

Dr. RVR



REGULATIONS OF THE

**DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**
(Ph.D.) PROGRAMME

NRIU 26/Ph.D.

Dr. RVR NRI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)



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1.0 PREAMBLE

The Ph.D. Regulations – 2026 of Dr. RVR NRI Institute of Technology have been formulated to provide a structured yet flexible framework that enables research scholars to undertake and successfully complete their doctoral studies leading to the award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

These regulations are designed to create a supportive and enabling academic environment that promotes original research while maintaining high standards of academic rigor, transparency, and quality in doctoral education.

Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, the regulations emphasize academic flexibility, innovation, and quality assurance in research, ensuring that doctoral programmes remain responsive to evolving scientific and technological developments.

The doctoral programme aims to develop independent researchers with deep domain knowledge, strong analytical capabilities, and innovative thinking, enabling them to undertake impactful research and contribute meaningfully to scientific advancement, technological innovation, societal development, and industry-driven solutions.

The regulations also promote interdisciplinary research, collaboration with industry and research organizations, and the effective use of modern research tools and technologies, thereby strengthening the university's commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, and research excellence.

The broader national vision of such initiatives is to strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem of the country, contributing to the emergence of India as a global knowledge and innovation hub.

2.0 Commencement

- I. These regulations shall be called “Regulations Governing the Ph.D. Programme of Dr. RVR NRI Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University) – 2026.”
- II. Provisions may be made for candidates enrolled under previous regulations to migrate to the Ph.D. Regulations – 2026, subject to the approval of the competent authorities of the University.
- III. These regulations shall come into force from the academic year 2026 -27 with the approval by the Academic Council / Executive Council of the University.

3.0 Definitions

The following terms used in these regulations shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

3.1 Research

“Research” means a systematic and scholarly investigation undertaken to discover new knowledge, develop new theories, validate existing concepts, or create innovative technologies, processes, or solutions that contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

3.2 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

“Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)” signifies that the awardee has successfully undertaken and completed a substantial body of original research work under appropriate academic supervision and within a recognized research environment for a prescribed period, as per the regulations of the University.

3.3 Research Scholar

“Research Scholar” means a candidate who has been duly admitted to the Ph.D. programme of Dr. RVR NRI Institute of Technology through the prescribed admission procedures and is registered for doctoral research under these regulations.

3.4 Research Supervisor

“Research Supervisor” means a regular faculty member of the University or a person recognized by the University as a research guide who supervises and guides the research work carried out by a research scholar for the award of the Ph.D. degree.

3.5 Co-Supervisor

“Co-Supervisor” means a person who may belong to a department different from that of the Research Supervisor within the University, or who may not be a member of the University faculty but is affiliated with a recognized and approved organization. Such a person shall be recognized and approved by the competent authority of the University to jointly supervise the research work of a Ph.D. scholar along with the Research Supervisor, particularly in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, or specialized areas of research.

3.6 Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

“Departmental Research Committee (DRC)” refers to the departmental body responsible for guiding, monitoring, and evaluating the progress of research scholars, including approval of research proposals, progress reviews, and recommendation for thesis submission.

3.7 Doctoral Committee (DC)

“Doctoral Committee (DC)” is an intermediate committee constituted by the University to coordinate, facilitate, and monitor doctoral research activities across all Departments. The Committee shall oversee Ph.D. admissions, maintain and monitor Research Supervisor vacancy positions, facilitate the allocation of Research Supervisors and Co-Supervisors to eligible Ph.D. scholars, address research-related academic matters, and obtain and consolidate the observations and recommendations of the respective Departmental Research Committees (DRCs) for review, reporting, and further necessary action.

3.8 University Research Committee (URC)

“University Research Committee (URC)” refers to the apex research body of the University responsible for framing policies, monitoring research activities, approving Ph.D. registrations, and ensuring compliance with national research regulations.

3.9 Full-Time Research Scholar

“Full-Time Research Scholar” refers to a candidate who pursues doctoral research on a full-time basis at the University and whose primary occupation during the period of registration is research work under the supervision of an approved Research Supervisor.

3.10 Part-Time Research Scholar

“Part-Time Research Scholar” refers to a candidate who is employed in an organization and pursues doctoral research while continuing employment, subject to fulfilment of the residency and academic requirements prescribed by the University.

3.11 Sponsored Candidate

“Sponsored Candidate” refers to a research scholar who is sponsored by an employer such as an industry, research organization, or government institution and is permitted to pursue doctoral research with the approval and No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the sponsoring organization.

3.12 External Ph.D. Registration

“External Ph.D. Registration” refers to a category of doctoral registration in which the research scholar carries out the major portion of the research work at an approved external organization such as an industry, research laboratory, or research institution, while remaining registered with the University and working under the guidance of an approved Research Supervisor.

3.13 Blank Semester

“Blank Semester” refers to a semester during which a research scholar is granted approved leave of absence from academic and research activities, subject to the conditions and approvals prescribed in the Ph.D. regulations of the University.

4.0 Research Governance Structure

The research activities and doctoral programmes of the University are administered through a structured governance mechanism to ensure quality, transparency, and effective monitoring of research.

1. University Research Committee (URC)
2. Doctoral Committee (DC)
3. Departmental Research Committee (DRC)
4. Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor
5. Research Scholar

**4.1 University Research Committee (URC)****4.1.1 Composition of the University Research Committee**

The University Research Committee (URC) shall oversee and coordinate research activities related to the Ph.D. programmes of the University.

Sl. No.	Position	Role
1	Vice-Chancellor	Chairperson
2	Pro Vice-Chancellor	Member
3	Registrar	Member
4	Deans of Faculties	Members
5	Heads of Departments concerned	Members
6	Senior Professor / Research Expert nominated by the University	Member
7	Director (Research & Development)	Member Secretary

4.1.2 Functions and Duties of the University Research Committee (URC)

The University Research Committee (URC) shall perform the following functions:

- 4.1.2.1 Formulate and periodically review the Ph.D. regulations and research policies of the University.
- 4.1.2.2 Approve the Ph.D. admission process, eligibility criteria, and selection procedures.
- 4.1.2.3 Approve Ph.D. registrations recommended by the Departmental Research Committees (DRC).
- 4.1.2.4 Monitor the overall progress of research activities across departments.
- 4.1.2.5 Approve the panel of examiners for thesis evaluation, as recommended by the departments.
- 4.1.2.6 Review and approve requests related to change of research supervisor or co-supervisor, based on recommendations of the concerned department and DRC.
- 4.1.2.7 Consider and approve cases related to extension of the Ph.D. programme duration or withdrawal of registration, as per University regulations.
- 4.1.2.8 Ensure compliance with UGC regulations and other national guidelines related to doctoral research.
- 4.1.2.9 Promote high-quality research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and industry partnerships within the University.
- 4.1.2.10 Address matters related to research ethics, plagiarism, and academic integrity.
- 4.1.2.11 Make recommendations to the Academic Council or competent authority regarding the award of the Ph.D. degree.

4.1.3 Tenure of the University Research Committee (URC)

- 4.1.3.1 The University Research Committee (URC) shall be constituted by the University to oversee research activities and Ph.D. programmes.
- 4.1.3.2 The tenure of the URC shall normally be three (3) years from the date of constitution.
- 4.1.3.3 Members may be reappointed or replaced as required by the University.

- 4.1.3.4 Any vacancy arising due to resignation, retirement, or other reasons shall be filled by nomination of a new member by the competent authority of the University.

4.1.4 Quorum and Meeting Frequency of the University Research Committee (URC)

- 4.1.4.1 The University Research Committee (URC) shall meet periodically to review and oversee research policies, Ph.D. programme implementation, and recommendations received from departments.
- 4.1.4.2 The URC shall normally meet at least once in a semester or as required to address matters related to the Ph.D. programme.
- 4.1.4.3 The quorum for a URC meeting shall be one-third of the total members, including the Chairperson or the Member Secretary.
- 4.1.4.4 Decisions of the URC shall be taken by majority of the members present and voting.
- 4.1.4.5 The minutes of the URC meetings shall be recorded and placed before the Academic Council / competent authority of the University for approval wherever required.

4.2 Doctoral Committee (DC)

4.2.1 Composition of the Doctoral Committee

The **Doctoral Committee (DC)** shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the Ph.D. programmes across the University.

The composition of the Doctoral Committee shall be as follows:

Sl. No.	Position	Role
1	Director (Research & Development)	Chairperson
2	Deans of Schools / Faculties	Members
3	Chairpersons of Departmental Research Committees (DRCs)	Member
4	Senior Faculty member nominated by the Vice-chancellor	Member

4.2.2 Functions and Responsibilities of the Doctoral Committee

The Doctoral Committee (DC) shall perform the following functions:

- 4.2.2.1 Monitor and review the implementation of the Ph.D. programme across all departments of the University.
- 4.2.2.2 Ensure uniform implementation of the Ph.D. regulations and guidelines in accordance with University and UGC norms.
- 4.2.2.3 Review recommendations submitted by the Departmental Research Committees (DRCs) regarding research proposals, progress reviews, and thesis submission.
- 4.2.2.4 Facilitate coordination between different departments for interdisciplinary research activities.
- 4.2.2.5 Address academic and administrative matters related to the progress of Ph.D. scholars.

4.2.2.6 Review issues related to research supervision, co-supervision, and changes in research supervision, if required.

4.2.2.7 Recommend policy matters related to doctoral research to the University Research Committee (URC) for approval.

4.2.3 Tenure of the Doctoral Committee

4.2.3.1 The Doctoral Committee shall be constituted by the University to oversee the functioning of doctoral programmes.

4.2.3.2 The tenure of the Doctoral Committee shall normally be three (3) years from the date of constitution.

4.2.3.3 Members may be reappointed or replaced by the competent authority of the University, if necessary.

4.2.4 Meetings of the Doctoral Committee

4.2.4.1 The Doctoral Committee shall meet at least once in a semester or as required to review matters related to doctoral programmes.

4.2.4.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Doctoral Committee shall be one-third of the total members, including the Chairperson or Member Secretary.

4.2.4.3 The decisions of the Committee shall be taken by majority of the members present.

4.2.4.4 Meetings of the Doctoral Committee or Departmental Research Committee may be conducted using technology-enabled platforms such as online or hybrid modes, particularly when external experts participate.

4.3 Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

4.3.1 Constitution of the DRC

For every Ph.D. candidate, the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall guide and monitor the research progress. The DRC shall normally consist of:

S.No	Position	Role
1	HOD/Chairman, Board of Studies	Chairperson
2	Subject Expert* (Specialization-I)	Member
3	Subject Expert* Member (Specialization-II)	Member
4	Subject Expert* Member (Specialization-III)	Member
:	:	Member
:	Subject Expert* (Specialization-xyz)	Member
N	Department Research Coordinator	Convener

4.3.2 Functions of the DRC

The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall perform the following functions:

4.3.2.1 Review and finalize the research topic and research plan of the candidate.

4.3.2.2 Recommend coursework and prerequisite subjects, if required.

4.3.2.3 Evaluate the research proposal / synopsis presentation of the candidate.

4.3.2.4 Monitor the progress of research work periodically.

- 4.3.2.5 Suggest modifications in the research plan or methodology, if necessary.
- 4.3.2.6 Recommend the candidate for submission of the Ph.D. thesis upon satisfactory completion of research work.
- 4.3.2.7 Recommend annual research intake, availability of supervisory vacancies, and allocation of research scholars.
- 4.3.2.8 Prepare and periodically update a database/panel of external experts and examiners in relevant research areas.
- 4.3.2.9 Examine and recommend special academic cases relating to change of category, extension, re-registration, co-supervision, migration, and other research matters.

4.3.3 Progress Review

- 4.3.3.1 Every Ph.D. candidate shall present periodic progress reports before the DRC.
- 4.3.3.2 The progress review shall normally be conducted once every six months.
- 4.3.3.3 Unsatisfactory progress may result in recommendations for corrective measures, including extension of the research period, completion of additional coursework, suspension of registration, or cancellation of registration, as recommended by the DRC/DC and approved by the competent authority/URC.

4.3.4 Tenure of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

- 4.3.4.1 The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall be constituted by the department with the approval of the competent authority of the University.
- 4.3.4.2 The tenure of the DRC shall normally be three (3) years from the date of constitution.
- 4.3.4.3 Members of the committee may be re-nominated or replaced, if required, with the approval of the competent authority.
- 4.3.4.4 In case of resignation, retirement, or inability of any member to continue, the department may nominate a replacement member for the remaining tenure with the approval of the University.

4.3.5 Quorum and Meeting Frequency of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

- 4.3.5.1 The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall meet periodically to review matters related to Ph.D. admissions, research progress, coursework recommendations, synopsis approval, and thesis submission.
- 4.3.5.2 The DRC shall normally meet at least twice in a semester or as required to review the progress of Ph.D. scholars.
- 4.3.5.3 The quorum for a DRC meeting shall be at least three members, including the Chairperson (HoD) and the Research Supervisor.
- 4.3.5.4 Decisions of the DRC shall normally be taken by consensus or majority of the members present.
- 4.3.5.5 The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded and maintained by the Department and forwarded through the Research & Development Cell

to the University Research Committee (URC) for approval, wherever required.

4.4 Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor

4.4.1 Eligibility to Supervise Ph.D. Scholars

- 4.4.1.1 Only regular faculty members of the University possessing a Ph.D. degree in the relevant discipline shall be eligible to act as Ph.D. supervisors.
- 4.4.1.2 A regular Professor / Associate Professor with at least five research publications in refereed / peer-reviewed / UGC-CARE listed journals and an Assistant Professor with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed / peer-reviewed / UGC-CARE listed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor, subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.
- 4.4.1.3 Adjunct faculty members, research scientists, or experts from industry may be appointed as Co-Supervisors, subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the University Research Committee (URC).
- 4.4.1.4 Only full-time regular faculty members of the University shall act as Research Supervisors. External experts may serve only as Co-Supervisors subject to approval by the DRC and URC.

4.4.2 Maximum Number of Ph.D. Scholars

- 4.4.2.1 The maximum number of Ph.D. scholars permitted under a Research Supervisor at any given time shall be as per UGC regulations.

Designation of Supervisor	Maximum Number of Ph.D. Scholars
Professor	8
Associate Professor	6
Assistant Professor	4

- 4.4.2.2 The above limits shall include all categories of Ph.D. scholars, namely full-time, part-time, sponsored, and external candidates registered under the supervisor.
- 4.4.2.3 For the purpose of determining supervisory load, two part-time Ph.D. scholars may be considered equivalent to one full-time Ph.D. scholar, subject to approval by the University Research Committee (URC).
- 4.4.2.4 After a research scholar has successfully completed the pre-submission seminar (pre-talk) and is recommended for thesis submission by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), the position may be treated as a potential vacancy, subject to approval by the Vice-Chancellor / competent authority.

4.4.3 Co-Supervision

- 4.4.3.1 A Co-Supervisor may be appointed when the research work involves interdisciplinary areas or specialized expertise.
- 4.4.3.2 The Co-Supervisor may be from:
 - another department of the University
 - another recognized university or research institution
 - industry or research laboratories
- 4.4.3.3 Appointment of a Co-Supervisor shall require approval from the DRC and URC.

4.4.4 Change of Supervisor / Co-Supervisor

- 4.4.4.1 In exceptional circumstances such as retirement, resignation, transfer, long leave, or inability of the supervisor to continue, the University may permit a change of Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor.
- 4.4.4.2 The concerned department shall recommend a suitable replacement supervisor / co-supervisor through the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 4.4.4.3 The change of supervisor / co-supervisor shall require approval from the University Research Committee (URC) and the competent authority of the University.
- 4.4.4.4 The change of supervisor / co-supervisor shall not adversely affect the continuity of the research work of the Ph.D. scholar.
- 4.4.4.5 A retired faculty member may continue to guide already registered Ph.D. scholars for a limited period as prescribed by the University, provided an eligible Co-Supervisor or alternate Supervisor is appointed.
- 4.4.4.6 Faculty members proceeding on lien, deputation, long leave, or foreign assignment shall nominate an eligible Co-Supervisor from the department with approval of the competent authority of the University.

4.4.5 Duties of the Research Supervisor

- 4.4.5.1 The Research Supervisor shall serve as the primary academic mentor and the single point of contact for all academic and research-related matters concerning the Ph.D. scholar.
- 4.4.5.2 The Research Supervisor shall provide continuous guidance, support, and mentoring to enable the research scholar to successfully complete the proposed research work and produce a thesis of high academic quality.
- 4.4.5.3 The Research Supervisor shall guide the scholar in identifying the research problem, developing appropriate research methodologies, analysing results, and preparing the thesis in accordance with the standards of the University and the respective academic discipline.
- 4.4.5.4 The Research Supervisor shall monitor the progress of the research work and ensure that the scholar presents periodic progress reports or research progress colloquia before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 4.4.5.5 The Research Supervisor shall maintain regular interaction with the research scholar, ensuring accessibility, professional guidance, constructive feedback, and consistent encouragement throughout the doctoral research process.

4.4.6 Duties of the Co-Supervisor

- 4.4.6.1 The Co-Supervisor shall assist the Research Supervisor in guiding the research scholar, particularly in areas requiring specialized or interdisciplinary expertise.
- 4.4.6.2 The Co-Supervisor shall provide technical guidance and academic support to the research scholar in the conduct of research work.
- 4.4.6.3 The Co-Supervisor shall collaborate with the Research Supervisor in monitoring the research progress of the scholar and in advising on research methodology, experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation of results.
- 4.4.6.4 The Co-Supervisor may participate in research progress reviews, research discussions, and thesis preparation, wherever required.
- 4.4.6.5 The Co-Supervisor shall support the scholar in ensuring that the research work meets the academic and ethical standards of the University.
- 4.4.6.6 The Co-Supervisor shall work in coordination with the Research Supervisor and Departmental Research Committee (DRC) to ensure satisfactory progress of the research work.

4.5 Research Scholar

4.5.1 Definition

- 4.5.1.1 A Research Scholar is a candidate who has been duly admitted to the Ph.D. programme of Dr. RVR NRI Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University) through the prescribed admission procedures and registered for doctoral research under these regulations.

4.5.2 Responsibilities of the Research Scholar

The Research Scholar shall:

- 4.5.2.1 Carry out the research work under the guidance and supervision of the Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor.
- 4.5.2.2 Complete the prescribed coursework requirements within the stipulated time as specified in the Ph.D. regulations.
- 4.5.2.3 Present periodic progress seminars and reports before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 4.5.2.4 Adhere to ethical standards in research, academic integrity, and plagiarism regulations as prescribed by the University and national regulatory bodies.
- 4.5.2.5 Publish research findings in reputed peer-reviewed journals or conferences, wherever applicable, as part of the doctoral research work.
- 4.5.2.6 Maintain regular interaction with the Research Supervisor and ensure satisfactory progress of the research work.
- 4.5.2.7 Submit the Ph.D. thesis within the prescribed duration of the programme.

4.5.3 Rights of the Research Scholar

The Research Scholar shall have the following rights:

- 4.5.3.1 Access to research facilities, laboratories, libraries, and other academic resources available in the University.
- 4.5.3.2 Guidance and academic support from the Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor and the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 4.5.3.3 Opportunity to participate in seminars, workshops, conferences, and research training programmes relevant to their research area.
- 4.5.3.4 Fair and transparent evaluation of research progress in accordance with the University Ph.D. regulations.

4.5.4 Compliance with Regulations

- 4.5.4.1 The Research Scholar shall comply with all academic regulations, research ethics guidelines, and administrative procedures prescribed by the University.
- 4.5.4.2 Any act of academic misconduct, plagiarism, or violation of research ethics shall be dealt with in accordance with the University and UGC regulations.

4.6 Office of the Director (Research & Development)

- 4.6.1 The Office of the Director (Research & Development) shall facilitate, coordinate, and promote research activities in the University and perform the following functions:
 - 4.6.1.1 Facilitate and promote high-quality research activities in the University and in recognized research laboratories and research centers.
 - 4.6.1.2 Coordinate, supervise, and process Ph.D. admissions and place recommendations before the competent authority of the University for approval.
 - 4.6.1.3 Facilitate the allocation and effective utilization of research infrastructure, laboratories, equipment, space, and other research facilities for research scholars and faculty.
 - 4.6.1.4 Oversee matters related to research funding, fellowships, assistantships, and financial support for research scholars.
 - 4.6.1.5 Promote and support submission of research proposals for internal and external funding from government agencies, industries, and other organizations.
 - 4.6.1.6 Facilitate collaboration with industries, research institutions, and national and international organizations to strengthen research and development activities.
 - 4.6.1.7 Encourage the establishment of advanced research laboratories, research centers, and centers of excellence in thrust areas.
 - 4.6.1.8 Promote innovation, intellectual property generation, technology transfer, and commercialization of research outcomes in accordance with University policies.
 - 4.6.1.9 Support research entrepreneurship, startup incubation, and industry-oriented research initiatives.
 - 4.6.1.10 Maintain records of research scholars, publications, funded projects, patents, and research activities for reporting to accreditation bodies, ranking agencies, and regulatory authorities.

5.0 Admission Criteria

Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programmes in Engineering, Sciences, Pharmacy, Management, and related disciplines shall follow a two-stage selection process in accordance with the UGC Regulations for Ph.D. Programmes and the institutional policies of the University.

5.1 Eligibility Criteria

Candidates seeking admission to the Ph.D. programme must satisfy the Minimum Educational Qualification (MEQ) and Qualifying Examination (QE) requirements as specified below.

5.1.1 Discipline-wise Eligibility

Discipline	Minimum Educational Qualification (MEQ)	Qualifying Examination (QE)
Engineering / Technology and Allied Areas	M.Tech / M.E. or equivalent Master's degree in relevant discipline with $\geq 55\%$ marks or equivalent CGPA	GATE / UGC-NET / CSIR-NET (JRF) / RVRNRIIT-PET
MCA / M.Sc. (Computer Science / Electronics and Allied Areas)	MCA / M.Sc. or equivalent Master's degree in relevant or allied disciplines with $\geq 55\%$ marks or equivalent CGPA	GATE / UGC-NET / CSIR-NET (JRF) / RVRNRIIT-PET
Management / Commerce	MBA / PGDM / M.Com or equivalent Master's degree in relevant discipline with $\geq 55\%$ marks	UGC-NET (Management/Commerce) / CAT / GMAT / RVRNRIIT-PET
Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences	M.Pharm / Pharm.D (Post Baccalaureate) or equivalent with $\geq 55\%$ marks.	GPAT / UGC-NET / CSIR-NET / RVRNRIIT-PET
Pharmaceutical Biotechnology	MPharmacy/MTech Biotechnology/ Biochemical Engineering/ MSc Biotechnology	CSIR-NET / UGC-NET / GATE / JEST / RVRNRIIT-PET
Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, etc.)	M.Sc. or equivalent Master's degree in relevant discipline with $\geq 55\%$ marks	CSIR-NET / UGC-NET / GATE / JEST / RVRNRIIT-PET
Humanities and Social Sciences (Economics, English, etc.)	Master's degree in relevant discipline with $\geq 55\%$ marks	UGC-NET / RVRNRIIT-PET

5.2 Additional Provisions for Eligibility

5.2.1 Interdisciplinary and Allied Eligibility

Candidates possessing qualifications in allied or interdisciplinary fields (such as MCA, M.Sc., Electronics, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Mathematics, etc.) may be considered for admission to relevant Ph.D. programmes, subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

5.2.2 Eligibility with Different Undergraduate Background

Candidates who have completed a Master's degree in a relevant specialization (e.g., M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering or related areas), even if their undergraduate degree is in a different discipline, may be considered eligible, provided they demonstrate adequate background knowledge during the entrance test and/or interview.

5.2.3 Bridge Courses / Prerequisites

The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) may prescribe bridge courses, prerequisite subjects, or additional coursework, wherever necessary, to ensure that the candidate possesses adequate foundational knowledge relevant to the proposed research area.

5.2.4 Special Provision for MCA / M.Sc. Candidates

Candidates with MCA or M.Sc. qualifications in Computer Science, Information Technology, or related disciplines may be considered for admission to Ph.D. programmes in Computer Science, subject to:

- Demonstration of adequate background knowledge in the entrance test and/or interview, and
- Approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the Ph.D. Admission Committee.

5.2.5 Final Decision on Eligibility

The final decision regarding the eligibility of candidates, particularly those from interdisciplinary or allied backgrounds, shall rest with the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the Ph.D. Admission Committee of the University.

5.3 Qualifying Entrance Examinations

Admission to the Ph.D. programme generally requires performance in national-level qualifying examinations.

5.3.1 Accepted Examinations

The following national-level examinations are accepted:

- GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) – preferred for Engineering disciplines
- UGC-NET / CSIR-NET (JRF) – for Science, Management and related disciplines

5.4 Entrance Test and Exemption

A formal notification for admission into the Ph.D. programme with specialization subjects shall be published in leading newspapers and also hosted on the official University website. Interested candidates shall submit their applications online/offline in the prescribed format along with the prescribed application fee of Rs. 500/-.

The admission process shall include an online entrance examination consisting of two parts:

- Part-A: Research Aptitude – 25 Marks
- Part-B: Discipline/Subject-specific examination as mentioned in the admission notification – 50 Marks

The total marks obtained in the entrance examination shall be normalized to 70 marks.

Candidates shall be shortlisted based on the merit/rank obtained in the entrance examination and called for an interview carrying 30 marks.

The final selection of candidates shall be based on:

- Combined merit obtained in the entrance examination and interview,
- Availability of seats,
- Eligibility criteria prescribed by the University.

Provisional admission letters shall be issued to the selected candidates in the order of merit.

Candidates may be exempted from the institutional Ph.D entrance Test (NRIU -PET) if they satisfy any of the following conditions.

5.4.1 Institute of National Importance

Candidates who have graduated from IITs, NITs, IISERs or other Institutes of National Importance with CGPA ≥ 8.0 .

5.4.2 National Fellowships

Candidates holding national fellowships such as:

- UGC-JRF
- CSIR-JRF
- DST INSPIRE Fellowship

5.5 Institutional Entrance Test

Candidates without valid national qualifying scores may be required to appear for the NRI University Ph.D Entrance Test (NRIU-PET) conducted by the University.

5.6 Selection Process

Admission shall follow a two-stage selection procedure.

5.6.1 Stage 1 – Shortlisting

Candidates will be shortlisted based on:

- Academic performance
- GATE / NET score
- University entrance test score (if applicable)

5.6.2 Stage 2 – Interview / Research Presentation

Shortlisted candidates shall appear for a Departmental Research Interview, which may include:

- Presentation of Research Proposal / Statement of Purpose (SOP)
- Interaction with the Departmental Research Committee

Evaluation shall be based on:

- Subject knowledge
- Research aptitude
- Feasibility of proposed research
- Alignment with departmental research areas
- Availability of research facilities and infrastructure in case of part time Scholars
- Potential contribution of the proposed research to knowledge, innovation, industry, or society.

5.6.3 Weightage for Final Selection

The final selection may follow a 70 : 30 weightage system:

- 70% – Entrance examination / qualifying test score
- 30% – Interview / research presentation

5.7 Relaxation for Reserved Categories

A 5% relaxation in minimum marks shall be provided for candidates belonging to:

- SC / ST
- OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)
- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

Accordingly:

- Minimum marks required for Master's degree – 50%
- Minimum marks required for Direct Ph.D. from B.Tech – 65%

5.8 Categories of Admission

Ph.D. admissions may be offered under the following categories:

Full-Time Regular	• Candidates pursue research on campus. • Eligible for Institute / Government Fellowship. • Meritorious candidates may be considered for fellowship subject to University norms and availability of funds.
Part-Time Ph.D.	• Intended for working professionals. • Must have at least 2 years of working experience in the relevant field/discipline after Masters program • Requires completion of mandatory on-campus residency for coursework.
Sponsored Candidates	• Professionals from industry, R&D organizations, or government institutions. • Must submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the employer.
Industry Collaborative Ph.D	• The University may offer Industry-Collaborative Ph.D programmes in partnership with industries, research laboratories, and R&D organizations.

	• In such cases, the research scholar may conduct part of the research work at the collaborating industry or research organization with the approval of the University. • The candidate shall be guided by a University Supervisor and an Industry Co-Supervisor.
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5.8.1 Conversion of Ph.D

Conversion from Full-Time to Part-Time registration or vice versa may be permitted subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions, availability of supervisory vacancies, residency requirements, and approval of the competent authority of the University.

5.8.2 Foreign / NRI Candidates

Foreign/NRI candidates may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions, equivalence of qualifications, visa regulations, and approval of the competent authority.

5.8.3 Executive / Extramural Category

Executives, industry professionals, and candidates working in research organizations may be admitted under Executive/Extramural category subject to sponsorship, availability of research facilities, and fulfillment of residency requirements prescribed by the University.

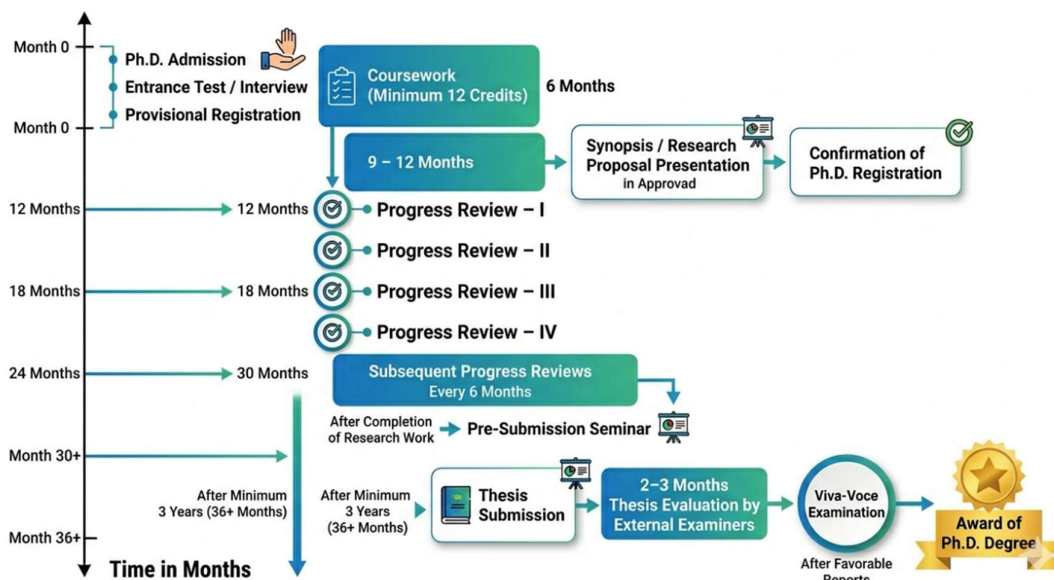
5.9 Required Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents at the time of admission:

1. Degree Certificates (UG/PG/ equivalent)
2. Consolidated Mark Sheets / Transcripts
3. Valid scorecards of national examinations (GATE / NET / JRF), if applicable
4. Research Proposal including:
 - Problem statement
 - Objectives
 - Proposed methodology
5. Statement of Purpose (SOP)
6. Two Letters of Recommendation (LORs)
7. Category Certificate (SC / ST / OBC / EWS / PwD), if applicable
8. No Objection Certificate (NOC) for sponsored / part-time candidates
9. Identity proof and passport-size photographs
10. Migration certificate from the previous University / Institution

6.0 Academic Process

The academic process of the Ph.D. programme shall include provisional registration, coursework, research proposal approval, confirmation of registration, progress monitoring, thesis submission, and final evaluation, as detailed below.



6.1 Ph.D. Registration

Following admission, candidates shall be registered in the Ph.D. programme as per the prescribed regulations and timeline.

6.1.1 Provisional Registration

6.1.1.1 Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall initially be granted Provisional Registration.

6.1.1.2 During this period, the candidate shall complete the mandatory coursework requirements prescribed by the University.

6.2 Mandatory Coursework

All Ph.D. candidates admitted to the programme shall undergo coursework during the initial stage of the programme as prescribed by the University. The coursework shall serve as pre-doctoral preparation for research.

6.2.1 Minimum Credit Requirement

The Ph.D. coursework shall consist of a minimum of 12 credits, which may include the following courses:

Sl. No.	Course Title	Description	Credits
1	Paper -1 : Research Methodology	Covers research design, research methods, data analysis, academic writing, and research ethics. <i>(Mandatory)</i>	4
2	Specialized Elective Course	Discipline-specific elective course recommended by the Supervisor or Departmental Research Committee (DRC) or a 12 week course from NPTEL (from the approved list by DRC)	4

Sl. No.	Course Title	Description	Credits
3	Paper -3 : Advanced Subject Course	Advanced course(s) related to the candidate's proposed research area as recommended by the supervisor/DRC.	4

6.2.2 Coursework Evaluation

6.2.2.1 Candidates must obtain a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent grade in each course to successfully complete the coursework.

6.2.2.2 Candidates who fail to secure the required grade may be permitted to reappear for the examination once, as per University regulations.

6.2.2.3 Failure to complete coursework successfully may lead to cancellation of the Ph.D. registration.

6.2.2.4 Coursework Assessment Pattern

Coursework evaluation may consist of the following components:

Component	Marks
Continuous Assessment	60
Final Examination / Interaction	40
Total	100

6.2.3 Exemption / Credit Transfer from Coursework

6.2.3.1 Coursework shall be mandatory for all Ph.D. scholars as per UGC regulations.

6.2.3.2 However, a research scholar who has already completed equivalent postgraduate-level coursework or research-related courses in the relevant area from a recognized institution may be considered for partial exemption or credit transfer, subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the University Research Committee (URC).

6.2.3.3 The DRC shall evaluate the relevance, content, and equivalence of such previously completed coursework before granting exemption or credit transfer.

6.2.3.4 Notwithstanding the above, every Ph.D. scholar shall be required to complete essential coursework components, including Research Methodology and Ethics, as prescribed by the University.

6.2.3.5 Credits earned through SWAYAM / NPTEL MOOCs may be considered for Ph.D. coursework subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC). The DRC may recommend additional courses based on the candidate's academic background.

6.2.4 MOOCs / NPTEL Courses

6.2.4.1 Credits earned through SWAYAM / NPTEL / other approved MOOCs platforms may be considered for Ph.D. coursework subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

6.2.4.2 Such courses shall normally be from the list of approved courses relevant to the research area of the candidate.

6.2.4.3 The maximum number of credits that may be transferred through MOOCs shall be decided by the DRC in accordance with University regulations.

6.2.5 Attendance Requirement

6.2.5.1 A research scholar shall maintain a minimum attendance of 75% in coursework.

6.2.5.2 Attendance shortage up to 10% may be condoned on valid medical grounds with the approval by the Vice-Chancellor / competent authority of the University.

6.2.6 Bridge Courses

6.2.6.1 Candidates admitted from allied or interdisciplinary backgrounds may be required to complete bridge courses recommended by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

6.2.6.2 These courses shall help ensure that the candidate acquires the necessary foundational knowledge relevant to the research area.

6.2.7 Minimum Grade Requirement

A research scholar shall obtain a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent CGPA in coursework to become eligible for continuation in the Ph.D programme.

6.2.8 Duration of Coursework

The Ph.D. coursework shall normally be completed within the first one or two semesters of the Ph.D. programme. Successful completion of coursework is mandatory for confirmation of Ph.D. registration.

6.3 Research Proposal / Synopsis Presentation

6.3.1 After successful completion of coursework, the candidate shall prepare and present a detailed research proposal (synopsis) before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

6.3.2 The proposal shall be evaluated by the DRC.

6.3.3 Upon approval of the synopsis, the candidate shall proceed with doctoral research under the supervision of the assigned Research Supervisor.

6.3.4 The synopsis shall normally include:

- Research problem and objectives
- Literature review
- Proposed methodology
- Expected outcomes and contributions

6.3.5 Components of Research Proposal

The research proposal shall normally include:

1. Statement of the research problem
2. Research objectives
3. Review of related literature
4. Proposed research methodology
5. Expected outcomes and contributions

6.4 Confirmation of Registration

- 6.4.1 Based on the successful completion of coursework and approval of the research proposal, the DRC shall recommend confirmation of Ph.D. registration.
- 6.4.2 Upon approval by the University Research Committee (URC) / competent authority, the candidate's Ph.D. registration shall be formally confirmed.

6.5 Modification of Research Topic

- 6.5.1 Minor modifications to the research topic may be permitted with the approval of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 6.5.2 Major changes in the research topic may require re-presentation of the synopsis before the DRC and approval by the competent authority of the University.

6.5.3 Change of Research Area (Special Provision)

- 6.5.3.1 In exceptional cases, if a candidate wishes to change the research area or discipline, a formal request may be submitted through the Head of the Department to the Director (Research & Development).
- 6.5.3.2 Such requests shall be considered by the competent authority of the University, based on recommendations of the DRC and the Director (R&D).
- 6.5.3.3 In such cases, the candidate may be required to restart the programme from the beginning, including coursework, depending on the nature of the change.
- 6.5.3.4 Credit transfer or carryover of previously completed courses may be considered by the DRC, wherever appropriate.
- 6.5.3.5 Only one such restart option shall normally be permitted during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

6.6 Research Progress Reviews

- 6.6.1 The research topic of the candidate shall be finalized and presented during the Research Proposal Presentation (RPP) / Synopsis Presentation before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 6.6.2 Every research scholar shall submit a progress report of the research work carried out in the prescribed format through the Research Supervisor to the DRC at regular intervals, normally once every semester.
- 6.6.3 The research scholar shall present the progress of research work before the DRC, which shall review the progress and provide necessary feedback and recommendations.
- 6.6.4 The status of the research progress of the scholar shall be recorded by the department and forwarded to the Director (Research & Development) Cell for necessary action.
- 6.6.5 If the progress of the research scholar is found unsatisfactory for two consecutive progress review meetings, the case shall be referred to the University Research Committee (URC) for further review and appropriate decision regarding the continuation of the research registration.

6.6.6 If a research scholar fails to appear for three consecutive progress review meetings without valid permission or approved leave, the registration may be liable for cancellation subject to review and recommendation by the DRC and approval by the URC.

6.6.7 Progress Review Schedule:

Review	Frequency	Evaluated By
Progress Review – I	After 12 months	DRC
Progress Review – II	After 18 months	DRC
Progress Review – III	After 24 months	DRC
Progress Review – IV	After 30 months	DRC
Subsequent Reviews	Every 6 months	DRC
Pre-submission Seminar	To submit the thesis	DRC

6.6.8 Research Advisory Role of DRC:

The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall function as the Research Advisory body for monitoring the progress of the Ph.D. scholar. The committee shall review the research progress periodically and recommend continuation, modification of research plan, or thesis submission.

6.7 Assessment Rubrics for Progress Reviews

The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall evaluate the research progress of Ph.D. scholars periodically based on the following assessment criteria during progress reviews and presentations.

Progress Review Assessment Rubrics

Sl. No.	Evaluation Parameter	Description	Marks
1	Literature Review	Understanding of existing research and identification of research gaps	20
2	Research Methodology	Clarity and appropriateness of the proposed research methods	20
3	Research Progress	Work completed, results obtained, and milestones achieved	25
4	Publications / Research Output	Papers published or submitted in journals/conferences	15
5	Presentation and Technical Discussion	Clarity of presentation and response to questions	20
Total Marks			100

Evaluation Outcome

Marks Obtained	Evaluation Result
≥ 60	Satisfactory Progress
50 – 59	Conditional Progress (Improvement Required)
< 50	Unsatisfactory Progress (Corrective Action Required)

6.8 Assessment Rubrics for Pre-Submission / Synopsis Evaluation

Before submission of the thesis, the candidate shall present the completed research work before the DRC, which shall evaluate the work using the following criteria.

Sl. No.	Evaluation Parameter	Description	Marks
1	Research Contribution	Originality and significance of research findings	30
2	Methodology and Technical Depth	Soundness of methodology and technical rigor	25
3	Publications	Quality and relevance of research publications	20
4	Thesis Quality and Documentation	Structure, clarity, and organization of research work	10
5	Presentation and Défense	Ability to present and defend the research work	15
Total Marks: 100			

Evaluation Outcome

Marks Obtained	Evaluation Result
≥ 60	Satisfactory Progress
50 – 59	Conditional Progress (Improvement Required)
< 50	Unsatisfactory Progress (Corrective Action Required)

6.8.1 Contents of Synopsis

The Ph.D. synopsis shall normally include the following:

1. Objectives and scope of the research
2. Review of literature
3. Identification of research gaps
4. Problem formulation
5. Research methodology
6. Data collection / experimentation / analysis
7. Key findings and contributions
8. List of publications
9. Proposed chapterization of thesis
10. Future scope of research

6.9 Pre-Submission Requirements

Before submission of the Ph.D. thesis, the candidate must:

- 6.9.1 Successfully complete the mandatory coursework.

- 6.9.2 Present a pre-submission seminar before the Department / DRC.
- 6.9.3 Published or have accepted for publication at least two research papers in SCI / SCIE / Web of Science indexed journals or other equivalent high-quality journals as approved by the University.
- 6.9.4 Research publications/presentations arising from the Ph.D. work shall acknowledge the affiliation of the University and Research Supervisor.

6.10 Finalization of the Specific Research Title

- 6.10.1 Upon successful completion of the research work, the research scholar, in consultation with the Research Supervisor, shall finalize the specific title of the Ph.D. thesis, subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- 6.10.2 The finalized research title shall accurately summarize the central theme and key contributions of the research work carried out by the candidate.
- 6.10.3 The approved title shall be recorded by the department and communicated to the Ph.D. Cell / Director (Research & Development) for official documentation prior to thesis submission.

6.11 Preparation of the Ph.D. Thesis

- 6.11.1 The Ph.D. thesis shall present a systematic and well-organized account of the original research work carried out by the candidate under the supervision of the Research Supervisor.
- 6.11.2 The research work reported in the thesis shall demonstrate original contributions to knowledge, including the development of new techniques, methods, theoretical insights, or meaningful correlation and interpretation of existing knowledge based on analytical, experimental, or computational investigations.
- 6.11.3 The thesis shall clearly demonstrate the candidate's ability to undertake independent research, analyze results critically, and present the findings in a logical, coherent, and scholarly manner.
- 6.11.4 The accomplishments and contributions of the research work shall be clearly documented, objectively evaluated, and honestly presented in the thesis.
- 6.11.5 The thesis shall be subjected to plagiarism detection using University-approved plagiarism detection software and shall comply with the UGC Plagiarism Regulations and amendments issued from time to time.
- 6.11.6 Similarity Thresholds Level 0 $\leq$ 10% no action; Level 1: 10–40% revision; Level 2: 40–60% debarment 1 year; Level 3: >60% cancellation of registration.
- 6.11.7 Cases related to plagiarism and academic misconduct shall be reviewed by the University Research Ethics / Anti-Plagiarism Committee, and appropriate action shall be taken as per UGC regulations
- 6.11.8 The thesis shall include a certificate from the Research Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor, if any) stating that the thesis represents a bonafide record of research work carried out by the candidate under their supervision and guidance, and that the work reported has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree or diploma.
- 6.11.9 The thesis shall also include a declaration from the research scholar confirming the authenticity and originality of the research work and

compliance with the University's research ethics and plagiarism regulations.

6.11.10 Format of Thesis : The thesis shall be prepared in accordance with the formatting guidelines prescribed by the University, including referencing style, margins, chapter structure, and submission format.

6.11.11 Structure of Thesis: The Ph.D. thesis shall normally include:

- Introduction and background
- Literature review
- Research methodology
- Experimental / analytical results
- Discussion and analysis
- Conclusions and future work
- References and publications

6.12 Submission of the Ph.D. Thesis

6.12.1 Upon successful completion of the research work and approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) after the pre-submission seminar, the candidate shall submit the Ph.D. thesis in the prescribed format as specified by the University.

6.12.2 The thesis shall present the original research work carried out by the candidate under the supervision of the Research Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor, if any).

6.12.3 The candidate shall submit the electronic version of the thesis (e-thesis) in the prescribed format to the Office of the Director (Research & Development) / Ph.D. Cell, normally within one month from the date of approval of the pre-submission seminar.

6.12.4 The e-thesis may include supporting research materials such as datasets, software codes, visualizations, animations, or videos, wherever applicable, to document the research work.

6.12.5 In addition to the electronic submission, the candidate shall submit two hard copies of the thesis to the office of the Director (Research & Development) in accordance with the format and specifications prescribed by the University.

6.12.6 At the time of thesis submission, the candidate shall submit a No Dues Certificate obtained from all concerned sections of the University.

6.12.7 The thesis shall be accompanied by the prescribed application form and evaluation fee, as determined by the University from time to time.

6.13 Adjudication Process, Open Defence and Award of Ph.D. Degree

6.13.0 The Ph.D. thesis shall be evaluated by external experts from reputed institutions in India and/or abroad in accordance with University regulations."

6.13.1 Adjudication Process

6.13.1.1 After submission of the Ph.D. thesis, the Research Supervisor, in consultation with the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), shall prepare a panel of external examiners for evaluation of the thesis.

6.13.1.2 The panel shall normally consist of nine experts in the relevant field of research, whose academic credentials and research expertise shall be clearly established.

6.13.1.3 Out of the nine suggested examiners:

- At least four examiners shall be from reputed institutions from India/abroad, and
- The remaining examiners shall be from institutions within India, but outside of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in order to ensure wider academic representation.

6.13.1.4 The panel of examiners recommended by the DRC shall be forwarded to the competent authority of the University for approval.

6.13.2 Appointment of Examiners

6.13.2.1 Conflict of Interest: Examiners cannot be recent co-authors (within 5 years), from same institution, former supervisors of the guide, or close relatives of scholar/supervisor.

6.13.2.2 The Vice-Chancellor or competent authority shall approve the panel of examiners and indicate the order of priority in which the Director (Research & Development) shall approach them for evaluation of the thesis.

6.13.2.3 Upon acceptance by the examiners, the Director (Research & Development) shall forward the thesis for evaluation to two external examiners, normally:

- One examiner from India/abroad, and
- One examiner preferably from outside Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

6.13.3 Evaluation of Thesis

6.13.3.1 The external examiners shall evaluate the thesis and submit their detailed reports in the prescribed format within six weeks from the date of receipt of the thesis.

6.13.3.2 If the evaluation reports are not received within the stipulated period, the Director (Research & Development) may send reminders to the concerned examiners.

6.13.3.3 If the report is still not received within a reasonable period, the thesis may be sent to an alternate examiner from the approved panel, with the approval of the competent authority.

6.13.3.4 The open viva-voce examination may be conducted in physical, online, or hybrid mode with the approval of the competent authority of the University.”

6.13.4 Categories of Examiner Recommendations

Each external examiner shall provide an overall evaluation of the thesis and classify it under one of the following categories:

6.13.4.1 Recommended for acceptance in the present form.

6.13.4.2 Recommended for acceptance with editorial corrections, specifying the suggested modifications.

6.13.4.3 Recommended with minor corrections, to be addressed by the candidate before final submission, subject to approval by the DRC.

- 6.13.4.4 Recommended with major corrections, requiring revision and resubmission after approval by the DRC.
- 6.13.4.5 Recommended for major revision and re-evaluation, requiring resubmission for adjudication by the concerned examiner.
- 6.13.4.6 Not recommended in the present form, requiring fresh submission after substantial revision within the time frame specified by the examiners and recommended by the DRC.

6.13.5 Action Taken Report (ATR)

- 6.13.5.1 The comments and suggestions of the external examiners shall be communicated to the Research Supervisor and the research scholar.
- 6.13.5.2 The research scholar shall prepare an Action Taken Report (ATR) addressing all the comments and suggestions made by the external examiners.
- 6.13.5.3 The ATR and the revised thesis shall be reviewed by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) before the candidate proceeds to the final oral defense (viva-voce).

6.13.6 Open Viva-Voce Examination

The candidate shall defend the research work in an open viva-voce examination before a duly constituted panel as per University regulations.

- 6.13.6.1 After receiving favourable evaluation reports from the external examiners and completion of all required corrections, the candidate shall appear for the open viva-voce examination.
- 6.13.6.2 The viva-voce examination shall normally be conducted by:
 - One of the external examiners, and
 - The Research Supervisor.
- 6.13.6.3 Faculty members, research scholars, and other academic participants of the University may attend the open defense presentation.
- 6.13.6.4 During the viva-voce examination, the candidate shall present and defend the research work and respond to questions raised by the examiners and the academic audience.

6.13.7 Submission of Final Thesis

- 6.13.7.1 After successful completion of the viva-voce examination, the candidate shall submit the final corrected version of the thesis, incorporating all corrections suggested by the examiners and the viva-voce committee.
- 6.13.7.2 The final copies of the thesis shall be submitted to:
 - The Head of the Department,
 - The University Library, and
 - The Office of the Director (Research & Development) for official records.
- 6.13.7.3 If the examiners recommend major revision, the candidate shall submit the revised thesis within a minimum period of one year and not exceeding two years, as approved by the competent authority.

6.13.8 Open Defense Committee (ODC)

6.13.8.1 The Open Defense of the Ph.D. thesis shall be conducted by the Open Defense Committee (ODC).

6.13.8.2 The composition of the Open Defense Committee shall normally be as follows:

Sl. No.	Position	Role
1	Head of the Department / Chairperson of DRC	Chairperson
2	External Adjudicator(s) of the Thesis (at least one, if available)	Member(s)
3	Director (Research & Development) or Nominee	Member
4	Members of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC)	Member(s)
5	Research Supervisor	Member Secretary

6.13.8.3 During the open defense, the candidate shall present the research work and respond to questions raised by the examiners and participants.

6.13.8.4 After completion of the defense, the Chairperson shall formally declare the successful completion of the Ph.D. defense, subject to incorporation of any final corrections.

6.13.9 Award of Ph.D. Degree

6.13.9.1 Upon successful completion of thesis evaluation and open defense, the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall recommend the candidate for the award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

6.13.9.2 The recommendation shall be forwarded to the University Research Committee (URC) and subsequently to the competent authority of the University for approval.

6.13.9.3 Upon approval by the Vice-Chancellor or competent authority, the provisional result shall be notified by the office of the Dean (Academic Affairs) / Examination Section.

6.13.9.4 The candidate shall be eligible to receive the Ph.D. degree at the next Convocation of the University.

6.13.10 Submission to Shodhganga Repository

6.13.10.1 After the award of the Ph.D. degree, the University shall submit an electronic copy of the thesis to the INFLIBNET Shodhganga Repository in accordance with UGC regulations.

6.13.10.2 The thesis shall be made available for academic access and research reference through the national repository.

6.13.11 Deposit of Thesis in University Library

6.13.11.1 After the award of the Ph.D. degree, a final copy of the thesis shall be deposited in the University Library for archival purposes and academic reference.

6.13.11.2 Patent / Innovation-Based Research

“Research outcomes in the form of patents, prototypes, software systems, technology transfer, or innovative products may also be considered as significant research contributions subject to approval by the University.”

6.13.12 Digital Thesis Submission

6.14 Academic Bank of Credits (ABC): Coursework credits of research scholars shall be registered and maintained in the Academic Bank of Credits system as per NEP 2020 guidelines.

All Ph.D. theses shall be submitted in electronic format to the University repository in addition to the Shodhganga submission, to ensure long-term archival, accessibility, and academic reference.

7.0 Duration of the Ph.D. Programme

The duration of the Ph.D. programme shall be governed by the regulations of the University and the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time.

7.1 Minimum Duration

7.1.1 The minimum duration for completion of the Ph.D. programme shall be three (3) years, including the period of coursework, from the date of provisional registration.

7.2 Maximum Duration

7.2.1 The maximum duration for completion of the Ph.D. programme shall be six (6) years from the date of provisional registration.

7.2.2 In exceptional cases, the University may permit extension of the maximum duration as per the provisions of the UGC regulations and University policies.

7.3 Extension of Duration

7.3.1 If a research scholar is unable to complete the Ph.D. programme within the prescribed maximum duration, he/she may apply for an extension through the Research Supervisor and the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

7.3.2 The request for extension shall be examined by the DRC and forwarded to the University Research Committee (URC) for approval.

7.3.3 The extension of the Ph.D. programme shall be granted only in genuine and justified cases, subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.

7.4 Relaxation of Duration

7.4.1 Female candidates and persons with disabilities (PwD) may be eligible for relaxation in the maximum duration of the Ph.D. programme in accordance with UGC regulations.

7.4.2 Women candidates may be provided maternity leave or childcare leave, as per the norms prescribed by the University and UGC.

7.5 Withdrawal / Cancellation of Registration

7.5.1 A research scholar may withdraw from the Ph.D. programme by submitting a written request through the Research Supervisor and Head of the Department.

7.5.2 The University may cancel the registration of a research scholar in cases of:

- Failure to complete coursework requirements
- Unsatisfactory research progress
- Violation of research ethics or academic misconduct
- Non-compliance with the Ph.D. regulations

8.0 Calendar for Thesis Submission

The timeline for submission of the Ph.D. thesis shall normally follow the schedule given below.

Stage	Duration
Earliest submission of Ph.D. thesis	After a minimum period of 3 years / 6 semesters from the date of admission
Conventional extension (spillover)	Up to 6 years / 12 semesters, subject to recommendation by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and approval by the University Research Committee (URC)
Special extension (spillover)	Subject to recommendation by the DRC, endorsement by the URC, and approval by the Vice-Chancellor / competent authority

8.1 Extension Beyond Maximum Duration

In exceptional cases involving unforeseen circumstances, serious health issues, or other genuine reasons (including maternity-related conditions), an extension beyond the prescribed maximum duration of six years may be considered.

8.2 Approval of Exceptional Cases

Such cases shall be examined on an individual basis and may be placed before the Academic Council or the competent authority of the University for approval.

8.3 Re-Registration

8.3.1 Instead of granting special extensions beyond the maximum duration of the Ph.D. programme, the University may permit re-registration of the candidate under exceptional circumstances.

8.3.2 Re-registration may be allowed with the same research title or with suitable modifications, along with a revised research work plan, subject to approval by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the University Research Committee (URC).

8.3.3 In such cases, the candidate may be allowed the benefit of transfer of completed coursework credits, wherever applicable.

- 8.3.4 After re-registration, the candidate may be permitted to submit the Ph.D. thesis after completing a minimum duration as prescribed by the DRC, provided all the requirements of thesis submission are satisfied.
- 8.3.5 Re-registration shall normally be permitted only once during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.
- 8.3.6 Re-registration and extension beyond the prescribed duration may be subject to payment of prescribed continuation/re-registration fee as notified by the University from time to time.

8.4 Grace Period for Thesis Submission

After completion of the prescribed maximum duration, a grace period of up to 30 days may be allowed for submission of the thesis with payment of the prescribed fee.

9.0 Fee Particulars, Financial Support and Leave Rules

9.1 Fee Particulars

- 9.1.1 The Ph.D. programme fees shall be prescribed by the University from time to time and shall be applicable uniformly to all categories of candidates, unless otherwise specified by the University.
- 9.1.2 It shall be the responsibility of the research scholar to ensure timely payment of the prescribed fees and maintain No Dues status with the University until the submission of the Ph.D. thesis or cancellation of registration.
- 9.1.3 If the prescribed fee is not paid within the stipulated due date, a late fee may be levied as per University regulations.
- 9.1.4 Failure to pay the prescribed fee beyond the extended due date may lead to cancellation of the Ph.D. registration, subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.

9.2 Semester Structure

- 9.2.1 A semester shall normally consist of a minimum of 16 weeks of academic activity, and up to 20 weeks including examinations and other academic requirements.
- 9.2.2 A semester shall be considered an Active Semester when a research scholar registers for the semester and fulfills the academic and research requirements prescribed for that period.

9.3 Blank Semester (Leave of Absence)

- 9.3.1 If a research scholar does not register for research work or academic activities during a semester and wishes to take leave of absence, such a semester shall be considered a Blank Semester.
- 9.3.2 A research scholar intending to avail a blank semester shall obtain prior permission from the Research Supervisor and Head of the Department, and register the leave with the Office of the Director (Research & Development) / Ph.D. Cell for official records.
- 9.3.3 To maintain the continuity and validity of the Ph.D. registration, the research scholar shall be required to pay the prescribed semester fee during the blank semester, unless exempted by the University.

- 9.3.4 The fee payable during the blank semester shall normally be the same as the regular semester fee, unless otherwise specified by the University.

9.4 Financial Support

- 9.4.1 The University may provide financial support to eligible research scholars through Teaching Assistantships (TA), Research Assistantships (RA), fellowships, or project-based support, subject to availability of funds and institutional policies.
- 9.4.2 Research scholars receiving Teaching Assistantships may be required to assist the department in teaching-related activities such as tutorials, laboratory supervision, evaluation, or academic assistance for a limited number of hours per week.
- 9.4.3 Research scholars receiving Research Assistantships may be required to assist in research projects, laboratory work, data analysis, or other research-related activities assigned by the department or research supervisor.
- 9.4.4 The nature, amount, and conditions of financial support shall be governed by the policies of the University and the respective funding agencies from time to time.

9.5 Leave Rules

9.5.1 Casual Leave

- All research scholars shall be eligible for casual leave up to 15 days in a calendar year on a pro-rata basis.
- The maximum duration of casual leave at a time shall normally not exceed 10 days.
- Casual leave shall be sanctioned by the Head of the Department (HoD) on the recommendation of the Research Supervisor.

9.5.2 Medical Leave

- Medical leave up to 10 days in a calendar year may be granted to research scholars on valid medical grounds.
- Such leave shall be supported by a medical certificate issued by an authorized medical practitioner or recognized medical authority.
- Medical leave shall normally be sanctioned by the Registrar, based on the recommendation of the Research Supervisor and Head of the Department.

9.5.3 Academic Leave

- Research scholars may be permitted academic leave up to 15 days in a calendar year for attending conferences, workshops, seminars, or academic training programmes related to their research work.
- Academic leave shall require prior approval from the Research Supervisor, Head of the Department, and Vice-Chancellor.
- On-Duty (OD) leave may be granted for visits to other universities, laboratories, research institutions, or industries for conducting research work related to the approved research programme, with prior approval from the Research Supervisor, HoD, and Vice-Chancellor.

9.5.4 Maternity / Child Care Leave

Women research scholars may be granted Maternity Leave / Child Care Leave up to 90 days once during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme, in accordance with the regulations of the University.

10.0 Special Cases

10.1 Honorable Exit

- 10.1.1 The University may provide an honorable exit option to research scholars who are unable to complete the Ph.D. programme due to unforeseen circumstances or genuine reasons, while recognizing the academic work completed by the candidate.
- 10.1.2 Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme with undergraduate qualifications (Direct Ph.D.) may be permitted to exit with an appropriate postgraduate qualification such as M.Tech. / PG Diploma, after completion of five semesters, provided they fulfill the prescribed coursework, credit, and publication requirements, subject to recommendation by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), endorsement by the Director (Research & Development), and approval by the Vice-Chancellor.
- 10.1.3 Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme with a postgraduate qualification may be permitted to exit with an appropriate postgraduate qualification such as M.Tech. / PG Diploma, after completion of three semesters, provided they fulfill the prescribed credit and academic requirements, subject to recommendation by the DRC, endorsement by the Director (R&D), and approval by the Vice-Chancellor.
- 10.1.4 In such cases, the candidate shall complete any remaining credit requirements for the respective postgraduate qualification within the period prescribed by the University.
- 10.1.5 No scholarship or financial assistance shall normally be provided during the period required for completion of the remaining credit requirements for such exit qualifications.
- 10.1.6 If the candidate subsequently wishes to rejoin the Ph.D. programme, he/she may apply for re-admission subject to approval by the competent authority of the University, based on the recommendations of the DRC and Director (R&D) and subject to the applicable regulations.
- 10.1.7 In appropriate cases, the University may consider special extension or re-registration of the Ph.D. programme based on individual circumstances, subject to approval by the University Research Committee (URC) and the competent authority of the University.

10.2 Transfer / Migration of Candidates

- 10.2.1 Transfer or migration of a candidate from the Ph.D. programme of another recognized university or research institution to the Ph.D. programme of the University may be permitted in exceptional cases, subject to approval by the Vice-Chancellor / competent authority.

- 10.2.2 The Director (Research & Development), in consultation with the Head of the Department and the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), shall evaluate the eligibility of the candidate and determine the equivalence of the coursework credits that may be transferred from the previous institution.
- 10.2.3 Only the coursework credits successfully completed in the previous university or institution may be considered for transfer, subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.
- 10.2.4 A candidate seeking migration shall submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the previous University / Institution / Research Centre, including consent from the Research Supervisor of the previous institution.
- 10.2.5 A research scholar intending to transfer out or discontinue the Ph.D. programme before completion of the minimum duration may be required to clear all outstanding dues and fulfill financial obligations as prescribed by the University.
- 10.2.6 After fulfilling all the prescribed requirements, the Registrar, based on the recommendation of the Director (Research & Development) and approval of the Vice-Chancellor, may issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the candidate.

10.3 Termination of Registration

- 10.3.1 The registration of a Ph.D. research scholar may be cancelled by the University, based on the recommendation of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and Director (Research & Development), with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, under any of the following circumstances:
 - a. Involvement in misconduct, unethical practices, or activities detrimental to the reputation of the University.
 - b. Failure to successfully complete the prescribed coursework requirements.
 - c. Unsatisfactory progress in research work for two consecutive review periods.
 - d. Failure to submit the Ph.D. thesis within the maximum permissible duration, including any approved extensions.
 - e. Failure to register for the semester or comply with the academic requirements of the Ph.D. programme.

10.4 Special Provision for Relocation of Women Scholars

- 10.4.1 In the case of relocation of a woman Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or other personal circumstances, the University may permit transfer of the research work to another recognized university or research institution.
- 10.4.2 Such transfer shall be permitted provided that:
 - a. All the provisions of the Ph.D. regulations of the University are complied with.
 - b. The research work does not pertain to a funded project secured by the parent institution or supervisor.

- c. Appropriate acknowledgement and credit are given to the original Research Supervisor and the University for the research work already carried out.
- 10.4.3 The transfer of research data and continuation of the research programme shall be subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.

10.5 Change of Research Supervisor

- 10.5.1 A change of Research Supervisor or Co-Supervisor may be permitted in exceptional circumstances based on a formal request submitted by the research scholar or the Research Supervisor in the prescribed format.
- 10.5.2 Such requests shall be examined by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), which shall evaluate the merit of the case and make appropriate recommendations to the Director (Research & Development) for approval by the competent authority of the University.
- 10.5.3 In situations where the Research Supervisor is away from the University for an extended period exceeding six months, the supervisor may continue to guide the research scholar remotely. However, a Caretaker Supervisor may be appointed by the Director (Research & Development) in consultation with the Head of the Department, primarily for administrative and academic coordination purposes.
- 10.5.4 A Caretaker Supervisor shall assist the research scholar in academic and administrative matters during the period of absence of the original supervisor, but the primary research guidance shall remain with the original Research Supervisor.
- 10.5.5 A Research Supervisor who retires from service may continue to guide the Ph.D. scholars already registered under him/her until completion of their research work, subject to approval by the University and provided the registration of the candidate was granted prior to the retirement of the supervisor.
- 10.5.6 In cases where the Research Supervisor is unable to continue supervision due to resignation, transfer, long leave, or other unavoidable circumstances, the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall recommend a suitable replacement supervisor, subject to approval by the competent authority of the University.

10.6 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Ph.D. Research Work

- 10.6.1 The research problem conceptualization, methodology, experimental or analytical framework, and research workflow, along with the outcomes of the research work such as publications, concept notes, review articles, patents, models, prototypes, or products, shall constitute the intellectual property generated jointly by the research scholar and the Research Supervisor, in accordance with the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy of the University.
- 10.6.2 In the event of a change of Research Supervisor, the intellectual contributions arising from the earlier research work—including research problem definition, methodology, research design, experimental setup, data, and associated outcomes—shall remain attributable to the original supervisor and the research scholar who carried out the work.

- 10.6.3 The research scholar shall not use or reproduce the research outputs, methodologies, or unpublished results developed under the earlier supervision for further research under a new supervisor without obtaining appropriate permission.
- 10.6.4 However, the research scholar may continue the same research topic under a new supervisor, provided that a No Objection Certificate (NOC) is obtained from the previous supervisor and approved by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and the Vice-Chancellor.
- 10.6.5 In such cases, while submitting the Ph.D. thesis, the candidate shall clearly acknowledge the contributions of the earlier Research Supervisor and the institution for the research work already carried out under their supervision.

10.7 Handling of Conflict

- 10.7.1 In the event of any conflict between the Research Scholar and the Research Supervisor and/or Co-Supervisor, either party may submit a formal written request to the Head of the Department or Director (Research & Development) for resolution.
- 10.7.2 Upon receipt of such a request, the Director (Research & Development) may constitute a Conflict Resolution Committee, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, to examine the matter and submit its report with recommendations.
- 10.7.3 The committee shall make every effort to resolve the conflict amicably while safeguarding the academic progress of the research scholar and ensuring appropriate recognition of the contributions of the Research Supervisor in publications, patents, and the Ph.D. thesis.
- 10.7.4 Based on the recommendations of the committee, the Director (Research & Development) shall submit the report to the Vice-Chancellor for necessary action.
- 10.7.5 The decision of the Vice-Chancellor in such matters shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

10.8 Discipline and Ethics

- 10.8.1 Every research scholar admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall maintain discipline, integrity, and professional conduct both within and outside the University campus.
- 10.8.2 The research scholar shall refrain from any activity that may harm the reputation, academic integrity, or ethical standards of the University.
- 10.8.3 Any act of indiscipline or misconduct shall be referred to the University Discipline Committee for inquiry and appropriate action.
- 10.8.4 The Registrar, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, may suspend a research scholar from the Ph.D. programme pending inquiry based on prima facie evidence of misconduct.
- 10.8.5 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

- a. Research scholars shall adhere strictly to ethical research practices and academic integrity as prescribed by the University and UGC regulations on plagiarism.
- b. Any act of plagiarism, falsification, fabrication of data, or other unethical research practices shall be treated as serious academic misconduct.
- c. If a research scholar is found guilty of plagiarism or academic misconduct, the Ph.D. registration may be cancelled, and the candidate may be debarred from registering for any programme in the University.

10.8.6 cases involving serious academic misconduct, the University may take appropriate action against the Research Supervisor or Co-Supervisor, including temporary withdrawal of recognition as a research supervisor, as per University regulations.

10.8.7 If at any time after the award of the Ph.D. degree it is found that the thesis contains plagiarized content, falsified data, misrepresentation of research results, or any other unethical practices, the University shall have the right to revoke or rescind the Ph.D. degree, following due process.

10.8.8 A research scholar may submit an appeal against disciplinary action to the Vice-Chancellor within the prescribed time period. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final and binding.

10.9 Change of Registration Status

10.9.1 A candidate admitted under the External Ph.D. registration category may be permitted to change his/her registration status to Internal (Full-Time) mode, subject to recommendation by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and endorsement by the Director (Research & Development), with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor / competent authority.

10.9.2 Similarly, a candidate admitted under the Internal Ph.D. registration category may be permitted to change the registration status to the External category, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The candidate shall have successfully completed the prescribed coursework requirements.
- b. The request for change of registration status shall be recommended by the Research Supervisor(s) and the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).
- c. The candidate shall submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Head / Dean of the institution, organization, or employer where he/she intends to continue the research work.

10.9.3 The change of registration status shall become effective only after approval by the competent authority of the University.

10.10 Intellectual Property

- 10.10.1 A research scholar shall not publish the Ph.D. thesis in full form without obtaining prior written permission from the University.
- 10.10.2 Any intellectual property generated during the course of the Ph.D. research, including inventions, patents, software, prototypes, designs, or products, shall be governed by the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy of the University.
- 10.10.3 Unless otherwise specified by the applicable policies or funding agreements, the intellectual property arising from the research work shall normally be considered joint ownership of the research scholar, the Research Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor, where applicable), and the University.

10.11 Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith

- 10.11.1 No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer, authority, or employee of the University for any action taken in good faith or intended to be taken in pursuance of the provisions of these Ph.D. regulations.

10.12 Bar to Claim Damages for Delay

- 10.12.1 No research scholar shall be entitled to claim any damages or compensation from the University on account of delay in any academic or administrative process related to the Ph.D. programme.
- 10.12.2 Such processes may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Declaration of results
 - b. Issue of grade sheets, transcripts, or certificates
 - c. Evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis
 - d. Conduct of viva-voce examination
 - e. Any other process associated with examination, evaluation, or academic administration.

10.13 Interpretation

- 10.13.1 Any question relating to the interpretation of these regulations shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
- 10.13.2 The decision of the Vice-Chancellor in such matters shall be final and binding.
- 10.13.3 The University shall have the authority to issue clarifications, guidelines, or directions to remove any doubt, difficulty, or anomaly that may arise during the implementation of these regulations.

10.14 Power to Modify

- 10.14.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations, the Vice-Chancellor shall have the authority to modify, amend, or revise any provision of these regulations, as deemed necessary from time to time.
- 10.14.2 Any such modification or amendment shall be placed before the appropriate statutory authorities of the University for ratification, wherever applicable.

10.15 Publication of Research Scholars List

The institution shall maintain an updated list of registered Ph.D. scholars on its website containing:

- Name of the research scholar
- Title of research work
- Name of supervisor / co-supervisor
- Department
- Year of registration

10.16 Public Access to Ph.D. Information

The University shall maintain a publicly accessible database of all registered Ph.D. scholars on its official website. The information shall normally include:

- Name of the Research Scholar
- Title of the Research Work
- Name of Research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor
- Department / Research Area
- Year of Registration
- Current Status of Research

11.0 Research Ethics and Academic Integrity

All research scholars shall adhere to principles of academic integrity, ethical research practices, and plagiarism regulations prescribed by the University and UGC.

12.0 Plagiarism and Research Misconduct

12.1 Any violation related to plagiarism, fabrication of data, falsification, or unethical research practices shall invite disciplinary action as per University and UGC regulations.

12.2 These regulations shall be interpreted in consonance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 and subsequent amendments issued from time to time.

13.0 Fee Structure

The application, semester, and thesis evaluation fees for the Ph.D. programme shall be prescribed by the University from time to time. The current fee structure is as follows:

S. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹)
1	Application Fee (at the time of applying for the Ph.D program)	₹500
2	Semester Fee (payable every semester during the Ph.D. programme)	₹20,000 for FT ₹15,000 for PT
3	Synopsis/Research Proposal submission	₹5,000
4	Thesis Processing and Evaluation Fee (payable at the time of thesis submission)	₹40,000

13.1 General Conditions for Fees

- 13.1.1 The fee structure prescribed for the Ph.D. programme shall be in accordance with the official admission notification / advertisement issued by the University from time to time.
- 13.1.2 The fee structure shall be subject to revision by the University from time to time, and such revisions shall be applicable as notified by the competent authority.
- 13.1.3 The semester fee shall be payable for each semester until submission of the Ph.D. thesis or cancellation of registration, whichever is earlier.
- 13.1.4 The thesis processing fee shall include charges towards thesis evaluation, examiner honorarium, and administrative processing, as prescribed by the University.
- 13.1.5 Mode of Payment : All fees shall be paid through the online payment or approved payment modes notified by the University.

14. General Regulations and Interpretation

14.1 Applicability of Regulations

- 14.1.1 These regulations shall apply to all candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme of Dr. RVR NRI Institute of Technology.
- 14.1.2 The regulations shall be implemented in accordance with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations for Ph.D. programmes, as amended from time to time.

14.2 Amendments to Regulations

- 14.2.1 The University reserves the right to modify, amend, or update these regulations from time to time in accordance with the directives of the UGC or other statutory bodies.
- 14.2.2 Any amendments approved by the Academic Council / Board of Management shall become applicable to the Ph.D. programmes as notified by the University.

14.3 Interpretation of Regulations

- 14.3.1 In case of any doubt or ambiguity regarding the interpretation or implementation of these regulations, the matter shall be referred to the University Research Committee (URC) for examination.
- 14.3.2 The recommendations of the URC shall be placed before the Academic Council / competent authority of the University for approval.
- 14.3.3 The decision of the Academic Council / competent authority shall be final and binding.

14.4 Matters Not Covered

- 14.4.1 Any issue not explicitly covered under these regulations shall be referred to the University Research Committee (URC) for recommendation.
- 14.4.2 The Academic Council / competent authority of the University shall take the final decision in such matters.
