

BAMU accused of violating UGC teacher hiring norms

Aurangabad: Aspirants for vacant posts of associate professor at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) have accused the university of violating University Grants Commission (UGC) rules on recruitment of teaching staff.

Candidates have said that the university's recruitment advertisement was in contravention of the UGC's notification dated March 1. The notification states that the period of active service spent pursuing PhD simultaneously without taking any kind of leave will be counted as teaching experience for direct recruitment/ promotion. The decision is to be applicable to the posts of associate professor and above.

The BAMU recently issued an advertisement inviting online applications for teaching posts for arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, commerce, education, languages, law, journalism, mass communication and tourism administration. The management council of the university last month approved the recruitment for 85 vacant teaching posts, including 18 posts of professors, 28 assistant professors and 39 associate professors.

For the post of associate professor, the university has called for a minimum eight years of experience in teaching and/or research in an academic/research position equivalent to that of assistant professor in a university, college or accredited research institution/industry. But the criteria exclude the period spent pursuing PhD.

Aspirants whose prospects have been hampered due to this condition have demanded that the university should change the criteria. "It is a clear-cut violation of rules laid down by UGC. It is objectionable and equally outrageous. Therefore, the university should issue a corrigendum and a fresh advertisement," one of the affected candidates said on the condition of anonymity.

A senior faculty member, who did not wish to be named, said BAMU was defeating the whole purpose of the UGC's notification. "The UGC decision to count research period of faculties in their teaching experience underlined the fact that research work and teaching are complimentary. The university authorities seem to be oblivious to this motive, which is unfortunate," he said. Acting BAMU registrar Dilip Bharad could not be reached for his comments. The university's spokesperson sought time to furnish the official stand on the issue.