobility. It also serves as a guide for public policies, aids in funding agency and university leadership decision-making, and even positions and measures the performance of higher education institutions in both national and international contexts.

Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China emerged in 2003; Time Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings in 2004 and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings are the important global institutional ranking systems. NIRF India ranking system has been emerged on 29th September 2015 to rank the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and to promote a healthy competition among the institutions to sustain and to enhance their quality and to create conditions for assuring world class quality along with good governance in higher education.

The Governing Body Meeting of the Kerala State Higher Education Council held on 21-01-2020 resolved to establish the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) under the Higher Education Empowerment Implementation Plan Project.

KSHEC launched the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) without altering the core qualities and components of National Institutional Ranking Framework(NIRF).The Council has developed and incorporated state specific parameters like First-Generation Learners (FGL), Economically Weaker Section(EWS), Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO) Adoption of Green Technology(GT). In addition, a new parameter, namely Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE) has been incorporated into the Second edition of KIRF.

2. KIRF –Vision

To evaluate institutional performance, keep it sustainable; provide all qualified individuals with equal access to higher education and establish a fair and transparent ranking system.

3. Scope of KIRF

- Assess and rank higher education institutions such as universities, government and aided colleges, autonomous colleges and self-financing institutions/colleges by employing metrics of Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework.
- Enhance and ensure the readiness of the higher education institutions of the State to go for NIRF ranking.
- Impart training and guidance to undergo state and national level ranking.

- Apply state specific parameters to measure academic excellence.

4. Eligibility for assessment and ranking

Applications for rankings will be considered for those institutions that have graduated at least three batches of students in full time UG or PG Program, where the duration is not less than three years for the UG Programmes and two years for the PG Programme.

5. The Assessment Process

Stages of Assessment and Ranking

Stage 1: Registering of the Higher Education Institution in the KIRF website.

Stage2: Preparation and submission of data by the Higher Education Institutions. (Data should be uploaded in the prescribed format and supporting documents in excel format should be attached wherever necessary).

Stage 3: Based on the evaluation of the submitted data, a score will be generated for each category, and the ranking of HEIs will be determined accordingly.

6. Focus of Assessment

The evaluation process and the subsequent ranking of KIRF involves the participation of all the stakeholders – management, faculty members, administrative staff, students, parents, employers, community and alumni. While the participation of internal stakeholders i.e. management, staff

and students provides credibility and ownership to the activity and could lead to newer initiatives, interaction with the external stakeholders facilitate the development process of the institution and their educational services.

7. Procedural Details

- i. HEIs are expected to read the manual thoroughly and submit the details related to ranking.
- ii. All the Institutions intending to apply for assessment and ranking need to upload the information on KIRF website through KSHEC portal- (<https://kirf.kshec.org/public/>)
- iii. The data should be uploaded in the website within the timeframe.
- iv. The KIRF comprises of criteria based on NIRF and State Specific Criteria of KIRF which include both Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics. The Quantitative Metrics add up to about 80% and the remaining 20% are Qualitative Metrics.
- v. The data submitted on Quantitative metrics will be subjected to data validation and clarifications will be sought for any wrong information submitted by the HEI. The qualitative data would be reviewed and verified by the implementing agency.
- vi. Guideline for filling up of KIRF

Extended profile contains all the questions which are basically the figures of denominators of the formulas used for calculation of various Metrics values. The data filled should contextualize with the related metrics.

vii. Assessment Outcome

The final score will be a system generated score based on computational analysis of both qualitative and quantitative metrics. Subsequently ranking will be announced.

Section B

I. Methodology for Ranking of Academic Institutions in Kerala

Overview

Kerala is a forerunner in many socio-cultural indicators of growth compared to most other states in the country. Kerala is known for its highest literacy in the country and 100% enrolment of children in primary and secondary education. In the higher education sector, the State has made commendable achievements in ensuring equity and access. But the progress made in numbers has not been accompanied by remarkable progress in quality, despite several steps that have been taking place at different stages towards this direction. We are still at the threshold of excellence. We need to have a paradigm change to acquire world-class higher education if we are to benefit from the internationalization of higher education. We need to look at Western and Eastern models and the guidelines for quality expansion issued by UGC to evolve a unique structure of higher education in the state, which is global and local at the same time. It is not enough that we have a few islands of excellence and a vast ocean of academic slums. In other words, we need to forge ahead in quality, without sacrificing equity.

Kerala's rapid expansion in higher education is evident from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021–22 report. The State's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stands at 41.3%, significantly higher than the national GER of 28.4%.

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

As per the same report, 1,847 institutions in Kerala offer higher education programmes, reflecting the State's strong commitment to expanding access and opportunities in higher education. The State holds a unique position among the States in the country, with its comparatively limited geographical extent but with enriched resources of biodiversity, and physiographic characteristics which 'are great assets which could be used sustainably for economic growth.

On the cultural front, we need to sustain and develop the constitutional values of democracy and the secular fabric and scientific temper. The diverse higher education sector with state, aided and unaided institutions should all flourish in an environment of cooperation and healthy competition. This would require a flexible but internationally competent higher education structure and content in the state. It is in this context that Kerala envisages the formation of a State Level Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) without altering the core qualities and components of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

KIRF has evolved a framework, after intense deliberations with experts and various stakeholders of higher education, both inside and outside the State of Kerala.

Eligibility for Ranking

a. Institutions under different categories such as universities, colleges, engineering, management, teacher education, pharmacy, medical, dental, law, architecture and nursing can participate in the ranking process and can register separately, provide data in the specific format, if they desire to be included in the discipline specific ranking list.

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

b. Category specific ranks will be announced only in those categories where a significant number of institutions offer themselves for ranking. The final decision on ranking of a category will therefore be decided by KIRF after analysing the data.

c. Rankings will be considered only for those institutions that have graduated at least three batches of students in full time UG or PG Program, where the duration is not less than three years for the UG Programmes and two years for the PG Programme.

Salient Features

a. Methodology is based on a set of metrics for ranking of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) based on the parameters agreed upon by the oversight committee.

b. These parameters are organised into five broad categories and have been further elaborated into sub categories. Each category has an overall ranking weight assigned to it and each sub categories are also provided with appropriate weight distribution.

c. The performance score for each subcategory will be computed by the suitable metric assigned for each section and the scores of each subcategory are then added to obtain the score for each individual category. The overall score is computed based on the weights allotted to each category. The overall score of each category can be a maximum value of 100.

d. The institutions can then be ranked based on their scores

Data Collection and Sources

a. Institutional Data

The Nodal Officer of the institution should be authorised to submit their institutional data in the KIRF portal designed on the KSHEC Website. The information provided should be accurate for the particular survey/ranking year. The data will be cross checked and for certain data third party sources will be depended upon.

b. Bibliometric Data

The Research Productivity, Citations, h- index etc. can be captured from the Scopus Database/ Web of Science. The data will be verified by an approved agency/ agencies.

Reference Date

The data will be collected for a period of three years backward from the year of ranking procedure. The data entered will be carried over for the next year ranking.

Errors and Correction Policy

The Nodal Officer should ensure that the data uploaded is correct. In case corrections are needed, the Nodal Officer should inform KSHEC/KIRF through email with the reasons for correction. Correction of the data will be allowed till the rankings are closed. The submitted data should be countersigned by the Head of the Institution.

The Institution should make the data available on their website. It will be the Institution's responsibility to ensure that the data published by KIRF accurately reflects its submissions. The institution will also be invited to verify the data supplied by or taken from third party sources. If the institution does not give any comments or feedback within a specified period on the

displayed data, it will be finalised assuming that this data is accurate. No petitions for corrections will be accepted after the declared deadline, or after the rankings have been announced.

If it is found that an institution has deliberately manipulated the submitted data, causing erroneous rankings, KIRF will remove the institution from the ranking list and future rankings and publish a suitable note to this effect.

Implementation Details

- a. The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will be the ranking agency on behalf of KIRF for 2025.
- b. Interested institutions shall be invited to participate in the ranking exercise to register on the KIRF portal on KSHEC webpage. The data should be submitted on an on-line facility created for this purpose.
- c. KIRF, by itself or with the help of other suitably identified partner agencies will also undertake authentication of data, wherever felt necessary, and where feasible.
- d. KIRF will extract the relevant information from this data and through software, compute the various metrics and rank institutions based on this data.

II. Parameters and Metrics for Ranking

Overview

Summary of Parameters for Ranking

Sl. No.	Parameters	Marks	Weightage
1	Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR)	100	0.30
2	Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)	100	0.30
3	Graduation Outcome (GO)	100	0.20
4	Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)	100	0.10
5	Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO) and Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)	100	0.10

Summary of Ranking Parameters and Weightage

Sl. No.	Parameter	Marks
1.	Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)	
	(Ranking Weight: 0.30)	100
1.1.	Student Strength (SS)	20
1.2.	Faculty Student Ratio (FSR)	30
1.3.	Faculty Qualification and Experience (FQE)	20
1.4.	Online Education (OE)	10
1.5.	Subscription to e-journals (SEJ)	5
1.6.	Financial Resources and their Utilisation (FRU)	15
2.	Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)	
	(Ranking Weight:0.30)	100
2.1.	Research Productivity (RP)	35
2.2.	Research Impact (RI)	35
2.3.	Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	15
2.4.	Research Footprints/ Consultancy/ Startups (RFCS)	15
3.	Graduation Outcome (GO)	
	(Ranking Weight:0.20)	100
3.1.	Metrics for University Examinations (GUE)	35
3.2.	Metrics for Entrance Examinations (GEE)	35
3.3.	Placement and Higher Studies (PH)	30
4.	Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)	
	(Ranking Weight:0.10)	100
4.1.	Region Diversity (RD)	20
4.2.	First Generation Learners (FGL)	10
4.3.	Facilities for Differently Abled Students (FDA)	10
4.4.	Social Inclusiveness (SI)	60
5.	Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO) and Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)	
	(Ranking Weight:0.10)	100
5.1.	Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO)Q _I	30
5.2.	Adoption of Green Technology (GT) Q _I	15
5.3.	Accreditation and Rankings (AR)	35
5.4.	Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)	20

1

Teaching Learning & Resources (TLR)

1. Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR)

100 Marks

Ranking Weight- 0.30

Overall Assessment Metric

$$\text{TLR} = \text{SS}(20) + \text{FSR}(30) + \text{FQE}(20) + \text{OE}(10) + \text{SEJ}(5) + \text{FRU}(15)$$

- Student Strength including Ph.D. Students: SS
- Faculty-Student Ratio with emphasis on permanent Faculty: FSR
- Faculty Qualification and Experience: FQE
- Online Education: OE
- Subscription to e-journals: SEJ
- Financial Resources and their Utilisation: FRU

1.1. Student Strength (SS)

20 Marks

$$SS' = 8 \min\left(\frac{a_u}{s_u}, 1\right) + 5 \min\left(\frac{a_p}{s_p}, 1\right) + 3 \min\left(\frac{a_r}{s_r}, 1\right) + \left[\frac{a}{1000}\right]$$

a_u/s_u refer to the number of admitted/sanctioned UG students.

a_p/s_p refer to the number of admitted/ sanctioned PG students.

a_r/s_r refer to the number of admitted/ sanctioned Research (PhD) students.

The sanctioned strength for UG/PG students is the basic number of seats sanctioned by the University/ Govt. and does not include the marginal increase.

The sanctioned strength of PhD students is the total number of admissible PhD students by the research guides assigned to the college as per UGC norms (4, 6, 8)

$$A = a_u + a_p + a_r$$

$$SS = \min(SS', 20)$$

1.2. Faculty Student Ratio (FSR)

30 Marks

$$FSR' = 30 \times \left(20 \times \frac{f}{n} \right)$$

$n = a_u + a_p$ is the total number of admitted UG and PG students.

f is the total number of regular faculty positions filled in the institution in the relevant year.

Regular faculty positions include those of permanent / contract / guest faculty who have served in the institutions for both the semesters of the relevant academic year. If two or more teachers are consecutively appointed against faculty position in a year, the count should only be one.

$$FSR = \min(FSR', 30)$$

1.3. Faculty Qualification and Experience (FQE) **20 Marks**

$$FQ' = 10 \times (f_{PhD}/f_{total}) \times 100/75$$

f_{PhD} and f_{total} are the number of faculty with PhD and total respectively in the relevant academic year.

75% PhD holders among the total faculty fetch full marks (10).

$$FQ = \min(FQ', 10)$$

$$FE = 3 \min(3F_1, 1) + 3 \min(3F_2, 1) + 4 \min(3F_3, 1)$$

F_1 is the fraction of faculty members with experience in higher education ≤ 8 years.

F_2 is the fraction of faculty members with experience in higher education ≤ 15 years.

F_3 is the fraction of faculty members with experience in higher education with experience 15 years or more.

$$FQE = FQ + FE$$

1.4. Online Education (OE) **10 marks**

This section includes the information on the online courses pursued by the students and the online courses developed by the faculty.

1.5. Number of e-Journals Subscribed (SEJ)
5 marks

The number of e-journals subscribed by the institution excluding the subscription provided through KSHEC and ONOS

1.6. Financial Resources and their Utilisation (FRU)
15 marks

This includes the percentage of amount spent on

- Capital Expenditure for the previous three years which include the academic activities i.e, the amount spent on libraries, laboratory equipment and other equipment and
- Operational Expenditure for the previous three years which include the annual expenditure for operational activities like salaries, maintenance of academic infrastructure or consumables and conduct of Seminars/conferences/workshops.

2

Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)

2. Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)

100 Marks

Ranking weight:0.30

Overall Assessment Metric:

KDRE= RP (35) +RI (35) +IPR (15) + RFCS (15)

- **Research Productivity: RP**
- **Research Impact: RI**
- **Intellectual Property Rights: IPR**
- **Research Footprint/ Consultancy/ Startups: (RFCS)**

2.1. Research Productivity (RP)

35 Marks

The publications of the institutions indexed in Scopus, Web of Science over the last three years will be taken into consideration.

2.2. Research Impact (RI)

35 Marks

The research influence is examined by taking into account the citations received for the publications of the institutions globally as in Scopus and Web of Science.

NB:- The data for 2.1 and 2.2 will be verified by an approved agency/agencies.

2.3. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

15 Marks

This includes the number of patents, granted and published.

2.4. Research Footprint/ Consultancy/Startups RFCS)

15 Marks

Sponsored research details, Consultancy services, Spin off companies/ Start-ups, MoU's signed with the industry resulting in research and amount received from the above. Maximum marks will be awarded to the institution with highest number of consultancy assignments and amount received from such ventures (Upload copies of the MoU's signed.).

3

Graduation Outcome

3. Graduation Outcomes (GO)

100 Marks

Ranking weight: 0.20

Overall Assessment Metric

GO= GUE (35) + GEE (35) + PH (30)

- **Metrics for University Examinations: GUE**
- **Metrics for Entrance Examinations: GEE**
- **Placement and Higher Studies: PH**

3.1. Metric for University Examinations (GUE)

35 marks

Total number of final year students who passed the university examination year wise during the last three years in the minimum stipulated time will be accounted.

3.2. Metric for Entrance Examinations-(GEE)

35 Marks

The criteria will be the total number of students who have qualified exams like NEET-PG, INI-CET, JEE Main/Advanced, GATE, CLAT, CUET, UGC-NET and others during the assessment period with respect to the total number of students. Full marks will be awarded to the institution having highest percentage of achievement.

3.3. Placement and Higher Studies (PH)

30 Marks

The number of outgoing students placed year wise during the last three years will be accounted.

4

Outreach and Inclusivity

4. Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)

100 Marks

Ranking Weight: 0.10

Overall Assessment Metric

OI= RD (20) + FGL (10) + FDA (10) + SI (60)

- **Students from Other States/ Countries Region**
Diversity: RD
- **First-Generation Learners: FGL**
- **Facilities for Differently Abled Students: FDA**
- **Social Inclusiveness: SI**

4.1. Region Diversity (RD)

20 Marks

This item records the number of students from other states and countries out of the total students enrolled in the institution at UG/PG/Doctoral levels.

4.2. First Generation Learners (FGL)

10 Marks

First Generation Learners (FGL) refer to the children who are the first in their family to go to college or whose parents have not gone to college. This item records the percentage of FGL from out of the total students enrolled in the institution.

4.3. Facilities for Differently Abled Students (FDA)

10 Marks

Academic facilities and learning software, infrastructural facilities such as ramps, rails, special toilets provided to the differently abled students in the institution.

4.4. Social Inclusiveness (SI)

60 Marks

The institution's Social Inclusiveness is determined by taking into account the percentage of students, faculty and non-teaching staff from socially disadvantaged communities- SC/ST/OBC/Transgenders/ differently abled/ women and also Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

i. Social Inclusiveness of Students/Faculty/Non-teaching staff under SC Category

$$SC = 4 \times \left(\frac{n_{sc}}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{15} \right)$$

n_{sc} is the total number of sc students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 15% or more percentage of sc students/faculty/nonteaching staff.

$SC_{final} = \min(SC, 4)$

ii. Social Inclusiveness of Students/Faculty/Non- teaching staff under ST Category

$$ST = 3 \times \left(\frac{n_{st}}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{5} \right)$$

n_{st} is the total number of ST students/ faculty/ non teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 5% or more percentage of ST students/faculty/ non-teaching staff.

$ST_{final} = \min(ST, 3)$

iii. Social Inclusiveness of Students/Faculty/Non- teaching staff under OBC Category

$$OBC = 3 \times \left(\frac{n_{obc}}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{50} \right)$$

n_{obc} is the total number of OBC students/faculty/non- teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 50% or more percentage of OBC students/faculty/non-teaching staff.

$$OBC_{final} = \min (OBC, 3).$$

iv. Social Inclusiveness of students/Faculty/Non- teaching staff under Transgender Category

$$= IF(N \geq 5, 3, IF(N \geq 2, 2, IF(N \geq 1, 1, IF(N \geq 0, 0))))$$

Where N is the number of transgender students.

v. Social Inclusiveness of students/Faculty/Non-teaching staff under Women Category

$$W = 3 \times \left(\frac{n_w}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{65} \right)$$

n_w is the total number of women students/faculty/non teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 65% or more percentage of women students/faculty/non-teaching staff.

$$W_{final} = \min (W, 3)$$

vi. Social Inclusiveness of students/Faculty/Non-teaching staff under Different Abled Category

$$D = 3 \times \left(\frac{n_d}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{4} \right)$$

n_d is the total number of differently abled students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 4% or more percentage of differently abled students/faculty/non-teaching staff.

$$D_{\text{final}} = \min(D, 3)$$

vii. Social Inclusiveness of students/Faculty/Non teaching staff under EWS

$$E = 5 \times \left(\frac{n_{\text{ews}}}{n_s} \times \frac{100}{10} \right)$$

n_{ews} is the total number of economically weaker students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

n_s is the total number of students/faculty/non-teaching staff in the respective academic year.

Maximum marks for 10% or more percentage of EWS students/faculty/non-teaching staff.

$$E_{\text{final}} = \min(E, 5)$$

(Economically Weaker Section, EWS: Persons who are not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and whose family has gross annual income below Rs. Eight lakhs are to be identified as EWSs for the benefit of reservation).

5

**Scientific Temper
&
Secular Outlook (STSO) and
Innovation & Entrepreneurship
(IE)**

5. Scientific Temper & Secular Outlook (STSO) and Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)

100 Marks

Ranking Weight: 0.10

Overall Assessment Metric

STSO= STSO QI (30) +GT QI (15) +AR (35) + IE(20)

Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook: STSO[QI]

Adoption of Green Technology: GT[QI]

Accreditation and Ranking: AR

Innovation &Entrepreneurship: (IE)

5.1. Imparting Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO)

[QI]-30 Marks (Qualitative Aspect)

The extension activities carried out to impart scientific temper and secular outlook sensitising students to social issues, for their holistic development. The description must be limited to 500 words.

5.2. Adoption of Green Technology (GT)

[QI] 15 Marks (Qualitative Aspect)

Strategies adopted by the institution to conserve water, energy, reduce waste and effective waste disposal and other eco-friendly measures. The description must be limited to 500 words.

5.3. Accreditation and Rankings (AR)

35 Marks

Marks are provided to institutions based on their national accreditation grades (NAAC), State level accreditation grades (SAAC), number of NBA-accredited programmes and

national rankings (NIRF) and international rankings such as QS, Times Higher Education (THE), and ARWU.

5.4. Innovation & Entrepreneurship (IE)

20 Marks

This parameter introduced under KIRF 2025 evaluates the entrepreneurial capacity and ecosystem of universities and colleges in the state. It has been structured into four key dimensions, each carrying equal weightage to ensure a balanced assessment.

5.4.1.Student/Alumni Startups

5 Marks

Measures the number of officially registered startups launched by students and alumni within the last five years, as well as the percentage of students actively participating in startup initiatives. This reflects the direct entrepreneurial output of the institution.

5.4.2.Incubation & Startup Support

5 Marks

Assesses the presence and effectiveness of Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) or incubation facilities, along with the survival rate and funding success of incubated startups. This indicates the institutional capacity to nurture and sustain startups.

5.4.3. Faculty Involvement in Industry

5 Marks

Examines the extent to which academic faculty are engaged with startups, consultancy projects, or serve on company boards. This highlights the strength of faculty-industry linkages and the translation of academic expertise into practice.

5.4.4. Student Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

5 Marks

Evaluates the vibrancy of student-driven entrepreneurship platforms such as IEDCs, E-Cells, and business clubs. The number of active forums and their activities reflect the entrepreneurial culture on campus.

General Instructions

Guidelines for Submitting Research Publications for Ranking

For the Research Impact parameter in ranking exercises, publications must be reported using data from Web of Science and Scopus only.

The IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) of each institution may coordinate this process. Faculty members should provide the following details for each publication:

- Sl. No.,
- Full Name of Authors,
- Title of the Article,
- Journal Name,
- Year of Publication,
- Volume No., Issue No.,
- Starting Page No., Ending Page No.,
- Article No. (if applicable), and
- DOI of the Article.

The IQAC must verify that the journals appear in the Web of Science Master Journal List or the Scopus Source List. Only publications in these indexed journals should be included.

Only publications where at least one author is affiliated with the institution during the period of publication should be counted. The reporting period will cover publications from Jan 2022 – Dec 2022, Jan 2023 – Dec 2023, and Jan 2024 – Dec 2024.

Institutions who have access to Web of Science or Scopus may submit the downloaded publication list from these databases in the prescribed format. Institutions without access must prepare the list manually after verifying journals against the official master lists of Web of Science and Scopus.

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

The consolidated list must be prepared strictly in Excel format as prescribed. The Excel format is available against the relevant question in the KIRF Portal. Submissions in Word, PDF, or any format other than the prescribed Excel sheet will not be accepted. Publications from Web of Science and Scopus must be uploaded separately.

Conference proceedings, book chapters, and journals not indexed in Web of Science or Scopus must not be included. The Concerned nodal officer must ensure accuracy, avoid duplication, and submit the final list within the deadline.

The data will be verified by approved agency/agencies.

All institutions are to maintain a digital archive of the verified Excel lists for institutional records and further clarifications if any.

Guidelines for Citations and h-index

The list of research publications submitted by institutions will be validated by the approved agency/agencies. The agency will verify the indexing status of the journals and will also compute citation metrics and h-index using standard bibliometric databases. Institutions are therefore required to provide accurate and complete publication details in the prescribed format.

Guidelines for Patents Granted and Published

Only patents published or granted where at least one inventor was affiliated with the institution at the time of granting or publication will be considered. Institutions must ensure that such patents are reported with complete details (title, application number, filing date, publication/grant date, and

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

inventor details). Patents filed or granted before the inventor joined the institution will not be counted.

Glossary of Terms

Academic Performance

Refers to the measurable outcomes of teaching and learning processes in an institution. Indicators include student pass percentage, progression to higher studies, success in competitive examinations, and recognitions or awards received.

Accreditation

Formal recognition conferred upon an institution or programme by a statutory body such as NAAC/SAAC or NBA after assessing its adherence to quality benchmarks.

Alumni Engagement

The active participation of former students in supporting institutional activities such as mentoring, scholarships, funding, and outreach. Alumni reputation is often reflected in peer perception and societal impact.

Angel Investors

High-net-worth individuals who provide financial backing to early-stage startups or entrepreneurs, usually in exchange for equity ownership or convertible debt. Unlike venture capitalists, angel investors typically invest their own personal funds and may also offer mentorship, business expertise, and networking opportunities to support the growth of the startup.

Benchmark

A clearly defined standard, indicator, or reference point against which the performance of an institution is measured and compared.

Citation Index

A research performance metric that reflects the number of times scholarly publications from an institution are cited in other academic works, policy documents, patents, or

professional literature. A high citation index is generally considered an indicator of the quality, visibility, and impact of research, as it demonstrates that the work significantly contributes to advancing knowledge and is recognized by peers globally.

CSR Funds

Financial resources that companies set aside to carry out activities under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), such as education, healthcare, environment protection, and community development, as mandated by law or company policy.

Curriculum

The prescribed set of courses, learning modules, and co-curricular activities designed to meet programme outcomes. Institutions are evaluated based on curriculum relevance, flexibility, and alignment with emerging societal and industry needs.

Employability

The ability of graduates to secure and sustain meaningful employment. KIRF considers placement records, higher education enrolment, and entrepreneurial outcomes as part of employability metrics.

Entrepreneurship

The capacity of students and faculty to initiate start-ups, innovate business ideas, and translate them into viable enterprises.

External Funding

Financial support obtained by an institution from sources outside its regular government or institutional funding. This includes research grants, CSR funds, industry tie-ups, venture capital, and international collaborations.

Faculty–Student Ratio (FSR)

The ratio of full-time faculty members to the number of enrolled students. It is a critical indicator of teaching quality and learning support.

Governance

The structures, policies, and processes through which institutions are managed, monitored, and held accountable. Includes decision-making transparency, leadership effectiveness, and participatory management.

Innovation

Introduction of novel practices, technologies, or processes that improve academic, administrative, or societal outcomes. Under KIRF, innovation includes patents, prototypes, start-ups, and incubation activities.

Intellectual Property (IP)

Creative outputs such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, and designs generated by faculty or students. Institutions are encouraged to file and commercialize IP as part of KIRF innovation metrics.

Key Indicators

Specific measurable parameters that fall under broader criteria in the KIRF framework. Each key indicator has an assigned weightage and contributes to the overall institutional score.

Outreach

Community engagement and extension activities carried out by the institution to benefit society. Includes rural development initiatives, health camps, environmental campaigns, and social service.

Placement

The process of securing employment for students through

campus recruitment, job fairs, and institutional career services. Placement records are a key employability indicator.

Quality Assurance

The continuous process of monitoring and improving the standards of education, research, and administration. Accreditation bodies like NAAC and statutory guidelines serve as external quality assurance mechanisms.

Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO)

A composite indicator that reflects an institution's commitment to promoting rational thinking, evidence-based knowledge, critical inquiry, and respect for diversity of faiths and beliefs. Scientific temper emphasizes curiosity, problem-solving, and innovation, while secular outlook underlines equality, inclusiveness, and respect for pluralistic traditions.

Sponsored Research

Research projects funded by external agencies, government departments, or industries. Institutions are assessed based on the number, quality, and funding value of sponsored projects.

Startup

A startup is a young, innovative, and scalable business venture established to address a problem or opportunity through novel products, services, or processes.

Sustainability

Adoption of environmentally and socially responsible practices in campus operations, curriculum, and research. Includes green campus initiatives, renewable energy use, and waste management.

Venture Capital (VC)

Financing provided by venture capital firms to startups with high growth potential, usually in exchange for equity. Unlike

KIRF-Incubating Institutional Excellence

angel investors, VC uses pooled funds and also offers guidance and networking support.

Weightage

The relative importance assigned to a criterion, key indicator, or metric in the overall ranking framework. Each KIRF criterion is assigned a weightage to ensure balanced assessment.



The Kerala State Higher Education Council
Science & Technology Museum Campus,
Vikas Bhavan P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-33
Website: www.kshec.kerala.gov.in
Email kirf.kshec@gmail.com