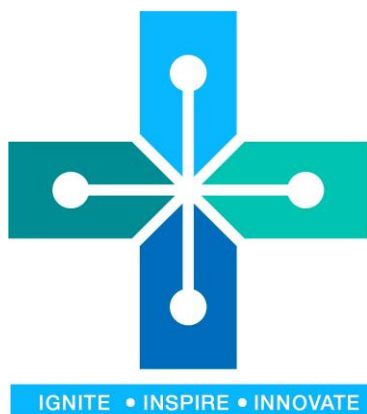


DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

REGULATIONS 2025

(With effect from 16.12.2025)

(As per UGC Regulations 2022)



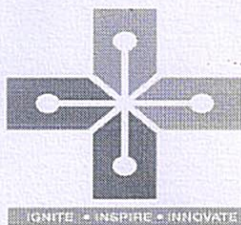
Research and Development Wing

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research

(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

AVADI, Chennai 600 054

December 2025



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12-06-2025

Dear Scholars and Supervisors,

It is with great pleasure that the revised regulations for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in our esteemed institution are presented. The Dean of Research and Development has had the privilege of overseeing the development and implementation of these regulations, aiming to foster a dynamic and conducive environment for advanced research and scholarship.

The Ph.D. program holds a special place in the institution as it signifies the pinnacle of academic excellence and intellectual rigor. It represents years of dedication, passion, and rigorous inquiry, and it is the responsibility of the institution to ensure that scholars receive the highest quality of research and mentorship throughout their journey toward becoming independent researchers and scholars.

The revised regulations have been carefully crafted to align with the NEP 2022 (National Education Policy 2022), best practices, and the evolving demands of the research landscape. The objective is to provide a robust framework that empowers scholars to engage in cutting-edge research, develop critical thinking skills, and make significant contributions to their respective fields of study.

Deep gratitude is expressed to the members of the Research Advisory Board (RAB) involved in the development of these regulations. Their expertise, insights, and commitment to excellence have been invaluable in shaping this framework.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all scholars and supervisors for their dedication and contributions to advancing knowledge through their research. It is firmly believed that these revised regulations will provide a strong foundation for the pursuit of academic excellence and produce outstanding scholars who will make significant contributions to their respective fields.

Wishing all scholars a rewarding and transformative Ph.D. journey, the Dean extends wholehearted support to the supervisors in their crucial role as mentors and guides.

Dr. S. Gunasekaran
Dean, Research and Development





St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)
REGULATIONS 2025 (with effect from 16.12.2025)
(As per UGC Regulations 2022)

1. PREAMBLE

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is awarded to a candidate who, as per these regulations, has submitted a thesis on the basis of original and independent research in any particular discipline or involving more than one discipline (interdisciplinary) that makes a contribution to the advancement of knowledge, which is approved by suitably appointed examiners as required.

The revised regulations should be followed in all aspects. The registration will be automatically cancelled if any of the conditions/regulations/rules framed in this regulation is not adhered.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO Ph.D. PROGRAMME

2.1 Candidates who have completed:

2.1.1 2-year/4-semester Master's degree programme after a 3-year/6-semester bachelor's degree programme in Science and Humanities as per Ph.D. Regulations 2016.

(or)

2-year/4-semester Master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme in Engineering and Technology as per Ph.D. Regulations 2016.

(or)

1-year/2-semester Master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme in Science & Humanities and Engineering & Technology as per Ph.D. Regulations 2022.

(or)

qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade is allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/ Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates.

Entrance Examination shall be exempted for the students who have qualified in NET/GATE/CSIR-NET/CEED.

2.2 Candidates who have completed:

M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be

eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade is 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 Institution from time to time.

3. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Sl. No.	Programme	Qualification for Admission
1	Ph.D. Degree in Humanities / Science / Computer Science & Applications and Management Studies	M.A./M.Sc./M.Com./M.C.A./M.B.A. (Full Time) in the relevant branch of study
2	Ph.D. Degree in Engineering / Technology	M.E./M.Tech. (Full Time) in the relevant branch of Engineering or Technology
3	Ph.D. Degree in Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy)	PG Degree in the relevant branch of Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences

4. Ph.D. PROGRAMMES

Candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria as in Clauses 2 and 3 are eligible to apply for Ph.D. Programme.

4.1 **FULL-TIME Ph.D. PROGRAMME**

- 4.1.1 Candidates registered for Full-Time programme shall be available during the working hours for curricular, co-curricular and related activities.
- 4.1.2 Candidates in employment, who want to pursue Full-time studies should be sponsored by their employer and should avail leave for the research period and should get formally relieved from their duty to join the research programme.
- 4.1.3 Candidates who are selected in Fellowship programmes of National or any recognized bodies and who satisfy the eligibility conditions as per the regulations are eligible for full time studies in the respective disciplines.
- 4.1.4 Foreign Nationals sponsored by Government of India on any exchange programme and who satisfy the eligibility conditions as per the regulations, are eligible for full time study.
- 4.1.5 Full time candidates may be allowed to convert as Part-Time candidates during their research work, if they satisfy the conditions of Clause 4.2, subject to approval.

4.2 **PART-TIME Ph.D. PROGRAMME**

The following categories of candidates are eligible to apply for Part-Time programme.

- 4.2.1 Full time teachers of this Institution. They shall be called 'Part-Time' candidates under the guidance of supervisor in the Institution.
- 4.2.2 Candidates working in this Institution in projects undertaken from State/Central/Quasi Government and totally funded through the projects. They shall also be called 'Part-Time' candidates.
- 4.2.3 Candidates working in Institution/R&D Departments /research laboratories in Units of Government/Quasi-Government /industrial units and sponsored by the respective employer/Organization. They shall be called 'Part-Time' candidates.
- 4.2.4 Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.
- 4.2.5 The Institution shall obtain a "No Objection Certificate" through the candidate for a part-time Ph.D. programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:
 - (i) The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.

- (ii) His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.
- (iii) If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

5. PLACE OF RESEARCH

The place of research in respect of Full-time and Part-time programme is the research departments of this Institution.

6. DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

- 6.1.1 A candidate registered for Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum duration of five years for full-time candidates and six years for part-time candidates from the date of registration to the Ph.D. programme. However, for M.Phil. Degree holder, the minimum duration shall be reduced by one year, if the M.Phil. Degree relates to the field of research of the programme.
- 6.1.2 Female Ph.D. Scholars shall be provided Maternity Leave/Child care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.
- 6.1.3 Ph.D. scholar is eligible for a six-month exemption for submission of synopsis from the minimum prescribed duration of the programme, provided they shall meet specific publication requirements as follows:
 - (i) For Science, Engineering & Technology, Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy) the scholar must have published three research papers indexed in both Scopus and Web of Science with each publication carrying an impact factor.
 - (or)**
 - Two papers indexed in both Scopus and Web of Science with each publication carrying an impact factor with one published patent.
 - (ii) For Arts and Humanities disciplines the scholar must have published three research papers indexed in Scopus, with each publication carrying an impact factor.
 - (iii) These publications must be produced during the period of the Ph.D. programme. Scholars who fulfill this criterion may be granted six month exemption for submission of synopsis.

7. EXTENSION OF MAXIMUM DURATION

- 7.1 A maximum of an additional two year shall be given through a process of re-registration provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.
- 7.2 Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) shall be allowed an additional relaxation of two years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

8. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION

- 8.1 The Institution will issue notification for Ph.D. admission on half yearly basis (January session and July session). The candidates should apply in the prescribed form, through proper channel wherever applicable, before the due date as indicated in the notification issued from time to time.
- 8.2 The applications of the candidates shall be processed by duly constituted committees.
- 8.3 Admission shall be based on combined merit of entrance examination and interview conducted by the Institution.
- 8.4 At the interview the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before the Department Research Committee. The interview is meant to assess the competence for the proposed research, suitability at the Institution and contribution to new/additional knowledge.

- 8.5** The number of candidates to be admitted depends upon the number of available research supervisors and other academic and physical facilities.
- 8.6** The institution shall admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview.

and/or

- 8.7** The institution shall admit students through an Entrance Test conducted at the level of the Institution. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject-specific.
- 8.8** Students who have secured 50% marks in the entrance test are eligible to be called for the interview
- 8.9** A relaxation of 5% marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.
- 8.10** Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance test conducted by the Institution, a weightage of 70 % for the entrance test and 30% for the performance in the interview/viva- voce shall be given.

9. RELAXATION OF SEMESTER FEE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Institution can accommodate visually impaired candidates to motivate them to pursue their Ph.D. programme. The candidate shall appoint live readers for their own and the candidate shall take the sole responsibility of the live readers until the completion of their Ph.D. programme. Fifty percent of the semester fees will be waived to the visually impaired candidates.

10. RECOGNITION AS SUPERVISOR

10.1 Arts, Science and Engineering & Technology

- 10.1.1** Regular faculty members working as Professors/Associate Professors of the Institution with at least five research publications in refereed journals and any regular Assistant Professor of the Institution with a Ph.D. degree and at least three research publications in referred journals after obtaining Ph.D. Degree may be recognized as Research Supervisor.
- 10.1.2** Only a full time regular teacher of the Institution can act as a supervisor. The external supervisors are not allowed.
- 10.1.3** Ph.D. awarded by an Institution under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the institution would be in violation of these regulations.
- 10.1.4** Adjunct Faculty members shall not act as Research Supervisors and can only act as co-supervisors.

10.2 Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy)

10.2.1 Faculties possessing Ph.D. Qualification

The faculty members in Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy) shall possess one year of Post Ph.D. research experience and should have published 05 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Professor/ Associate Professor and 03 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Assistant Professor, as first author or corresponding author, for recognition as Research Supervisor.

Further, the regulation permits that faculty employed at this Deemed University who have completed Five years of Postgraduate Teaching Experience and should have published 05 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Professor/Associate Professor and 03 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Assistant Professor, as first author or corresponding author, may be recognized as Research Supervisor immediately upon qualifying for the Ph.D. degree without the mandatory one year of Post Ph.D. experience.

10.2.2 Faculties not possessing Ph.D. Qualification

For faculty members possessing Postgraduate degree who do not possess Ph.D. qualification, who have completed Five years of Postgraduate Teaching /Clinical Experience in Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy) and should have published 05 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Professor/Associate Professor and 03 research articles in peer reviewed journals at the level of Assistant Professor, as first author or corresponding author, may be considered for recognition as Research Supervisor.

- 10.3** In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/ within in the Institution may be appointed.

11. NUMBER OF CANDIDATES UNDER A SUPERVISOR

A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor/Co-Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars.

- 12.** At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the number prescribed in clause 10.

13. CHANGE OF SUPERVISOR

- 13.1** When a Supervisor is on leave, for more than 6 months and upto one year, he/she shall continue to guide the research scholar. However, if recommended by the Supervisor, a Supervisor-in-charge may be nominated by the Institution in consultation with the respective Head of the Department (HoD). The Supervisor-in-charge shall function till the Supervisor returns.

- 13.2** When a Supervisor is on leave for more than one year or retires from service or leaves service, he/she shall make arrangements for change of supervisor for the research scholar. However, the Supervisor who retired from the service may continue to guide a research scholar, on his/her written request, provided he/she has guided the research scholar continuously for three years or the research scholar has submitted the synopsis. However a Joint Supervisor shall be nominated by the Institution in consultation with Head of the Department to take care of the administrative and the research responsibilities of the research scholar. If the Supervisor had left without making arrangements for change of Supervisor or expired or unable to function as a Supervisor, the research scholar may apply to the Institution for change of Supervisor through the Head of the Department.

14. RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ITS FUNCTION

- 14.1** There shall be a three member Research Advisory Committee constituted by the Institution for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Supervisor of the scholar shall be the Convener and the HoD concerned shall be the Ex-Officio member of this committee. This Committee shall have the following board responsibilities:

- 14.1.1** To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;
- 14.1.2** 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.
- 14.1.3** To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.

- 14.2** Each semester, a Ph.D. scholar shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee to make a presentation and submit a brief progress report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The Research Advisory Committee shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the Institution. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar.

- 14.3** In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest

corrective measures. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar from the Ph.D. programme.

- 14.4** Faculty member at Assistant Professor level may also be inducted as the RAC Member. Assistant Professor having Ph.D. qualification and guideship in a recognized Higher Education Institution with 5 years of experience in teaching/research shall be considered.

15. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

15.1 Course Work

- 15.1.2** The Advisory Committee shall meet within one month from the date of communication of provisional registration of the candidate to prescribe course work for the research scholar.
- 15.1.2** A minimum of four courses with 3 credit each, viz. (i) Research Methodology (ii) Research and Publication Ethics as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1-1/2018 in 2019 and (iii) two other courses relevant to the area of research in the advanced level, preparing the scholar for Ph.D. degree with CGPA of 5.5 points with 10-point scale in the course work.
- 15.1.3** An NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) course shall be part of the Ph.D. programmes.
- 15.1.4** The prescribed course work shall be completed within 2 semesters from the date of provisional registration. If a candidate fails, he/she will be given one more chance to complete the course work within 6 months.
- 15.1.5** All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods. They shall be duly approved by the Academic Council.
- 15.1.6** 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 and Academic Council.
- 15.1.7** All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed during the initial one or two semesters.
- 15.1.8** Candidates already holding M. Phil. Degree in the relevant discipline and research area and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil., may be exempted from the Ph.D. course work. However they have to undergo one course work viz. Research and Publication Ethics as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1-1/2018 in 2019. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work prescribed by the Department.
- 15.1.9** All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.

16. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

- 16.1** On the successful completion of the prescribed course work by the research scholar, the Advisory Committee shall conduct a qualifying/comprehensive written examination to test the background knowledge of the research scholar in the broad area of specialization and the course work undergone. Based on the result of this examination with more than 55% of marks in each course, provisional registration shall be confirmed. In case the registration is not confirmed, the fees paid by the research scholar shall not be refunded.
- 16.2** Grades in the course work (including research methodology and Research & Publication Ethics) 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 Controller of Examinations.

- 16.3** Research scholars who have not taken course work as per clause 15.1.8 shall undergo comprehensive examination not earlier than six months of his/her registration for the purpose of the confirmation of registration.
- 16.4** If, based on the result of the comprehensive examination, confirmation of registration of a research scholar not approved by the Advisory Committee, a grace period of up to a maximum of six months may be given at the end of which the research scholar shall be re-examined. If found fit at the re-examination, the research scholar may be permitted to proceed with the recommendation of the Advisory committee. Otherwise, the provisional registration of the research scholar shall be cancelled.

17. RESEARCH OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTION

- 17.1** During the course of the programme, for reasons approved by the Advisory Committee, a research scholar may be permitted to spend up to one year in an institution or on a project approved for the purpose, outside the institution or approved place (National/International) of research, as the case may be. This opportunity is intended for carrying out research in areas directly related to the subject of the scholar's research work.
- 17.2** Ph.D. scholars may also be permitted to engage in collaborative research and academic guidance with reputed institutions (India or abroad). These collaborations may involve the exchange of expertise or sharing of research ideas, with no financial commitment from the parent institution.

18. MONITORING PROGRESS OF CANDIDATES

- 18.1** Every six months commencing from the date of admission, the candidate shall submit progress report in the prescribed format to the Supervisor who shall forward it to the Institution through HoD with recommendation.
- 18.2** The Advisory Committee shall meet during the research work to finalize the course work, to confirm the provisional registration to ensure right direction in the research work and to finalize the topic and to approve the Synopsis submitted by the Research Scholar.
- 18.3** However, if the minimum period is to be extended, the Advisory Committee shall recommend extension on yearly basis only after reviewing the progress of the research work.

19. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

- 19.1** The registration is liable for cancellation if
- (i) the research scholar has not paid the semester fees within the stipulated time
 - (ii) two consecutive six monthly progress reports are not submitted or are not satisfactory
 - (iii) the performance of the scholar is found not satisfactory by the Advisory Committee and accordingly the Committee recommends cancellation, or
 - (iv) the research scholar wishes to withdraw from the course and wishes to cancel his/her registration.
- 19.2** In case of cancellation, the fees paid by the research scholar shall not be refunded.

20. SYNOPSIS OF THESIS

- 20.1** After successful completion of research work (not less than THREE months before submission of the thesis) and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the candidate shall submit to the institution through the Supervisor and Head of the Department in prescribed format, six copies of the synopsis of the Ph.D. work carried out along with the prescribed fee.
- 20.2** If the Advisory Committee approves the synopsis, the Supervisor shall forward six copies of the approved synopsis along with a panel of six examiners, three from Indian Universities and three from Universities in foreign countries who can evaluate thesis written in English. Such examiners should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field.

21. PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THESIS

- 21.1** Ph.D. research scholars in Science, Engineering & Technology, Medicine, Dentistry and Allied Health Sciences (Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy) shall publish at least two research papers in peer-reviewed or refereed journals, indexed both in Scopus and Web of Science. Research Scholars in non-science disciplines shall publish two papers in peer-reviewed or refereed journals listed in Scopus.
- 21.2** Two paper presentations in conferences/seminars proceedings numbered with ISBN/ISSN before the submission of thesis.
- 21.3** Ph.D. research scholars shall produce evidence for the same in the form of the reprints of the Journal publications and oral presentation certificates along with the documental evidences from the data bases.
- 21.4** Not later than six months after submission of the Synopsis and after expiry of the minimum period of research prescribed, the research scholar shall be required to produce the draft thesis and shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee, 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.
- 21.5** The draft thesis shall be subject to plagiarism analysis by using the approved software of the Institution to detect plagiarism and other form of academic dishonesty and on satisfactory analysis, the draft may be approved by the Advisory Committee.

22. SUBMISSION OF THESIS

- 22.1** Three copies of the thesis in the prescribed format shall be submitted within six months from the approval of the Synopsis by the Advisory Committee along with three copies of the abstract of the thesis in about 400 words. Extension of time of a maximum of three months for submission of thesis may be granted under special circumstances on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.
- 22.2** The thesis shall include a certificate of the Research Scholar and Supervisor as prescribed, to the effect that the thesis is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by the research scholar under his/her supervision and guidance and that the work reported in the thesis has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree or diploma.
- 22.3** The thesis shall also include an undertaking from the Ph.D. scholar and the supervisor that there is no plagiarism.

23. RE-REGISTRATION

A candidate, who has not submitted the thesis but completed course work within eight years may choose to re-register with the prescribed fees at least one month prior to the expiry of valid period. In such instances, the re-registered candidate shall be permitted to submit his/her thesis after a period of one year but not later than two years.

In the case of re-registered candidates with change of Supervisor and/or topic of thesis, the required period would be similar to other candidates seeking registration for the first time.

24. THESIS EVALUATION

- 24.1** The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. 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 Higher Educational Institution concerned. Such examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. One of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India.
- 24.2** The thesis shall be referred to two examiners one from India and another abroad appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the panel of examiners recommended by the Supervisor. The Vice-Chancellor, if necessary, may also nominate the examiners from outside the panel.

24.3 The Supervisor shall submit the panel of Examiners for the candidate in consultation with the members of the Research Advisory Committee in the prescribed format;

- (i) Three examiners from overseas of non-Indian origin with an academic position in a higher education institution. These examiners should be at least at the Associate Professor Level and must have more than 10 years of research experience.
- (ii) Three examiners from the North, East and West parts of India, working in a higher education institution. These examiners should also be at least at the Associate Professor level and must have more than 10 years of research experience.

has to be provided by the Supervisor.

24.4 The examiners are expected to send their reports in the prescribed form within two months from the date of receipt of the thesis.

24.5 The examiner shall include in his report an overall assessment placing the thesis in one of the following categories of recommendation.

(a) Thesis is highly commended

(or)

(b) Thesis is commended

(or)

(c) Thesis not satisfactory; Rejected / Revision required

24.6 The examiner shall enclose a report of 200 to 300 words, indicating the standard attained the nature of revision and the reasons for rejection as the case may be. In case of highly commended/commended, corrections, if any to be incorporated and the questions to be raised at the Viva-Voce Examination shall be enclosed with the report.

24.7 If both the examiners recommend, thesis shall be provisionally accepted. Any minor revision, modification etc. suggested by the examiners shall be carried out before the Public Viva-Voce examination is arranged.

24.8 If both the examiners recommend rejection, the thesis shall be rejected and the registration of the research scholar shall stand cancelled.

24.9 If one examiner recommends, while the other recommends rejection, then the thesis shall be referred to a third examiner to be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. If two of three examiners recommend, the thesis shall be provisionally accepted. If the third examiner recommends rejection, the thesis shall be rejected and the registration of the research scholar shall stand cancelled.

24.10 If any examiner recommends revision of the thesis, the candidate shall be permitted only once to revise and resubmit the thesis within 6 months and the revised thesis shall be referred to the same examiner only in the situation such as (i) when the examiner recommends new experiments and major modification involving new methodology and also (ii) the examiner insists the Institution to send the thesis back to the same examiner after revision for offering his final recommendation on the thesis which should only be either recommended or rejected. In case, the examiner does not insist on sending the thesis back to him, the Supervisor shall ascertain and certify the corrections carried out in the thesis as suggested by the examiners.

25. PUBLIC VIVA-VOCE EXAMINATION

The public viva-voce of the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation reports of the external examiners on the thesis are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conducting the viva-voce examination. If one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner in Ph.D. thesis is unsatisfactory and does not recommend viva-voce, the Institution shall send the thesis to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the latest examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory, the thesis

shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.

25.1 The Supervisor shall recommend a panel of three examiners from recognized institutions within India for the constitution of the Public Viva-Voce Examination. Such examiners should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field.

25.2 The Examiner for Public Viva-Voce Examination shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from the panel. The Supervisor will be the convener. The Vice-Chancellor, if necessary may nominate a member from outside the panel. The viva-voce shall be open to the members of the Research Advisory Committee/faculty members/research scholars and students. Higher Educational Institutions may formulate appropriate rules /ordinances to effect the provisions of this Regulation.

25.3 If the performance of the research scholar at the Public Viva-Voce Examination is reported by the Public Viva-Voce Examiner as NOT SATISFACTORY, the research scholar may opt to reappear for the Oral Examination at a later date (not later than 6 months from the date of the first Public Viva-Voce Examination).

25.4 If the performance of the research scholar at the Public Viva-Voce Examination on the second occasion also is reported to be NOT SATISFACTORY, the thesis shall be rejected.

25.5 On satisfactory completion of Public Viva-Voce Examination, the research scholar shall submit a copy of the thesis in CD ROM duly certified by the Supervisor that all the corrections have been duly carried out as suggested by the examiners if any, for INSTITUTION ARCHIVES.

26. CONFERMENT OF Ph.D. DEGREE

26.1 If the report of the Public Viva-Voce Examination is SATISFACTORY, the candidate will be awarded the Ph.D. Degree with the approval of the Board of Management.

26.2 Provisional Certificate shall mention that the Ph.D. Degree is awarded in accordance with the provisions to the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

27. PUBLICATION OF THESIS

Papers arising out of the thesis may be published by the research scholar. However, the thesis as a whole shall not be published by the candidate without the specific approval of the Institution.

28. THE ACT OF PLAGIARISM

28.1 In the case of a research scholar who has copied a thesis/book for Ph.D. degree, his/her thesis and the Degree shall be forfeited and his/her research registration shall be terminated in this Institution and also he/she shall be debarred to register for any other programme in this Institution.

28.2 For the abetment of such a malpractice by a scholar, the recognition of his/her Supervisor shall be withdrawn for a period of 5 years and he/she shall be debarred from guiding research scholars for any research programme in this Institution till such period.

29. DEPOSITORY WITH INFLIBNET

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