



Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme Rules (Applicable w.e.f. Academic Session 2017-18)

(Approved in 25th Meeting of the Executive Council dated 17th July, 2017 vide Item No.EC:25:2017:22)

Central University of Punjab, Bathinda

(Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme Rules (Applicable w.e.f. Academic Session 2017-18)

{Sub – Section (1) (b) of Section 28 of the Central Universities Act, 2009}

1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 These rules shall be called the Rules of Ph.D. Programme hereinafter referred as the Programme, and shall be applicable to all the Ph.D. Programmes unless otherwise stated. These rules shall come into force with immediate effect.
- 1.2 The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) may be granted in any faculty of the University subject to general guidance of the Academic Council and general control of the School Board concerned.

2. DURATION

- 2.1. The minimum duration for completion of each Doctoral Programme shall be 06 semesters (3.0 academic years) and the maximum duration shall be 10 semesters (5 academic years).
- 2.2 Normally, the student is expected to complete his/her programme within the minimum period as laid down under the relevant rule 2.1 of the University. In exceptional circumstance a further extension of one more year may be granted. The exceptional circumstances shall be:
 - (i) More than 6 month hospitalization,
 - (ii) Death of a supporting guardian,
 - (iii) Disturbed conditions as declared by the Government.
 - (iv) Any other valid reason with the approval of the Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor (Under conditions as stipulated fine etc.)
- 2.3 The name of a scholar shall be removed/struck off from the rolls of the University if the student fails to submit thesis within five years of the date of registration.
- 2.4 The name of a scholar shall be removed/struck off from the rolls of the University if he/she remain absent from the University for a period of one month without permission. He/she needs to take re-admission in the programme after completing the necessary formalities (i.e. payment of fee, recommendation of COC and Supervisor) within one month from the issuance of name struck off order. After that, no claim for the re-admission will be entertain.
- 2.5 No candidate admitted to this Programme shall undertake any employment or join any other course of study before completing the minimum residency period of 3.0 years.
- 2.6 In case of a foreign student who is compelled to leave the programme in between for getting the student visa extended, such period shall not be counted for the purpose of calculation of duration of the programme.
- 2.7 A semester/year may be declared a zero semester/year in case of a student could not continue with the programme during that period due to illness, hospitalization, accepting a foreign scholarship/fellowship and joining a government job subject to the fulfilment of requirements as laid down by the relevant rules. However, the student has to

pass/complete Ph.D. Programme within the maximum period as laid down by the UGC letter No. D.O. No. F.12-1/2015 (CPP-II) dated 15th October, 2015.

3. NUMBER OF SEATS

- 3.1 The number of seats in each Ph.D. programme shall be as approved by the statutory bodies of the university and will be notified on the university website and in the admission Prospectus issued at the time of admission, which according to the UGC regulations issued from time to time.
- 3.2 The policy of the Government of India and the guidelines of the UGC, regarding reservation of seats for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs (Non Creamy Layer) and for differently abled candidates shall be implemented.

4. ADMISSION CRITERIA

- 4.1. Admission of a candidate to the programme would be made only in its first semester. The candidate shall be promoted to subsequent semesters of the programme after completing necessary formalities.
- 4.2. In exceptional cases lateral entry of a candidate shall be considered for admission to a later semester of the programme on the recommendations of the concerned School Board and approval of Academic Council/Executive Council.
- 4.3. Foreign nationals residing in India or abroad or Indian nationals residing abroad may be admitted to this programme according to the policy guidelines laid down by the International Students Admission Committee and Government of India/Statutory Bodies of the University from time to time.
- 4.4. Candidate eligible for admission to the Programme shall not be admitted if already registered for a full time Programme of this university or any other university/institute.
- 4.5. Candidates admitted to the Programme shall be permitted to pursue part-time evening certificate/diploma programmes of professional nature in the university or other institutions.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

- 5.1. The applicant should have a Master's degree in the relevant subject with minimum of 60% marks {55% for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/PWD}.
- 5.2. Candidate must have some financial assistance such as NET-JRF, financial assistance from Govt. agencies {Like Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF), Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) etc.} and working in CUPB projects with fellowships. Only NET-JRF will be exempted from test, however they have to appear in the interview.
- 5.3. Those without any financial assistance may appear in the test. If they qualify, they can be admitted before issue of next advertisement /admission process if successful in getting some financial assistance.
- 5.4. **CUT-OFF MARKS:** The cut-off marks to qualify the entrance test will be 50% {45% for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/PWD}. Candidates scoring less than 50% {45% for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/PWD} marks will not be considered.

- 5.5. **EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE:** The performance of a candidate will be evaluated as under:
- I. Entrance test- 75 marks
 - II. Interview - 25 marks
- 5.6. No one shall be considered for admission unless he/she has appeared in the entrance examination, however NET-JRF are exempted.
- 5.7. The University will not grant any fellowship in any Centre.
- 5.8. The valid NET-JRF qualified candidate will be exempted from test and they will be given the weightage of 75 marks of written test, however they have to apply in the entrance examination and appear in interview.
- 5.9. For admission to Ph.D. Programme, the candidates working in CUPB Research Projects and those holding Financial Assistance from Govt. of India/RGNF/MANF etc. are required to pass in the written entrance test as well as Interview for Ph.D.
- 5.10. The candidates who have fellowships from external sources will be first preferred in case they qualify the test/interview and are eligible.
- 5.11. The candidates having any financial assistance such as RGNF, MANF, etc., will be given priority over those without any financial assistance, subject to qualifying entrance test.
- 5.12. Those without any financial assistance will be kept in a panel against the vacant seats, if any, after those above are admitted. The panel shall be valid upto next advertisement/admission process.
- 5.13. The candidates in the panel will be provisionally enrolled for Ph.D. and will be eligible for getting their applications forwarded for outside agencies such as RGNF, MANF, etc. any other, however, they shall not be allowed to begin Course Work till they submit proof of financial assistance.
- 5.14. If awarded a fellowship or selected in a project of Central University of Punjab, such candidates shall be registered for Ph.D. and allowed to begin Course Work.
- 5.15. The Interview will be conducted at the level of Centre by the Coordinator of Centre along with 02 Senior Faculty members. The Centre shall check the eligibility for admission to Ph.D. Course. The Dean/Associate Dean of the School will be Chairman/Coordinator for Ph.D. Admission.
- 5.16. Interview Committee of the Centre will also verify all the original documents of the candidates and shall be responsible for compliance of rules prescribed.
- 5.17. In case of candidate who are in a panel and wants to apply for the Financial Assistance from Govt. Agencies like RGNF/MANF etc. will have to submit an affidavit that, In case, he/she does not get fellowship within valid period of panel, he/she will not have any claim on the admission to Ph.D. course.
- 5.18. A person whose M.Phil. Dissertation has been evaluated and the viva voce is pending may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme of the same Institution.
- 5.19. The women candidates and Persons with Disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. for up to 240 days.

6. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION

- 6.1 The University shall invite applications from eligible candidates for admission to the programme in each academic session, giving details of the academic calendar, number of seats available, eligibility criteria, prescribed fees, etc.
- 6.2 Admission to the various programmes of studies shall be made on All-India basis and on the basis of merit, either through Common Entrance Test conducted individually by the University or in combination with other universities, or on the basis of marks obtained in the qualifying examination in such courses where the intake of students is small.
- 6.3 The admission schedule to the programme shall be advertised in leading newspapers at the national level and also on the university website. The entrance test shall be conducted at national level at the designated centers to be decided by the university depending upon the number of students opting for a centre.
- 6.4 The selected candidates shall submit the prescribed fee and other relevant documents to the university within the stipulated time.

7. ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR:

Eligibility criteria to be a Research Supervisor, Co- Supervisor, Number of Ph.D. scholars permissible per Supervisor, etc.

- 7.1 Any regular Professor of the University with at least five research publications in refereed journals and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of the university with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals may be recognized as Research Supervisor.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the Institution may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

- 7.2 Only a full time regular teacher of the University can act as a supervisor. The external supervisors are not allowed. However, Co-Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments/centres of the same institute or from other related institutions where University signed MOU or with the approval of the Competent Authority recommended through Research Advisory Committee.
- 7.3 The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Centre concerned depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview/*viva voce*.
- 7.4 In case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary nature where the Centre concerned feels that the expertise in the Centre has to be supplemented from outside, the Centre may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Centre itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Centre on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions/University/Colleges.
- 7.5 A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars.

7.6 In case of relocation of an Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will however give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already done.

7.7 Once the supervisor and centre was allotted to the Ph.D. Scholar, it's shall not be changed during the Ph.D. duration except the exceptional circumstance (*i.e.*

I. In case Guide/Supervisor of a student leaves (resign/proceeding on long leave) the University and before leaving is not in a position to suggest a new Guide/Supervisor, Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee and Dean-Academic Affairs may interact with the student and appoint a new Supervisor/Guide or Administrative Guide/Supervisor (in case no faculty/teacher is available within the Centre, then administrative Guide/Supervisor can be appointed till new regular teacher/faculty shall join the University). Change of guide requires approval of the Competent Authority.

II. If a teacher with in the Centre agrees to be the guide/supervisor of the Ph.D. scholar, if the present supervisor of the Ph.D. Scholar leaves the University, then teacher/faculty who agree to be the Supervisor of him/her needs to give an undertaking regarding the suitability of the research proposal keeping in view the availability of infrastructure to carry out the proposed research work and viability of proposal. After that the case shall be put-up to the Research Advisory Committee through the Supervisor and Centre for the approval.

7.8 The Centre of the Ph.D. Scholar can be changed for valid reasons with the approval of the Competent Authority.

7.9 No scholar shall be allotted to a teacher for supervision if he/she has less than three years to superannuate from the University service. He can however be a joint supervisor'/Co-supervisor.

7.10 If there is any need for modification of the title of research work, the candidate shall submit an application to the Chairman RAC which will forward it, with its recommendations to, the Administrative and Academic Committee (AAC) through COC of the Centre at least 6 months before the date of submission of the thesis. A minor change that does not alter the meaning of the title, if suggested during the pre-submission seminar, shall be permitted.

8. COURSE WORK:

Credit Requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

8.1 The credit assigned to the Ph.D. course work shall be a minimum of 08 credits and a maximum of 16 credits.

8.2 The course work shall be treated as prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, field work, etc. Other courses shall be advanced level courses preparing the students for Ph.D. degree.

8.3 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods. They shall be duly approved by the authorized academic bodies.

- 8.4 The Department/Centre where the scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the **Research Advisory Committee**.
- 8.5 All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department/Centre during the initial one or two semesters.
- 8.6 Candidates already holding M. Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D., may be exempted by the Centre from the Ph.D. course work through Equivalence Committee of the University. For the exemption of the Course work in Ph.D. the application must come to Equivalence Committee through the Centre Administrative and Academic Committee (AAC). All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work prescribed by the Centre.
- 8.7 A Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 60 % of marks or its equivalent CGPA in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the thesis.
- 8.8 After successful completion of course work the candidate shall be recommended for final registration in Ph.D. programme.

9. INDISCIPLINE AND UNFAIR MEANS IN EXAMINATION:

- 9.1 There shall be zero-tolerance against use of unfair means and unfair practices in connection with examination and each examinee shall be required to strictly adhere to the instructions for taking examination. Non adherence to such instructions shall attract disciplinary action. For End-Term Examination (For Ph.D. Course Work), a flying squad will be constituted by the Dean Academic Affairs on the recommendation of the COE consisting of appropriate women members to ensure fairness and discipline in the examination. In case of any case(s) of unfair means, indiscipline and disturbance during the examination, the flying squad will submit its report with full details of the evidence in support thereof and the statement of the candidate to the Controller of Examinations.
- 9.2 Use of unfair means is strictly prohibited and shall invite serious disciplinary action for anyone found using unfair means during any examination. Unfair practices and unfair means relating to examination shall mean and include:
- (i) Exerting pressure, coercion and undue influence for postponement and change of dates and timings of examination.
 - (ii) Threatening the invigilator or any other behaviour amounting to insubordination as reported by the Invigilator.
 - (iii) Seeking favours from and/or threatening the examiners, paper setters, evaluators, invigilators, co-examinees or any other officer or staff of the university.
 - (iv) Resorting to such practices and engaging into activities that are specifically prohibited during the course of examination.
 - (v) Keeping in possession of materials of any kind related to the subject of the examination concerned including mobile / cell phones / electronic aids, unless otherwise permitted as a component of examination and/or copying or attempting to copy from the materials in possession or from other persons within or outside the examination hall,

- (vi) Exchanging notes, inter-changing answer scripts, helping other examinees, seeking help from and/or consulting other examinees or any other person inside or outside the examination hall.
- (vii) Attempts of impersonation including writing some other candidate's registration number / roll number in the answer paper and/or Exchanging or attempting to exchange answer sheets or other materials during the course of examination.
- (viii) Sitting or occupying seats other than the one allotted to the candidate or changing the seat during the course of examination without the permission of the invigilator.
- (ix) Boycott / walkout of the examination and or causing disturbances of any kind during the conduct of examination.
- (x) Any other act of omission or commission as may be declared by the Executive Council as unfair means in respect of any or all the examinations.

9.3 Detection of unfair means, indiscipline and disturbances during the examination shall be brought to the notice of the Centre Coordinator/OIC by the invigilator concerned in writing. The COC/OIC shall report to the Controller of Examinations without delay, each case of alleged use of unfair means in the examination with full details of the evidence in support thereof and the statement of the candidate concerned, if any. In case a candidate found using unfair means in examination refuses to make and sign the said statement, the incident shall be recorded by the Invigilator and countersigned by the COC/OIC. The answer book of the candidate found using unfair means in the examination shall be seized and the candidate may be permitted to write his/her examination on a separate answer-book to be issued to him/her. The COC/OIC shall send both the answer-books to the Controller of Examinations along with his/her report.

9.4 All individual cases of reported use of unfair means in examination shall be referred to the Examination Discipline Committee constituted by the Competent Authority. Provided that in case of use of unfair means on a mass scale at an examination centre, the Vice-Chancellor shall have powers to cancel the examination of all the candidates appearing from the centre concerned and order re-examination and initiate further disciplinary action against all concerned.

9.5 The Examination Discipline Committee shall decide the extent, and magnitude of punishment to those found guilty of using Unfair Means in examination with due regard to the nature and extent of offence committed by a candidate in use of Unfair means and shall ensure that the punishment is commensurate to the offence committed and in accordance with the principle of natural justice.

9.6 All decisions taken by the Committee will be placed before the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

9.7 A candidate found guilty of using Unfair Means in examination by the Examination Discipline Committee, may appeal to the Vice-Chancellor, in writing, within one month of the receipt of the decision of the University; and if the Vice-Chancellor is satisfied that the representation merits consideration, he/she may refer the case back to the Examination Discipline Committee for reconsideration.

10. RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 10.1 There shall be a Research Advisory Committee or an equivalent body for similar purpose for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Advisory Committee or an equivalent committee shall consist of the following members:
- i. Vice-Chancellor's nominee
 - ii. Dean/Associate Dean of the School
 - iii. COC/OIC of the Centre
 - iv. Supervisor- Convener
- 10.2 Not later than six months after the provisional registration in Ph.D. programme, the candidate shall deliver an open house seminar on the thesis research proposal (synopsis seminar) to be undertaken by him/her during Ph.D. before the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The Research Supervisor of the scholar shall be the Convener of this Committee. This Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
- (i) To review the research proposal and finalize/approve the topic of research.
 - (ii) To guide the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.
 - (iii) To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.
- 10.3 In case a candidate wishes to change the topic of research, he/she may be permitted to do so within one year from the date of his/her registration. The modified research proposal shall be submitted to the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) through the concerned Centre and Academic and Administrative Committee (AAC) for its consideration and approval.
- 10.4 A research scholar shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the Research Advisory Committee to the Centre/School with a copy to the research scholar.
- 10.5 In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend to the Centre/School with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

11. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, MINIMUM STANDARDS/CREDITS FOR AWARD OF THE DEGREE, ETC.:

- 11.1 Upon satisfactory completion of course work, and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in sub-clauses 8.7 above, as the case may be, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft synopsis within 04 semesters from the date of Registration (one year Course work + one year synopsis).
- 11.2 The synopsis shall be put-up before the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for Evaluation and approval.
- 11.3 Prior to the submission of the thesis, the scholar shall make a presentation in the Centre/School before the Research Advisory Committee of the University which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee.

- 11.4 Ph.D. scholars must publish at least one (1) research paper in refereed journal and make two paper presentations in conferences/seminars before the submission of the thesis for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.
- 11.5 While submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the same Institution where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution. A certificate is to be submitted from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work to the best of his/her knowledge.
- 11.6 The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, who are not in employment of the University, of whom one examiner may be from outside the country. The *viva-voce* examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners, and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department/Centre, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers.
- 11.7 The Research Scholar will certify, after verification using an appropriate software, that the contents of the thesis are free of plagiarism and copyright regulations.
- 11.8 The thesis shall include a certificate from the Supervisor to the effect, inter alia, that the recommendations made by the evaluation committee have suitably been incorporated and a declaration that the thesis incorporates the student's bonafide research and that the findings have not been submitted for award of any degree / diploma in this or any other University or Institute of learning.
- 11.9 The public *viva-voce* of the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the external examiner(s) on the thesis is/are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conducting the *viva-voce* examination. If one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner in case of Ph.D. thesis, is unsatisfactory and does not recommend *viva-voce*, the Institution shall send the thesis to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the *viva-voce* examination shall be held only if the report of the latest examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory, the thesis shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.
- 11.10 The entire process of evaluation of Ph.D. thesis shall be complete within a period of six months from the date of submission of the thesis.

12. RE-SUBMISSION OF THESIS

- a) A candidate whose thesis has been referred back for revision shall re-submit it for the award of the Ph.D. Degree within one year of the intimation of the decision of the University.
- b) A thesis which has been re-submitted shall be examined by the same external examiner(s). In case any examiner(s) is (are) unwilling to act as such, another examiner(s) may be appointed by the Vice -Chancellor from the approved panel of examiners.
- c) During the period of resubmission, hostel facility can be provided if available. Otherwise the candidate shall have to arrange her/his accommodation.

13. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND EXAMINATION

English shall be the medium of instruction, study, examination and research of the University, except in languages, or else as may be decided by the Academic Council.

14. FEES

Fees to be paid by the student during the Ph.D. programme will be laid down from time to time by the university.

15. DEPOSITORY WITH INFLIBNET:

On successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), the University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph. D. thesis to the INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges.

16. COPYRIGHTS

- i. Central University of Punjab reserves the copyright for the thesis for which the university has awarded the Ph.D. degree.
- ii. In case of any ambiguity/non-availability of rules in these Rules, the decision of the Vice chancellor shall be final. Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules and regulations, the Vice Chancellor may take such measures as may be necessary for removal of doubts/difficulties and to resolve any other extraordinary issues.

17. AWARD OF DEGREE

- i. The successful candidates shall be admitted to and conferred the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the respective discipline, as the case may be, provided he/she has:
- ii. No pending dues to the university, hostel or library outstanding
- iii. No disciplinary action pending against him/her
- iv. Fulfilled such other conditions and requirements as prescribed under rules
- v. For those candidates who have qualified for the degree in disciplines which are interdisciplinary in nature, the university may issue the degree in the respective discipline in which they have registered and have completed their programme.
- vi. The university shall issue degree in accordance with the provisions of UGC (MINIMUM STANDARDS AND PROCEDURE FOR AWARD OF M.Phil./Ph.D. DEGREE), REGULATIONS, 2016.
- vii. The Academic Council, on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor shall have the right to withdraw the degree if plagiarism or any other form of malpractice is detected at any stage, and to initiate such further action as it deems fit. Provided that the Vice Chancellor shall get the complaint in the matter investigated confidentially and shall give the accused an opportunity to explain before he makes his recommendation on the matter to the Academic Council.

18. POWER TO REMOVE ANY DIFFICULTY

Notwithstanding what is contained in the Regulations; the Chairperson, Academic Council may in exceptional circumstances and on the recommendations of the School Board concerned or an appropriate Committee on the merits of each individual case consider, and for reasons to be recorded, allow relaxation of any of the provisions except those prescribing CGPA requirements and clause 17 (vi).

19. HOSTEL

Facility of hostel could be offered only if vacant rooms / seats are available. In case it is availed of, the HRA applicable with the fellowship will not be paid. Only the hostel rent will be reimbursed.