

# CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

## Rules of Ph.D. Programme

### **1. Short Title, Application and Commencement:**

**1.1** These rules have been formulated as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**1.2** These rules shall be called the Rules of Ph.D. Programme of the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda hereinafter referred to as Ph.D. Rules.

**1.3** These rules shall be applicable to all the Ph.D. Programmes of the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda unless otherwise stated.

**1.4** These rules shall come into force from the date of approval of the Statutory Bodies.

### **2. Duration of the Programme:**

**2.1.** Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work.

**2.2.** The Ph.D. programme shall be for a maximum duration of six (6) years. A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years.

**2.3.** Female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) shall be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years. Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

**2.4.** The name of a scholar shall be removed/struck off from the rolls of the University if the student fails to submit the thesis within maximum limit as stipulated above from the date of enrolment in Ph.D. Programme.

**2.5.** Disciplinary action shall be taken if the scholar remains absent from the University for unaccountable period.

**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 may be declared a zero semester 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 teaching job subject to the fulfilment of requirements as laid down by the relevant rules. However, the student has to complete the Ph.D. Programme within the maximum Period as laid down under clause 2.2 above. A student may avail zero semester\* for a maximum of two semesters.

\*For details of Zero semester, the AC/EC approval vide Item No.AC:18:2018:04 and EC:29:2019:18 respectively to be referred.

**2.8.** A student may join a job\* after completing two (02) years of minimum residency period along with the successful completion of course work and synopsis approval.

### **3. Number of Seats:**

**3.1** The number of seats in the Ph.D. programme of all the subjects/disciplines shall be as recommended by the Academic and Administrative Committee (AAC) and approved by the Statutory Bodies of the University and will be notified on the University website as well as in the admission Prospectus issued at the time of admission.

### **4. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to Ph.D. Programme:**

**4.1.** The applicant should have a Master's degree in the relevant subject with minimum of 55% marks {50% for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/Differently-Abled/EWS or any other categories specified by UGC from time to time}

or

A 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree, with at least 75% marks {70% for SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/Differently-Abled/EWS} in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution

or

Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled/EWS.

**4.2.** Candidates will be admitted to Ph.D. in the following order:

(i) NET-JRFs (UGC, CSIR, DBT etc.)

(ii) those having fellowships from external funding agencies (such as those working in CUPB projects for a minimum of 2 years) who qualified CSIR-UGC-NET, DBT-NET, ICAR-NET, GATE, GPAT, etc.

or

who have secured or qualified for funding from external agencies (such as DST-INSPIRE) with no NET qualification provided they qualify in the entrance examination conducted by the university.

(iii) who have qualified national level tests such CSIR-UGC-NET, DBT-NET, ICAR-NET, GATE, GPAT, etc. If selected, they will be considered for UGC Non-NET fellowship.

The validity of the national level tests qualified by the candidates shall be as per the guidelines of the statutory bodies/funding agencies. Entrance exam by the university shall be conducted only for candidates who have secured or qualified for funding from external agencies but do not have NET qualification.

### **Admission Criteria:**

**5.1.** Direct admission of a candidate to the programme would be made only in the beginning of the first semester. The candidate shall be promoted to subsequent semesters of the programme after completing necessary formalities.

**5.2.** Lateral entry of a candidate shall be considered for admission to a later semester of the programme on the recommendations of a duly constituted committee including the

concerned supervisor, HoD, and School Dean and approval of Academic Council/Executive Council.

**5.3.** Foreign nationals residing in India or 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.

**5.4.** 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.

**5.5.** 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.

## **6. Admission Procedure:**

**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.

**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.

**6.4. Evaluation of Performance:** The performance of a candidate will be evaluated as under:

Category-I: Candidates exempted from Entrance Test

(A) who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests – (i) Fix weightage: 70 marks & (ii) Interview: 30 marks

B. For UGC/CSIR/ASRB-NET/GATE/GPAT/DBT-BET/JEST (Physics) qualified candidates

(i) Fix weightage: 50 Marks

(ii) Percentage of Marks obtained in Masters/qualifying degree programme (20% weightage)- 20 Marks

(iii) Interview: 30 Marks

C. Category-II. All other candidates not exempted from the Entrance Test:

(i) University Entrance Test (70% weightage): 70 Marks

(ii) Interview: 30

**6.5.** For admission to Ph.D. Programme, the candidates working in CUPB Research Projects with fellowship or those holding Financial Assistance from External Agencies/ Industrial fellowship are required to qualify in the NET/ entrance test (as applicable) as well as Interview.

**6.6.** Entrance Test: The entrance test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology, and 50% shall be subject-specific. 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.

**6.7.** The Interview shall be conducted at the Department level by the Interview Committee for Ph.D. admission, as per the following constitution:

- (i) Dean of the School or his/her nominee, Chairperson
- (ii) Head of the Department, Member & Convener
- (iii) All Professors of the Department, Members
- (iv) Two faculty members of the Department on seniority other than Professors, Members
- (v) All faculty members of the department who offered vacancy for Ph.D. under their guidance for Ph.D. admission, Members

The Department shall check the eligibility of candidates for admission into the Ph.D. programme. During interview, the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area preferably through a presentation before the Committee. The interview/viva-voce shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

- (i) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
- (ii) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University;
- (iii) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

**6.8.** Candidates must ensure that, they have all the original documents of their respective qualifying examinations at the time of interview and verification of documents/registration. The Interview Committee of the Department shall also verify all the original documents of the candidates and shall be responsible for compliance of rules prescribed.

**6.9.** The admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be held twice a year, normally in July and January.

## **7. Allocation of Research Supervisor:**

**7.1** Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor. Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors.

An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time. Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars. At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the prescribed number.

**7.2** Co-Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary/complementary areas of the university or from other related Institutions with the approval of the Competent Authority recommended through Research Advisory Committee. Adjunct Faculty members shall not act as Research Supervisors and can only act as co-supervisors.

**7.3** The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Department 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.

Provided that the allocation of Supervisor/Co-Supervisor is recommended by the Department and approved by the University. After the due approval, an official notification to this effect shall be made by the office of the Controller of Examinations.

**7.6** In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the Institution to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these rules/regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

**7.7** Once the Supervisor and Department are allotted to the Ph.D. Scholar, it shall not be hanged during the Ph.D. work except under exceptional circumstances -

**7.7.1** In case the Supervisor of a student leaves (resigns/proceeds 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, In-charge Academics may interact with the student and appoint a new Supervisor. Change of guide requires approval of the competent authority.

**7.7.2** The hardships in the change of Supervisor for any other reasons, not specified above, can only be removed by the Competent Authority on the recommendation of a duly constituted committee.

**7.7.3** The scholar is required to apply for supervisor change if any of the above cases arise. If the supervisor change is approved by the competent authority, a notification to that effect may be given by the Controller of Examinations.

**7.8** The place of research / Department of the Ph.D. Scholar can be changed for valid reasons with the approval of the Competent Authority on the recommendation of a duly constituted committee.

**7.9** Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a co-supervisor after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

**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 the recommendations of Supervisor through HOD of the Department. A minor change that does not alter the meaning of the title altogether, if suggested during the pre-submission seminar, shall be permitted.

**7.11** Each Supervisor is entitled to supervise a new student after submission of the thesis of his/her previously allotted student based on maximum permissible number for that faculty member.

## **8. Course Work:**

**8.1** The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics" course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) in 2019 and a research methodology course. The Research Advisory Committee can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.

**8.2** All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral

period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.

**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 such as Board of Studies, School Board, Academic Council, and Executive Council.

**8.4** The Department where the scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee of the research scholar.

**8.5** All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial one or two semesters.

**8.6** Candidates already holding M.Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme at the university, may be exempted from the Ph.D. coursework by the competent authority on recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee and University Equivalence Committee. After permission is granted for coursework exemption, a notification to this effect shall be issued by the office of the Controller of Examinations. The entire process shall be completed within one month of admission of the scholar into the Ph.D. Programme to facilitate the timely completion of the coursework. All other scholars admitted to the Ph.D. programme and do not qualify for coursework exemption, shall be required to complete the coursework as prescribed by the Department.

**8.7** A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% 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 the course work, the candidate shall be required to prepare a research proposal/synopsis of the intended study and submit to the RAC through Supervisor and HOD of the Department for due approval within the six months from the completion of the course work.

**8.8.1** The student is required to submit three copies of the research proposal/synopsis of the intended study to the office of the Dean Incharge Academics through Supervisor, HOD and Dean of the School.

**8.8.2** The Supervisor shall convene the meeting of RAC to present and finalize the synopsis. The RAC is required to recommend on a proforma for acceptance of the synopsis.

If any suggestions are made for further improvement, then the student is required to incorporate the suggestions in consultation with the supervisor and submit a report of incorporation in tabular form through supervisor and HOD. The student shall submit three copies of the final version of synopsis.

**8.8.3** After the approval of the RAC recommended synopsis by the Competent Authority, a notification of the approved topic for the Ph.D. work shall be issued by the office of the Controller of Examinations.

### **8.9 Unfair Means:**

There shall be zero-tolerance against the use of unfair means and unfair practices in the Ph.D. course work examination and each examinee shall be required to strictly adhere to the instructions of the said examination. Non-adherence to such instructions shall attract disciplinary action.

**8.9.1** For the Ph.D. Course Work examination, a flying squad shall be constituted 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 shall submit its report with full details of the evidence in support thereof and the statement of the candidate to the Controller of Examinations.

**8.9.2** 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) Boycott / walkout of the examination and or causing disturbances of any kind during the conduct of examination.

(ix) 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.

**8.9.3** Detection of unfair means, indiscipline and disturbances during the examination shall be brought to the notice of the HOD by the invigilator concerned in writing. The HOD 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 HOD. 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 HOD shall send both the answer-books to the Controller of Examinations along with his/her report.

**8.9.4** 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.

**8.9.5** 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.

**8.9.6** All decisions taken by the Committee will be placed before the Chairman, Academic Council, for approval.

**8.9.7** 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.

**8.10** Medium of instruction and examination: English shall be the medium of instruction, study, examination and research of the University, except in languages. Furthermore, Hindi shall be the medium of instruction, study, examination and research for students who make request for the same and mutually agreeable by the concerned teacher(s)/supervisor or else as may be decided by the Academic Council.

## **9. Research Advisory Committee and its functions:**

**9.1** There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members:

- (i) Dean of the School – Chairperson
- (ii) Vice-Chancellor's Nominee – Member
- (iii) Head of the Department – Member
- (iv) Supervisor – Convener

**9.2** The Research Advisory Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- (i) To prescribe the courses to be pursued by the scholar in the coursework.
- (ii) To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.
- (v) To recommend for extension of Ph.D. duration under exceptional circumstances, if any, with proper justification as per Clause 2.2 above.
- (vi) To recommend for the zero semester, if claimed by the student as per Clause 2.8 above.
- (vii) To recommend for the continuation of the Ph.D. programme along with the job/academic assignment/teaching/foreign visit, if selected during the programme as per University rules.
- (viii) To recommend for any other academic/research issues.

**9.3** In case a Ph.D. Scholar wishes to change the topic of research, he/she may be permitted to do so after consideration by the Research Advisory Committee. Provided that the scholar applies for the change of topic of research with reason thereof.

To the effect that the topic change is approved by the competent authority, a notification by the Controller of Examinations shall be issued.

**9.4** A research scholar shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee every semester to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The progress reports shall be submitted by the Research Advisory Committee to the office of the Controller of Examinations for maintaining an official record with a copy to the research scholar.

**9.5** 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 office of Controller of Examinations with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

## **10. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, minimum standards/credits for award of the degree, etc.:**

**10.1** Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in the Clause 8.7 above and upon approval of the synopsis, as the case may be, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft thesis within a reasonable time, as prescribed in the Clause 2 above.

**10.2** Prior to the submission of the thesis, the scholar shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee concerned, which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars of the university. The evaluation report of this pre-Ph.D. thesis submission seminar shall include the suggestions, if any and recommendation for submission of the thesis for external evaluation. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis in consultation with the supervisor.

**10.3** The Ph.D. scholars must publish at least one (1) peer reviewed research paper preferably in Scopus or Web of Science indexed journals and make one 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.

**10.4** While submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, 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 University where the work was carried out, or to any other University/Institution.

**10.4.1** In order to ensure that the research proposal/synopsis/research paper publications/thesis or any other such documents are free of plagiarism, the scholar/supervisor shall be required to follow the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 and any subsequent regulations.

**10.4.2** Every student submitting a thesis, or any other such documents to the University shall submit an undertaking indicating that the document has been prepared by him or her and that the document is his/her original work and free of any plagiarism. The undertaking shall include the fact that the document has been duly checked through a Plagiarism detection tool/software approved by the University.

**10.4.3** The research work carried out by the student/faculty shall be based on original ideas, which shall include abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations/results, conclusions/recommendations and shall not have any similarities. It shall exclude a common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words.

**10.4.4** The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following: (i) All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution; (ii) All references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgements; and (iii) All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standards equations.

**10.4.5** The plagiarism or similarities upto 10% shall be considered as minor similarities, and shall not attract any penalty.

**10.4.6** The plagiarism verification is to be checked by the Supervisor. The certificate of verification is to be submitted along with the thesis at the time of thesis submission.

**10.5** The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by three external examiners – one from within Punjab, one from another state of India, and one from outside the country, based on panel of examiners submitted by the supervisor, and approved by the competent authority. Such examiners should be academicians with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. If suitable external examiners are not available for a specific research topic/area from within Punjab or outside the country, competent authority shall assign an external examiner from the other two categories. The public defense/viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the examiners' evaluation reports, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the three external examiners, and shall be open to be attended by the members of Research Advisory Committee of scholar, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars, and any other interested experts/researchers/teachers. The examiners' reports, if recommending the viva-voce examination of the scholar, shall be opened by the Dean of the School in the presence of the external examiner conducting the viva-voce, and shall be made available to the supervisor and other members of the viva-voce committee as per the university rule.

**10.6** If any recommendation for modification is suggested by examiner(s) and accepted by the scholar/supervisor, then all those shall be duly incorporated before the final submission of the thesis. In such cases, the thesis shall include a certificate from the Supervisor to the effect, *inter alia*, that the recommendations made by the examiners have suitably been incorporated.

**10.7** 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.

**10.7.1** If one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner of Ph.D. thesis, is unsatisfactory and does not recommend *viva-voce*, the University 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.

**10.7.2** If two or more examiners reject the thesis, the thesis shall be rejected and registration of the student shall be closed.

**10.8** The entire process of evaluation of Ph.D. thesis shall be completed within a period of six months from the date of submission of the thesis.

**10.9 Re-Submission of Thesis:** A candidate whose thesis has been referred back for a major 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.

**10.9.1** The thesis which has been re-submitted shall be examined by the same external examiner(s). In case any examiner(s) is (are) unwilling to evaluate the thesis, another examiner(s) may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the approved panel of examiners.

**10.9.2** During the period of resubmission, hostel facility can be provided if available. Otherwise, the candidate shall have to arrange her/his accommodation.

**10.10** The open viva-voce and the public defence by the student may also be done through Video conferencing, if required and allowed by the competent authority.

**10.11** After successful open public defence/viva-voce examination, the scholar is required to submit the final version of the thesis for the award of the Ph.D. degree.

## **11. Course Fee for Ph.D. Programme**

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

## **12. Award of Ph.D. Degree:**

**12.1** 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:

- (i) No pending dues to the University, hostel or library outstanding,
- (ii) No disciplinary action pending against him/her,
- (iii) Fulfilled such other conditions and requirements as prescribed under rules, and
- (iv) 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.

**12.2** Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016 as the case may be. Further, the award of degrees to candidates already registered and pursuing Ph.D. shall be governed by these Regulations or UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016. Nothing in these Rules shall impact the M.Phil. degree programmes commencing prior to the enactment of these Regulations.

**12.3** 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.

**12.4** Prior to the actual award of the degree, the University shall issue a provisional Certificate to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the applicable UGC Regulations.

## **13. Depository with INFLIBNET:**

Following the 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.

Provided that the scholar has submitted the Student Approval Form (adopted from Shodhganga, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad).

## **14. Power to Remove Difficulty:**

Notwithstanding what is contained in the rules/regulations, the Vice-Chancellor may, in exceptional circumstances and on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee on the merits of each individual case, and for reasons to be recorded, allow relaxation of any of the provisions except those prescribing CGPA requirements and clause 12.2 above. The Vice-Chancellor may also take such measures as may be necessary for removal of doubts/difficulties and to resolve any other extraordinary issues. The decision of the Vice Chancellor shall be final and binding.