

# **SHRI GURU RAM RAI UNIVERSITY**

[Estd. by Govt. of Uttarakhand, vide Shri Guru Ram Rai University Act no. 03 of 2017 & recognized by UGC u/s (2f) of UGC Act 1956]  
PATHRIBAGH, DEHRADUN-248001, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA



## **Ph.D. Ordinance (2017) (FIFTH Amendment, 2025)**

**As per UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulation,  
2022 & Shri Guru Ram Rai University Statutes, 2017 (Chapter-III, Section 19)**

## Short Title, Applicability and Commencement

- 1) These Regulations may be called The Ph.D. ordinance, 2017.
- 2) These Regulations shall apply to all Ph.D. programmes offered by the Constituent School/Colleges/Institutes/Centres of the Shri Guru Ram Rai University.
- 3) These Regulations shall come into force from the Academic Session 2025-26.

## Definitions

In these Regulations, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context:

- a) **“University”** means the SGRR University (SGRRU).
- b) **“Academic Council”** means the Academic Council of SGRRU constituted under Section 23 of the SGRRU Act 2017.
- c) **“Research Advisory Committee”** means the Committee constituted by the University to approve all the research activities of the university. Each Constituent school will have its own Research Advisory Committee.
- d) **“Chairman”** means the Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee.
- e) **“Dean-Research”** means Head of Research activities of the Constituent school and member secretary of the Research Advisory Committee.
- f) **“Course Coordinator”** means Coordinator of the relevant programme of the Constituent School/College/Institute/Centre of the University.
- g) **“Chancellor”** means the Chancellor of the University.
- h) **“Vice Chancellor”** means the Vice Chancellor of the University and Chairman of Research Advisory Committee of the university.
- i) **“Finance Officer”** means the chief finance officer of the University
- j) **“Registrar”** means the Registrar of the University.
- k) **“Controller”** means the Controller of Examination of the University.
- l) **“Dean”** means the Dean of the Constituent School/College/Centre of the University.
- m) **“Regular Student”** means a student who has registered for a full time or part time Ph.D. program offered by the Constituent School/College/Centre of the University and is progressing as per schedule.
- n) **“Grade Point”** means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale;
- o) **“Guide/Research Supervisor”** means an academician/researcher recognized by Higher Educational Institution to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for his/her research;
- p) **“Course Work”** means courses of study prescribed by the school/Department/ Centre to be undertaken by a student registered for the Ph.D. Degree;

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## **Criteria for Ph.D. Registration and Award of Degree**

### **Research Rule (RR)-1: Eligibility criteria for Applicants**

For admission to Ph.D. program in a related subject, an applicant fulfilling the following criteria shall be treated as eligible to appear for RET (Research Entrance Test), application form shall be available online at university website [www.sgrru.ac.in](http://www.sgrru.ac.in) or offline (**Annexure-O-I**):

- 1.1 An applicant who has passed 1-year/2-semester post graduate degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester under graduate degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester post graduate degree programme after a 3-year under graduate degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the under graduate and post graduate degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks without grace marks or with an equivalent Grade Point Average (GPA) in the relevant discipline. Relaxation of 5% in the required percentage of marks or its equivalent grade will be given to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled categories/Economically Weaker Section.
- 1.2 An applicant with the equivalent qualification, mentioned in sub section 1.1, from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency that 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.
- 1.3 A Graduate in any branch who has developed important new technology or designed and fabricated special instrument or apparatus which are deemed by a competent judge to be a valuable contribution in the field of Engineering/Pharmaceutical Sciences/Applied Sciences, may be permitted by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), on the recommendation of appropriate Board or Boards of Studies to submit his/her thesis for the Ph.D. Degree in that branch. Such a candidate must have at least 5 years standing as a Bachelor of the branch concerned.

### **1.3 Exemption from RET:**

The applicants fulfilling at least one of the following conditions will be exempted from RET:

**1.3.1** Qualified in NET/SET/GATE/GPAT examination of the apex bodies as CSIR/UGC/ICAR/ICMR/DBT/AICTE.

**1.3.2** M.Phil. Degree in a relevant subject obtained from any University, recognized by UGC u/s (2f) of UGC Act 1956, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

**1.3.3** Candidates such as Advocate/Doctor/Artist/Industry Professional/Employee of Government/Semi-Government Organizations with Post Graduate Degree (at least 55% marks) and 10 years of professional experience.

The applicants entitled to exemption from RET shall also submit the application form along with relevant supporting documents within the stipulated period.

## **RR-2: Duration of the Programme**

2.1 Ph.D. Degree Programme shall be for a minimum continuous duration of 03 years (06 Semesters), including course work, and a maximum duration of 06 years (12 Semesters) from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme. An additional 02 years can be given through a process of re-registration as after the approval in the Research Advisory Committee, however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. degree programme should not exceed 08 years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. degree programme.

2.2 Female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of 02 years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed 10 years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

2.3 Female and male Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave, after approval by the competent authority of the university, for up to 240 days and 15 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. degree programme respectively. Subjected to the details of duration of degree programme is given in RR 2 Sec. 2.1.

## **RR-3: Procedure to Conduct RET**

RET will be conducted twice in a year probably in the month of March and September. Notification of the entrance exam shall be updated well in advance on the SGRR University website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, and all other relevant information for the candidates

### 3.1 Structure of RET:

#### 3.1.1 Written test:

For RET, there would be two papers *i.e.* Paper-1 and Paper-2 (Paper-1 would be Research Methodology of 50 marks and Paper-2 would be Subject specific of 50 marks. Both papers will have 50 multiple choices questions in each. The Entrance Test shall be of two-hour duration (*i.e.* 120 minutes). Applicants have to qualify in aggregate with 50% (A relaxation of 5% is allowed 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) marks. After qualifying the research entrance examination, the applicant has to appear in the interview which shall be of 40 marks. An Applicant has to score minimum 50 per cent marks in interview. Selected applicants list will be displayed on university web site; [www.sgrru.ac.in](http://www.sgrru.ac.in)

**Table 1.0: Break up of marks in RET**

S. No.	Paper	Subject	Total Marks	Qualifying marks (percentage)
1	Paper-I	Research Methodology	50	50% (45% for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories & SGRR Alumni)
2	Paper-II	Subject applied for Ph.D.	50	
3.	Interview	Based on Research aptitude	40	50% (45% for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories & SGRR Alumni)
4	Total Marks		140	50% (45% in case of reserved categories).

#### 3.1.2 Personal interview:

Points to be considered during the personal interview (**Annexure-O-III**):

- a). Whether the applicant possesses the requisite competence for the proposed research.
- b). Whether the research can be suitably undertaken at the University.
- c). Whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

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

### **RR-3: Registration /Admission after Interview**

- 3.1 The eligible applicant seeking admission to the Ph.D. program shall apply to the Dean-Research, Shri Guru Ram Rai University, Patel Nagar, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand India in the prescribed Ph.D. registration form (available on the university website) along with the registration fee as may be prescribed from time to time (**Annexure-O-IV**).
- 3.2 The registered research scholars are required to compulsory pursue Pre Ph.D. course work and attain a minimum of 55% marks as detailed in RR-5.
- 3.3 In case of any dispute/problem, Dean-Research shall take an appropriate decision. In case where Dean-Research is Head of Place of Research, the Vice-Chancellor will take an appropriate decision.
- 3.4 After the declaration of the coursework results, research scholars will be allotted the supervisor, provided the requirements detailed in RR-5 are met.
- 3.5 The date of registration shall be the date of provisional admission which shall be confirmed after the successful completion of the Pre Ph.D. course work.
- 3.6 After successfully completing the Pre Ph.D. course work, the research scholar shall present the research proposal before Synopsis Approval Committee (SAC) following the Research Rule RR-6.
- 3.7 As per the rules of SGRR University Ordinance, **registered applicants shall not be allowed to register simultaneously for any other degree course.**
- 3.8 Dean-Research shall admit the students as per the rules and regulations of the University.

### **RR-4: Eligibility Criteria for Research Supervisor**

- 4.1 A regular Professor/Associate Professor, with a Ph.D., of Shri Guru Ram Rai University with at least five research publications in refereed journals. A regular Assistant Professor of the University with a Ph.D. degree and three research publications in refereed journals/UGC care list may be recognized as Research Supervisors. In medical science courses, Ph.D./MCh/DM, or MD/MS (with ten years of experience) may be recognized as a research supervisor (**Annexure-O-V**).
- 4.2 Faculty/Scientists who join the University after serving elsewhere with three years of regular teaching/ research experience in the relevant discipline, are also eligible to be considered for recognition Research Supervisor if they fulfill the eligibility as mentioned



in 4.1.

- 4.3** Faculty/Scientists desirous of supervising Research scholar of other disciplines/interdisciplinary studies, shall submit an application with their detailed curriculum vitae (CV) to Dean-Research for recognition as Research Supervisor of Shri Guru Ram Rai University along with evidence of regular service and publications of research articles in the related discipline.
- 4.4** To decide upon recognition of Research Supervisor, Dean-Research shall refer the application (with CV and other enclosures including publications) to the Chairman, Research Advisory Committee. The Dean-Research shall notify the recognition after formal approval by the Vice Chancellor.
- 4.5** An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to 08/06/04 Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time. Each supervisor can guide up to 02 international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D.

**Note:** The hiring of external main Supervisor for the purpose is not allowed, Co-Supervisor may be allowed as per Shri Guru Ram Rai University Ph.D. ordinance. Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of the same institution or other institutions may be permitted with the approval of the competent authority. **{Regulation no. 6.1 UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations 2022}**. The number of candidates that can be supervised by a Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor shall be governed as per UGC norms and SGRR University ordinance with Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor guide up to 08/06/04 Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time (**Annexure-O-VI**).

#### **RR-5: Course work for Ph.D. registered Research scholar**

The course work is compulsory and will carry **18 credits** (As per UGC Regulations 2022, the credit assigned to the Ph.D. course work shall be a minimum of 12). The breakup of these credits is as under:

- 5.1 Research Methodology (4 credits):** It includes Research Methodology, Quantitative Methods, Computer Application, Tools and Techniques including Instrumentation, Communication Skills.

**5.2 Research & Publication Ethics (2 credits):** It includes research & publications ethical values like plagiarisms etc.; as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) in 2019.

**5.3 Subject specific course work (8 credits):** There may be one or two subject specific papers.

**5.4 Field work (4 credits):** Seminar/ conference presentation, review literature and other academic activities.

In case of pandemic scenario, course work may be conducted in the form of blended teaching.

**Table 3.0: The Course Structure and the Assessment scheme**

S. No.	Subject	Credits L:T:P	Total credit	Total marks	Minimum marks to be scored for successful completion
1.	Research methodology	2:1:1	4	80	40
2	Research & Publication Ethics	1:1:0	2	40	20
3.	Subject specific paper/s	4:2:2	8	160	80
4.	Field work / Research methodology presentation	0:2:2	4	80	40
<b>Total</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>180</b>

Admitted Research Scholar shall be required to undertake course work. The course work will be for a minimum period of one semester. Research Scholar will have to qualify course work papers in first two semesters. The course work shall be treated as pre-Ph.D. preparation. A Ph.D. scholar must attain a minimum of 55% marks for being eligible to continue the programme and submit the thesis. If found necessary and as per the recommendation of the SAC, course work may be carried out by doctoral Research Scholars in related departments/institutes either within or outside the University, for which due credit will be given to them. Evaluation of the course work will be done by the faculties of the University.

**5.5** 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.

**RR-6: Synopsis Approval Committee (SAC) Composition:**

- a) Dean of concerned School (**Chairperson**)
- b) Dean-Research (member)
- c) External expert (a Professor/Scientist from outside the university)
- d) Research supervisor/s (member/s)
- e) Head of the Department (Convener)

Research scholar has to present his/her synopsis before SAC for the approval of research title, timeline of Ph.D., aims/objectives, methodology and tentative chapter plan. The committee may also decide the course(s) that he/she may have to do, if necessary.

**RR-7: Progress Report**

- 7.1** All registered Research Scholars shall be required to submit an elaborated progress report every six months to the Head of the Place of Research, through their Research Supervisors. The research progress report should be a detailed account of the research carried out during the six-month period.

**7.2** The progress reports submitted shall be placed by the Head, before the **Doctoral Research Committee (DRC)**, consisting of:

- 7.1.1 Head of the Department (Chairperson)
- 7.1.2 The Research Supervisor (Convener)
- 7.1.3 School Research Committee Member
- 7.1.4 Discipline expert from the SGRR University
- 7.1.5 Members from the R&D Cell
- 7.1.6 All Faculty members of the respective department.

Note: The presence of all research scholars is mandatory.

The DRC shall be constituted by the Dean Research, SGRR University for each Ph.D. scholar. Each semester, a Ph.D. scholar shall appear before the DRC for presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance.

The Committee shall carefully and strictly scrutinize the progress reports and prepare a brief statement on the progress of the research scholar. In case of unsatisfactory reports, the research

scholar will be given 01-month time to incorporate the suggestions and resubmit the progress report. In case of any dispute, the Dean-Research will take the final decision. Dean Research shall maintain a record of these reports and statements.

#### **RR-8: Cancellation of Registration**

Registration of a Research Scholar shall be cancelled (in any one of the following eventualities, after due approval by Dean-Research).

- 8.1** If Research Scholar fails to comply with rules of attendance as stipulated.
- 8.2** If a Research Scholar (full time) remains absent for a continuous period of four weeks without prior intimation/sanction of leave, admission shall be terminated (except in special cases).
- 8.3** If he/she resigns from the Ph.D. Program the resignation should be duly recommended by the Supervisor.
- 8.4** If he/she fails to submit the fee his/her registration in any semester (subject to the provision contained in the University Ordinances).
- 8.5** If a Research Scholar fails to submit two reports consecutively with due clearance of the fee, his/her registration shall be treated as cancelled.
- 8.6** If his/her research progress is found unsatisfactory and cancellation of the registration is recommended by the DRC.
- 8.7** If he/she does not clear the course work examination within specified time/grades as stipulated.
- 8.8** If he/she is found involved in an act of misconduct and/or indiscipline and termination has been recommended by a competent authority as appointed by the University.

#### **RR-9: Submission of Thesis**

A Ph.D. Scholar shall publish two research papers indexed in SCOPUS/SCIE/ESCI/SSCI/AHCI before the Pre-Ph.D. thesis submission. The DRC may recommend a list of journals within specific subject domains where the availability of journals with the aforementioned indexing is limited to the Dean Research for final approval. The DRC may recommend research scholars who have no publications, if deemed fit, for the submission of the thesis.

Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall make a Pre Ph.D. presentation before Dean Research, Dean of respective school, and DRC, which shall also be open to all faculty

members and other research scholars.

Ph.D. thesis should be submitted after completion of three years (36 months) from the date of registration. Following certificates shall be submitted along with the thesis:

- 9.1** 'No Dues Certificate' from the Head of the concerned Department where the research work was carried out; Account section; libraries (departmental & central) & sports section (**Annexure-O-XIII**).
- 9.2** Declaration by Research Scholar regarding originality of the research work should be given on A4 size paper and the same is to be attached with the thesis (**Annexure-O-VIII**).
- 9.3** Certificate duly signed by the Supervisor for the fulfillment of the requirement by the candidate as prescribed by the University (**Annexure-O-IX**).
- 9.4** A certificate from the supervisor attesting to the originality of the thesis and that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other University. (**Annexure-O-VIII**).
- 9.5** Research papers of the Research Scholar (published/ accepted) should be related and relevant to the research work reported in the thesis with the SGRR University affiliation.
- 9.6** Plagiarism report duly signed by the Research Scholar, supervisor and verified by the Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP). It must be an integral part of the thesis.

## **RR-10: Format for Thesis**

### **10.1 Preparation**

Research Scholars submitting the thesis are required to adhere to the following guidelines regarding paper size; text layout etc., except in special cases in which concerned Faculty Head is satisfied that it is not possible to comply with the requirements of these guidelines:

- 10.1.1** Size of the paper should be A4 (8.5" x 11.5") except for maps, drawing, and graphs.
- 10.1.2** The text should be typed on one side of the paper leaving a margin of 4 cm on left hand side and 2 cm on right hand side as well as 2 cm at the top and 2 cm at the bottom.
- 10.1.3** The text should be typed in 1.5 line spacing using normal type face/electronic typing/ PC word processing in 12 font size of Times New Roman (English Font) or Mangal/Kruti (Hindi Font); Fancy fonts are not allowed for text

writing.

## **10.2 Cover layout is also specified:**

Affiliation of the supervisor could be added but it should not contain administrative designation like Head of the Department/ Dean, etc. Also do not write as Dr./Prof./ Mr./Ms./Mrs./Captain etc. before the name of scholar wherever it is mentioned in the thesis **(Annexure-O-X)**.

Research scholar shall be allowed to submit his/her thesis after the completion of a period of two months and before six months from the date of submission of the synopsis, failing which the candidate will have to pay the prescribed fine (2000/- per month) for late submission. Late submission of thesis shall be allowed up to the completion of one year from the date of submission of the synopsis or till the expiry of the registration period, whichever is earlier. Research Scholar will have to submit synopsis again, if given extension.

**10.2.1** The thesis shall be submitted in four copies soft bound form along with a soft copy (CD), required for sending to the external examiners **(Annexure-O-XI)**.

**10.2.2** After attaining the examiners report, the research scholars are required to submit the point-by-point rebuttal to the suggestion/queries raised by the examiner, if any. The rebuttal shall be duly endorsed by the supervisor mentioning the suggestions/recommendations of the examiners have been incorporated by the research scholar in the Ph.D. thesis.

**10.2.3** After incorporating the suggestions/recommendations in the Ph.D. thesis, research scholar shall submit 05 copies of final hard bound thesis in the prescribed format to the Dean Research office to be presented in Ph.D. viva voce examination.

## **RR-11: Appointment of Examiners**

**11.1** The process for appointment of examiners shall be undertaken soon after the Research Scholar submits his/her thesis.

**11.2** The Vice-Chancellor may indicate the order of priority of examiners from 1 to 3 from the list of 10 external examiners (05 by the Chairperson, SAC and 05 by the research supervisor). The thesis shall be sent to the examiners and evaluated by three external examiners. One examiner from within the State and one shall be from outside the State. The third examiner may be from the state or outside the state. *“The Supervisor of the*

*Research Scholar shall be an internal examiner*". The Vice-Chancellor may recommend and approve the experts of the concerned research area other than the proposed panel.

- 11.3** If the approval of the examiners panel is delayed beyond three months, Dean Research may bring this to the attention of the Vice-Chancellor directly and the Vice-Chancellor in such a case, may initiate an appropriate action in consultation with the Dean-Research ensuring that the panel is approved within a month.

#### **RR-12: Evaluation**

- 12.1** After the approval of the panel of examiners, Controller of Examination (COE) shall invite the first three examiners from the approved panel, to examine the thesis. COE shall forward the thesis to the examiners within a week from the date of the receipt of the acceptance letter of the examiner or the submission of thesis, whichever is later. If an examiner does not accept the invitation within thirty days from the date of dispatch of the invitation letter, the COE shall send an invitation letter, to the next examiner on the panel (**Annexure-O-XII & Annexure-O-XIV**).
- 12.2** The external examiners shall independently send their reports to the COE within sixty days from the date of receipt of the thesis. If an examiner fails to do so, the COE will send him/her a reminder immediately after the expiry of the said period and request him/her to submit the report within thirty days. If the examiner concerned fails to comply even within the extended period, the COE shall cancel his appointment forthwith and invite the next examiner from the approved panel to evaluate the thesis. In the event of a request for late submission of the Examiner's report, receipt of the report after the appointment has been cancelled or the loss of report, postal delay, etc., the Dean-Research will take an appropriate decision in the interest of the Research Scholar concerned.
- 12.3** The reports received from the external examiners shall be immediately forwarded to the Dean -Research who, after ascertaining that the reports are positive, shall arrange for viva and defense of the thesis at the earliest date, suitable to internal examiner, the external examiner and the Chairperson, Dean of the concerned school will be the Chairperson for the defense. The Dean shall make the reports available to the candidate, the Research Supervisor at least a day before the date of the viva. In case of any problem, Dean-Research will take an appropriate decision (**Annexure-O-XV**).
- 12.4** Based on final reports of external examiners, the thesis will be accepted/rejected as per

given in Table 4.0.

**Table 4.0: Template for Examiner's evaluation report**

S. No.	Examiner 1	Examiner 2	Examiner 3	Action
1.	Accept	Accept	Accept	Viva Voce
2.	Accept	Accept	Minor revision	Revise thesis with corrections submit within 15 days for viva voce.
3.	Accept	Accept	Accept with major revision	Revise thesis with corrections submit within 30 days for viva-voce
4.	Accept	Accept with major revision	Accept with major revision	Resubmission within 60 days after incorporating suggestions. Thesis to be sent to all examiners again
5.	Accept	Accept	Reject	Revise thesis with corrections shall be sent to the 04 <sup>th</sup> examiner nominated by the Vice-Chancellor*
6.	Accept/ Resubmission	Reject	Reject	Reject & declared ineligible for the award of Ph.D. degree

\*A positive report from the 04<sup>th</sup> examiner will be pre-requisite for the viva-voce examination. However, if the report from the 04<sup>th</sup> examiner refers rejection of the thesis, the Vice-Chancellor will make the final decision.

### **RR-13: Plagiarism and subsequent actions**

- 13.1** If the University receives complaint of plagiarism with sufficient evidence or if any Examiner points out occurrence of plagiarism in the thesis, thesis shall be sent to the SGRR University Research Ethics Committee by the Vice Chancellor, to verify and ascertain the occurrence of plagiarism (with the help of software and by physical verification).
- 13.2** If plagiarism is proved, a show cause notice shall be issued to the Research Scholar and a copy of the same to Supervisor/s (for information only). After receiving reply of show cause notice, all documents/reports/answers to the show cause notice shall be placed before the RC for appropriate action including possible annulment of Registration of the Research Scholar and initiation of disciplinary action against the Research Scholar.



- 13.3 Unsigned and undated complaints without the address of the complainant will not be entertained by the University.
- 13.4 The University shall also strictly maintain confidentiality of the name and address of the complainant.
- 13.5. The similarity index must not exceed the threshold prescribed by the University (currently recommended at  $\leq 10\%$  overall, with  $\leq 5\%$  from a single source).
- 13.6. The use of AI-assisted tools in research is permissible for purposes such as drafting, language editing, and literature searches. However, the intellectual contribution and critical analysis presented in the work must be original and authentic. The utilisation of AI tools must adhere to the University's plagiarism guidelines. The AI-generated content should not exceed the prescribed threshold for plagiarism, which is currently set at  $\leq 25\%$  overall. Compliance with this requirement is essential to ensure the academic integrity of the work.

#### **RR-14: Viva-Voce and Defense of the Thesis**

- 14.1 The viva-voce board shall consist of Research Supervisor and one of the three external examiners, approved by the Vice Chancellor. The viva-voce may be conducted offline or online. The date, time and the place for the viva voce and the defense of thesis shall be notified by the Dean Research in advance. Normally, the viva voce and the defense of the thesis shall be arranged in the University Department.
- 14.2 The defense of the thesis shall be open and take place in the presence of all faculty members of the concerned department, research scholar and Supervisors. The Supervisor (Internal Examiner), one External Examiner and the Chairperson shall jointly evaluate the performance of the candidate. In case of dispute, the Dean Research shall take the final decision.
- 14.3 If neither of the external examiners is able to be present at the time of the viva voce/defense, the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Supervisor and the Dean Research shall appoint a senior research Supervisor to act as an examiner for the defense of the thesis. In case the internal examiner is not available, the Vice-Chancellor shall appoint one of the senior research Supervisor on the recommendation of the Dean Research and Head of the Place of Research.
- 14.4 The examiners present for the viva-voce and the defense of the thesis shall submit their final consolidated report along with the reply given to the queries raised by the external

examiners in the written form, signed and accepted by the members of the Viva-Voce Panel to the COE.

- 14.5** In case the defense is not satisfactory, the examiners may unanimously recommend with reasons that a fresh viva-voce and defense of the thesis be organized within a period of not less than one month. If the defense is still not satisfactory, the Committee would record the reasons for the same. The Committee may recommend the resubmission of the thesis with suggested changes or recommend the rejection of the thesis.

#### **RR-15: Depository with the University Grants Commission (UGC)**

- 15.1** Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and announcement for the award of Ph.D. degree, the University shall submit a soft copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the University Grants Commission, for hosting the same in INFLIBNET accessible to all Colleges/Institutions/Universities.
- 15.2** The University shall issue a provisional certificate, certifying to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the Regulations issued by the University Grants Commission as per the Notification dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 and subsequent in the Gazette of India, published on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and amended in May 2016.
- 15.3** The final result shall be officially declared by the Dean Research within eight days from the date of the receipt of the favorable report on the defense of the thesis.

#### **RR-16: Ph.D. through Part-time Mode**

Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode are permitted as per University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, provided all the above conditions stipulated in the Ordinance are fulfilled. Research Scholar are required to submit a “No Objection Certificate” 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.

**RR-17: Ethical Committee for Research**

The Ethical Committee of the University will be constituted as per UGC CCSEA (Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals) guidelines.