Himachal Pradesh University was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh on 22 July 1970as a response to the needs and aspirations of the Union Territory, poised for full statehood in the Union of India on 25 January 1971. It is the only multi-faculty residential and affiliating university in the State that provides higher education to urban, rural and tribal areas through formal and distant modes.

The headquarters of the University is located at Summer Hill, the picturesque suburb of Shimla. The University has a total area of 241.11bighas with stately buildings set among rhododendron, silver oak, pine and deodar trees. It affords a salubrious clime and congenial atmosphere for reflection, study and research. The prime objective of the University is to disseminate knowledge, advance learning and understanding through research, training and extension programmes. It instills in its students and teachers a conscious awareness regarding the social and economic needs, cultural ethos, and future requirements of the state and the country.

Himachal Pradesh University is a multi-faculty and affiliating university. It stands for knowledge, learning, progress, humanity, tolerance, intellect, morality, determination, thought, and discernment. It is a grade 'A' accredited university by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

The teachers of the University are rich in intellect, skills and professional expertise. HPU organises conferences, and workshops in collaboration with national and international organisations. Its Human Resource Development Centre is acknowledged as one of the best academic staff colleges in the country. HPU is the first University to offer postgraduation through the distant mode.

Students of the University perform commendably at the national level in sports and cultural activities. Every year ample number of students qualify the NET, SET, JRF, and other competitive examinations. The University has garnered achievements in NSS and Youth Welfare Programmes at the national level. Tuition fee is waived for girl students and disabled students are given free education. Two supernumerary seats are reserved for the single girl child in all courses. Students come to study here not only from the state but also from other parts of the country and abroad. The University is thus playing a seminal role in all spheres for the bright future of the students.