



# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION



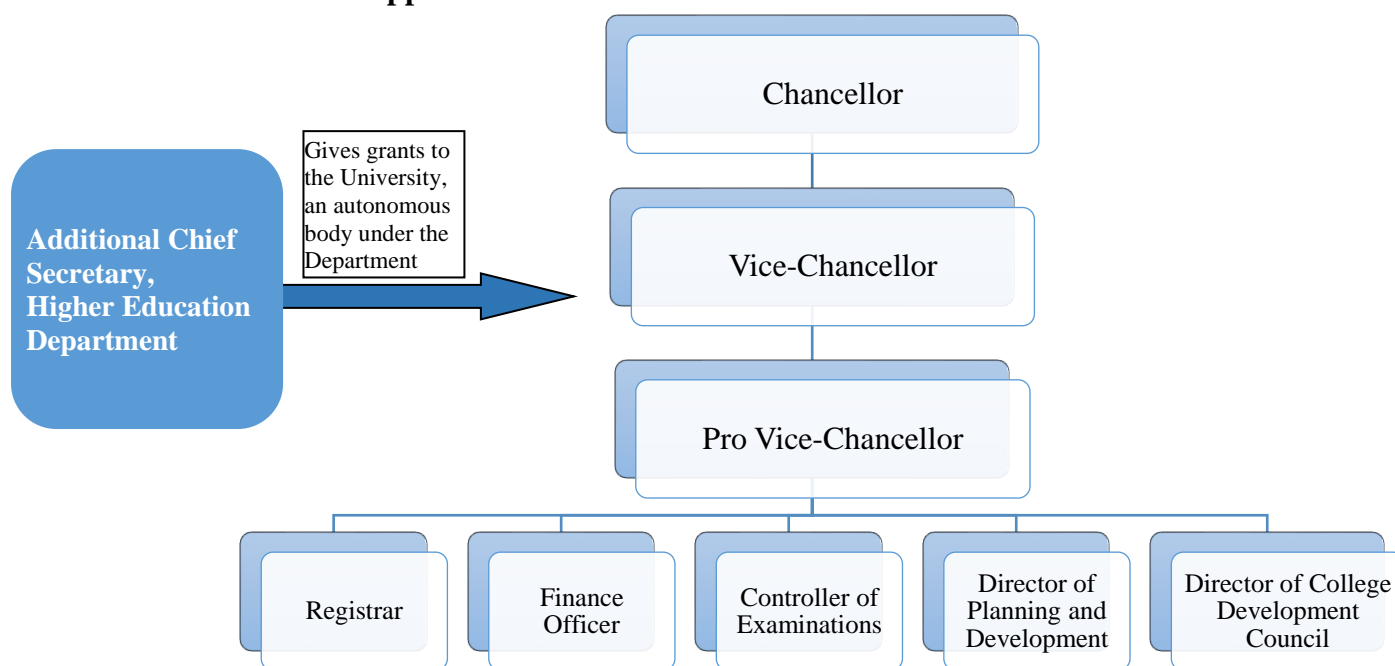
# 1 INTRODUCTION

The University of Kerala (University) was founded as the University of Travancore in 1937 by a promulgation of the Maharajah of Travancore. It was renamed University of Kerala subsequent to the enactment of the Kerala University Act (Act 14 of 1957)<sup>1</sup>. Currently, the Kerala University Act of 1974 (Act 17 of 1974) along with the Kerala University First Statutes give the framework for the functioning of the University.

## 1.1. Organisation

The Governor of Kerala is the Chancellor of the University. The Minister of Higher Education is the Pro-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor, appointed by the Governor, is the Chief Executive Officer. The academic activities are governed by the Guidelines, Regulations and Circulars issued by University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other regulatory bodies in the education sector.

The University has three important bodies, viz., Senate, Academic Council and Syndicate which make policy decisions and execute it. The organisational set up of the University is given below and a detailed organisational set up provided in **Appendix 1.1**.



The University of Kerala has 43 departments of teaching and research and a School of Distance Education (SDE) and most of them are housed in the Karyavattom campus. There are 381 other institutions and support centres (**Appendix 1.2**). These institutions (excluding SDE) together have student

<sup>1</sup> In 1956, the unified State of Kerala came into being.

strength of over 9,000. The SDE has a student strength of approximately 20,000. The University has over 187 affiliated colleges with an enrolment of over 1,30,000 students. The University ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2020 in India in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in University Category. It had National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation with A grade<sup>2</sup> upto March 2020.

The University has a three-tier academic system. Each subject of study has a Board of Study to design syllabus and propose action on all academic matters. Related subjects are grouped together and defined as a faculty. The University has 16 faculties. Academic Council is the supreme academic body. The University follows Choice Based Credit and Semester System (CBCSS) for all Postgraduate (Masters) programmes and Undergraduate (Bachelors) programmes.

## 1.2. Audit Objectives

Objectives of this Performance Audit were to assess whether:

- the University planned and executed its academic activities effectively
- creation and development of human resources and infrastructure facilities were adequate and as per norms, to impart quality education
- the financial management of the University was efficient and effective

## 1.3. Audit Criteria

Audit observations were benchmarked against the criteria derived from the following documents:

Objective	Criteria
The University planned and executed its academic activities effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kerala University Act, 1974, the Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder and Examination Manual</li> <li>• Guidelines and Regulations issued by various regulatory authorities like UGC, NAAC etc.</li> <li>• National Education Policy, 2020</li> </ul>
Creation and development of human resources and infrastructure facilities were adequate and as per norms, to impart quality education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kerala University Act, 1974, the Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder</li> <li>• Guidelines and Regulations issued by various regulatory authorities like UGC, AICTE, NAAC etc.</li> <li>• Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995</li> <li>• Orders issued by Government of Kerala</li> <li>• Kerala Financial Code</li> <li>• PWD Manual</li> <li>• Kerala Municipality Building Rules, 1999</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> NAAC accredits institutions on Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) from 4.0 to 1.51 with different grades in the descending order of A++, A+, A, B++, B+, B and C. CGPA less than or equal to 1.50 is graded as D which is not accredited. 'A' corresponds to the score of 3.01 to 3.25.

Objective	Criteria
The financial management of the University was efficient and effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kerala University Act, 1974, the Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder</li> <li>• Guidelines and Regulations issued by UGC</li> <li>• Orders issued by Government of Kerala</li> <li>• Kerala Financial Code</li> </ul>

#### 1.4. Audit Scope and Methodology

The Performance Audit covered the period from 2016-17 to 2020-21. The various institutions and departments covered in Audit are given in **Appendix 1.3**.

The audit involved scrutiny of relevant records of the University and joint physical verification of works. An Entry Conference was held with the Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department and the Pro Vice-Chancellor and other University officials on 24 February 2021 wherein the scope, objectives, criteria and methodology of audit including selection of samples were discussed. The Exit Conference was held on 30 November 2021 through video conferencing. The replies furnished by Government of Kerala have been suitably incorporated.

A Performance Audit of 'Functioning of the University of Kerala' had earlier been printed in Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Civil) for the year ended 31 March 2010. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in its 43<sup>rd</sup> Report of the year 2011-14 had made 22 recommendations (**Appendix 1.4**) based on its discussions including on fund management aspects, examination process etc. Government of Kerala is in the process of furnishing Statement of Action Taken (SOAT) on these recommendations and hence the final report on the SOAT is yet to be issued by PAC (March 2022).

#### 1.5. Acknowledgement

Audit acknowledges the cooperation extended by the Higher Education Department and the University of Kerala in the conduct of the Performance Audit.

#### 1.6. Audit findings

The audit findings are grouped under the following chapters:

- Chapter 2: Planning, Academic Activities and Financial Management
- Chapter 3: Human Resources
- Chapter 4: Examination
- Chapter 5: Infrastructure

