

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI 110002
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi

**Draft University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for
Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022**

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), and in supersession of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil. /Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2016 and its two amendments, viz. the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) (1st amendment) Regulations, 2018 dated the 27th August 2018 and the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) (2nd amendment) Regulations, 2018 dated 16th October 2018, the University Grants Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, namely: -

1. Short title, Application, and Commencement:

1.1 These Regulations may be called University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

1.2 They shall apply to:

1.2.1 every University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act, or a State Act, and every Institution Deemed to be a University under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956; and

1.2.2 every degree-granting autonomous College and every affiliated college, allowed to offer Ph.D. programmes.

1.3 They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Gazette of India.

2. Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. programme:

The following are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. programme:

2.1 Candidates for admission to the Ph.D. programme shall have successfully completed:

2.1.1 A 1-year/2-semester Master's degree programme (after 4 year undergraduate degree) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 10- point scale (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, 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 educational institutions.

2.1.2 A 2-year/4-semester Master's degree programme, with the same conditions as in sub-clause 2.1.1 above;

2.1.3 A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's degree with Research should have a minimum CGPA of 7.5/10.

2.2 Candidates who have cleared the M.Phil. course work with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 10-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree from a Foreign 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 educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme.

2.2.1 A person whose M.Phil. dissertation has been evaluated and recommended for award of the degree, may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme in any Institution on a provisional basis even before the viva-voice or final defence.

2.3 A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision

of the Commission from time to time, or for those who had obtained their master's degree before 19th September 1991.

Note: The eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever 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 mark procedures, if any.

2.4 A relaxation of 0.5 score, i.e. CGPA of 7/10 or an equivalent relaxation of grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

3. Duration of the Programme:

3.1 Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of two years excluding course work, and a maximum of six years.

3.2 Extension beyond the above limits will be governed by the relevant clauses as stipulated in the Statute/Ordinance of the individual Institution concerned, but not beyond more than two years.

3.3 Women candidates and Persons with Disabilities (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for a Ph.D. in the maximum duration. In addition, women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days once in the entire duration of Ph.D.

3.4 For student exchanges, provided that they contribute significantly to the completion of the thesis, leave of absence may be granted from the second year onwards on the following basis:

- a) research expeditions (less than one month): authorised by the supervisor and head of the department;
- b) research missions (more than one month): proposed by the department and approved by the Research Advisory Committee for working in National/International Research Laboratories or Centres of Excellence; and

c) exchange programmes: proposed by the department and approved by the Research Advisory Committee for working in the Institutions in India/abroad.

4. Procedure for admission:

4.1 All Universities shall admit Ph.D. Scholars through a National Eligibility Test (NET) or National Entrance Test or an Entrance test conducted at the level of individual universities.

Provided that, any circular/notification/communication by the UGC/Ministry of Education, Govt. of India regarding the conduct of a common entrance test for this purpose shall be applicable and binding on the Universities concerned (and covered under such a circular/notification/communication).

4.2 Universities and Colleges under them which are allowed to conduct Ph.D. programmes, shall:

4.2.1 decide on an annual basis through their academic bodies a pre-determined and manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted depending on the number of available Research Supervisors and other academic, research, and physical facilities available, keeping in mind the norms regarding the scholar-teacher ratio (as indicated in sub-clause 5.4), laboratory, library, and such other facilities;

4.2.2 notify well in advance on the institutional website and through advertisement in at least two (2) national newspapers, of which at least one (1) shall be in the regional language, the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, examination centre (s) where entrance test(s) shall be conducted and all other relevant information for the benefit of the prospective candidates;

4.2.3 Adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable.

4.3 The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the Institution, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned, and taking into account the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.

4.4 Universities and Colleges as mentioned in sub-Clause 1.2 shall admit candidates by a two-stage process through the National Level Entrance Tests or Equivalent Tests conducted by Universities/Institutions:

4.4.1 Sixty percent of the total vacant seat of the academic year shall be filled from NET/JRF qualified students and the remaining forty percent through the university/common entrance test qualified students on the basis of Interviews conducted by the concerned Institute. However, in case of an unfilled vacancy in either of the category, candidates from another category can be requisitioned to fill up the vacant slots, in the order of merit and following reservation norms.

4.4.2 The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of questions that test research/ analytical/ comprehension/quantitative aptitude. The Entrance Test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance (changes of Centres, if any, also to be notified well in advance) by the organisation conducting the examination. Qualifying marks in the entrance test will be 50%, provided that a relaxation of 5% of marks (from 50% to 45%) shall be allowed for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layers)/Differently-abled category in the entrance examination conducted by the Universities. Provided further that, if despite the above relaxation, the seats allotted to SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layers)/Differently-abled categories remain unfilled, the Universities concerned shall launch a Special Admission Drive, for that particular category within one month from the date of closure of admissions of General Category. The University concerned shall devise its own admission procedure, along with eligibility conditions to ensure that most of the seats under these categories are filled.

4.4.3 An interview/viva-voce has to be organized by the University/College concerned wherein the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted Departmental Research Committee. The selection of qualified candidates should be based on interview/viva-voce for JRF/NET whereas for the candidates who have qualified the entrance test, the selection shall be evaluated in the ratio 70 (written test) : 30 (interview). Merit list for both shall be separately published.

4.5 The interview/viva-voce shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

4.5.1 the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;

4.5.2 the research work can be suitably undertaken at the Institution/College;

4.5.3 the research topic is relevant

4.6 The University/College shall maintain the list of all the registered Ph.D. scholars on its website on a year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, the topic of his/her research, the name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration.

5. Thrust areas of research: proposed area of research is socially relevant/locally need-based/nationally important/globally significant/create value to the society or in cutting edge areas or contribute to new/additional knowledge in the areas of emerging concerns worldwide.

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

6.1 Any regular Professor/Associate Professor of the University/ College, with at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals after obtaining PhD and any regular Assistant Professor of the university/ college with a minimum of five years teaching/research experience with a Ph.D. degree and at least **three** research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as Research Supervisor.

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

Only a full-time regular teacher of the University/ College concerned can act as a Research Supervisor. Adjunct faculty are not permitted to be Research Supervisors except being Co-supervisor. However, Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of the same institution or sister institutions may be permitted with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee. In specific cases of a formal institutional collaboration based on the MoUs, the Universities/Colleges concerned may approve a faculty member as Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor for a Ph.D. candidate from the collaborating institution.

6.2 The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Department concerned depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors, and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview/viva voce.

6.3 In the case of topics which are inter-disciplinary and where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/Faculty/College/University on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions.

6.4 A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor cannot guide more than eight (8) Ph.D. scholars at any given point of time. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars (including co-supervision) and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars. One additional research scholar can be allotted to each supervisor over and above the allotted number provided the Research Supervisor is implementing a major sponsored research project. Further, each Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor can guide two international students on a supernumerary basis. At any point of time the total number of candidates under a research supervisor shall not exceed the number as prescribed above including the candidates under co-supervision.

Note: The Research Supervisor should declare the number of Ph.D. scholars registered with him/her periodically to the University/College. He/she cannot increase the number by using recognition from multiple universities/colleges.

6.5 In case of relocation of a woman Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University/College to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent

Institution/ Supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already done.

6.6 University teachers after superannuation, if they are re-appointed in the parent University as contract or honorary or distinguished or emeritus professor, may continue as Research Supervisors till the age of 70. The university/college, after considering the research track record and fitness of such superannuated teachers to supervise scholars, may decide on his/her continuation as Research Supervisor without financial commitment.

6.7 The Supervisor's obligations

It is supervisor's responsibility to ensure at all formalities described in the PhD Regulations and also in the Ordinances of HEIs are fulfilled.

The supervisor is also expected to guide the Ph.D. scholars in other related issues of teaching skills and career guidance. The supervisor's responsibilities include information and advice to scholars on all aspects related to the PhD programme while focusing on guidance on academic aspects of research activities. This may include regular meetings with a scholar (typically once a week unless restricted due to reasons otherwise). The supervisor should ensure relevant and adequate advice on important aspects such as involvement of additional supervisors where deemed appropriate, whether the proposed PhD project is feasible within the given time frame, whether the project has the potential to lead to new results of significantly high standard of an international level PhD thesis, and whether the scholar has sufficient time to enable him to have a realistic opportunity for submission of thesis. It is envisaged that an ideal PhD programme necessitates a good working relationship between the student and the supervisor from the beginning of the Ph.D programme and they have reached an agreement on the demands and expectations from each other. The responsibilities of the supervisor include:

- Regular contact with the Ph.D. scholars, and discuss to see if the ideas are good for the research project
- guiding the scholar about the choice of relevant courses and conferences related to the field
- Advising the scholar for contacting relevant national and international organisations in the area of research

- Assisting the scholar on incorporation of knowledge dissemination element in the course of study
- Regular review and feedback on the PhD project
- Preparation of the final statement from supervisor summarizing the overall PhD programme at the time of PhD thesis submission
- Active participation in the assessment and PhD defense,

An overall plan of the mutual demands and expectations during the supervision process which includes expectations of the contours and extent of supervision – should normally be included in the PhD research plan. The tasks of co-supervisors, if any, should also be agreed upon and should normally include academic discussions in decided relevant parts of the research project.

7. Course Work: Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

7.1 Minimum number of the credit requirement for the Ph.D. programme should be at least 12 credits and a maximum of 16 credits.

7.2 The coursework shall be treated as a prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, qualitative methods, computer applications, research ethics, and review of published research in the relevant field, fieldwork, etc.

7.2.1 Students who register for Ph.D. directly from four-year undergraduate with research will have to undertake 6-8 credit courses (at Ph.D. level) about relevant skills/research techniques/domain-specific subjects offered by the University.

7.2.2 All Ph.D., entrants irrespective of discipline, shall be required to take credit-based courses in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral training period. Other courses shall be advanced-level courses preparing the students for the Ph.D. degree. Lifelong learners/ accomplished researchers as evinced from their original contributions in terms of patents granted or

new relevant knowledge or/and artistic practices desirous to get a research degree the Research Advisory Committee may provide choices in selecting the courses/ credits that facilitates the entrepreneur in the monetization of IP thus generated. Credits earned for completed course work are transferable from one institution to another institution through the Academic Bank of Credits. All fresh Ph.D. entrants, irrespective of discipline, will be required to take credit-based courses in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D subject during their doctoral training period. Ph.D. scholars may also have 3-4 hours per week of actual teaching experience gathered through teaching assistantships or other forms of knowledge dissemination that are not repetitive. All dissemination activities including External presentations and posters, popular articles conveying scientific information (or scientific articles) to the general public, production of books, commissioned research and Internal presentations must be approved by the departmental level Research Committee. Teaching for the Department, supervision of fellow students/technical staff, dissemination tasks can also be credited as knowledge dissemination and as a work commitment.

- 7.3 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall conform with the credit hour instructional requirement and shall specify the content, instructional, and assessment methods. They shall be duly approved by the authorized academic bodies.
- 7.4 The Department where the scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), as stipulated under sub-Clause 8.1 below, of the research scholar.
- 7.5 All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial one or two semesters. In case of pandemic like situation, provision of blended mode should be made available.
- 7.6 Candidates already holding M.Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in an integrated course, may be exempted by the Department from the Ph.D.

course work. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. coursework prescribed by the Department. Provided that, the candidates sponsored/authorized by the Govt. of India institutions/organizations who work for their Ph.D. degree in a University under an MoU/exchange programme/Govt. of India scheme, etc. may be exempted from Ph.D. course work provided they produce a certificate of completing a course work of equivalent duration/credit from their respective institution/organization.

7.7 Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Research Advisory Committee and the Department and the final grades shall be communicated to the Institution/College.

7.8 A Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale (or an equivalent grade/CGPA in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the thesis.

8. Research Advisory Committee and its functions:

8.1 There shall be a Research Advisory Committee, or an equivalent body for a similar purpose as defined in the Statutes/Ordinances of the Institution concerned, for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Supervisor of the scholar shall be the Convener of this Committee. This Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

8.1.1 To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;

8.1.2 To guide the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.

8.1.3 To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.

8.2 A research scholar shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six-monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the Research Advisory Committee to the Institution with a copy to the research scholar.

8.3 In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend the cancellation of registration from the programme.

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

9.1 Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in subclause 7.8 above, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft dissertation/thesis within a reasonable time, as stipulated by the Institution concerned based on these Regulations.

9.2 Before the submission of the thesis, the scholar shall make a presentation in the Department before the Research Advisory Committee of the Institution concerned which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee.

9.3 It is desirable that the research work of Ph.D. scholars is published in peer reviewed or refereed journals and presented in conferences/seminars. The quality assessment of Ph.D. degrees should be the responsibility of the Institutions. The institutions are free to evolve guidelines in this regard, if needed.

9.4 The thesis shall be submitted together with an originality report produced by an anti-plagiarism software application. The supervisor (and co-supervisor, if there is any) shall receive an originality report on the whole text of the thesis and shall take this report into account in the evaluation on the submission.

Note: An originality report is not to be considered as sufficient proof that the submitted thesis does not contain plagiarized text. Avoiding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct in the authorship of the thesis remains the sole responsibility of the researcher. If the Research Supervisor (or Co-Supervisor) suspects plagiarism, he or she may ask for an investigation.

9.5 The Academic Council (or its equivalent body) of the Institution shall evolve a mechanism using well-developed software and gadgets to detect plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. While submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the same Institution where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution.

9.6 The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, who are experts in the field and not in employment of the Institution. Examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. Out of the two external examiners, one must be from out of the state in which the institution is located. Where possible, one of the external examiners may preferably be chosen as a distinguished academician, not below the rank of Professor or equivalent, from outside India. The viva-voce examination based, among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers.

9.7 If the research results of the thesis constitute new possible things for the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs), the Ph.D. candidate and Supervisor shall inform the University or the Research Advisory Committee about the matter. In this case, the Ph.D. candidate, with the consent of the Supervisor, may request that the submitted dissertation be treated discreetly before the thesis is submitted for assessment, until the defence/viva-voce. The IPR Cell or the competent body of the university designated for the purpose shall

conduct the procedure for legal and commercial protection of research results, in accordance with the relevant Regulations. In this case, the public defence can be extended, in agreement with the Ph.D. candidate, at the latest for a year, starting on the day of the procedure of evaluation of the dissertation. Request for extension of defence/viva-voce must accompany the Certificate of the Technology Transfer from the competent authority.

9.8 The viva-voce of the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the examiner(s) on the thesis recommends acceptance. If one of the evaluation reports of the examiner in case of a Ph.D. thesis, recommends rejection, the Institution shall send the thesis to an alternate examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the alternate examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the alternate examiner is also unsatisfactory, the thesis shall be rejected, and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.

9.9 The Institutions shall develop appropriate methods so as to complete the entire process of evaluation of Ph.D. thesis within a period of three months from the date of submission of the thesis.

9.10 **Visits/ Stays at other relevant research institutions/ Industry (Ph.D related to Technical subjects)**

The PhD scholar is expected to participate in and stay at other places with active research environments, including research institutions for a part of the PhD period study may be encouraged for the same.

To facilitate the international level of education, a lengthy stay of 1 to 6 months at a foreign/Indian research institution in an organization s academically relevant to the PhD programme is envisaged. It is expected that residence may be for a minimum length of 3 consecutive weeks.

10. Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by Post Graduate Colleges for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes:

10.1 Post Graduate Departments of Universities/Colleges may be considered eligible to offer Ph.D. programmes only if they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure, and supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations.

10.2 Post Graduate Departments of such Colleges, Research laboratories of Government of India/State Government with at least two Ph.D. qualified teachers/scientists/other academic staff in the Department concerned along with required infrastructure, supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations, stipulated under sub-clause 10.3 below, shall be considered eligible to offer Ph.D. programmes. Post Graduate Colleges should additionally have the necessary recognition by the Institution under which they operate to offer Ph.D. programme.

10.3 Colleges with adequate facilities for research as mentioned below alone shall offer Ph.D. programmes:

10.3.1 In case of science and technology disciplines, exclusive research laboratories with sophisticated equipment as specified by the Institution concerned with provision for adequate space per research scholar along with computer facilities and essential software, and uninterrupted power and water supply;

10.3.2 Earmarked library resources including latest books, Indian and International journals, e-journals, extended working hours for all disciplines, adequate space for research scholars in the Department/ library for reading, writing and storing the study and research materials;

10.3.3 Colleges may also access the required facilities of the neighbouring Institutions/Colleges, or of those Institutions/Colleges/R&D laboratories/Organizations which have the required facilities.

10.4 All requirements for the Ph.D. degree of such candidates must be duly fulfilled. It is the joint responsibility of the affiliated Colleges, University departments/ Universities.

11. Ph.D. through Distance Mode and in Regular Employment:

11.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other Rule or Regulation, for the time being in force, no University/College shall conduct Ph.D. programmes through distance education mode/online mode.

11.2 Candidates in service shall be allowed to do Ph.D., provided all the eligibility conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. Regulations are met.

12. De-specification of M.Phil Degree: The M.Phil (Master of Philosophy) degree shall be de-specified from the Academic year 2022-23 onwards. M.Phil. degree awarded till the date of notification of these regulations shall remain valid.

13. Issuing a Provisional certificate:

Prior to the actual award of the degree, the degree-awarding Institution shall issue a provisional certificate to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of these UGC Regulations.

14. Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations, or degrees awarded by foreign Universities:

14.1 Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of these Regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 and 2016 and their amendments.

14.2 If the Ph.D. degree is awarded by a Foreign University, the Indian Institution considering such a degree shall refer the issue to a Standing Committee constituted by the Institution concerned to determine the equivalence of the degree awarded by the foreign University.

15. Depository with INFLIBNET/Institutional Electronic Archive:

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

16. Code and conduct of Ethics:

It is envisaged that all HEIs will have a well-defined policy and establish a well-laid procedure for handling allegations of misconduct in research. For this, there must be a clear definition of misconduct with a sufficient legal foundation that defines the circumstances constituting misconduct and prescribe procedural rules, along with measures to be taken if such allegations are upheld after following due process. The regulations which are enacted by HEIs shall clearly define the responsibility at each step of the procedure, the process for consideration of the available evidence, will define the provision for constitution/ selection of investigation committees members, provisions to rule out conflicts of interest, the procedural principles of the rule of law and Ombudspersons for resolving any disagreement. It is important that the complainant and respondent, both are allowed to be heard at every stage of the process. It should be ensured that information relating to the persons involved in the ongoing process and the findings of the investigation are treated in confidence until it is demonstrated that misconduct has occurred. If the occurrence of misconduct is established and the appropriate disciplinary proceeding is considered, the responsible bodies should also be included in deliberations. HEIs should also ensure the completion of the entire process as fast as possible and the necessary steps should be promptly taken to complete every stage of the procedure within a given appropriate time frame.

Explanation: It is to be emphasised that every breach of good research practice does not constitute misconduct and the same needs to be distinguished. Only when there is a deliberate or grossly negligent infringement as defined in a set of regulations should be considered scientific misconduct including fabrication or falsification of data, and plagiarism using data from other authors' work.

While this set of rules and regulations centres on all academic aspects of admission, programmes, progress, and graduation, reference must also be made to separate (but linked) institutional codes and regulations that shall affect the life of research students at HEIs, notably:

- Code of Good Academic Research Practices
- The Disciplinary Regulations
- Policy on Harassment Prevention

The registration to the Ph.D. programme at the Higher Educational Institution signifies that she/he has accepted the conditions and guidelines set out in the policies and that she/he commits her/himself to respect all aspects of research throughout the programme on which she/he has registered. To further inform researchers on aspects of research such as academic responsibility and integrity, the Higher Educational Institutions shall from time to time provide courses or workshops on research ethics.

Authorship

For academic accountability, all the authors must make a genuine, identifiable contribution to the content of a research publication in experimental planning, experimentation, collection/ analysis of data, software, and/or writing of the text. It is also important that all authors have agreed on the final version of the work to be published. Unless it has been explicitly stated otherwise, they all share responsibility for the published work.