

PhD Regulations 2023

1. Preamble

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is the highest academic degree which requires extended study and extensive research oriented intellectual effort. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is awarded to a candidate who has submitted a thesis on the basis of the original research carried out by him or her in any one particular discipline or involving more than one discipline (inter-disciplinary research) that makes a positive contribution to the advancement of knowledge, which is approved by duly constituted Board of Examiners as required. These regulations of the University from the admission to the Ph.D. programme to the award of "Degree of Doctor of Philosophy" are based on the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and gazetted in November 2022. Hence, the degree awarded by the University is in compliance with the UGC Regulations 2022.

2. The following are the definitions and nomenclature, in the regulations unless otherwise specifically stated:

(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -

i) **"Act"** means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956);

ii) **"Adjunct Faculty"** means a part-time or contingent instructor, but not full-time faculty member hired to teach by the University.;

iii) **"Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)"** means a measure of the overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places;

iv) **"Credit"** means the number of hours of instruction required per week over the duration of a semester. A three-credit course in a semester means three one-hour lectures per week, with each one-hour lecture counted as one credit;

v) **"College"** means an institution engaged in higher education and/or research, either established by the University as its constituent unit or is affiliated with it;

vi) **"Commission"** means the University Grants Commission.

vii) **"Course"** means one of the specified units which go to comprise a programme of study;

- viii) **"Course Work"** means Theory/Practical (Laboratory) subjects that are prescribed by the Research / Doctoral Committee of the Scholar to undergo as a part of the research programme.
- ix) **Dean-Research**, means an Officer attached to the Office of Academic Research of the University who takes care of all the research activities of a PhD scholar.
- x) **"Degree"** means a degree awarded by a Higher Educational Institution in accordance with the provisions of section 22 (3) of the Act;
- xi) **"Doctoral/Research Committee"** means, a committee constituted by the University, for each PhD scholar, to monitor his / her research activities periodically leading to Ph.D. degree. Number of Doctoral Committee members may be restricted to three and in the case of inter-disciplinary projects, an additional member could be inducted.
- xii) **"External "** means an academician/researcher with published research work who is not part of the University where the Ph.D. scholar has registered for the Ph.D. programme;
- xiii) **"Foreign Educational Institution"** means—(i) an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country and offering educational programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate and higher levels in its home country and (ii) which offers programme(s) of study leading to the award of a degree through conventional face-to-face mode, but excluding distance, online, ODL mode;
- xiv) **"Grade Point"** means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale;
- xv) **"Guide/Research Supervisor"** means an academician/researcher recognized by the University to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for his/her research;
- xvi) **"Head of the department"** means the Head of the department of the area of research
- xvii) **"Higher Educational Institution"** means a university or institution specified under clause 2 of Regulation 1 of these Regulations;
- xviii) **"Interdisciplinary Research"** means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in two or more academic disciplines;
- xix) **"Joint Supervisor" or "Co-Supervisor"** means a recognized Supervisor to supervise the Scholar in an area of research which required more than one expert and also to supervise in the absence or long leave of the regular Supervisor.
- xx) **"Open and Distance Learning Mode"** shall have the same meaning as defined under the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations 2020;

xxi) **"Online Mode"** shall have the same meaning as defined under the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations 2020;

xxii) **"Plagiarism"** means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own;

xxiii) **"Programme"** Doctoral programme leading to the award of Ph.D. in Engineering / Technology / Science and Humanities / Dental Surgery / Medical and Allied Medical Sciences/ Management Studies, as available in the various Faculties of the University.

xxiv) **"Prospectus"** means any document, whether in print or otherwise, issued for providing fair and transparent information relating to the Higher Educational Institutions and programmes, to the general public (including to those seeking admission in the University) by the Higher Educational Institutions;

xxv) **"Research Proposal"** means a brief write-up giving an outline of the proposed research work which the Ph.D. scholar shall submit along with the application for registration for Ph.D. programme;

xxvi) **"University"** means "Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute", at Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600 095, Tamil Nadu, India.

(2) Words and expressions used and not defined in these Regulations but defined in Act and not consistent with these Regulations shall have the meanings assigned to them in that Act.

3. Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme

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

3.1 Candidates who have completed:

i] A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme **or** a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme **or** qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA of 6.0.

or

equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or

assure quality and standards of the educational institution. Also, these candidates should get equivalent certificate from Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

Those who have completed their eligible degrees in foreign universities should get an equivalent certificate from Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

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

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

3.2 Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-abled, economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

Educational Qualifications:

Sl. No.	Programme	Qualifications for Admission
1	Ph.D. degree in Engineering & Technology	M.E/ M.Tech./ M.Sc. (Engg.) from a recognized University / Institute
2	Ph.D. degree in Computer	M.C.A / M. Phil. from a recognized University /

	Applications	Institute
3	Ph.D. degree in Humanities and Sciences	M.A/M.Sc./M.Com/ M. Pharm. / M.Phil. a recognized University / Institute
4	Ph.D. degree in Management Studies	MBA/Post Graduate diploma in Business Management (or) Administration awarded by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) or equivalent from a recognized University / Institute
5	Ph.D. degree in Dental Surgery	M.D.S. or equivalent from a recognized University / Institute
6	Ph.D. degree in Medicine	M.D / M.S., or equivalent from a recognized University / Institute
7	Ph.D. in Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine	Master's degree or equivalent from a recognized University or Institute in the Specialties

4. Duration of the Ph.D. Programme

4.1 Full-time Candidates

i) Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.

ii) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the regulations of our university; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

iii) Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

4.2 Part-time Candidates

- i) Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all other conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.
- ii) Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of four (4) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of seven (7) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- iii) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the regulations of our university; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed nine (9) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed eleven (11) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

- iv) Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

4.2.1 Internal Candidates

- i) Candidates working in Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute shall be enrolled under this category.

4.2.2 External Candidates

- i) Candidates working in R&D Departments/National Laboratories/Units of Government/quasi-Government (or) any other research laboratory, which are recognized by the University and sponsored by their respective employers.
- ii) In these cases, a MoU should exist between the organization and this University for the eligible candidate to apply/register for research at the University.
- iii) University shall seek a "No Objection Certificate" through the candidate for a part-time PhD programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:
 - (a) The candidate is permitted to pursue research studies on a part-time basis;
 - (b) His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research, and

(c) If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

4.2.3 Change of Category

i) A candidate is permitted to change his/her category from part- time to full-Time and vice-versa, with the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee, by an official order from the Dean - Research. The minimum and maximum period will be calculated from the duration spent in the respective category and the remaining duration will be calculated proportionately.

ii) The change of category is permissible only after the confirmation of the provisional registration.

4.2.4 Break of Study

i) This should be accounted by proper supporting evidences. If a candidate happens to leave our country for any reason, such period of absence should be informed to the Dean-Research and approved by the Vice-Chancellor. A scholar should however, remit the prescribed fees for such period.

ii) In exceptional circumstances, if the Doctoral Committee recommends a maximum grace period of two years, six months at a time, beyond the normal maximum period of Six (6) years in the case of full time scholars and seven (7) years in the case of part time, may be granted by the Vice Chancellor. If a break of study in this University is affected for reasons of study/research abroad/in another Indian University, the period shall not be considered as break of study. In such cases however, penalty fees as prescribed from time to time shall be paid.

iii) Request for such extension (six months at a time) shall be made to the Dean -Research, with the recommendation of the Doctoral committee, at least one month prior to the completion of the maximum period or expiry of the previous extension.

iv) If the scholar fails to submit the Thesis within the extended period of two years, the registration shall be cancelled and his/her name be removed from the rolls of registration.

4.2.5 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other law for the time being in force, the University shall not conduct PhD programme through distance and/or online mode.

4.3 International students

4.3.1 Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars.

4.3.2 The university may decide their own selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the university from time to time.

4.3.3 At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the number prescribed in clause 6.5 and clause 4.3.1.

5. Admission Procedure

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

5.2 Application

5.2.1 The candidates interested in doing research in this University should apply in the prescribed application form issued by the University/can be downloaded from the University website (www.drmgrdu.ac.in). Normally the University will accept applications for Research Degrees twice in a year (January and July).

5.2.2 Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected without any intimation to the candidates.

5.2.3 For candidates from non-medical faculty, who wants to do PhD in medical and other allied areas, the research topic and the degree will be given under basic-medical science.

5.2.4 For candidates from Indian Medical Science [Siddha, Ayurveda, etc.,], but wants to do PhD in medical and other allied areas as a translatory research in interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary models, the research topic and the degree will be given under basic-medical science.

5.2.5 The applications, received under 5.2.3 & 5.2.4, will be processed by a committee to be constituted by the Dean (Research) and approved by the Vice Chancellor.

5.3 Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be made using the following

methods:

i. The University may admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/SLET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview.

and/or

ii. The University will admit students through an Entrance Test conducted by the University. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of:

- 50% of marks for research methodology &
- 50% of marks for subject-specific areas.

iii. Students who have secured 50 % or more marks in the entrance test are eligible to be called for the interview.

iv. A relaxation of 5 % marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

v. The University will decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D. seats available.

vi. Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance test conducted by the University, a weightage of 70% for the entrance test and 30% for the performance in the interview/viva-voce, to be carried out by the respective department concerned, shall be given.

5.4 Before the start of the admission process, the University:

i. will notify a prospectus well in advance on the University's 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;

ii. will adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable.

5.5 The University will maintain a list of Ph.D. supervisors (specifying the name of the supervisor, his or her designation, and the department/school/centre), along with the details of Ph.D. scholars (specifying the name of the registered Ph.D. scholar, the topic of his/her research and the date of admission) admitted under them on the website of the University and

update this list every semester year.

5.6 Admission

5.6.1 The University shall send the information to all the candidates who have successfully cleared the entrance examination and the interview.

5.6.2 On receipt of the intimation from the University, the candidates should report to the Office of Dean-Research within the specified time along with the required documents.

5.6.3 After the satisfactory verification of all the documents, the candidates will be required to pay the prescribed fees.

5.6.4 After paying the fees, the candidates should submit the Joining Report to the Office of Dean-Research, and thus his/her provisional registration will be completed.

5.6.5 A Doctoral Committee will be constituted by Office of Dean-Research and the same will be duly approved by the Registrar.

5.6.6 The PhD scholar, thus admitted, will take necessary steps to convene the First Doctoral Committee meeting.

6. Allocation of Research Supervisor

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

6.1) General Category: Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor of our university with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications, during the last five years, in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications, during the last five years, in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor in the university where the faculty member is employed.

Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. On special/specific cases, a research supervisor may be permitted to function as a supervisor in another university with a specific prior written approval of the Vice-Chancellor. But one should be a supervisor only in two universities [our university + another].

For Ph.D. scholars working in Central government/ State government research institutions whose degrees are given by Higher Educational Institutions, the scientists in such research institutions who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can be recognized as co-supervisors if they fulfill

the above requirements. Necessary/suitable Memorandum of Understanding would be created with them by the University.

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

Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of the University may be permitted with the approval of the competent authority.

Adjunct Faculty members shall not act as Research Supervisors and can only act as co-supervisors.

Guideship of a research supervisor will be reviewed by the Office of Dean - Research once in every five years, based upon his research activities and research publications and finally will be confirmed by the Vice-Chancellor.

6.2) Faculty of Medicine/Dental Surgery:

(a) A Professor, who has 8 years of teaching/clinical experience after post-graduate studies with three papers in national (2) and international (1) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Author or Co-author).

(b) An Associate Professor, who has 10 years of teaching/clinical experience after post-graduate studies with four papers in national (3) and international (1) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Author or Co-author).

(c) An Assistant Professor, who has 12 years of teaching/clinical experience after post-graduate studies with five papers in national (3) and international (2) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Any author).

6.3) Faculty of Pharmacy/Physiotherapy/Nursing/Allied Health Sciences:

(a) A Professor, who has 8 years of teaching experience / 10 years of research experience after post-graduate studies with four papers in national (3) and international (1) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Author or Co-author).

(b) An Associate Professor, who has 10 years of teaching experience / 12 years of research experience after post-graduate studies with six papers in national (4) and international (2) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Author or Co-author)

(c) An Assistant Professor, who has 12 years of teaching experience / 14 years of research experience after post-graduate studies with eight papers in national (5) and international (3) journals of repute [Scopus/Web of Science/PUBMED] (Any author)

6.4) In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/University may be appointed.

6.5) The number of PhD scholars – including international research scholars and research scholars in other un that are permitted to be guided as follows:

An eligible Professor up to EIGHT [8];

An eligible Associate Professor up to SIX [6] &

An eligible Assistant Professor up to FOUR [4].

6.6) In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the Higher Educational Institution to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these Regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

6.7) Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a co-supervisor after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

6.8) Change of Supervisor is allowed only once during the research period of the scholar. If the Supervisor resigns/leaves the University, the Dean Research would take necessary steps to (a) permit him/her to continue for a further period of one / two years as a Supervisor for a specified research scholar(s) , **or** (b) identify another Supervisor, preferably based on the suggestion/recommendation of the outgoing Supervisor, with the due consultation of the Head of the department concerned. After the due process, the Doctoral Committee will be suitably reconstituted. In cases of special or extraordinary situations, the matter may be brought to the knowledge of the Vice-Chancellor and his advice will be taken as final.

7. Course Work

Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

7.1 The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics" course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1- 1/2018(Journal/CARE) in 2019 and a "Research Methodology" course. The other two courses will cover the areas of research finalized by the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme, if required/necessary.

7.2 The Doctoral Committee of the PhD Scholar will prescribe the syllabus for each theory paper for the course work, if such courses are not offered by the University.

7.3 Seminar: In addition to the course work, two seminars on the proposed research work shall be a requirement and given at any time during the following semesters of the course work.

7.4 The course work should be completed within one year of admission or during the time of residential requirement for external candidates. A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent of 6 CGPA in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work in order to become eligible for confirmation of provisional registration by the Doctoral Committee. After the successful completion of the course work by the scholar, his/her provisional registration will be confirmed. If the candidate fails to obtain the required score in the course work, the candidate shall redo the same course or undertake one more course relevant to the area of research.

7.6 Only courses suggested and approved by the Doctoral Committee shall be taken into account for this requirement. Any other course/s passed already by the scholar prior to the provisional registration shall not be counted for this purpose.

7.7 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. The nature of specific areas of teaching/research assistantship will be decided by the Head of the department concerned after due consultation of the Research Supervisor.

8. Doctoral/Research Committee and its Functions

(1) The Doctoral/Research Committee will be constituted by the Dean-Research in consultation of the Research Supervisor as per Section 2(1)(xi) of our Regulations.

(2) There shall be a Doctoral/Research Committee for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Supervisor of the Ph.D. scholar concerned shall be the Convener of this committee, and this committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- i. To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research.
- ii. To guide the Ph.D. scholar in developing the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.
- iii. To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the Ph.D. Scholar.

(3) Each semester, a Ph.D. scholar shall appear before Doctoral Committee to make a presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The Doctoral Committee shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the Dean-Research concerned. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar once in 6 months.

(4) In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the Doctoral Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Doctoral Committee may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar from the Ph.D. programme.

(5) All decisions viz., recommendation / suggestion / cancellation / change of category / extension of the period of research, etc., of the Doctoral Committee will be forwarded to the Dean-Research for necessary action.

9. Synopsis

9.1. A scholar shall be permitted to submit the synopsis six months prior to the completion of the minimum duration of the programme.

9.2 The Synopsis should be submitted in the prescribed format (vide, Annexure -I, Annexure-II, Annexure-III, Annexure-IV and Annexure-V).

9.3 The Synopsis shall be accepted only when the scholar has published at least, one paper in a national journal and one paper in an international journal

(in SCOPUS/Web of Science). He/she should also have delivered TWO seminars on his/her research prior to the submission of the synopsis.

9.4 A copy of the synopsis shall be submitted to the Doctoral Committee in the prescribed format through the Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor, if applicable) for approval.

9.5 The fees prescribed for submission of synopsis and thesis should be paid as prevailing at the time of submission

9.6 After the approval of the synopsis by the Doctoral Committee, six copies (6) of the synopsis and two soft copies should be submitted to the Dean-Research.

9.7 The Supervisor is required to submit a panel of Examiners (6) for the candidate in consultation with the other members of the Doctoral Committee in a sealed cover to the Dean-Research in the prescribed format.

9.8 These Examiners – 3 from India (with at least one examiner from outside Tamil Nadu) and 3 from abroad – must be the experts in the field of research of the scholar. No two Examiners shall be from the same institution. Full details of the Examiners such as their designation, place of employment / affiliation, official e-mail id, present address, contact phone number, etc and their expertise/publications / research guidance, will be furnished.

9.9 In case the Supervisor fails to provide the list of Examiners even after two monthly reminders, then, the Office of Dean (Research) would take up the matter with the Head of the Department concerned and act as advised by the Vice Chancellor.

10.Submission of Thesis and the Procedural aspects, etc.,

10.1 The Thesis should contain original research work of the scholar leading to the discovery of new facts and techniques. The Thesis should demonstrate a quality contribution to the advancement of knowledge and the scholar's ability to undertake sustained research.

10.2 Upon satisfactory completion and acceptance of the Synopsis, the scholar shall be required to submit the Thesis within **three** months from the date of acceptance of the Synopsis.

10.3 Submission before the minimum period prescribed will not be entertained.

10.4 Notwithstanding anything contained in this regulation, regarding the minimum period of research to be put in by candidates before becoming eligible to submit their thesis for the degree, the Office of Dean-Research is competent to permit candidates to submit their thesis earlier by a period of not exceeding six months with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, definitely not earlier than two years.

10.5 Request for early submission from candidates should be accompanied by

(a) The recommendations of the Supervisor for relaxations based on the satisfactory completion of the research work for the Thesis topic with evidence that the candidate has been working consistently even prior to his provisional registration for the Ph.D. degree on the topic of his research and,

(b) Evidence of having completed the required work for the Thesis by way of at least two publications in the topic of Ph.D. research in recognized, refereed (or) accredited journals as first author after one year of his/her provisional registration.

(c) It must obtain the approval of the Doctoral Committee.

10.6 No Candidate shall ordinarily be permitted to submit the Thesis after a period of 6 years in the case of full-time research scholars and 7 years in the case of part-time research scholars.

10.7 The University, for valid reasons and on the recommendation of the Supervisor and the Doctoral Committee may grant an extension of time for not more than two years in all, and with six months for each extension of time.

10.8 A scholar who is not able to submit the Thesis after the grant of extension of two years shall have his/her registration cancelled.

10.9 The extension of six-monthly installments at a time shall be granted only after monitoring the progress by the Doctoral Committee, and if the progress is unsatisfactory the Doctoral Committee can decide to recommend the cancellation of the registration.

10.10 A penalty will be levied for each installment of extension and the amount of penalty will be fixed by the University from time to time.

10.11 The Thesis/Synopsis should be written in English for all the subjects other than languages.

10.12 A Ph.D. scholar shall submit the thesis for evaluation, along with (a) an undertaking from the Ph.D. scholar that there is no plagiarism and (b) a

certificate from the Research 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 Higher Educational Institution.

10.13 A Title page of the Thesis, cover, format etc. should strictly conform to the format of presentation as prescribed by the University (**Annexure - I**).

10.14 The Thesis should carry a declaration by the candidate (**Annexure - III**) and a certificate duly signed and forwarded by the Supervisor (**Annexure -II**).

10.15 The Thesis should not be hard bound and it should have a thick and flexible cover.

10.16 All Theses need to be submitted to the Office of Dean - Research for the purpose of plagiarism check. No supervisor/Scholar should check the plagiarism by themselves before submitting theses to the office of Dean-Research for the plagiarism check. Plagiarism could be accepted /allowed up to 10% (A copy of this report would be sent to the Examiners, so that they may examine it for its implication on the quality/originality of the Thesis); beyond which the Thesis, shall stand rejected or if the Doctoral Committee feels, could be re-submitted after suitable improvements/corrections.

10.17 The scholar should submit SIX (6) copies of the Thesis along with 2 copies of CD in pdf and a Word format.

11. Evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis

11.1 The Vice Chancellor may appoint a Board of Examiners for evaluation of the Thesis consisting of the Supervisor as the Convener and two other external Examiners, one from within India and the other from outside India, from the panel of three in each category, submitted by the Supervisor and recommended by the Doctoral Committee. The Vice Chancellor may decide to change the panel suggested by the Supervisor, if, and when, necessary, provided further, that no close or immediate relative of the candidate / Supervisor is appointed as an Examiner.

11.2. The thesis shall be scrutinized by a Scrutiny Committee constituted by the Vice Chancellor to assess the overall work, and the quality of presentation of the Thesis. If there is any deviation, it shall be rectified by the scholar in consultation with the Supervisor and with the approval of Dean (Research), before dispatch to Examiners.

11.3 The Thesis shall be referred to two Examiners (one from India and another from Abroad) by the Vice Chancellor from Panel of Examiners recommended by

the Doctoral Committee. If necessary, the Vice Chancellor may also nominate the Examiners from outside the panel.

11.4 The Examiners shall send his/her willingness to evaluate the Thesis within fifteen days from the date of receipt of the synopsis.

11.5 The Examiners may be requested to send the evaluation report in the prescribed format within two months from the date of the receipt of the Thesis.

11.6 The Board of Examiners appointed shall value the Thesis and send a report on the basis of their evaluations for the award of the Ph.D. degree.

11.7 The Dean-Research will take necessary steps, if there is no proper response from the Examiners within the prescribed time, and request the Vice Chancellor to recommend another Examiner out of the panel and send the Thesis to that Examiner.

11.8 The Examiner shall include in his/her a critical and detailed report an overall assessment, placing the Thesis in any one of the following categories:

(a) The thesis can be accepted in the present form and based on the standard; it can be classified as "Highly Commended /Commended".

(b) The Thesis can be accepted after the incorporation of the corrections indicated in the report and to place the corrected copy for the Viva-voce Examination Board, but the corrected thesis need not be sent to the Examiner for re-evaluation, if the Examiner suggests.

(c) The corrections and modifications suggested by the Examiner should be incorporated and the corrected thesis shall be sent to the Examiner for evaluation and recommendation, if the Examiner suggests.

(d) The thesis is rejected on the basis of the Examiners detailed report (detailed report shall be sent by the Examiners). The Examiner shall also enclose a detailed report for the classification as in (a), (b), (c) & (d) in about 200 to 300 words.

11.9 If both the Examiners recommend for the award of the degree, Thesis shall be provisionally accepted. Any revision, modification etc., suggested by the Examiners shall be carried out before the Viva-voce examination.

11.10 If any Examiner recommends any revision in the thesis, the scholar shall be permitted only once to revise and resubmit the thesis within 6 months, and the revised thesis shall be referred to the same Examiner only when the Examiner insists for such action. The recommendation either for the award or for the

rejection will be accepted.

11.11 If one Examiner recommends for the award of the degree while the other recommends rejection, the thesis shall be referred to the third Examiner who shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor. If two of the three Examiners recommend the award of the Degree, the Thesis shall be provisionally accepted.

11.12 If both the Examiners recommend rejection, the Thesis shall be rejected and the registration of the scholar shall stand cancelled.

11.13 If the Examiner does not insist to send the thesis back to him/her, when all the corrections in the thesis have been carried out, the Thesis shall be referred to the Doctoral Committee, to ascertain whether the corrections pointed out by the Examiners have been carried out.

11.14. Individual cases which are not covered by the above clauses shall be referred to the Vice Chancellor for a final decision.

12. Viva-Voce Examination

12.1 A candidate whose Thesis has been recommended for the award of the degree by the Board of External Examiners who valued the Thesis, shall submit himself/herself to a Viva-voce Examination, conducted by the Supervisor, one Examiner appointed by the Vice Chancellor from the institution along with the Indian Examiner. The Supervisor of the Thesis will be the Convener and/or the Head of the concerned Departments of the University will be the Coordinator for the Viva-voce examination, if the Supervisor is not available for Viva Voce examination.

12.2 When the Indian Examiner is not available to conduct the public Viva-voce Examination due to any reason, the Vice Chancellor will appoint a suitable Examiner in place of the Indian Examiner.

12.3 A copy of the thesis of the candidate appearing for the Viva - voce Examination shall be available in the department concerned for perusal of those interested in the Thesis before the conduct of the Viva-voce Examination, together with appropriate public notice issued by the Supervisor for the purpose.

12.4 Circulars of invitation announcing the date, time, venue and name of the Scholar, his Department and Faculty and the title of the Thesis shall be displayed in the University notice boards and the website. In addition, it may be sent to other Institutions of interest in the Thesis contents.

12.5 If for any reason, the Supervisor is unable to conduct the Viva-voce examination within two months after the approval of the consolidated report on the Thesis, the Vice Chancellor may appoint a suitable Examiner in his/her place.

12.6 Procedure for the conduct of the Viva-voce:

- * The Viva-voce examination shall be with the participation by invitation of
 - (i) Head of the concerned Department (s);
 - (ii) The Thesis Supervisor (s);
 - (iii) Indian Examiner of the thesis;
 - (iv) Local Examiner chosen (recommended by the Supervisor/HoD).
 - (v) Students and other faculty members of our university and other institutions.
- * The Audio-Visual to be checked before starting the presentation.
- * If the topic is of an inter-disciplinary nature, the Faculty Representative from both the disciplines should be invited for Viva-voce.
- * Names, Designation and Signatures of the members who attend the Viva-voce to be obtained in a register.
- * Head of the Department (Convener of the Doctoral Committee) shall welcome the audience.
- * Head of the Department shall announce the name of the candidate, field of research of the candidate, the Thesis title / topic and the dates of acceptance of the Thesis and the names of the Viva- voce Examiners.
- * Head of the Department shall after introducing the Thesis Supervisor, the external and internal Examiners for the Viva-voce only by name, their broad areas of specialization and Institution affiliation, requests the candidate to start his presentation.
- * The candidate's presentation shall last around 30 minutes followed by questioning or clarifications raised by the Thesis Examiners. Examiners must question in depth on the possible deficiencies, possible improvements in a highly critical manner.
- * After this session, there would be an open discussion / Clarification session, in which the audience could participate with questions to the candidate.
- * Audience and the candidate could now withdraw from the Viva-voce precincts, allowing the Examiners to complete the formalities keeping in mind fairness to the reputation of the university's doctoral/research program, as needed by the statutory requirements.

12.7 The Supervisor shall convey to the University the result of such Viva-voce Examination duly endorsed by the other members of the board together with a list of participants in the examination with their signatures/ designations and

addresses.

Also, a list of questions raised by the participants in the Viva Voce examination and the answers by the Scholar to these questions shall be submitted immediately after Viva Voce examination. A candidate who is successful at the Viva-voce examination shall be declared to have been qualified for the Ph.D. Degree. The Vice-Chancellor shall seek the ratifications of the Board of Management for the same in due course.

12.8 A candidate who is not successful at the Viva-voce examination, as per the opinion of the board, he/she may be permitted to take the same on a 2nd occasion, after the expiry of three months but not later than six months. If he/she is not again successful at the Viva-voce examination, the degree will not be awarded to him/her. Signature and designation of the faculties and others who had participated in such Viva-voce examination would be obtained, for records.

12.9 No candidate shall be permitted to submit Thesis or to appear for the Viva-voce examination on more than two occasions.

12.10 The Final corrected copy of the Thesis should be reduced to A5 (two copies) with printing in black letters on one side with hard bound binding in white colour and submitted after the Viva-voce examination duly certified by the Supervisor and Co-supervisor (if applicable), with his/her signature that all the corrections/ modifications suggested by the Examiners have been incorporated in the Thesis. Soft copy of the Thesis in Compact Disc MS Word format (2 Nos.) should be submitted for university archives, along with two copies of the A5 copy of the final corrected Thesis.

12.11 A copy of the Thesis should be submitted to the University Main Library.

12.12 The university shall complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph. D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva-voce result, within a period of six (6) months from the date of submission of the thesis.

13.0 Act of Plagiarism

13.1. In the case of scholars who have committed the act of plagiarism, his/her Thesis/degree shall be forfeited and his/her research registration shall be cancelled and he/she shall be debarred to register for any other programme in the University, all after proper enquiry.

13.2 For the abetment, if any, of above such action the recognition of his/her

Supervisor-ship shall be withdrawn and he/she shall be debarred from guiding the scholars for any research programme.

14. Award of Degree

14.1 All administrative work from the initiation of provisional registration till the conduct of Viva-voce shall be the responsibility of the Dean-Research.

14.2 Once the Viva-voce examination work is completed, the work related to the award of the Degree, Provisional Certificate and the Degree Certificate will be the sole responsibility of the Controller of Examinations.

15. Publication of Thesis

15.1 A Thesis whether approved or not, shall not be published in full without the permission of the University and the University may grant permission for publication under such conditions as it may impose.

15.2 But papers arising out of the Thesis may be published by the Scholar and the Supervisor, with due acknowledgement being given to the university.

16. Transitory Provision

16.1 Any modifications/amendments issued by UGC subsequently from time to time will be incorporated in these Regulations by the University and the office of Den-Research would intimate these changes then and there.

16.2 The scholar shall be governed by the regulations as in force from time to time. The Supervisors and scholars will be informed if there is any change in the regulations.

16.3 However, they should be in contact with Dean (Research) Office and refer the University website <http://www.drmgrdu.ac.in> from time to time.

17. Power to modify

17.1 Notwithstanding all that has been stated above, the Board of Management has the right to modify any of the above regulations.

18. Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

18.1 Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 shall be governed by the provisions of the university's PhD Regulations 2010 or the provisions of the university's PhD Regulations 2016 as the case may be.

18.2 Further, the award of degrees to candidates already registered and pursuing Ph.D. shall be governed by the provisions of the university's PhD Regulations 2023 or by the provisions of university's PhD Regulations 2016.

18.3 In all cases, other than mentioned above (18.1), university's PhD Regulations 2023 will be applicable.

19. Format of the Degree Certificate

19.1 The Ph.D. Degree Certificate shall incorporate

(a) The title of the Thesis as found on the Thesis cover submitted by the candidate.

(b) Name of the Scholar, as indicated in the provisional registration for the Research degree, as found in his qualifying degree certificate. In case of the award of the Ph.D. degree for interdisciplinary research, certificate shall bear the subject of the candidate's post graduate degree and the discipline of the department in which the candidate has conducted his/her doctoral research mentioning them as inter-disciplinary. The faculty for the award of the Ph.D. degree shall normally be based on the PG qualification of the Scholar, except in the case of the inter-disciplinary projects in which case the Faculty of the Supervisor shall alone be accepted.

20. Depository with INFLIBNET

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), the university shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions.