

The **Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Promotion Policy 2024** specifically identifies **40 underserved districts** and **5 aspirational districts** that currently lack a university presence. Institutions that are the first to establish a Multidisciplinary Educational and Research University (MERU) in these districts are eligible for the highest tiers of incentives.

Journal of Ravishankar University (PART-A) +1

Districts Eligible for Targeted Incentives

While the official full list of 40 districts is often referenced in government orders (GOs) from the Department of Higher Education, they broadly fall into these categories:

1. Aspirational Districts (Highest Priority)

These 8 districts (the policy specifically highlights 5 for university lacks) are part of a national programme for rapid development and receive additional subsidies:

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- [Bahraich](#)
- [Balrampur](#)
- [Chandauli](#)
- [Chitrakoot](#)
- [Fatehpur](#)
- [Shrawasti](#)
- [Siddharthnagar](#)
- [Sonbhadra](#)

2. Underserved Districts

These districts historically lack major university headquarters. Examples of districts frequently cited as needing new higher education infrastructure under state development plans include:

- [Amroha](#)
- [Auraiya](#)
- [Baghpat](#)
- [Bhadohi \(Sant Ravidas Nagar\)](#)
- [Deoria](#)
- [Etah](#)
- [Farrukhabad](#)
- [Gonda](#)
- [Hapur](#)
- [Hathras](#)

- [Kasganj](#)
- [Kaushambi](#)
- [Lalitpur](#)
- [Mahoba](#)
- [Mau](#)
- [Pilibhit](#)
- [Pratapgarh](#)
- [Sambhal](#)
- [Sant Kabir Nagar](#)
- [Shamli](#)

Application Advantage in These Districts

- **First-Mover Benefit:** Only the **first** private university established in an unserved district qualifies for the designated financial benefits, ensuring regional balance.
- **Stamp Duty:** Up to **50% exemption** on land for investments in these specific zones.
- **Capital Subsidy:** Direct financial support ranging from **15% to 17%** of the project cost.

For the most current "unserved" status of a specific district, it is recommended to check the latest notifications on the [Invest UP Policy Portal](#) as new universities are periodically approved (e.g., recent approvals in Mathura and Meerut).