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W.P No.18432 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 22.08.2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE C. KUMARAPPAN

Writ Petition No.18432 of 2024

K.R.Aparajit

... Petitioner

..Vs..

1.The Director,
Centre for Academic Courses,
Anna University, Chennai 600025.

2.Additional Controller of Examination
Anna University,
Chennai – 600025.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a writ of Mandamus to direct the respondents to upgrade the petitioner classification of provisional and degree certificates to “First class with distinction” consequently issue corrected Provisional and degree Certificate to him by considering his representations dated 08.03.2022, 06.06.2023 and finally 07.02.2024 within a time frame as fixed by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.V.Sudhir Babu

For Respondents : Mr.U.Bharanidharan,
Standing Counsel



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W.P No.18432 of 2021

ORDER

The present writ petition has been filed with a prayer for mandamus directing the respondents to consider his representations dated 08.03.2022, 06.06.2023 and 07.02.2024 within a prescribed time.

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner had secured admission to the B.E. Computer Science and Engineering Programme at Anna University and has studied well and secured cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 9.12. However, in the month of March, the petitioner has affected with viral infection, which was later diagnosed as brain fever. Hence, he has applied for a break of study for the 6th semester. Based on his request, the respondent issued an order dated 02.04.2019, permitting the petitioner to rejoin the programme in the 6th semester during the December 2019 to May 2020 session. It is contended that, pursuant to the order dated 02.04.2019, he rejoined the 6th semester in December 2019. However, the respondents subsequently amended the earlier order and modified the rejoining semester from the 6th to the 8th semester. It is the further submission of the petitioner that, as per the Regulations, the



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petitioner is eligible to be awarded a First Class with Distinction, as he has got CGPA of 9.12. Whereas, relying on a subsequent letter dated 10.12.2019, wherein the petitioner's rejoining was construed as being from the 8th semester, the respondents rejected his request for classification with distinction. By letter dated 23.02.2020, the respondents stated that the petitioner's Grade Point Average (GPA) for the 6th semester in the April 2019 session was "0", and on this basis, denied his request. It is the further submission of the petitioner that once he was permitted to rejoin the 6th semester after break in study, the awarding of "0" GPA for the 6th semester is in contrary to the relevant Regulations. Hence, the learned counsel prays to interfere with the same.

3. The said contention was strongly objected by the learned Standing counsel appearing for the respondents and would contend that, according to the Regulations 2015, in order to be awarded First Class with Distinction, a student must have passed all the subjects of all eight semesters in the first attempt within a maximum period of five years, which includes any authorized break of study. But in the case on hand, the petitioner, after availing a break of

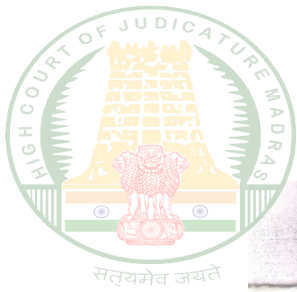


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study, rejoined the course only in the 8th semester and therefore, he is not eligible for being awarded First Class with Distinction. It is further submitted that though the earlier letter dated 02.04.2019, referred that the petitioner could rejoin in the 6th semester, this was issued inadvertently, as his application for a break of study was made only in April, after the cut-off date for the first assessment period had passed. Consequently, the said letter was corrected and modified by the subsequent letter dated 10.12.2019, wherein the petitioner was permitted to rejoin in the 8th semester.

4. I have given my anxious consideration to either side submissions and also perused the materials available on record.

5. It is not in serious dispute that the petitioner has applied for a break in study vide his application dated 01.04.2019 and based upon his request, the respondent has granted permission vide letter dated 02.04.2019. For ready reference, this Court deems it appropriate to attach the scanned image of the letters dated 01.04.2019 and 02.04.2019.



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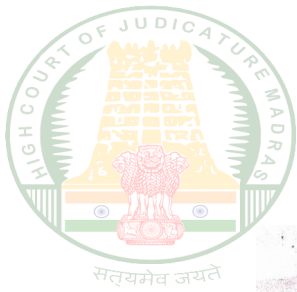


ANNA UNIVERSITY CHENNAI
CHENNAI - 600 025.

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISED BREAK OF STUDY

(To be used by the students of University Departments)

1. Name of the Student : APARAJIT . K . R .
2. Roll No. : 2016103505
3. Department in which studying : CSE
4. Programme and Branch of Study : UG / PG..... Branch.....
5. Month and Year of admission to the 1st Semester : AUGUST 2016
6. Mode of Study : Full Time (Regular) / Full Time (SS)
Part Time - (Day Time) Part Time (Evening)
7. Details of number of semesters completed : 5
before break of study
(Specify the academic years / period)
8. Semester, Duration & Period for which the Break of Study is sought for : Semester : 6
Duration : July To December 2019
Period From : 6, 7, 8
To : 6th Sem , Dec 2019
9. Details of semesters yet to be completed : 2021
10. Session and Academic Year during which the student proposes to rejoin and continue the : 6th Sem , Dec 2019
11. Mention the academic year in which the maximum period for completion of the programme normally ends as per Regulations (UG / PG) : 2021
12. Whether the remaining period after rejoining the course is adequate to complete the course as per Regulations (Tick the relevant column) : Yes / No
13. Reasons for the request of break of study (please specify) : Medical / Personal
(Full time students are eligible for break of study if they go for higher studies or Job or training programmes)
(If the request is on Medical grounds, Medical Certificate from an authentic Medical officer is to be enclosed for that period)



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**CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC COURSES
ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025**

Off 22357077 / 76
Fax / Dir.. 22352272



Dr. R.RAJU
DIRECTOR
Letter No 1476/AC/BCS/2019

02.04.2019

To
The Head
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
CEG Campus
Anna University, Chennai - 600 025

Madam,

Sub: Academic Courses – B.E / B.Tech (Full - Time) - Degree Programme – Break of
Study – Permission – Reg.
Ref: Letter received from the candidate dated 01.04.2019

With reference to the letter cited, it is informed that permission is hereby granted to
Mr. K. R. Aparajit (Reg.No.2016103505), a student of B.E. Computer Science and Engineering
degree programme in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, CEG Campus, is
permitted to avail Break of Study for a period of 6 months from July 2019 - December 2019
based on the medical reason explained by him. Further, it is instructed that he has to rejoin the
programme in the VI semester during December 2019 - May 2020 session of the academic year
2019 - 2020 as per the conditions given below

1. He has to pay all the prescribed fees and readmission fee applicable at the time of re-joining.
2. He shall be governed by the regulations which are in force at the time of his re-joining.
3. He is informed that the sessions in the break period July 2019 - December 2019 will be counted towards the maximum period for completion of the programme.
4. He has to report to the HoD concerned for re-admission during the last week of November 2019.
5. It is not required to apply for permission again from the Director, Academic Courses at the time of re-joining.

Yours faithfully,

DIRECTOR

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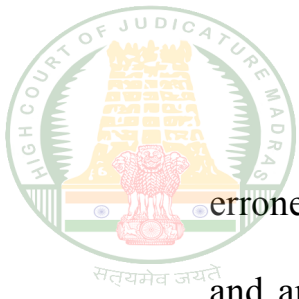
1. The Dean, CEG Campus, Anna University, Chennai
2. The Additional Controller of Examinations, Anna University, Chennai
3. The Director, KDC, Anna University
4. The Nodal Officer, SC/ST Cell, Anna University, Chennai
5. The DCOE, CEG Campus, Anna University, Chennai
6. The DCOE Data Centre, Anna University, Chennai
7. The Candidate Concerned
8. The DD -CAC / The Stock File, CAC



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6. As per the above letter dated 02.04.2019, it has been clearly mentioned that after the break of study, the petitioner was permitted to rejoin the programme in the 6th semester during the December 2019 to May 2020 session. It is the further submission of the petitioner that, as per the above letter, he rejoined the programme in December 2019. However, the respondent, without any authorization or justification, unilaterally issued another letter dated 10.12.2019, amending the rejoining semester from the 6th semester to the 8th semester. The learned counsel further submitted that such an amendment is in direct contravention of the applicable regulations, and that the respondent is estopped from unilaterally altering the terms of the earlier letter dated 02.04.2019, which had permitted rejoining in the 6th semester.

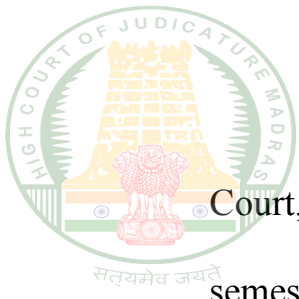
7. However, the said submissions was controverted by the learned Standing Counsel, by relying upon Clause 6.2 of the Anna University Regulation 2015. It was contended that the last date for the first assessment falls in the month of March, whereas the petitioner had submitted his application for a break of study only in April 2019. Therefore, though the letter dated 02.04.2019 referred to rejoining in the 6th semester, this was an



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erroneous reference. Thus, the respondents had every right to rectify the error and amend the letter accordingly. It is further submitted that, in accordance with Regulation 16.2, due to this amendment, the petitioner's Grade Point Average for the 6th semester was considered as "0". Therefore, as per the Regulation 14.2.1, the petitioner is not entitled for a First Class with Distinction.

8. However, this Court is unable to accept the submissions made by the learned Standing Counsel, as the counsel is unable to substantiate or place on record any material to establish that the last date for the first assessment fell in the month of March. Even while looking at the application, though the exact date is not mentioned, it is noted that the application was received on 01.04.2019. Had the respondents, in its letter dated 02.04.2019, clearly stated that the petitioner could rejoin only in the 8th semester, the petitioner might have reconsidered availing the break in study and opted to continue without interruption. However, based on the respondents assurance in the letter dated 02.04.2019, permitting his rejoining in the 6th semester, the petitioner acted accordingly and availed leave. The respondents cannot now, by relying on certain other rules which were neither cited nor substantiated before this



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Court, unilaterally alter the rejoining of the petitioner with effect from 8th semester. Therefore, this Court is of the considered view that, by virtue of the letter dated 02.04.2019, the petitioner ought to have been considered to have rejoined the 6th semester after his break in study. If that being the case, in accordance with Regulation 14.2.1, the petitioner is deemed to have completed all his examinations in the first appearance, including those covering the period of his break. It is also pertinent to note that, apart from the above defence, the respondents have not seriously disputed about the CGPA of 9.12 secured by the petitioner.

9. In view of the above detailed discussion, this Court is of the considered view that the petitioner, having secured a CGPA of 9.1.2, is entitled to the award of First Class with Distinction in terms of Clause 14.2.1 of the applicable regulations.

10. In the result, the Writ Petition is allowed. No costs.

22.08.2025

ssi

Index : Yes

Speaking Order : Yes /No

Neutral Citation Case: Yes/No



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C. KUMARAPPAN, J.
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To:

1.The Director,
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Anna University, Chennai 600025.

2.Additional Controller of Examination
Anna University,
Chennai – 600025.

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