

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR Ph.D. (DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY) REGULATIONS 2017

(Updated in consonance with University Grants
Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations,
2022)

1. **Short title of the Regulations** - These Regulations may be called ‘Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) Regulations 2017’.
2. **Definitions:** The Maharashtra National Law University Act (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014) and the University Statutes and the General Clauses Act 1887 shall provide general interpretational guidance. Unless the context otherwise requires the following terms shall mean as follows:
 - (i) ‘*Academic Council*’ means the Academic Council of the University under Section 22 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (ii) ‘*Act*’ means the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (iii) ‘*Chancellor*’ means Chancellor of the University under Section 9 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - ¹[(iii A) ‘*Doctoral Council*’ means the Council established under Reg. 3A.]
 - (iv) ‘*Executive Council*’ means the Executive Council of the University under Section 15 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (v) ‘*External Expert*’ means an academician with outstanding scholar in law, sciences, social sciences and humanities with published work of high quality to his / her credit.
 - (vi) ‘*General Council*’ means the General Council of the University under Section 11 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (vii) ‘*Registrar*’ means the Registrar of the University under Section 29 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (viii) ‘*Regulation*’ means the ‘Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) Regulations 2017’, as amended from time to time.
 - (ix) ‘*Rule*’ means the Rules framed by the Government of Maharashtra under the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (x) ‘*Statute*’ means the Statutes as approved by the General Council of the University from time to time.
 - (xi) ‘*University*’ means the ‘Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur’ established by the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (xii) ‘*Vice-Chancellor*’ means the Vice-Chancellor of the University under Section 28 of the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014.
 - (xiii) ‘*Year*’ means:
 - (a) Academic Year: A period of 12 months commencing from first day of June to 31st day of May of the following year; and
 - (b) Calendar Year: A period of 12 months commencing from first day of January to 31st day of December.

1. Inserted by Item No. 4, 15th Executive Council meeting, October 3, 2021.

3. Constitution of Research Committee

- (i) The Vice-Chancellor shall constitute a Research Committee for Doctoral Degree Programme consisting of all Professors and three Associate Professors of the University, and three external experts.
- (ii) The nomination of external expert by the Vice-Chancellor shall be for a period of two years.
- (iii) The nomination of Associate Professor of the University by the Vice-Chancellor shall be for a period of two years on rotation basis amongst all the Associate Professors of the University.
- (iv) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Research Committee; however, in absence of the Vice-Chancellor, a Professor of the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Research Committee.
- (v) One-Third Members of the Research Committee shall form the quorum at the meeting.

²[3A. Constitution of Doctoral Council

- (i) There shall be a Doctoral Council at the University, hereinafter referred as the 'Council', for effective execution and to make necessary recommendations to the Research Committee for improving the standard of research, promotion of academic integrity, prevention of plagiarism in Ph.D. Programme.
- (ii) The Council shall consist of following members:
 - (a) Professor;
 - (b) Two Associate Professors;
 - (c) Two Assistant Professors;
 - (d) Head of the Department of Law;
 - (e) Head of the Department of Social Science;
 - (f) Head of the Department of Humanities; and
 - (g) Head of the Department of Management Studies.
- (iii) Only those Faculty Members who possess Doctorate Degree in his/her respective domain area are eligible to become a Member of the Council.
- (iv) The Vice-Chancellor shall nominate the members for a period of Two (2) years and one among them shall be nominated as Convenor of the Council.
- (v) The Convenor shall manage the meetings and other functions of the Council with the prior approval of the Vice-chancellor.
- (vi) The Council shall ensure and facilitate, in coordination and consultation with the Vice-Chancellor, the following functions:
 - (a) To execute the decisions of the Research Committee, regarding matters relating to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.);

2. Inserted by Item No. 4, 15th Executive Council meeting, October 3, 2021.

- (b) To facilitate and conduct the All-India Entrance Test (AIET) and admission process for Ph.D. Degree programme;
- (c) To accept research proposals/ research papers as submitted by the scholar/s to the Council for the preliminary review and for recommendation to the Research Committee;
- (d) To conduct presentation of the scholar/s on the research proposal/ research paper/s before the members of the Council, in the presence of Mentor/ Supervisor with emphasis on research problem, objectives, methodology, expected outcome and rational and universe of study;
- (e) To review and recommend the matters to Research Committee and University bodies to adopt the guidelines notified by the University Grants Commission (UGC) regarding Ph.D. and for the promotion of research activities from time to time;
- (f) To recommend suitable methodological and/or other related matters regarding interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research having interphase with law and allied subjects;
- (g) To facilitate the matter relating to Research Fellowship/Scholarship/ Research Grant to Ph.D. from external agencies;
- (h) To facilitate academic interest of Ph.D. and redress their grievances, if any, in coordination with University authorities and the Research Committee;
- (i) To recommend disciplinary action against the research scholar in the matter relating to plagiarism, academic misconduct/integrity or any other matter as may arise after making adequate enquiry and satisfying seriousness of the act of violation of the professional ethics and academic integrity.
- (j) To recommend cancellation of admission of any scholar to Research Committee with adequate justification, at any given point, if it finds that progress of research work has been totally unsatisfactory despite previous warning(s)/reminder(s); and
- (k) To discharge all other functions from time to time assigned by the Vice-Chancellor.]

4. Eligibility for Admission

- (i) To be admitted to the candidature for a Ph.D. Degree Programme an applicant shall have:
 - (a) ³[A one-year or two-semester master's degree programme after a five-year or ten semester bachelor's degree programme or a two-year or four-semester master's degree programme after a three-year bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed

or

3. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023. Based on the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

- (b) 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.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

Provided further A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Specially Aabled Persons (SAP), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

Provided further that the candidate with qualifications in sciences, social sciences and humanities may pursue his / her research interfacing with public policy or law.

Provided further that the candidate whose final result of the qualifying examination is awaited, for any reason, shall be allowed to appear provisionally in the admission test. Such candidate shall have to produce the final result of the qualifying examination at the time of the final presentation of his / her Ph.D. proposal.]

or

- (c) A Judge who has served for minimum three years as a Judge of High Court in India or Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

- (d) The candidate who has passed the Company Secretary examination conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and has been awarded the Associate Membership of the Institute (ACS) and having a Bachelor Degree in Law from a recognised University through regular stream shall be eligible for admission to the programme. *Provided* that the research he / she wishes to pursue interfaces with a special focus on public policy or law.

or

- (e) The candidate who has passed the Chartered Accountants examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi and has been awarded Membership of the Institute and having a Bachelor Degree in Law from a recognised University through regular stream shall be eligible for admission to the programme. *Provided* that the research he / she wishes to pursue interfaces with a special focus on public policy or law.

- (ii) The Vice-Chancellor may permit a faculty member of the Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur to take up Ph.D. Degree Programme ⁴[as a Full-time Enrollment] along with his/her teaching assignment in the interest of faculty development, provided that his/her teaching assignment(s) and other

4. Inserted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023.

responsibilities do not hamper in any way and fulfills the eligibility conditions prescribed in these Regulations.

5. Procedure for Admission

- (i) There shall be an All-India Entrance Test (AIET) for Ph.D. Degree programme. All the candidates including Foreign Nationals and NRI who wish to pursue Ph.D. Degree programme at the University shall be subject to AIET. The University reserves the right to conduct the said test in the cities wherever reasonable numbers of candidates appear for the said test.
- (ii) All the candidates who have applied for Ph.D. Degree programme shall appear for All India Entrance Test except those who have qualified UGC NET, JRF, CSIR, SLET, GATE, M.Phil., a Judge who has served for minimum three years as a Judge of High Court in India or Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as per these Regulations. A candidate who has already obtained Ph.D. Degree in any of the disciplines shall also be exempted from All India Entrance Test (AIET) for subsequent Ph. D. Degree Programme.
Provided that the research he / she wishes to pursue interfaces with a special focus on public policy or law.
- (iii) The qualifying marks at the All-India Entrance Test shall be 55% for the General Category candidates and 50% for the candidates from other categories, i.e., SC / ST / OBC (non-creamy layer) and Specially Abled Persons.
- (iv) All the candidates who have passed the All-India Entrance Test as well as those who are exempted under clause (ii) above are required to attend an interaction with the Research Committee on their preliminary proposal of research.
- (v) All the candidates who have passed All India Entrance Test as well as those who are exempted from it are required to submit a preliminary proposal (both in soft and hard copy) of research not exceeding ⁵[3,000 words] indicating the hypothesis, statement of problem, research outlines, set of research questions, proposed research methodology, survey of literature and expected outcomes of the research.
- (vi) All research proposals including the preliminary proposals shall be screened through the anti-plagiarism software. If the percentage of plagiarism for any proposal exceeds 15% of the total work or 10% of total work from a single source, then the candidate shall not be called for the interaction.
- (vii) The preliminary proposals shall be evaluated by all members of the Research Committee and based on the evaluation the preliminary proposals shall be short listed and only shortlisted candidates shall be called for interaction with the Research Committee.
- (viii) All the candidates who have passed the All-India Entrance Test and successfully qualified interaction with the Research Committee on the preliminary proposals shall be admitted provisionally to Ph.D. Degree Programme. Such candidates shall be required to attend a mandatory course work of a minimum of ⁶[twenty-two (22) credits] designed and conducted by the University ⁶[as mentioned in the Reg. No.10].

5. Substituted by Item No. 3, 6th Executive Council meeting, March 17, 2018. Prior to substitution the regulation read as under – “1500 words”.

6. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023. Prior to substitution the regulation read as under – “sixteen (16) credits”.

- (ix) The candidate must obtain a minimum 55 % marks or its equivalent grade in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the Doctoral programme.
- (x) After successful completion of the course work, the candidate shall submit his / her final research proposal (both in soft and hard copy) not exceeding 5,000 words within a period of three months.
- (xi) Candidates who have qualified All India Entrance Test, interaction with the Research Committee on preliminary proposal and also completed the course work shall be given two opportunities to re-submit their final proposal on the basis of the recommendations of the Research Committee.
- (xii) The final research proposals shall be evaluated by all members of the Research Committee and based on the evaluation the final research proposals shall be short listed.
- (xiii) All candidates whose final proposals are shortlisted shall be required to present their final research proposals before the Research Committee. Subsequent to the presentation, the Committee shall recommend either to register provisionally the proposal or seek its re-submission in accordance with suggested modifications.
- (xiv) Once a candidate successfully qualifies All India Entrance Test, interaction with the Research Committee on Pre-proposal, Course Work, and makes the presentation on the final research proposal before the Research Committee. He / she shall be allowed to get final admission into Ph.D. Degree Programme. However, the title of the proposed thesis shall also be made final during the presentation on final proposal of research.
- (xv) The period of registration for Ph.D. Degree Programme shall be counted ⁷[from the date of commencement of classes for Ph.D. course work].
- (xvi) Not later than three months after the final admission, the title so approved by the Research Committee shall not be substantially altered except with the permission of the Research Committee.

6. Syllabus for All India Entrance Test (AIET)

- (i) The All-India Entrance Test shall comprise of 25 (Twenty-Five) multiple choice questions of one mark each and 5 (Five) short descriptive questions to be attempted out of 10 (Ten) questions of 5 (Five) marks each. There shall be two compulsory questions of 25 (Twenty-Five) marks each wherein the candidate shall write Essay on any two topics of his / her area of interest in about maximum 1000 (one thousand) words. The Examination shall be of three hours duration.
- (ii) (a) The multiple-choice questions shall be from the core areas of law, legal and logical reasoning; (b) the short descriptive questions and essay type questions shall be from Contract Law, Jurisprudence, Personal Laws, Constitutional Law, International Law, Criminal Law, Human Rights Law, Environmental Law, Corporate Law and Intellectual Property Law; and (c) essay shall be evaluated on critical legal thinking, legal language and comprehension exhibited by the candidate.
- (iii) Special care shall be taken for the candidates of sciences, social sciences and humanities. If the research they wish to pursue interfaces with a special focus on public policy or law, the question paper shall be prepared accordingly.

7. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023. Based on the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

7. Fee Structure

(i) Fee Structure for Indian Nationals

- Rs. 2,000/- Application Fee
- ⁸[Rs. 20,000/- Registration Fee (at the time of admission)
- Rs. 30,000/- Course Work Fee (at the time of admission)
- Rs. 15,000/- Annual Fee (every year)]
- Rs. 6,000/- Library fee (annual)
- Rs. 10,000/- Library Caution Money (refundable)
- Rs. 10,000/- Hostel Caution Money (refundable)
- Rs. 6,000/- Internet/ Electronic Database (annual)
- Rs. 5,000/- Fee for Change of Area of Research
- Rs. 10,000/- Fee for pre-submission of thesis.
- Rs. 20,000/- Fee for final presentation
- ⁸[Rs. 15,000/- Examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis)]
- Rs. 15,000/- Re-examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis)
- Rs. 20,000/- Re-submission of Thesis Fee
- Rs. 500/- Provisional Certificate
- Hostel and Mess charges would be on actual basis.

(ii) Fee Structure for Foreign Nationals and NRI

- Rs. 4,000/- Application Fee
- ⁹[Rs. 40,000/- Registration Fee (at the time of admission)
- Rs. 60,000/- Course Work Fee (at the time of admission)
- Rs. 30,000/- Annual Fee (every year)]
- Rs. 12,000/- Library fee (annual)
- Rs. 10,000/- Library Caution Money (refundable)
- Rs. 10,000/- Hostel Caution Money (refundable)
- Rs. 12,000/- Internet/ Electronic Database (annual)
- Rs. 10,000/- Fee for Change of Area of Research
- Rs. 20,000/- Fee for pre-submission of thesis.
- Rs. 40,000/- Fee for final presentation
- ⁹[Rs. 30,000/- Examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis)]
- Rs. 30,000/- Re-examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis)
- Rs. 40,000/- Re-submission of Thesis Fee
- Rs. 1,000/- Provisional Certificate
- Hostel and Mess charges would be on actual basis.

8. Substituted by Item No. 13, 21st Executive Council meeting, January 29, 2023. Prior to substitution the regulation read as under – “Rs. 15,000/- Registration Fee (at the time of admission); Rs. 25,000/- Course Work Fee (at the time of admission); Rs. 10,000/- Annual Fee (every year); and Rs. 10,000/- Examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis) for Indian Nationals”.

9. Substituted by Item No. 13, 21st Executive Council meeting, January 29, 2023. Prior to substitution the regulation read as under – “Rs. 30,000/- Registration Fee (at the time of admission); Rs. 50,000/- Course Work Fee (at the time of admission); Rs. 20,000/- Annual Fee (every year); and Rs. 20,000/- Examination Fee (at the time of submission of Thesis) for Foreign Nationals and NRI”

Note: The fee structure is subject to revision by the statutory bodies of the University from time to time.

8. Categories of Enrolment

The University shall be offering Ph.D. Degree Programme with full time and part time enrolments which shall be as followed:

(i) Full-time Enrolment

- (a) Enrolment for the Ph.D. Degree Programme shall ordinarily be full-time. The candidate shall put in a minimum of three years, including course work during which the candidate is required to stay at the University for a minimum period of 12 months. There shall thus, be a provision for the candidate to earn credits for research work done outside the University.
- (b) Six years shall be the maximum period in which a full-time candidate shall complete the research work and submit it for evaluation.
- (c) ¹⁰[The Research Supervisor shall maintain an attendance register of his/her candidates and shall submit an attendance certificate during the time of the final Ph.D. Thesis submission stating that the candidate had spent in a minimum of three years, including course work during which the candidate spent a minimum period of 12 months at the University;
- (d) The full-time salaried employees of other Institutions of Higher Education shall not be eligible for Full-time Ph.D. enrolment; and
- (e) All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching-learning pedagogy and writing related to their chosen topic of research during their doctoral period. Such Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4 to 6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial/clinic/moot court/assignments/presentation work and evaluations.]

(ii) Part-time Enrolment

- (a) A part-time candidate shall put in a minimum of four years, including course work, of part-time study in the University including time spent for research at any other place with the permission of the Supervisor.
Provided that the part-time candidate shall put in residence in the University for at least a total period of twelve months spread over the four-year period.
- (b) Six years shall be the maximum period in which the part-time candidate shall complete the research work and submit it for evaluation.
- (c) The candidate shall submit a “No Objection Certificate” for a part-time Ph.D. enrolment from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:
 - i. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis;
 - ii. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research; and
 - iii. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

10. Inserted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023.

- (d) The Research Supervisor shall maintain an attendance register of his/her candidates and shall submit an attendance certificate during the time of the final Ph.D. Thesis submission stating that the candidate had spent in a minimum of four years, including course work during which the candidate spent a minimum period of 12 months at the University.

(iii) Relocation of Scholar

- (a) In case a woman scholar relocates during the period of her research 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 University / Supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar shall however give due credit to the parent Supervisor and the University for the part of research already done.
- (b) A scholar or a faculty, who has been enrolled in any other National Law University, may be enrolled at Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur with the approval of the Research Committee, if the Supervisor of such a candidate or the faculty member himself / herself joins Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur.
- (c) The University where a candidate, scholar or a faculty, was earlier enrolled consents the transfer of such candidate. The Supervisor has to give a detailed Report as to the course work done, fulfillment of residential requirement and the progress of research work to the Research Committee before such an application is considered by the Committee. Similarly, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur would permit transfer of a candidate, scholar or a faculty, enrolled with it when the Supervisor himself / herself or allotted to him / her joins some other National Law University with the consent of such University.

¹¹[(d) The scholar who has been relocated/transferred to the University under these Regulations has to spend a minimum of One (01) Year doing research at the University under the new Supervisor or the period mentioned in Reg. 8 (i) and (ii) of Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) Regulations 2017 whichever is later.]

(iv) Conversion of Enrolment

- (a) Conversion either from part-time to full-time or full-time to part-time may be permitted by the Vice-Chancellor only on the recommendation of the Research Committee based on the written report of the Supervisor.
- (b) In case of both part-time and full-time enrolment the Supervisor shall ensure monitoring of the research work done by the scholar(s) within and / or outside the University campus by insisting on production of adequate proof of research work done.

(v) Expiry / Elapse of Enrolment

Enrolment for the Ph.D. Degree Programme shall be deemed to have elapsed after six years from the date of enrolment in both cases either full-time or part-time scholars.

11. Inserted by Item No. 4, 17th Executive Council meeting, April 24, 2022.

(vi) Extension of Time

- (a) The Research Committee on the application of the concerned scholar along with the report of the Supervisor may extend the time for a period of six months at a time but not more than ¹²[two years] as maximum period.
- (b) The woman candidate and person with disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed ¹²[additional] relaxation of maximum of two years in the entire duration of Ph.D. degree programme. In addition, the woman candidate may be provided maternity leave / child care leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. degree programme for up to 240 days.

9. Supervisor

(i) Allotment of Supervisor

- (a) The Research Committee shall appoint one or more faculty member(s) to supervise the Ph.D. scholar(s).
- (b) If the area of study so requires, an External Supervisor possessing expertise and experience in the area of study may be appointed, in addition to an Internal Supervisor who shall be a full-time faculty member.
- (c) The Research Committee shall ensure that Supervisor(s) be competent to supervise the scholar and also be available for supervision for the expected duration of the scholar's period of study.

(ii) To be a Supervisor

- (a) ¹³[Regular faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor(s) of the University with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and regular faculty members working as Assistant Professor(s) of the University with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognised as a Research Supervisor of the University.
Provided that a recognised research supervisor cannot supervise research scholar in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisor.]
- (b) A Professor who has no Ph.D. Degree can be a Supervisor provided that he / she has a minimum 15 years of teaching and research experience at the post-graduate level.
- (c) A Professor who has no Ph.D. Degree can also be a Supervisor provided that he / she has a minimum 15 years of teaching and research experience at the under-graduate level with published work of high quality to his / her credit.
- (d) A Supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than (8) eight Ph.D. scholars; an Associate Professor can guide up to a maximum of (6) six Ph.D. scholars; and an Assistant Professor can guide up to a maximum of (4) four Ph.D. scholars.

12. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023. Based on the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

13. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023.

- (e) If the research theme requires the assistance of any of the external expert in any field, the Research Committee may approve a list of such External Supervisors from time to time. Under no circumstances the External Supervisor shall be appointed as the main Supervisor for any scholar. However, such External Supervisor shall be appointed along with an Internal Supervisor from Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur depending upon the circumstances.
- (f) ¹⁴[Faculty member(s) with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholar(s) under his 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.]

(iii) Change of Supervisor

The Research Committee may consider the request of the scholar for change of the Supervisor. However, the request should be made at least six months prior to the date of pre-submission of the thesis. The limitation of six-month notice shall not be applicable in the event of death of the Supervisor or otherwise incapacity of the Supervisor to continue supervision on health ground or shifting to a distant place / institution.

10. Ph.D. Course Work

The scholars shall undertake course work for a minimum of ¹⁵[22] credits and for a period of one Semester, as the course work shall be treated as prerequisite for Ph.D. degree programme, on the following course outlines:

- (i) (a) A paper on Research Methodology and Legal Writing for four (4) credits.
- (b) A paper on research object, research design, research ethics and referencing for four (4) credits.
- (c) A paper on Computer Application and Data Analysis for four (4) credits.
- (d) A paper focusing on the research area and review of scholarly work for two (2) credits.
- (e) A paper on area of specialization in which candidate is willing to pursue his / her research work for two (2) credits.
- (f) A paper on Teaching Methods and Techniques for two (2) credits.
- ¹⁶[(g) A paper on Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) for four (4) credits.]
- (ii) The scholar possessing M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degree may be exempted from the Research Methodology paper in the Course Work provided he / she completed such course earlier.
- (iii) A scholar who has already completed his / her Course Work as part of award of an earlier Ph.D. Degree is exempted from the Course Work but shall be required to make three Seminar presentations before the Research Committee after provisional registration.

14. Substituted by Item No. 4, 23rd Executive Council meeting, October 15, 2023. Based on the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

15. Substituted by 543rd University Grants Commission meeting, August 9, 2019. D.O.No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE), December, 2019.

16. Substituted by 543rd University Grants Commission meeting, August 9, 2019. D.O.No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE), December, 2019.

- (iv) The scholar shall secure at least 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the Course Work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme.
- (v) ¹⁷[If any Scholar fails to secure 50% marks in each of Courses and 55% Marks on average of all Courses], may be provided an opportunity to re-appear one or more time(s) within three months of the publication of result.
- (vi) The course work shall be completed within six months from the date of provisional registration.
- (vii) The scholar shall be allowed to continue further research work only after completing the Course Work as mentioned above.

11. Monitoring of Research Progress

- (i) The scholar shall pursue the programme of study and research as approved by the Supervisor(s). Such programme shall include the presentation of a thesis embodying the results of the scholar's research work.
- (ii) All scholars registered for Ph.D. Degree Programme shall submit the interim report on completion of every six months after duly certified by the Supervisor. If any scholar fails to submit two consecutive interim reports, the candidature of such scholar shall automatically stand cancelled.
- (iii) At least once a year, or at any other time considered desirable, the Supervisor shall present to the Research Committee a report on the work of the scholars working under his / her supervision.

12. Change of Area of Research

Any change in the area of research may be allowed by the Research Committee on the request of the scholar through his / her Supervisor. However, such change is only permissible once during the entire period of registration. The candidate shall pay the prescribed fee for the change of the topic or area of research.

13. Termination of Candidature

- (i) If in the opinion of the Research Committee a scholar's work is not satisfactory, the Research Committee shall ask the scholar to show cause as to why his / her candidature should not be terminated.
- (ii) The response of the concerned scholar to the show cause notice shall be considered by the Research Committee which may thereon recommend to the Vice-Chancellor that the scholar be allowed to continue with his / her research or candidature be terminated.
- (iii) After consideration of the recommendations of the Research Committee, the Vice-Chancellor may either permit the scholar to continue with his / her research or terminate the candidature or permit the scholar to re-enroll specifying the conditions for such re-enrolment. The Registrar shall officially inform the decision of the Vice-Chancellor to the scholar.
- (iv) A scholar whose candidature is terminated under this section may prefer an appeal in writing through the Vice-Chancellor to the Academic Council. Such an appeal should be submitted in writing within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the termination order.

17. Substituted by Item No. 4, 17th Executive Council meeting, April 24, 2022. Prior to substitution the regulation read as under – “If any Scholar fails to secure 55% marks in the courses as mentioned above may be provided an opportunity to re-appear one or more time(s) within three months of the publication of result.”

The Academic Council on proper examination of the case may either uphold the Vice-Chancellor's decision or reverse such decision or take any other appropriate decision in this regard.

14. Pre-submission Presentation

Prior to submission of the final thesis, the scholar shall submit a draft thesis to the Registrar through the Supervisor and make a Pre-Ph.D. submission presentation which shall be opened to all the faculty members and research scholars for comments and the same may suitably be incorporated into the draft thesis on the advice of the Supervisor. The final version after incorporating the necessary changes must be submitted within three months from the date of pre-submission presentation.

15. Publication of Research Paper(s)

A Ph.D. scholar shall publish two research papers in a refereed journal having ISSN number before the submission of final version of the thesis and produce evidence for the same in the form of an acceptance letter or the reprint of these published papers.

16. Submission of Thesis

- (i) The thesis shall be in English and it should be the result of scholar's own work attaining a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.
- (ii) Before a scholar submits his / her thesis, the Supervisor appointed for the purpose must be satisfied that the thesis conforms to the requirements of these Regulations and a certificate to this effect from the Supervisor shall accompany the thesis when it is submitted.

Provided that if the Supervisor fails to provide the certificate to the scholar, the Research Committee shall determine whether the thesis may be accepted for submission or not and take appropriate measures for submission / re-submission of the thesis accordingly.

- (iii) The scholar after taking due approval from the Supervisor shall submit his / her final research in the word format to the Examination Section for checking of plagiarism and shall obtain a certificate indicating that '*the research is within the prescribed limit of plagiarism and hence, the thesis is fit for submission*'. However, if the plagiarism for any thesis exceeds 15% or more of the total work, or 10% or more of total work from a single source then the candidate shall not be provided with this certificate.
- (iv) The scholar shall be required to submit five copies of his / her thesis (printed on both sides) along with a soft copy on two sets of CD / DVD, embodying the results of the scholar's research works to the Registrar. A summary of around 1500 words and reprint of the two published papers shall also be submitted along with the thesis. The length and format of the thesis shall conform to the requirements as prescribed by the Research Committee from time to time.

Provided that the name of the Supervisor of Ph.D. scholar and acknowledgment shall not be mentioned anywhere in three copies of the Ph.D. thesis; which are meant to be sent to External Examiner for evaluation.

17. Panel of Examiners

After submission of the thesis by the scholar, the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Supervisor concerned, shall appoint three External Examiners (not below the rank of Associate Professor) from out of a panel of not less than Six

External Examiners submitted by the Supervisor, the names being arranged in alphabetical order, out of whom two shall be from outside the State.

Provided that if the research undertaken by the scholar is of global in nature, the University may send the said thesis for evaluation to a foreign expert.

18. Evaluation of Thesis

- (i) For the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the thesis must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge in the subject and afford evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical analytical approach.
- (ii) The evaluation of the thesis shall assess the scholar's contribution arising out of research on the topic of the thesis not including any work which forms part of the scholar's work for the award of any other degree successfully completed at this University or elsewhere. The scholar shall clearly indicate in the thesis the nature and extent of his / her contribution.
- (iii) The examiner shall report in writing to the Registrar of the University his / her assessment of the thesis and recommendations as to whether the thesis is fit for the award of Ph.D. Degree. If in the examiners assessment the thesis is not fit for the award of the Degree, the examiner shall indicate whether additional work should be undertaken by the scholar or the thesis should be rejected out-rightly.
- (iv) If a scholar who is required to re-submit a revised thesis for evaluation, he / she shall be required to re-enroll for a period of not less than one year prior to re-submission.
- (v) Only one chance of re-submission of the thesis may be permitted during the period of registration.
- (vi) A re-submitted thesis shall be subject to the evaluation process as specified under the Regulations.

19. Viva-Voce

- (i) If all the three examiners unanimously recommend that the thesis is fit for the award of the Degree, there shall be a *viva-voce* examination of the scholar. One among the three examiners who evaluated the thesis shall conduct the *viva-voce* examination.
- (ii) If any of the examiner's report is negative, then the thesis need to be sent to another examiner(s) whose name(s) is mentioned in the panel of experts submitted by the Supervisor.
- (iii) After successful completion of *viva-voce* examination, the award of the Degree shall be recommended by the Research Committee to the Academic Council.
- (iv) Once the Research Committee recommends the award of the Degree to the Academic Council, a notification shall be issued and the scholar shall be given a Provisional Certificate specifying that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016.

20. Award of Degree

- (i) The award of the Degree shall be conferred at the Annual Convocation with the approval of the Academic Council and the Executive Council of the University. The Ph.D. certificate shall indicate "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D.) along with the title of the Ph.D. thesis.

- (ii) Where a thesis fails to obtain the unanimous recommendation of all the three examiners or where after the *viva-voce* examination, the *viva-voce* examiner does not recommend the award of a Degree, the Research Committee may decide:
 - (a) to recommend that the Degree may not be awarded to the scholar;
or
 - (b) to recommend that the scholar shall undertake additional work on the thesis and submit a revised thesis within a specified period;
or
 - (c) to take such action as deemed appropriate before making a recommendation, *provided* that in making such recommendation(s) the Research Committee shall be guided by the opinion of the majority of the examiners.
- (iii) If a scholar fails to defend his / her thesis at the *viva-voce* examination, the scholar may be given one additional opportunity to defend the thesis which shall be final.

21. Depository and INFLIBNET

- (i) A copy of the thesis shall be deposited in the library which shall be available for consultation by others.
Provided that in exceptional cases the Research Committee on the application of the scholar and on the recommendations of the Supervisor determine that it shall not be available for consultation by others until after the expiry of a period which shall not ordinarily exceed one year.
- (ii) The University shall submit a soft copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi within a period of thirty days after the award of the Ph.D. Degree to the candidate, for hosting the same through INFLIBNET so as to make it accessible to all Universities/Institutions/colleges.

22. Publication of Thesis

The publication of the thesis in the form of a book after award of Degree shall be allowed only after due written permission from the University is obtained by the scholar.

23. Removal of Difficulties

In case of any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these Regulations, the Vice- Chancellor may by an order remove such difficulties.
