MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERISTY, KERALA
Mahatma Gandhi University Ph.D. Regulations 2016

Preamble

* These regulations, called **Mahatma Gandhi University Ph.D. Regulations 2016,** are framed in super-session of the Revised Regulation for Ph.D. Registration and Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy 2010/12, and in accordance with University Grants commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. degrees) Regulations 2016 notified in The Gazette of India [No. 278, Part III- Section 4] Extra Ordinary on July 5th, 2016 vide No.F.1-2/2009(EC/PS)V(I) Vol. II - in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section(1) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act,1956 (3 of 1956) .

* Research programmes are offered by the University in various subjects and inter-disciplinary areas leading to the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the Faculties listed in the Statutes. The Standards and Procedures for registration, research and award of Ph.D. Degree of the University shall be as per this regulation.

1. Short Title, Application and Commencement

1.1 These regulations shall be called **Mahatma Gandhi University Ph.D. Regulations 2016.**

1.2 These Regulations shall apply to the University Departments of teaching and research, Inter- University/Inter-School centres as well as the Approved Research Centres in affiliated Govt./Aided Colleges and institutions established within the state for promotion of research by an act of either the State Government or the Central Government.

1.3 The research supervisor of Mahatma Gandhi University shall not be research supervisor of any other university/institution.

1.4 These Regulations shall be made applicable to candidates registered for Ph.D. Degree from July 2016 Admission onwards.

2. Definitions

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

2.1 'Act', 'Statutes', 'Ordinance' and 'Regulations' mean the Act, Statutes, Ordinance and Regulations respectively of the Mahatma Gandhi University.

2.2 'Affiliated College' means an Aided or Government College affiliated to the

University in accordance with the provisions of the university Act and Statutes and where instruction is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

2.3 'Centre of Research' or 'Approved Research Centre' means the institution where the University allows a research scholar to carry out research leading to the award of the Ph.D. Degree of the University in the subject concerned.

2.4 'Department' or 'School' or 'University Department' means the University Department of Teaching and Research established under the statutes. 'Inter-School' or 'Inter-University Centres' means centres established by the University or the Government of Kerala.

2.5 'Fellowship' means a regular monetary assistance, awarded to a research scholar and includes, apart from the scholarships offered by the University, the National Merit Scholarship, and other assistance offered by approved funding agencies such as NCERT, CSIR, UGC, ICSSR, KSCSTE, DST etc.

2.6 'Laws of the University' means the Act, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, Rules and Bye-Laws of the University, as the case may be.

2.7 'Research Scholar' means any person registered for the Ph.D. degree of the University under these regulations in full-time or part-time mode.

2.8 'Supervising Teacher', 'Research Supervisor' or 'Research Guide' means a teacher or an expert approved as a qualified guide to supervise research.

2.9 'University' means the University as defined in the Act.

2.10 'Adjudicators' or 'Examiners' mean the experts appointed by the University for the Evaluation of the thesis.

3. Notifications for Ph.D. Programme

3.1 Notification for Entrance Test

Notification for Entrance Test (ET) shall be issued before 31st March of every year. It shall be published in the University website, and a press release about the notification be published in at least two national news papers of which one shall be in the regional language. The notification will contain details such as subjects offered for Ph.D. Programme, number of vacant positions and other relevant information. The examination shall be held in April every year. Those who qualify the ET can apply for Ph.D. registration further to the notifications as per clause 3.2.

3.2 Notification for Ph.D. registration

Notification for registration to Ph.D. Programme shall be issued by the Registrar of the university every year in the month of June following the declaration of result of the Entrance Test. The filled in applications shall reach the office of the Registrar on or before 31st July, every year.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Candidates for admission to Ph.D. Programme shall have a Master's degree in the concerned or related discipline or a professional degree declared equivalent to Master's Degree by Mahatma Gandhi University or of other Universities recognized as eligible for higher studies thereto with at least 55% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or an equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions. In cases, where a candidate proposes to do Ph.D. in a particular discipline with qualifying degree from another university, in a discipline not offered by the University, the candidate shall produce a certificate of eligibility issued by Mahatma Gandhi University on or before the date of Doctoral Interview.

4.2 A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) / OEC / Differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission from time to time or for those who had obtained their Master's degree prior to 19th, September 1991. The eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale where grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace marks procedures.

4.3 Candidates who have cleared the M.Phil. Course Work with at least 55% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed and successfully completing M.Phil. Degree shall be eligible to proceed to apply for research leading to Ph.D. degree in the same Department in an integrated programme. It also depends on the availability of vacancy under the concerned supervising teacher. Such candidate shall submit application for Ph.D. registration through the Head of the Department/Research centre without waiting for the notification. A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC/OEC (non-creamy layer) / Differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission from time to time. The relaxation of 5% of marks to the categories mentioned above are

permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace marks procedures.

4.4 A person whose M.Phil. dissertation evaluation and viva-voce examination are over, and awaiting results shall be allowed to apply for the Ph.D. programme in the same area of research along with other candidates without appearing for ET provided they shall submit the mark list at the time of Doctoral Interview.

4.5 Candidates possessing degree equivalent to M.Phil. degree of an Indian institution or an equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. Programme, provided they satisfy the eligibility criteria.

4.6 Candidates qualifying professional courses (MBBS, BAMS, BHMS, BDS, BVSc, B.Pharm.,B.Tech, B.Arch.) with a duration of minimum four years with 55% marks in aggregate are eligible to apply for registration for Ph.D. In the case of B.Tech and B.Arch, a valid GATE score is necessary.

4.7 CA/ICWA/ACS qualified candidate that is a person whose name has been registered as a member in the register maintained by the institute of Chartered Accountants/Cost Accountants/Company Secretaries of India with 55% of marks shall be eligible to apply for Ph.D. Programme in Management Studies and Commerce.

4.8 When the application is made for registration, it shall be accompanied by copies of the documents as required in the notification.

4.9 Those candidates awaiting results of the qualifying examinations may also apply for Ph.D. registration. However, they shall produce the marklists on or before 30th of November, in the year of admission.

5. Mode of Admission

5.1 Those who have passed the Entrance Test with minimum 50% marks and have applied for registration for Ph.D. programme shall be called for a Doctoral Interview. For SC/ST candidates this minimum is 45%.

5.2 The selection will be on the basis of the marks obtained for the Doctoral interview. The maximum mark for the interview is 50. Only candidates who secure a minimum mark of 50% will be recommended for registration for Ph.D. programme subject to the availability of vacancy.

5.3 Though the aptitude for research is an important consideration in selecting the

research scholars, due attention shall be paid to the reservation policy followed in the University while making admissions. This shall be subject to the availability of vacancy under respective Supervising Teachers.

6. Entrance Test

6.1 The Entrance Tests in the relevant/allied/concerned subjects having vacancy shall be conducted directly by the University in April of every year under the office of the Controller of Examinations and the supervision of the University Research Committee.

6.2 The syllabus of the entrance test shall consist of 20% of research methodology and 80% of the specific subject in P.G level (relevant subject in the case of interdisciplinary programmes). The Entrance Examination should be in the pattern of UGC and CSIR NET Examination.

6.3 The validity of the entrance test shall be two years from the date of declaration of results.

6.4 Question papers for the tests in all subjects shall be prepared by experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. The evaluation of the tests too shall be made by experts in the subject nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

7. Exemption from the Entrance Test

7.1 The following categories of candidates are exempted from appearing for the Entrance Test.

a. Candidates with fellowships from Government funding agencies and CSIR-UGC JRF/KSCSTE-JRF/DST-INSPIRE/MANF/RGNF/ DBT JRF/CSIR-SRF Fellowship Awardees.
b. Candidates who have qualified in the NET/SLET/GATE/GPAT/JEST or other tests conducted by Government bodies such as UGC, CSIR, ICAR, ICSSR and ICMR.
c. DST Women Scientist Awardees and candidates under Visvesvaraya Ph.D. scheme.
d. M.Phil., M.Tech and M.Arch, degree holders in the concerned or related subject.
e. MD/MS/MDS (Modern Medicine, Ayush disciplines and Dentistry) degree holders in the concerned subject or related subject, in the case of interdisciplinary research.
f. Regular and permanent teachers from the Government and Aided Colleges in the state and from the University Departments, Inter-University, Inter-School Centres.

g. Scientists from accredited R & D Institutions.
h. M.Phil. candidates seeking admission as per clause 4.3 & 4.4.
i. Foreign students duly selected by MoU, UCIC under relevant national bodies are exempted from written test.
j. Teachers of Self Financing colleges under the control of government, with at least 3 years of continuous service and are working at the time of doctoral committee.
k. Teachers of Self Financing colleges affiliated to MGU, with at least 3 years of continuous service and are working at the time of doctoral committee
l. Guest teachers of Govt/Aided colleges having 3 yrs of service and are working at the time of doctoral committee
m. Regular/retired in the Defence and National security department/Ministry of External Affairs/ Indian Foreign Service/International Organisations (UN)/Indian Administrative service/Indian Police Service having 5 years of minimum service.
n. Regular and permanent doctors in the Govt. medical service.
o. Regular/permanent employees from government / accredited Research & Development labs including from Industries with minimum 5 yrs service.

7.2 Exemption from Entrance Test shall be granted only to those who have become qualified for exemption on or before the date of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

8. Interview in Statutory Departments, Inter University/Inter School Centres

8.1 The applications of those candidates, received before the prescribed date, with the names of supervising teachers from Statutory Departments and Inter University/Inter School Centres, suggested as their prospective research guides, shall be forwarded to the concerned Department/Centre, for scrutiny by the Doctoral Committee and to conduct interview for recommending the names of eligible candidates, with supervising teachers allocated for registration.

8.2 The Doctoral Committee shall consist of the Head of the Department as Chairman, at least two senior teachers of the Department, who shall be supervising teachers in the subjects coming under the purview of the department and the prospective supervising teachers, as members. Doctoral Committee in a University Department is a permanent body.

8.3 Only eligible applicants who have either qualified in the Entrance Test or been exempted from the Entrance Test as mentioned in Clause 7.1, shall be called for the interview.

8.4 In the case of Inter-University/Inter-School centres, the Doctoral Committee shall consist of the Hon. Director of the centre as Chairman, at least two senior teachers of the Centre/Statutory Departments who shall be supervising teachers in the subjects coming under the purview of the centre and the prospective supervising teachers, as members.

8.5 The Committee shall interview all eligible candidates. The candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before the duly constituted Doctoral Committee. The Committee has to consider whether the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research, the research work can be suitably undertaken at the research centre and the proposed area of research would contribute to new/additional knowledge. After the interview by the Doctoral Committee, a list of selected candidates shall be prepared based on 5.2. The Head of the Department, IU/IS Centre shall forward the list of all the recommended candidates along with their applications and all necessary documents to the Registrar, for registration.

9. Interview in Approved Research Centres

9.1 The applications for Ph.D. Programme, received before the prescribed date, with the names of supervising teachers from Approved Research Centres, suggested as their prospective research guides, shall be processed in the academic sections itself. Separate Doctoral Committees for each subject shall be constituted for the interview of such candidates.

9.2 Separate Doctoral Committees, for each subject shall be constituted for the interview of research scholars of Approved Research Centres. The Doctoral Committee shall consist of the Head of the University Department or the University Professor/Professor in approved research centre in the subject concerned as the Chairman/Chairperson and a Professor/Associate Professor of the University/Approved Research Centre, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as the Subject Expert. The Supervising Teachers suggested by the candidates shall also be the members of the Committee.

9.3 Due to unavoidable reasons if a research supervising teacher in a particular discipline is unable to attend the meeting of the Doctoral Committee, the same shall be informed in writing to the Chairman/Chairperson in advance.

9.4 In cases where Professors of the University/Approved research centres are not available as Chairman/Subject Expert, Professors/Associate Professors/ Experts in the subject with good guiding experience at Ph.D. level and working outside the university can be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

9.5

Only eligible applicants who have either qualified in the Entrance Test or been exempted from the Entrance Test as mentioned in Clause 7.1, shall be called for the interview. The other aspects of interview and recommendations are as detailed in 8.5 above. The Chairman/Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee shall prepare the list of all the selected candidates.

10. Any Time Registration

10.1 The following categories of candidates can apply for Ph.D. registration at any time in a University Department/Inter-School/Inter-University centres, and Approved Research Centres, if there exist vacancies under supervising teachers :

a. CSIR UGC - JRF / KSCSTE - JRF / DBT - JRF/ DST - INSPIRE / ICSSR/ MANF / RGNF / CSIR - SRF Fellowship Awardees
b. Candidates under Visvesvaraya Ph.D. scheme
c. DST Women Scientist Awardees
d. International students

10.2 The fellowship awardees shall apply for registration before the expiry of their award period.

11. Inter-disciplinary Research

Inter-disciplinary research is allowed in Statutory Departments, Inter-University/Inter-School centres and in Approved Research Centres.

12. Registration for Research

12.1 Registration is granted to a research scholar under a supervising teacher based on the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee. In interdisciplinary studies a co-guide shall also be granted by the Doctoral Committee if it is deemed necessary.

12.2 The registration orders of the research scholars shall be sent to them and also be published in the university website.

12.3 In Statutory Departments and Inter-University/Inter-School Centres, the research scholars, including those who have been granted registration in the part time mode, shall join the research centre immediately after obtaining the registration orders. They shall pay the fee to the university and to the concerned department/centre, as fixed by the university from time to time.

The scholars registered in the full time mode shall attend the Course Work for a continuous period of one semester that begins on the 1st of January every year (if not a holiday), unless otherwise notified. Those who are registered in the part time mode have the privilege to attend the Course Work in two spells, from 1st April to June 30th every year, within two consecutive years.

The effective date of registration shall be the date of joining the research centre after obtaining the registration order.

12.4 In Approved Research Centres, the research scholars including those who have been granted registration in the part time mode, shall join the research centre immediately after obtaining the registration orders. They shall pay the fee to the university and to the concerned centre, as fixed by the university from time to time.

The scholars registered in the full time mode shall attend the Course Work for a continuous period of one semester that begins on the 1st of January every year (if not a holiday), unless otherwise notified. Those who are registered in the part time mode have the privilege to attend the Course Work in two spells, from 1st April to June 30th every year, within two consecutive years.

The effective date of registration shall be the date of commencement of Course Work in the centre.

12.5 Candidates eligible for Any Time Registration, shall join the research centre immediately after obtaining the registration orders. They shall pay the fee to the university and to the concerned research centre, as fixed by the university from time to time.

They shall join the ensuing Course Work for a continuous period of one semester that begins on the 1st of January every year (if not a holiday), unless otherwise notified.

The effective date of registration shall be the date of joining the centre after obtaining the registration order.

12.6 The registration shall be confirmed only after successful completion of the Course Work. Extension may be granted to candidates who failed to clear the End Semester Examination of the Course Work in the first chance whether they are registered in full time or part time mode.

13. Part-time Registration

13.1 Candidates belonging to the following categories shall be granted initial part-time registration before Course Work.

a. Regular and permanent teachers from Government & Aided Colleges within the state or from the statutory Departments of all Universities in Kerala.

b. Permanent teachers of Govt./Aided/Central/Sainik/Navodaya Schools of the state.
c. Permanent teachers of IHRD colleges within the state.
d. Permanent teachers of Govt. /Aided Polytechnics in the state.
e. Regular employees from Industries/companies
f. Personnel in regular service in Defence/external affairs of Govt of India
g. Teachers of unaided colleges and unaided wing of the aided colleges affiliated to any of the universities in the state including Deemed universities and have put in a continuous period of 2 years service at the time of registration.
h. Foreign students shall not be allowed to do part-time research.

13.2 Candidates belonging to the following categories shall be eligible to apply for conversion of their full-time research to part-time after completion of the Course Work.

a. Regular and permanent employees working in Government/Quasi-government institutions within the state.
b. Scientists working in national/state level R&D institutions, medical doctors/nurses/special educators/clinical psychologists attached to Government/Quasi-government organizations.
c. Contract faculty/research fellows appointed for a minimum period of one year during the period of their contract in any regular academic/research institutions within the state.
d. Teachers in unaided colleges and unaided wing of the aided colleges affiliated to all the universities in the state including Deemed universities, Guest lecturers in aided and Government colleges affiliated to the university and teachers working on FDP leave vacancy in colleges within the state, during the period of their service.
e. Bank employees of Nationalized/Co-operative banks.
f. Contract/Guest teachers of Govt./Aided Higher Secondary School teachers, within the state.
g. Permanent teachers of CBSE schools within the state.

13.3 Candidates belonging to category 13.1 and 13.2 shall produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the employer/manager for part-time registration. They shall also produce an undertaking from the employer to the effect that the relieving of the employee from the institution shall be intimated to the University in time. They shall also produce a certificate of continuance of service from the employer along with each half yearly progress report.

Other Conditions

13.4 Registration shall be granted to foreign candidates only if they are on proper visa issued for research scholars/students with necessary clearance from Government

of India.

13.5 Conversion of research period from full time to part time shall be granted by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Supervising Teacher and the Head of the Research Centre.

13.6 The University shall maintain the list of all Ph.D. registered students on its website on year wise basis with the details such as the name of registered candidate, topic of research, name of supervisor/co-supervisor, and date of registration.

14. Duration of the Programme

14.1 Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including Course Work for both full-time and part-time research scholars except in the case of candidates mentioned at clause 4.6. The maximum period of research shall be six years for full-time research scholars and eight years for part-time research scholars. In the case of M.Phil., M.Ed., M.Sc. (by research), M.Tech. and M.D. degree holders, the minimum period of research permissible to a candidate for submission of the thesis from the date of registration shall be two and half years (5 semesters) including the period of Course Work (six months), provided the research is in the same discipline in which the candidate has taken the above degree.

14.2 In exceptional circumstances, for the completion of the research work and submission of thesis, extension of research period shall be granted, in accordance with the prevailing University orders, to both full time and part time research scholars.

14.3 Women candidates and candidates with disability of more than 40% shall be allowed a relaxation of two years, in the maximum duration.

15. Fellowships

15.1 University Junior Research Fellowships may be made available for a maximum period of three years to a limited number of candidates registered for Ph. D programme each year. Selection in this regard shall be made on the basis of merit from among the candidates except UGC Teacher Fellows, holders of JRF, other Fellowships and pensioners. The University shall determine annually the number of such fellowships on the availability of funds and notify them separately.

15.2 University Junior Research Fellowships shall be given up to two years normally. Extension of fellowship to the third year will be based on the progress of the research work evidenced by at least one publication in a refereed journal in the UGC-CARE list and presentation of at least one paper in a

national/international conference.

16. Place of Research

16.1 Research shall be carried out by a research scholar in a University Department/Inter-School/Inter-University Centre or in an approved research centre in an affiliated College or in an institution recognized as a research centre under these regulations.

17. Supervising Teachers within the University Departments/Centres

17.1 Only regular and permanent teachers with Ph.D. in Statutory Teaching Departments can act as supervising teachers. They do not require any formal recognition as research guides in order to supervise research work in the Department concerned.

The following category of teachers also can undertake research guidance as part of their duty as assigned by the Department provided they have the following qualifications: Any regular Professor of the University Departments of teaching and research in the University with at least five research publications in refereed/peer reviewed journals in the UGC-CARE list, and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of the University Department of Teaching and Research in the University with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed/peer reviewed journals in the UGC-CARE list shall be recognized as Research Supervisor. Provided in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed/peer reviewed journals, the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendations of the University Research Committee, shall relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor.

17.2 Only regular and permanent teachers with Ph.D. in Statutory Teaching Departments shall act as supervising teachers in Inter-University/ Inter-School Centres.

However, supervisors who have been granted approval as guides in Approved Research Centres, may act as Research Supervisors in the concerned subject, in the Inter University and Inter School centres of the University, as per the existing University orders.

17.3 External research supervisors shall not be allowed in University Departments/ Inter-University/ Inter-School Centres. However, external research supervisors from other Departments/ Inter-University/ Inter-School Centres/ other Institutions of national excellence for research shall be allowed as co-supervisor with the approval of the Doctoral Committee.

17.4 Faculty members/Scientist appointed on tenure track basis as per UGC rules and

regulations/GOs can supervise research students. In such cases a regular permanent research supervisor of a related university Department/approved research centre shall act as a co-supervisor.

18. Supervising Teachers in Approved Research Centres

18.1 Only regular and approved teachers of the Government and Aided Colleges affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University and permanent scientists with Ph.D. in approved national institutions established either by the state Government or central Government Act for the promotion of research within the state are eligible to act as research supervisors in their respective research centre.

18.2 Application for recognition as supervising teacher in an approved research centre shall be made in the prescribed form with the necessary fee.

18.3 Undertaking from the research supervisors shall be obtained to the effect that they are acting as supervising teachers in Mahatma Gandhi University only.

18.4 To be recognized as a research supervisor in a particular subject, the candidate must have a Doctorate Degree in the concerned/relevant/allied subject obtained from Mahatma Gandhi University or from other Universities recognized by Mahatma Gandhi University and the University Grants Commission. Such a person shall have at least two research publications in his/her subject, published in UGC-CARE list of journals of national/ international standing. Provided in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed/peer reviewed journals, the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendations of the University Research Committee, shall relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor.

18.5 A Scientist in regular service of an approved national research institution having a Ph.D. degree and holding the rank equivalent to a University Assistant Professor and above shall be eligible to apply for recognition as research supervisor. He/she should have two research publications on his/her subject published in refereed journals of national/international standing in the UGC-CARE list of journals.

18.6 The Supervising Teachers who have not been active in the research activities of the research centres continuously for a period of five years without any projects or publication or technical reports shall cease to be the approved research supervisors of the University in the subject concerned. The guideship of such teachers shall be revived on submission of new application with recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee and Head of the research centre. A committee shall be constituted in every five years for the evaluation of the performance of supervising teachers.

18.7 Norms for Shifting of Research Centre of a Research Guide

a. Students should submit separate applications for change of centre.
b. NOC from the Manager of the College, where the research guide is working as Asst./Assoc. Professor.
c. NOC from the Principal of the Research Centre, where the research guide is working as Guide.
d. NOC from the Principal/HOD of the Centre to which shifting is proposed.
e. Undertaking from all research scholars working under the guide, agreeing to continue their remnant research work in the centre to which shifting is being proposed.
f. Recommendation of the University Research Committee for permitting the shifting of the Centre and approved by Syndicate.

18.8 Faculty members/Scientist appointed on tenure track basis as per UGC rules and regulations/GOs can supervise research students. In such cases a regular permanent research supervisor of a related university Department/approved research centre shall act as a co-supervisor.

19.Number of Candidates Under a Supervising Teacher

19.1 A Supervising Teacher who is a Professor shall not have, at any given point of time, more than 8 Ph.D. and 3 M.Phil. scholars working under him/her. An Associate Professor shall not have more than 6 Ph.D. and 2 M.Phil. scholars whereas an Assistant Professor shall not have more than 4 Ph.D. and 1 M.Phil. scholars. However, a supervising teacher may guide a Ph.D. scholar in addition to the above limits if the candidate belongs to SC/ST category and pursues research under RGNF scheme. A supervising teacher can also guide one international student from a foreign country in addition to the sanctioned intake.

19.2 In addition to the above, a Professor, an Associate Professor and an Assistant Professor shall co-supervise 4, 3 and 2 research students, respectively.

19.3 A Supervising Teacher shall not guide any of his close relatives (spouses, parents, children, brothers, sisters, first cousins, nephew, nieces, uncles, aunts and in-laws) as guide or co-guide or external expert.

19.4 Submission of thesis shall be treated as a vacancy. Each research centre shall submit a statement to the university reporting vacancies existing under each guide as on 31st of January and 31st May, every year.

19.5 The vacancy position under a research supervising teacher shall be reckoned as on November 30th, in every year of admission, for registration of a candidate under

his/her supervision.

20. Allocation of Supervising Teachers

20.1 Candidates may suggest the name and official details of the prospective research supervising teacher, in the application form for registration for Ph.D. Programme.

An interview is to be organized by the University as detailed in 8 and 9 above. The Doctoral Committee shall recommend for the registration to Ph.D. Programme of the candidates, with appropriate supervising teachers allocated.

In the case of inter-disciplinary research, the Doctoral Committee can consider recommending a co-supervisor to a candidate from the same department/other centres/outside the university in addition to the supervising teacher, if it deems so.

20.2 If a co-supervisor is found essential during the course of research, a co-supervisor may be inducted with the recommendations of the Doctoral Committee of University Departments/Inter-University/Inter-School Centres or Research Advisory Committee of Approved Research Centres. The University Research Committee can accept the recommendation of Research Advisory Committee. The co-supervisor need not be an approved research supervisor of the University.

21. Change of the Supervising Teacher

21.1 Normally, a change of the Supervising Teacher shall not be allowed. However, on the following grounds guide change may be allowed by the Syndicate.

a. Death of the research guide.
b. At the time of retirement/transfer of the research supervising teacher or the research guide being appointed on deputation.
c. Physical inability of the research guide.
d. Consent of existing and prospective guides on exceptional ground.
e. Proven misconduct on the part of the guide or scholar.
f. Any adverse report by BASG, against the research supervisor that has been approved by VC.

21.2 Cancellation of guideship on the following ground my be allowed by the syndicate

a. Due to death of the research guide
b. In case of dual guideship
c. Physical inability of the research guide
d. Proven misconduct on the part of the guide
e. Transfer to an institution outside the jurisdiction of University. During the period of the service of the supervising teacher outside the University,

fresh research scholars shall not be registered under his/her guidance. The transferred guide shall complete the research work of students registered under his/her guidance.

f. Any adverse report by BASG, against the research supervisor that has been approved by VC.

22. Recognition of Institutions as Research Centres

22.1 It shall be competent for the Syndicate to recognize any University Department/ Inter-University Centre/Inter-School Centre/Government /Aided College affiliated to University or a research institution established within the state by an act of State/Central government for promotion of research with the following provisions.

a. An institution seeking recognition of the university shall conform to the standards, aims and objectives of the University and its programmes of teaching and research.

b. The institution seeking recognition shall either be an affiliated Government/Aided college with PG department in the concerned/relevant/allied discipline, in the aided regular stream or research laboratories of Government of India/State, situates within the state, established by an act of either the Central Government or the State Government for the promotion of research.

c. Research centres can also be given to well-reputed self-supporting institutions having NAAC A grade/NIRF ranking within 200 which comply with all the rules and regulations of the University. In such cases, the management shall give in writing that it will ensure the continuity of the research guides for a candidate's research period as prescribed by the UGC. It is the responsibility of the Management to ensure the smooth continuance of the research of a student. In case of any violation to this requirement, an appropriate fine, decided by the Syndicate, must be levied from the Management.

d. The institution seeking recognition shall be housed in its own building with all facilities for research. It should also be running an academic programme of quality in the relevant/related/allied subject that could be deemed to be a feeder programme for doctoral research.

e. It must have at least 2 doctorate degree holders (at least one from the same centre) in concerned/relevant/allied subject who satisfy the eligibility conditions for being recognized as supervising teachers under these regulations.

f. In case a faculty with Ph.D. is working in a UG Department then he/she shall be granted guideship in a concerned/relevant/allied discipline in the same college or a research centre affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University in the concerned/relevant/allied discipline as that of the faculty seeking guideship.

g. The institution shall have its own infrastructure facilities such as library, laboratory, equipments and exhibition materials conforming to the standard of a good research centre. There shall be uninterrupted power and water supply. There shall be supporting administrative facilities. Also there shall be adequate space for research scholars in the centre for reading, writing and storing study and research materials. The library shall have at least 5000 original books (text books/popular books shall not be counted) useful for researchers in the discipline/area of research concerned. In the case of interdisciplinary research the library shall have at least 5000 original books in each of the subject concerned (text books/popular books shall not be counted). It must also have subscribed to at least 10 journals including e-journals of national and international standard. Internet facility is compulsory. E-books shall also be included.

h. The institution shall exhibit evidence of availability of research facilities to carry out active research in the centre.

i. In the case of inter-disciplinary research in an approved research centre of an affiliated college, the name of the research centre shall be the name of the PG Department of concerned indicating the interdisciplinary subject in brackets.

j. In order to promote research in interdisciplinary areas, research centres can be given in broad interdisciplinary areas such as Life science, Physical Science, Social Science etc..

k. In order to promote research in education and physical education, research centres can be given to Govt/Aided colleges with a PG programme in the concerned/allied/related subject in aided/self supporting stream.

22.2 Application for recognition as research centre shall be made in the prescribed form with the prescribed fee.

22.3 The University Syndicate shall, if it is satisfied that the application is in order, appoint an Inspection Commission to verify the physical and academic facilities available at the institution.

22.4 The Syndicate shall conduct periodic inspections in the research centres to ascertain whether the terms and conditions imposed on the institutions at the time of granting recognition are fulfilled. The Syndicate shall, by order, withdraw recognition of such institutions either for non-fulfilment of conditions or for

finding them unfit for continuance of recognition. In such case Research Centre can file appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within 30 days from the date of the recognition withdrawal letter. The Vice-Chancellor can propose the Syndicate to reconsider the same, if necessary.

22.5 If deemed necessary, annual assessment of research activities in all research Departments/Inter-University Centres/Inter-School Centres/Approved Research Centres shall be carried out by a Committee constituted by the Syndicate.

23. Research Advisory Committee

In the case of approved research centres, a Research Advisory Committee shall be constituted with a minimum of four members. At least one external expert and one guide from each subject of research of those centres shall be members of the committee. The Head of the research centre shall be the chairman and convenor of the committee. The supervising teacher of the research scholar shall be present as a member in all meetings of the research committee that consider the issues relating to the performance and progress of the candidate under his/her guidance.

24. Periodical Review of Research Work and Progress Report

24.1 The Doctoral Committee/Research Advisory Committee shall periodically review the progress of the research work of the scholars in University Departments and Approved Centres respectively. A single page report shall be forwarded. A research scholar shall appear before the Doctoral Committee/ Research Advisory Committee once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work and for further guidance. Each Ph.D. scholar shall be asked to make 30 minutes to 1 hour presentation.

24.2 In the case of the Approved Research Centres, the half-yearly progress report signed by the supervising teacher, external expert and Head of the Research Centre, along with details of monthly attendance signed by the supervising teacher and Head of the Institution shall be forwarded to the University.

In University Departments/Inter-University/Inter-School centres, the half-yearly progress report signed by the supervising teacher, and Head of the Research Centre, along with details of monthly attendance signed by the supervising teacher and Head of the Institution shall be forwarded to the University.

24.3 In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Doctoral Committee/Research Advisory Committee of the concerned University Department/Approved Research Centre shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures the Doctoral Committee/ Research Advisory Committee shall

recommend to the Vice-Chancellor with specific reasons for cancellation of registration of the research scholar.

24.4 These will be implemented in letter and spirit, failure of which will cause cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

25. Director of Research

25.1 There shall be an Honorary Director of Research in the University with office support for coordinating the administration of research in the University. The Director shall coordinate the University Departments, Inter-university/Inter-school centres and the approved research centres as well as the different sections in the University office dealing with matters of Ph.D. research, including thesis evaluation.

25.2 The Director of Research shall advice the Vice-Chancellor, if required, on all affairs dealing with the research. The Director is to be nominated from among the University Professors by the Vice-Chancellor for a period of three years.

26. University Research Committee

26.1 There shall be a University Research Committee (URC) in the university to advice the Vice-Chancellor on all matters concerning research. The Director of Research shall be the convenor and secretary of the committee and shall be in charge of preparing the agenda and minutes of the meeting, upon the orders of the Vice-Chancellor.

26.2 The members of the University Research Committee other than ex-officio members (a-f) shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of their nomination. The University Research Committee shall consist of:

a. Vice-Chancellor (Chairman)
b. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Vice Chairman)
c. Registrar
d. Convenor of Syndicate Standing Committee on R & D
e. Director of Research (Convenor)
f. Director of College Development Council
g. Two Deans of Faculties
h. One Professor of the University Departments/Schools
i. Two Associate Professors / Assistant Professors from the University Departments/Schools
j. One professor from an approved research centre
k. Four Professors/Associate Professors (research guides) from approved research centres (at least one from Government college)

27. Privileges of Research Scholars

27.1 Candidates, who have been registered as full-time research scholars and who pay all the fees that are to be paid normally by the research scholars shall be entitled to avail all the privileges of regular students of the concerned centre. However, they shall cease to enjoy the privileges of the full-time students of the respective University Department/approved centre, if they convert their research to part-time.

27.2 Relocation of woman scholar

a) In case of relocation of a Ph.D. woman scholar due to personal reasons, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all 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 shall however give due credit to the parent guide as co-guide and the parent institution as co-institution for the part of research already done.

b) Fresh application shall be submitted along with all relevant documents including the following:
   - The marklist of Course Work examination, if she has successfully completed the same.
   - NOC from parent guide, centre head and Registrar of the parent institution.
   - Certificate from the parent institution showing that the work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/ supervisor from any funding agency.

c) The scholar shall attend the Doctoral Committee and can continue research only if the Doctoral Committee allocates the supervising teacher and approves the academic content of the research work already done.

28. Attendance and Leave

28.1 A full-time research scholar shall mark the attendance on the register both forenoon and afternoon sessions under the supervision of the research supervisor and control of the Head of the research centre. The attendance of teacher fellows under UGC-FDP shall be monitored by the Head of the research centre as per the guidelines of the Directorate of Collegiate Education in force.

28.2 The attendance of the research scholar shall be strictly monitored by the supervising teacher. If it is necessary for a research scholar to leave the centre of

research to engage in field work, library visit etc. related to research work, the supervising teacher shall allow the research scholar for the same with the approval of the Head of the research Centre and make proper remarks in the attendance register. Such absence of the research scholar shall be treated as present for the purpose of attendance. The period thus spent outside the research centre shall not exceed six months at a time.

28.3 A full-time research scholar shall be eligible to avail twenty days of casual leave and thirty days of special casual leave with fellowship for research related matters such as participation in conferences/workshops in a year. There shall be no vacation for full-time research scholars.

28.4 In exceptional cases, the Vice-Chancellor shall, on grounds which she confides as sufficient and reasonable, grant leave up to four months as Special Leave for a full-time research scholar during the entire period of research. However, the period of Special Leave shall not be counted for fellowship.

28.5 A female research scholar shall be entitled to avail Maternity Leave/Child Care leave as per UGC regulation prevailing at the time of research.

28.6 On medical grounds, six months leave shall be availed without any fellowship and it shall be reckoned within the total period of research.

28.7 Leave shall be granted by the Vice-Chancellor with the recommendation of the Supervising Teacher for a period of 2 years to a full-time research scholar for taking up of fellowships for pursuing part of research work within the country/abroad on topics that are closely related to his/her area of research. In such cases the research shall be carried out under the guidance of the host supervising teacher in the host institution. Half yearly progress reports prepared by the supervising teacher shall be forwarded by the Head of the research centre to the University regularly with a certificate on the progress of research from the host supervising teacher after conducting online half yearly presentation.

28.8 All leave except Casual Leave shall be granted by the Vice-Chancellor.

29. Confirmation of the Research Topic and Change of the Topic/Area of Research

The discipline and topic of research work shall be finalized by Doctoral Committee at the time of the Doctoral Interview. Those who need topic/area change shall apply within the period of the first four semesters through proper channel by remitting the required fee and with the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee/Research Advisory Committee for the concerned subject. Scholars of Approved Research Centres shall attend the ensuing Doctoral Interview also. Once area change is granted, the candidate shall have to repeat the

Ph.D. Course Work for Paper III along with the next immediate batch. However, the total period of research shall remain the same.

30. Title of Thesis

30.1 Any proposal for the change of title of research work shall be considered at the time of Pre-Ph.D. Presentation. Change of title shall be noted in the report of Pre-Ph.D. Presentation. The fee towards 'Change of title' as prescribed by the University from time to time shall be remitted by the scholar. The Assistant Registrar concerned is authorized to issue University orders in this regard, on the basis of the report of Pre-Ph.D. Presentation. The Director of Research shall issue certificate of Pre-Ph.D. Presentation by including the new title, as per the University order issued in this regard.

30.2 Research scholars are permitted to write the title of the research work in their Ph.D. synopsis and thesis in any letter form (capital letter, small letter or both) irrespective of the form of the letters used in the registration order for showing the title of their research work. Also, the title shall be printed in bold, italicized, underlined or the use of any of the three, irrespective of the form of the letters used in the Registration Order for showing the title of their research work, and also with the stipulation that there shall be no change in spelling, punctuation marks used and letter spacing.

31. Restriction on Employment/Study

31.1 A full time research scholar shall not engage himself/herself in any other employment which is remunerative in nature. Any such instance shall lead to the cancellation of his/her registration

31.2 A full-time research scholar shall not engage himself/herself in any other study which requires regular attendance.

31.3 A research scholar who works as Project Fellow in a funded research project on a topic which is identical to the subject matter of his/her research in the same institution where he/she is doing research shall abstain from the project during the period of course work.

32. Cancellation of Registration

32.1 If a research scholar intends to cancel his/her registration, after clearing all the dues, he/she can apply for the same with the recommendation of the research

supervising teacher and the Head of the research centre.

32.2 The Vice-Chancellor shall cancel the registration of any research student for unsatisfactory progress in research or conduct of the scholar, on recommendation of the research supervising teacher.

32.3 The Vice-Chancellor shall also cancel the registration of a full-time research scholar on the recommendations of the Doctoral Committee / Research Advisory Committee for their absence at the centre of research beyond the prescribed time limit.

33. Discontinuance of Research

33.1 The absence of full-time research scholar beyond the permitted period of leave shall lead to cancellation of registration due to discontinuance. In the case of part-time research scholars, non-compliance of rules regarding submission of progress reports for two terms or his/her failure to seek guidance of the supervising teacher for more than six months shall lead to his/her cancellation of registration.

33.2 Research students thus removed from the rolls, if they want to continue their work, shall be required to re-register themselves by submitting an application with the proper recommendations of Doctoral Committee/ Research Advisory Committee paying all arrears of fee and the re-admission fee. In such cases the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendations of the Supervising teacher and Head of the institution with due justification, shall condone the break of research period, if he/she so deserves.

33.3 Re-registration shall be granted only once and that too, within the maximum period of research permitted. The maximum period of research of such candidate shall be the same as in the case of others as noted at 14.1, 14.2 & 14.3.

34. De-registration and Re-registration

34.1 A candidate can choose to de-register any time after the completion of the minimum period of research (two and half years or three years, as the case may be).

34.2 A de-registered student's exit will be treated as a vacancy under the guide.

34.3 Re-registration for the submission of thesis shall be given even if there is no existing vacancy under the research supervisor.

34.4 A de-registered scholar can apply for re-registration by remitting the re-

registration fee and submit the thesis within three months from the date of re-registration or within the maximum period of research (including permissible extension and grace time) admissible, whichever is earlier. If the re-registration is done within the permissible period of extensions or grace time, the fee for the same shall also be remitted by the research scholar. They also have to satisfy the usual formalities as applicable to them at the time of the submission of the thesis.

35. Pre-Ph.D. Presentation

35.1 On completion of research and the draft thesis, the research scholar shall make a Pre-Ph.D. Presentation on the thesis in the University Department / Approved Research Centre concerned. This shall be open to all faculty members and research students whose feedback and comments shall be considered by the research scholar for suitable incorporation into the draft thesis under the advice of the supervising teacher.

35.2 The date for the Pre-Ph.D. Presentation shall be fixed by the Head of the University Department / Head of the Approved Research Centre concerned on the request of the supervising teacher. At least seven days notice along with a one page outline of the thesis shall be made available to the faculty members and research students so as to make their participation in the presentation effective.

35.3 In the case of scholars from Approved Research Centres, the request of the supervising teacher recommended by the Head of the institution for conducting the presentation shall be forwarded to the Director of Research.

35.4 In case the Pre-Ph.D. Presentation is conducted through online mode, in University Department / Approved Research Centre, it shall be recorded and sent to the Director of Research via e-mail.

35.5 The Dean of the Faculty shall be invited to the presentation. The Head of the Department /Research Centre shall make a report on the presentation of the research scholar and forward it to the office of the Director of Research. The Director of Research shall thereafter, issue a certificate regarding the Pre-Ph.D. Presentation to the scholar.

35.6 The Synopsis shall be submitted within six months after Pre-Ph.D. Presentation.

35.7 Before Pre-Ph.D. Presentation, the research scholar shall, through the research supervising teacher, submit evidence of publications in the CARE List of UGC, to the Director of Research.

36. Pre-Ph.D. Publications and Paper Presentations

36.1 A research scholar shall publish at least one research paper in a refereed journal of national or international standing which is in the UGC-CARE list and make two paper presentations in seminars/conferences before the submission of the thesis for adjudication, and shall forward a copy of the research paper (or acceptance letter along with a copy of the accepted manuscript, in case the paper is accepted for publication at a later date) and certificates of paper presentations attested by the research supervisor to the office of the Director of Research.

36.2 The supervising teacher should certify that the publication forms part of the thesis.

36.3 The research scholar shall submit the certificate of the Pre-Ph.D. Presentation, copies of published paper and certificates of paper presentations (36.1) attested by the research supervisor and Director of Research at the time of submission of the synopsis.

37. Application for Adjudication of Ph.D. Thesis

37.1 On completion of the draft thesis and the Pre-Ph.D. Presentation, the scholar shall submit application for adjudication of Ph.D. thesis through the supervising teacher and Head of the institution along with six copies of the synopsis of the proposed thesis in about 1500 words with the title of the thesis. A PDF copy of the synopsis shall also be submitted. The PDF copy of the synopsis shall be sent to all examiners in the panel by e-mail. The experts shall be requested to go through the synopsis and give their consent to become adjudicators for evaluation of the thesis within a period of one month. The examiners who have given their consent will also have to submit an undertaking (in the form provided by the University) that they will submit the report of the thesis evaluation within a period of 45 days from receipt of the thesis. The application for the adjudication of Ph.D. thesis accompanied by the synopsis and the fee prescribed by the University for the purpose shall be submitted to the Controller of Examinations. Submission of thesis shall be made within three months from the date of submission of synopsis or before the expiry of research period, whichever is earlier.

37.2 The application for adjudication of the thesis shall be accompanied by a letter from the supervising teacher, forwarded by the Head of the Research Centre. The supervising teacher shall ensure that all the 12 experts have agreed to evaluate the thesis. A statement from the supervising teacher on the acceptance of all these experts, must be submitted along with the panel

37.3 Apart from other certificates and documents, the following documents shall also accompany the application for the adjudication of the thesis:

a. Six hard copies and soft copy of the synopsis in CD.
b. Copy of Grade card/evidence for having qualified in the Course Work.

c. Certificate from the Director of Research regarding Pre-Ph.D. Presentation.
d. Certificates of two paper presentations and copy of the research paper published in a refereed journal, or the letter of acceptance along with copy of the accepted paper, which shall be published in a refereed journal listed in the UGC-CARE list, duly certified by the Supervising Teacher and Director of Research.
e. An Author Approval Form duly signed by the student and supervising teacher.
f. Panel of examiners
g. Forwarding letter from the Head of the research centre.
h. A written statement from the supervising teacher on the willingness of all the experts to evaluate the thesis.

38. Panel of Examiners

38.1 A panel of examiners from recognized university/research institutions of national and international standing, prepared by the supervising teacher shall be forwarded through the Head of the Institution to the Controller of Examinations.

38.2 The panel of examiners shall be submitted in the prescribed format in a sealed envelope at the time of submission of the synopsis. The panel shall consist of the names of minimum 12 experts of national or international standing, known for their integrity and judgment and having not less than 10 years of research/teaching experience in the relevant area after obtaining Ph.D. in the subject concerned. The experts in the panel should not have any direct relationship with the researcher and in no way associated with the research work of the student..

38.3 The panel of examiners shall be approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

38.4 The Board of three examiners for adjudication of thesis and the Chairman of the viva-voce examination shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the panel of examiners submitted by the supervising teacher based on the general stipulations made in that respect by the Syndicate. The Vice-Chancellor shall be competent to add or delete names from the panel suggested by the supervising teacher.

38.5 The experts shall be from outside the jurisdiction of the university and at least 50% of them shall be from outside Kerala, except in the case of subjects like Malayalam.

39. Submission of Thesis

39.1 After completion of the prescribed minimum period of research, a candidate shall be eligible to submit his/her thesis. The candidate shall submit four hard copies of the thesis and two soft copies thereof together with the prescribed fee to the Controller of Examinations through the research centre. The thesis shall be submitted within three months from the date of submission of the Synopsis or before the expiry of the research period whichever is earlier.

The thesis shall be accompanied by a declaration by the candidate that the thesis has not been previously formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma or other titles. The thesis shall also be accompanied by a certificate from the supervising teacher, based on a UGC/University approved plagiarism software supported check report issued by the University Librarian to the effect that it is a record of bonafide work carried out by the candidate under his/her supervision and that the percentage of plagiarism in the thesis is only up to 10% .

39.2 If a candidate fails to submit the thesis within three months from the date of submission of synopsis, the Controller of Examinations may, if the research period of the candidate has not expired, permit the candidate to submit the thesis within a grace period up to one month (after the due date from the date of submission of the synopsis) with prescribed fee.

39.3 In exceptional cases, where the prescribed fee is paid, the Vice-Chancellor may, based on the recommendations of the supervising teacher and the Head of the Research Centre/University Department, condone a delay for a period upto one year from the due date of submission of thesis, provided the candidate has valid research period. The case of further condonation, if required, will be decided by the Syndicate on the basis of imposing a higher fine.

39.4 In the case of languages where the software is not available for plagiarism check, manual check may be done. The supervising teacher shall certify that the thesis is a record of bonafide work carried out by the candidate under his/her supervision and the percentage of plagiarism in the thesis is only 10% or below.

39.5 On receiving the thesis, a certificate signed by the Section Officer acknowledging the receipt of the same shall be issued to the research scholar.

40. Adjudication of Thesis

40.1 The thesis shall be adjudicated by a Board with three examiners appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the panel of examiners submitted. One of the examiners shall be the Chairman for the conduct of Viva-Voce.

40.2 The examiners shall submit a report on the merit of the work embodied in the thesis and state whether the thesis is recommended for the award of the Ph.D. degree within a period of 45 days from the receipt of the thesis. If the report is not

received within 45 days, notice must be given to the evaluator for their evaluation report within another 7 days. If no report is received from an evaluator within 60 days, the thesis shall be sent to the next evaluator from the panel, already approved by the Vice Chancellor. At the same time this information must be conveyed to the evaluator who did not comply with the deadline. The examiners should also indicate in which respect the thesis affords evidence of originality. The Syndicate shall accept the unanimous opinion of the Board of three Examiners.

40.3 If one of the examiners does not recommend the award of the degree, the thesis shall be referred to a fourth examiner for evaluation. Only after getting a positive recommendation from this reviewer further process shall be initiated.

40.4 If two or all examiners (among the Board of three examiners/in the case of the thesis being evaluated by the fourth examiner) are not in favour of recommending the degree and the thesis requires resubmission, it shall be mentioned clearly in the reports of the adjudicators. The scholar shall be informed accordingly and provided with the comments made by the adjudicators. The scholar shall be permitted to resubmit a revised version of the thesis after a period of six months, but within ten months from the date on which he/she has been informed of the results of evaluation of the thesis. The evaluation process shall be repeated for the resubmitted thesis. Further extension of period, if any, shall be considered by the Vice-Chancellor on the basis of merit.

40.5 The Board of Examiners once appointed to adjudicate the thesis shall normally evaluate the revised thesis. If any member of the Board of Examiners expresses unwillingness to evaluate the revised thesis, substitutes shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the already approved panel of examiners. However, it shall be competent for the Vice-Chancellor to appoint fresh set of examiners to adjudicate the thesis, for sufficient reasons. The revised thesis shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

40.6 A candidate shall not be allowed to submit his/her thesis for more than two times. However, it shall be competent for the Syndicate, on the specific recommendation of the Board of Examiners, to permit the scholar to submit his/her thesis for a third time.

40.7 The University shall formulate appropriate methods to get the entire process of evaluation of the thesis for Ph.D. completed within a period of four months from the date of submission of the thesis. The appointment of an examiner who fails to give his/her report within 45 days shall be cancelled and he/she would be advised to send the thesis back. The thesis shall then be forwarded to a fresh examiner whose name has already been marked as standby in the panel by the Vice-Chancellor.

41. Ph.D. Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce : Constitution of the Board

41.1 After receiving the positive recommendations from three evaluators, the Chairman of the Board of examiners (from the panel already approved by the Vice-Chancellor) shall be intimated for conducting viva-voce.

41.2 The Controller of Examinations shall constitute a board for the conduct of the Open Defence and Viva-voce. The constitution of the Board shall be as follows:

a. The Chairman of the Board of adjudicators who will preside over the Open Defence and Viva-voce.
b. The Dean of the concerned faculty as the representative of the University
c. The Supervising Teacher who will be the Convener

In the absence / any inconvenience of the Dean, any senior Professor in the concerned faculty nominated by the Vice-Chancellor shall be the second member of the Board.

42. Ph.D. Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce : Invitations

42.1 The thesis recommended by the Board of Adjudicators for the award of Ph.D. degree shall be defended by the research scholar at the Public Viva-Voce and Open Defence before the Board specially constituted for the purpose. The Controller of Examinations shall inform the date, time and venue for the conduct of the Open Defence and Viva-Voce as per the date provided by the Chairman of the Board of Adjudicators in consultation with faculty Dean, ensuring a gap of at least 7 days, in between, so as to enable the Convener to extend invitations to the participants. A notice duly signed by the Convener shall be issued indicating the name of the student, title of the thesis, time, date and venue of the Open Defence, shall be displayed on the Notice Board.

42.2 After getting confirmation of the conduct of Open Defence and Viva-Voce, the supervising teacher shall send invitations by e-mail to at least 50 Faculty members/Scientists/Research Associates/Scholars who are interested in the topic. While sending the invitations to the participants for the Open Defence and Viva-Voce, a one-page synopsis of the Ph.D. thesis shall also be sent to them along with the invitation. The list of invitees signed by the supervising teacher shall be forwarded to the Controller of Examinations after the Open Defence and Viva-Voce.

42.3 The Open Defence shall be organized by the supervising teacher in consultation with the Head of the University Department where the Open Defence is scheduled to be conducted. In the case of students working in recognised research centres, the venue of the Open Defence shall be the concerned University Department. Invited scholars and enthusiasts interested in the subject may also attend the Open

Defence.

In exceptional cases, where the physical availability of Chairman is a genuine issue, open defence can be arranged through video conferencing in the University Department with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor. In such cases the candidate shall make a presentation as in Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce, and the Chairman shall intervene the Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce through video conferencing. In such cases the entire procedures shall be recorded and submitted to the Controller of Examinations.

42.4 The candidate, supervising teacher and Dean shall be given in advance the copies of the comments made by the examiners on the thesis.

42.5 A copy of the Ph.D. thesis shall be kept in the Department Library of the Department concerned, at least three days in advance for the purpose of reference to those who are interested in the topic.

43. Conduct of Open Defence and Viva-voce and the Proceedings

43.1 The research supervisor shall welcome the gathering and introduce the Chairman/Chairperson, and the theme of presentation and the research student. The Chairman/Chairperson shall conduct the proceedings.

43.2 The research scholar shall present a summary of his/her thesis for duration not less than 45 minutes. The student can use audiovisual aids for the presentation. The student shall clearly indicate in his/her presentation:

a. General back ground and objectives
b. Methodology
c. Results
d. Summary of conclusions and recommendations
e. Important references
f. Acknowledgements
g. List of publications and presentations in conferences etc.

The presentation shall be followed by the observations made by the Chairman/Chairperson and the Chairman/Chairperson can ask questions to him/her based on the comments in the adjudication reports. Subsequently the participants in the Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce can ask questions related to the topic. The Chairman/Chairperson can disallow questions, which according to him/her are not relevant to the topic.

43.3 Under unavoidable circumstances due to the physical inability of a research

supervisor, the Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce can be conducted in the absence of the supervisor with permission from the Vice-Chancellor. In such cases, the Head of the respective University Department has to convene the Open Defence and Public Viva-voce.

43.4 The minimum number of genuine participants for the conduct of Open Defence shall be 25 and the genuine participants for this purpose, shall be the research guides, research scholars, M.Phil., and PG students in the subject of study concerned or allied/relevant areas.

Participants:

a. Research guides of the university in the discipline/related disciplines
b. Experts from local research institutions/research centres by invitation.
c. Doctoral students/Post-doctoral Fellows/M.Phil./PG students in the discipline/related disciplines and enthusiasts interested in the subject.
d. Chairman/Chairperson of the Board of adjudicators of the Ph.D. thesis of the student
e. The Supervising Teacher as Convener
f. The Dean of the concerned Faculty
g. The Head of the Department

It shall be the duty of the research guide to conduct the viva-voce in its true spirit. Under no circumstances, kids and non-experts (other than the participants mentioned above (a.-g.)) shall be allowed in the examination hall. The matter mentioned in this 43.4 shall be conveyed to the guide and the candidate at the time of viva-voce.

43.5 The Board of the Open Defence shall judge the performance of the candidate in the Open Defence and declare the recommendation at the end of the Open Defence. The evaluation report along with minutes of the Open Defence in the prescribed format duly signed by the members of the Board shall have to be forwarded to the Controller of Examinations on the same day immediately after Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce. The list of participants duly signed by the members of the Board and Head of the University Department shall accompany the minutes of the Open Defence. In the report, it shall be mentioned whether the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy can be awarded or not. If the performance of the candidate in the Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce is not satisfactory, the Board may recommend for another Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce.

44. Conferment of the Degree of Ph. D.

44.1 The Controller of Examinations, on receipt of the report of the Chairman, recommending the conferment of the degree of Ph.D. to the research scholar, shall

submit the same along with the reports of the examiners before the Syndicate.

44.2 The Syndicate, on the basis of the reports of the examiners and of the viva-voce that the candidate is adjudged worthy of being awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall pass a resolution to that effect; and there upon the candidate shall be admitted to the degree of Ph.D. with effect from the date of Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce.

45. Depository with UGC

Following the declaration of the award of Ph.D. to the candidate, the University shall submit a softcopy of the thesis to the UGC within a period of thirty days, for being posted in INFLIBNET, accessible to all institutions/Universities.

46. Format of the Degree

46.1 Degree certificate shall be issued to a candidate mentioning title of thesis, discipline and area of research and the faculty of study.

46.2 A Provisional Certificate of the Degree shall be awarded to the candidate within a period of seven (7) days on payment of appropriate fees. It shall be mentioned in the provisional /Degree certificate that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the "UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M Phil/ Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016."

47. Publication of the Thesis

A thesis, whether approved or not, shall not be published in full without the permission of the Syndicate; and the Syndicate shall generally grant permission, on the recommendation of the supervising teacher, unless there exist any valid reasons given in writing for not granting the permission. Provided that a research scholar shall, during the course of his/her research, publish papers on topics related to his research in refereed journals, as advised by the supervising teacher, but the thesis as a whole shall not be published without obtaining permission of the Syndicate. The publications of the thesis shall be made by the scholar on his/her own responsibility.

48. Transitory Provision

These regulations will come into force for Ph.D. registrations granted in and after the July 2016 Admission. However, in the case of candidates registered for the Ph.D. Programme as per notifications issued for earlier admissions, the previous regulations shall be applicable.

49. Removal of Difficulties

Without prejudice to the generality of the aforesaid regulations, the Vice-Chancellor shall have the power for a period of three years from the date of implementation of the regulation to remove any difficulties that may arise in the course of implementing the revised regulations.

Approved by exercising power as provided in chapter III, section 10 (17) of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act 1985. Issue orders and report to the Syndicate / Academic Council.

03/07/2021

VICE - CHANCELLOR