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# 4-yr UG: St Xavier's 1st off block, other city varsities not sure yet

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Kolkata: Students getting admitted to St Xavier's College and St Xavier's University will be offered four-year honours programmes from this year, even as at least three other universities — Jadavpur University (JU), Presidency University and Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) — are also slated to offer similar courses.

Calcutta University (CU), with the largest number of colleges affiliated to it, is yet to take a final call.

In March, the Bengal higher education department had directed state-run universities to implement the Centre's New Education Policy (NEP) guidelines relating to undergraduate courses which recommends, among other things, four-year UG courses. A notice had been sent to registrars, along with the curriculum and credit framework for UG programmes under NEP, 2020. The notice mentioned that a letter from the UGC secretary to take appropriate steps had been received on January 31.

College admissions to UG courses will start soon. Class 12 CBSE and ISC results have been announced and Higher Secondary results are scheduled to be declared next Wednesday.

To ensure clarity about the change in curriculum,

St Xavier's authorities have published notifications on the four-year programme. Admission forms are available on its website. "The UG degree courses will be offered with an exit option after three years," according to a notification by St Xavier's College. The college's principal, Father Dominic Savio, said preparations to design the curriculum courses and department syllabi were about to be completed. "The detailed curriculum structure, along with course syllabi for all departments, will be published on the college's website," he added.

St Xavier's University has uploaded the structure of the four-year UG course and credit framework on its website.

Other universities in the state are in the process of fixing modalities for implementing the four-year UG programme and are waiting for a directive from the higher education department and the government before making an announcement. Last week, RBU's faculty council decided to implement four-year UG courses from this session. The decision will be placed before the executive council for ratification at a meeting scheduled next week. Sources said faculty members unanimously decided to go ahead with the four-year courses, but were yet to take a call on multiple exits. A basic framework to run the four-year courses has been prepared.

Rabindra Bharati University Teachers' Association general secretary Debobroto Das said: "Entry-exit system cannot be allowed at the moment and vocational courses cannot be offered right now since our university is primarily focused on humanities, social sciences, art and aesthetics." He added that they had requested the chancellor and the government to look into the recruitment procedures and funds required to implement the new curriculum. TOI tried to contact vice-chancellor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty but he did not respond. At JU, the joint faculty meeting (arts and science) had decided to adopt the four-year course and will follow the credit system framework with some modifications. The entry and exit system will not be implemented yet. JU pro-VC Chiranjib Bhattacharjee said they were waiting for the government directive and will act accordingly.

Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) has written a letter to vice-chancellor Suranjan Das on issues related to the implementation of the four-year UG programmes. JUTA general secretary Partha Pratim Ray said it was "unfortunate" that the higher education department had not yet issued concrete directives. "We hope some

directive is issued soon. Otherwise, there will be confusion. The university is unable to publish any notification regarding the UG courses due to this," he said.

Presidency has fixed modalities and developed a framework for the four-year UG course. A source said the university was prepared to implement the programme from this year keeping in the interest of students. A teacher said individual departments had framed the new syllabus, identified a few interdisciplinary courses that would be offered to students and were awaiting the vice-chancellor's approval. "It has also been proposed that the entry and exit system will not be implemented and students, when enrolled, have to study three years," a professor said.

TOI tried to contact registrar Debajyoti Konar but he did not respond. CU has conducted a meeting with principals of all affiliated colleges to discuss the matter. However, no final decision has been taken yet. Pro VC Ashis Chatterjee said: "We are discussing the matter and waiting for a final nod from the higher education department." Siuli Sarkar, the principal of Lady Brabourne College, affiliated to CU, said: "We have provided all documents that the higher education department asked for but didn't receive any instruction for the implementation of a four-year UG course from this year. We don't have any idea of the new course curriculum."

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## 1. St Xavier's College

Published a formal notification declaring that UG degree courses will be offered under four-year honours programme with an exit option after 3 years

Preparations to design the curriculum courses and department syllabi are about to be completed.

The detailed curriculum structure along with course syllabi for all departments will be published on the college website

Admission forms are already available on the website

## 2. Jadavpur University

Joint faculty meeting decided to adopt the four-year UG course

Will not implement the entry-exit system

Waiting for the government advisory for the next course of action

Discussions are being held on credit system frameworks and syllabus restructuring

### 3. Presidency University

Has already Developed the framework, syllabus for the four-year UG courses

University is prepared to implement the programme this year

Entry and exit system will probably not be implemented; a student will have to study 3-years once enrolled

### 4. Calcutta University

Meeting held with principals of all affiliating colleges

No final decision has been taken

Waiting for the final nod to come from higher education department

## 5. RBU

Faculty Council meeting last week decided to implement the four-year program from this year, Executive meeting likely to be held next week

Basic framework to run the course has been prepared

Entry and exit system cannot be implemented

Vocational courses cannot be started as options are limited