

IGNOU offers courses in rural banking, Russian

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Indira Gandhi National Open University is offering courses on rural banking and the Russian language. The varsity's school of agriculture recently signed an MoU with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development, promoted by the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The varsity is offering a diploma programme in rural banking.

An official from IGNOU said, "The course for the rural banking programme has been specially designed by experts from within the varsity after consulting with resource

persons from NABARD. The idea has been to provide a cadre of trained banking professionals to work in the rural sector who cater to the special needs of this sector."

The official added, "There has been a lack of trained professionals for the rural banking sector so far. This programme will provide students with the required professional skill to work in the rural sector. It will also create a cadre of professionals who are ready to work in the rural sector. This should be a big asset for rural banking."

The eligibility requirements include graduation with minimum 50% marks for the general category and 45% for the reserved category. There is an age

limit for the course: 25 years for the ordinary student and 30 for students who are working.

The official said, "IGNOU also hopes to draw professionals already working within the rural banking sector."

What's more, IGNOU is offering an undergraduate course in the Russian language and literature. It has a diploma programme in the language.

The IGNOU official added, "For sometime, we had been thinking of opening a Russian language programme. The course has been designed by experts from within the varsity and it covers basic aspects of the Russian language along with an introduction the literature."