

ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT REPORT

Annual Progress Report — Academic Year 2020–2021

NATIONAL COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Dindigul Road, Karumandapam, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu – 620 001

NAAC Accredited 'A+' | Established 1919

External Peer Team

Member 1: **Dr. M. Prashanthi Devi**, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli – 620024.

Member 2: **Dr. K. Alex**, Vice Principal and Associate Professor of Commerce, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli - 620001.

Date of Visit: 05 June 2021

1. PREAMBLE

National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in Tamil Nadu, established in 1919. The institution holds autonomous status conferred by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and has been accredited 'A+' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The college is affiliated to Bharathidasan University.

In accordance with the UGC guidelines for autonomous colleges and as part of its quality assurance processes, an External Peer Team comprising two members, Dr. M. Prashanthi Devi, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli – 620024 and Dr. K. Alex, Vice Principal and Associate Professor of Commerce, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli – 620001, conducted a comprehensive academic and administrative audit of the college on 05 June 2021 covering the academic year 2020–2021. The purpose of this visit was to review the Annual Progress Report submitted by the institution and to assess the quality of academic, research, co-curricular, and administrative activities undertaken during the period.

This report presents the findings and observations of the External Peer Team based on documents examined, interactions with faculty, staff, and students, and physical inspection of facilities during the audit visit.

2. GOVERNANCE AND STATUTORY MEETINGS

The following statutory meetings of the college were convened during 2020–2021, reflecting a well-functioning governance structure.

2.1 Academic Council

S.No	Date	Remarks
1.	08.02.2020	Conducted as scheduled
2.	30.01.2021	Conducted as scheduled

2.2 Finance Committee

S.No	Date	Remarks
1.	07.04.2021	Conducted as scheduled

2.3 Governing Board

S.No	Date	Remarks
1.	25.06.2021	Conducted as scheduled

The Peer Team notes that all three statutory bodies met during 2020–2021. The frequency of Academic Council meetings and timely conduct of the Finance Committee and Governing Board meetings demonstrate sound institutional governance.

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3. SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

A total of 21 academic events including seminars, workshops, webinars, and conferences were organised by various departments during 2020-2021. Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, departments actively adapted by conducting online and hybrid programmes, ensuring continued academic enrichment.

S.No	Department & Event	Date
1.	Biotechnology Five-day Hands-on Training on 'Bioinformatics, Proteomics and Genomics'	06-10 Jan 2021
2.	Botany Two-day In-House Training on 'Traditional Techniques in Plant Propagation'	12-13 Feb 2021
3.	Botany In-House Training on 'Oyster Mushroom Cultivation' (DBT Star College Scheme)	13 Mar 2021
4.	Chemistry Webinar on 'Assembled Advanced Organic Materials'	03 Jun 2020
5.	Chemistry Workshop on 'The Fundamentals of Chemistry'	26 Mar 2021
6.	Computer Science Webinar on 'An Exposure in Multi-Paradigm Language Python'	16 Oct 2020
7.	Computer Science Seminar on 'Career Guidance'	25 Jan 2021
8.	Computer Science Webinar on 'Smart Things & IoT'	22 Oct 2020
9.	Computer Science One-Day Workshop on 'R-Programming'	05 Mar 2021
10.	Mathematics Webinar on 'Fermat's Last Theorem and Open Problems in Elementary Number Theory'	14 Oct 2020
11.	Mathematics Webinar on 'Application of Mathematics in Real Life'	14 Oct 2020
12.	Mathematics Webinar on 'Linear Algebra'	09-10 Jun 2020
13.	Zoology One-Day Webinar on 'Recent Trends in Zoology'	06 Feb 2021
14.	Zoology Two-Day Workshop on 'Genomics'	05-06 Mar 2021
15.	Physics International Webinar on 'Local Probe Techniques: A Microscopic Look at Physical Properties in Matter'	10 Jun 2020
16.	Physics National Webinar on 'Scientific Writing and Publishing'	18 Aug 2020
17.	Physics National Webinar on 'Nanostructured Oxide Materials for Thermoelectric Applications'	24 Dec 2020
18.	Physics National Webinar on 'Preparation Methods and Deposition Techniques of Nano-Structures'	25 Jul 2020
19.	Physics National-Level Seminar on 'Recent Development in Smart Materials'	12 Mar 2021

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National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli		Audit Report 2020-21
S.No	Department & Event	Date
20.	Biotechnology Three-Day Hands-on Workshop on Basic Bioinformatics for Zoology (DBT Star College Scheme)	Mar 2021
21.	Biotechnology Five-Day Hands-on Workshop on 'Virtual Bioinformatics Training Programme in Bioinformatics, Genomics & Proteomics'	06-10 Jan 2021

Observation: The volume and diversity of academic events organised by the departments is commendable. The Department of Physics, in particular, demonstrated sustained activity with five national/international-level events. The use of DBT Star College Scheme support for hands-on training in Biotechnology is noteworthy.

4. ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Departmental associations played a vital role in fostering academic culture and student engagement throughout 2020-2021. A total of 23 association meetings and events were conducted across disciplines.

S.No	Department / Event	Date
1.	Botany Association Meeting	02.03.2021
2.	Chemistry Association Meeting	04.03.2021
3.	Computer Science – Lecture on Data Science and Analytics	22.03.2021
4.	Statistics – Special Lecture on Scope & Application of Statistics	08.10.2021
5.	Mathematics – E-Quiz	03-04 Jun 2021
6.	Mathematics – Birth Anniversary of Sri Srinivasa Ramanujan	22.12.2020
7.	Zoology – Online Training on Poultry Farming	04.11.2020
8.	Physics – Diamond Jubilee Endowment Lecture	26.02.2021
9.	Physics – Interdisciplinary Lecture on Crystallography & COVID-19 Drug Design	02.03.2021
10.	Geology Association Meeting	23.02.2021
11.	Geology – Lecture on 'Shoreline Changes along Southern Tamil Nadu Coast'	03.07.2020
12.	Physical Education – Virtual Lecture on 'Scientific Aspects of Yoga'	16.09.2020
13.	Commerce Association Meeting	21.02.2020
14.	Business Administration Association Meeting	12.10.2020
15.	English – Literary Association Meeting	19.04.2021
16.	English UAP – Inauguration of Book Review Session	11.10.2020
17.	English – Inauguration of Literary Association Meeting	11.12.2020
18.	English – Inauguration of Writers Forum (Write Right)	11.11.2020
19.	English – Literary Association Valediction	27.04.2021
20.	Tamil Association – Inauguration Ceremony	19.02.2021
21.	Tamil – Special Lecture on Moral Conduct	04.03.2021
22.	Library & Information Technology – Valedictory Function	27.01.2021
23.	General Library – Online Orientation Programme	11.12.2020

Observation: All major departments have conducted their association activities regularly. The Tamil and English departments have demonstrated exemplary activity with multiple events. The General Library's online orientation programme during the pandemic year is appreciated.

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National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli			Audit Report 2020-21	
S.No	Authors	Title	Journal	IF
11	Faisal K, Akbarsha MA	Role of aposomes and epididymosomes in sperm quality control: A light and transmission electron microscopic study in an experimental rat model	Andrologia	1.820

Observation: The research output from the Department of Biotechnology is laudable, with publications in reputed international journals such as Toxicology In Vitro (IF 2.959) and Journal of Ethnopharmacology (IF 3.690). The Peer Team recommends that other departments be encouraged to pursue similar research activities and externally funded projects.

7. EXAMINATION RESULTS - 2020-2021

The overall examination performance of students for the academic year 2020-2021 is presented below:

7.1 Under-Graduate (UG) Results

Programme	Registered	Passed	Pass %
Biotechnology	43	43	100.00
Botany	17	16	94.12
Business Administration	98	89	90.82
Chemistry	78	69	88.46
Commerce	283	263	92.93
Computer Application	161	157	97.52
Computer Applications	60	58	96.67
Computer Science	162	153	94.44
Economics	47	42	89.36
English	79	67	84.81
Geology	69	68	98.55
History	38	33	86.84
Information & Communication Technology	14	12	85.71
Information Technology	28	25	89.29
Mathematics	47	44	93.62
Microbiology	37	36	97.30
Physical Education	77	67	87.01
Physics	39	36	92.31
Statistics	28	28	100.00
Tamil	23	21	91.30
Zoology	31	27	87.10
TOTAL	1459	1354	92.80%

7.2 Post-Graduate (PG) Results

Programme	Registered	Passed	Pass %
Analytical Chemistry	10	10	100.00
Applied Geology	18	17	94.44
Biotechnology	20	20	100.00
Botany	4	4	100.00

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National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli		Audit Report 2020-21	
Programme	Registered	Passed	Pass %
Chemistry	40	36	90.00
Commerce	34	34	100.00
Computer Science	34	32	94.12
Economics	7	7	100.00
English	18	18	100.00
Mathematics	31	30	96.77
Physics	41	38	92.68
Tamil	9	9	100.00
Yoga	3	2	66.67
Zoology	2	2	100.00
TOTAL	271	259	95.57%

Observation: The overall UG pass percentage stands at 92.80% and PG pass percentage at 95.57%. Several programmes, including UG Biotechnology, Statistics, and PG Analytical Chemistry, Botany, Biotechnology, Commerce, Economics, English, Tamil and Zoology, have achieved 100% pass rates. The Peer Team commends the academic rigour maintained by the institution during a challenging pandemic year.

8. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The External Peer Team has reviewed the Annual Progress Report for the academic year 2020–2021 and conducted a detailed academic and administrative audit of National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli on 05 June 2021. The following consolidated observations and recommendations are offered:

8.1 Strengths

- Effective conduct of all statutory bodies, Academic Council, Finance Committee, and Governing Board demonstrating sound institutional governance.
- Remarkable adaptability during the COVID-19 pandemic: departments seamlessly transitioned to online and hybrid modes for seminars, workshops, and association activities.
- Strong examination outcomes, with an overall UG pass rate of approximately 93% and several programmes achieving 100% pass rates.
- Active departmental associations ensuring vibrant student engagement across all disciplines.
- Commendable research output from the Department of Biotechnology with publications in journals of high impact factor.
- Effective utilisation of DBT Star College Scheme funding for hands-on research training.

8.2 Areas for Improvement

- Research activity should be expanded to other science and humanities departments, with emphasis on obtaining external funded projects.
- NSS and NCC activities may be further deepened to include sustained community engagement and livelihood programmes.
- Greater documentation of learning outcomes and their correlation with examination results is recommended.
- Efforts to increase the number of students pursuing higher studies and competitive examinations should be formalised.

8.3 Recommendations

- The institution is encouraged to establish a structured Research Promotion Cell to support faculty across all departments in applying for grants from DST, CSIR, ICSSR, and other agencies.
- A formal mechanism for tracking alumni placement and higher education enrolment should be institutionalised.

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- The college may consider strengthening its student mentoring system to address below-average pass rates observed in English (84.81%) and History (86.84%).
- The Peer Team recommends regular review of the outcome of departmental association activities vis-à-vis learning outcomes for students.

9. DECLARATION BY EXTERNAL PEER TEAM

We, the undersigned members of the External Peer Team, certify that this Academic and Administrative Audit Report has been prepared based on documents made available by the institution, interactions held during the audit visit, and to the best of our knowledge, reflects an honest and objective assessment of the Annual Progress Report submitted by National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli for the academic year 2020-2021.

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Signature with date and seal

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Member 2:

Dr. K. Alex,
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