



भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय /

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F.No.20-19016/17/2023-TRG-DGS(C.No.25280)

Date:13.05.2025

Training Circular No. 20 of 2025

Subject: Admission of Foreign Students in Maritime Training Programs

1. Whereas the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has issued previous circulars, including Circular 06 of 2017, Circular 12 of 2020, and Circular 13 of 2023, which set forth guidelines for maritime training institutes (MTIs) regarding admissions, training standards, and compliance requirements;
2. Whereas there is a growing global demand for well-trained maritime professionals, and India has established itself as a leader in maritime education and training, with MTIs maintaining high-quality standards as per the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions and national regulations.
3. Whereas Circular 13 of 2023 is currently in abeyance, and the need to strengthen India's role as a global maritime training hub remains crucial to maintaining our competitive edge in international maritime human resource development.
4. Whereas statistical data indicates that India supplies approximately 12% of the world's seafarers, ranking among the top seafaring nations, and facilitating the training of foreign nationals at Indian MTIs will further strengthen India's position as a leading provider of maritime manpower, attracting global recognition and economic benefits. The maritime industry operates on a global scale, and equipping foreign students with the required knowledge and training at Indian MTIs will contribute to the international seafaring workforce, benefiting the industry and reinforcing India's role as a major supplier of trained maritime personnel.
5. Whereas the admission of foreign students will align with the Government of India's vision to promote the country as a hub for international maritime human resource development, strengthening bilateral and multilateral maritime relations with various nations.
6. The Directorate General of Shipping has received, in the last five years, multiple requests from MTIs seeking permission to admit foreign students in DGS-approved MTIs. These requests were primarily from MTIs aiming to enroll foreign students, mainly from African countries.

Signature
13/05/25

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7. Whereas enabling the admission of foreign students who meet the minimum eligibility criteria for various maritime training programs, including, Bachelor of Science in Nautical Science (BSc NS), Bachelor of Engineering in Marine Engineering (BE ME), Diploma in Nautical Science (DNS), Electro-Technical Officer (ETO), Graduate Marine Engineering (GME), and General Purpose (GP) Rating, Certificate Course in Maritime Catering (CCMC) will enhance the global reputation of Indian maritime training institutes.
8. Whereas MTIs shall ensure that all foreign students fulfill the prescribed minimum eligibility criteria for admission, including medical fitness as per STCW and DGS guidelines, equivalence of academic qualifications, and compliance with visa regulations as stipulated by the Government of India. {Only persons with the purpose of studying in India and entering the country on STUDENT VISA shall be eligible to apply for admission to a particular course. The candidates should submit a copy of their Passport and Visa to the Institute at the time of joining and the MTI concerned should ensure that the enforcement on account of visa revocation and restrictions, are promptly complied and the authorities concerned are informed.}
9. In view of the above, the Directorate General of Shipping has decided that DGS-approved MTIs approved for conducting Pre-Sea courses are allowed to admit foreign candidates meeting the minimum eligibility criteria as per issued DGS Orders/Circulars and Guidelines. Foreign candidates are exempted from IMU-CET for admission to any DGS-approved Pre-Sea courses. This initiative has been undertaken to invite foreign students to DGS-approved MTIS, considering that they will act as ambassadors in promoting Indian Maritime Training and Education.
10. Whereas, the admission of foreign students will not affect the employment prospects of Indian seafarers on Indian-flag vessels, ensuring that national interests are safeguarded.
11. The foreign students shall not be eligible for the issuance of the Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC), which remains restricted to Indian nationals as per the Merchant Shipping Act.
12. All MTIs are directed to take necessary measures to facilitate the admission of foreign students in accordance with the applicable guidelines and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed standards and regulations. This circular shall come into immediate effect, and compliance thereof shall be monitored by the Directorate General of Shipping.



13 May 25

(Deependra Singh Bisen)
Dy. Director General of Shipping (Training)

To:

1. All Maritime Training Institutes
2. All Principal Officers, MMDs
3. Nautical Wing, Engineering Wing
4. Indian Maritime University, Headquarters, Chennai
5. IT & E-Governance Branch.