

Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed to be University (MRDU), Hyderabad

Regulations for Admission to Ph.D. Programmes – 2025–26

(In accordance with UGC Gazette Notification No. F.1-3/2021(QIP) dated 7th November 2022)

This notification is issued in compliance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, which came into force upon publication in the Gazette of India. These regulations apply to all universities and institutions empowered to award Ph.D. degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956.

****No. F. No. 1-3/2021(QIP).**—*In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) of section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956), and in supersession of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016 and its amendments, the University Grants Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, namely: //**-*

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

- a) “Act” means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956);
- b) “Adjunct Faculty” means a part-time or contingent instructor, but not full-time faculty member hired to teach by a Higher Educational Institution;
- c) “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;
- d) “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;
- e) “College” means an institution engaged in higher education and/or research, either established by a University as its constituent unit or is affiliated with it;
- f) “Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under Section 4 of the UGC Act 1956;
- g) “Course” means one of the specified units which go to comprise a programme of study;
- h) “Course Work” means courses of study prescribed by the School/Department/ Centre to be undertaken by a student registered for the Ph.D. Degree;
- i) “Degree” means a degree awarded by a Higher Educational Institution in accordance with the provisions of section 22 (3) of the Act;
- j) “External examiner” means an academician/researcher with published research work who is not part of the Higher Educational Institution where the Ph.D. scholar has registered for the Ph.D. programme;
- k) “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;

- l) "Grade Point" means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale;
- m) "Guide/Research Supervisor" means an academician/researcher recognized by Higher Educational Institution to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for his/her research;
- n) "Higher Educational Institution" means a university or institution specified under clause 2 of Regulation 1 of these Regulations;
- o) "Interdisciplinary Research" means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in two or more academic disciplines;
- p) "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own;
- q) "Programme" means a higher education programme pursued for a degree specified by the Commission under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Act;
- r) "Prospectus" means any document, whether in print or otherwise, issued for providing fair and transparent information relating to a Higher Educational Institution and programmes, to the general public (including to those seeking admission in such Higher Educational Institutions) by the Higher Educational Institutions;
- s) "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;
- t) "University" means a Higher Educational Institution established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act, or a State Act, and shall include any institution for higher education deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the Act.

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.

2 Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme.-

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

(1) Candidates who have completed:

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 its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed

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

A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade 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.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester

bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade 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.

- (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.

3 Duration of the Programme.-

- (1) Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years for full time research and four (4) years from part time research, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- (2) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the approval of the AC and ratified by the EC of the MRDU; 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.

- (3) 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 Procedure for admission. -

- a. The admission is to be based on the criteria notified by the MRDU, 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.
- b. Admission to the Ph.D. programme is to be made using the following methods:
- MRDU may admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview.
- And/or
- MRDU may admit students through an Entrance Test conducted at the level of the eligible individuals. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology, and 50% shall be subject- specific.
 - Students who have secured 50 % 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. MRDU may 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 MRDU, a weightage of 70 % for the entrance test and 30 % for the performance in the interview/viva- voce shall be given.
- vii. MRDU shall notify a prospectus well in advance on the university website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, and all other relevant information for the candidates;
- viii. MRDU shall Adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable

Note: A candidate, satisfying one or more of the above eligibility criteria is not guaranteed the admission into Ph.D. Program. The Ph.D. admission shall be subject to the availability of vacancies with the Research Supervisors in the concerned department, candidate's academic record, the performance of the candidate in the Ph.D. Entrance Test, Ph.D. admission interview / viva-voce and statutory State reservation policy."

- c. MRDU shall 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 institution and update this list every academic year.

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

- a. Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor of the MRDU with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors in MRDU with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor in the university where the faculty member is employed or in its affiliated Post-graduate Colleges/institutes. Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by a university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the university or its affiliated Post- graduate Colleges/institutes would be in violation of these Regulations.

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 supervisors if they fulfill the above requirements.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no, or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, MRDU 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 same institution or other institutions may be permitted with the approval of the Vice

Chancellor.

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

- b. In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/ School/ Centre/ College/ University may be appointed.
- c. An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time. During any one academic year the Ph.D Admission Committee shall not allot more than 50% of the total number of candidates allottable.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.

Co-Supervisor

- a. **Interdisciplinary Research**
In interdisciplinary research, a scholar may be guided jointly by two supervisors from different departments. Written consent from both supervisors is compulsory in such cases.
- b. **Supervisors from National Research Laboratories**
Scholars under the supervision of a faculty member affiliated with a recognized National Research Laboratory (e.g., IICT, NIN, etc.) may appoint a Co-Supervisor. The Co-Supervisor may belong to the same or an allied discipline, subject to MRDU approval, and must hold a faculty or scientist position either at MRDU or at the affiliated National Research Laboratory.
- c. **Interchange of Roles**
The roles of Supervisor and Co-Supervisor may be interchanged between the University and the Research Center. For candidates registered with a University Department Supervisor, a Co-Supervisor from the same or an allied discipline may be appointed, provided that the Co-Supervisor is employed in a recognized Research Institution.

6 Admission of International students in Ph.D. programme.-

- a. Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in clause 4.3 above.
- b. MRDU may decide their own selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by statutory/regulatory bodies concerned from time to time.

Note: 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.

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

- a. 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 Research Advisory Committee can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.
- b. 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.
- c. A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit his or her thesis.
- d. After provisional admission into the Ph.D. Program all the registered candidates has to take up the Ph.D. Course Work in the respective Department / Research Centres for a period of one semester and this is mandatory for all candidates.
- e. However, a candidate with an M.Phil. Degree completed in regular mode is exempted from the Ph.D. Course Work and the Ph.D. Course Work examination, provided that they have undergone the same Course Work in M.Phil.
- f. 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 Research Advisory Committee can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.
- g. The Ph.D. Course Work shall comprise of TWO theory papers and each theory paper shall have 60 contact hours of classes. Paper-1: Research Methodology and Publication Ethics (100 Marks/6 Credits): Common to all the candidates admitted in a department. The syllabus of this paper includes the research techniques / methods of the concerned subject. Paper-2: Broad field of specialization (100 Marks/6 Credits): The syllabus of this paper includes the current concepts/trends in the concerned specialization of the subject. The broad specializations in a department shall be restricted to maximum of five (5).
- h. Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit his or her thesis.
- i. 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.

8 Ph.D. Course Work Examination and Evaluation:

- (1) Ph.D. Course Work examination shall be conducted for the admitted candidates after the one semester of Ph.D. course work.

- (2) The pattern of the Ph.D. Course Work syllabus and the pattern of the Ph.D. Course Work examination question paper shall be uniform for the respective faculties.
- (3) The medium of examination for the Ph.D. Course Work examination shall be English for all subjects except those in which the official medium of instruction is a language other than English.
- (4) The supervisor/co-supervisor of the Ph.D scholar shall communicate the syllabi to the Controller of Examinations for the purpose of conducting the Ph.D. Course Work examination.
- (5) The Controller of the examination shall arrange for the evaluation of the answer scripts. The Ph.D. Course Work examination is of three-hour duration and is for 100 marks per theory paper. Each answer script is assessed by two examiners who shall be recognized Ph.D. Supervisors. The marks awarded to the answer script shall be the average of these two evaluations, and if the difference in the marks between two evaluations exceeds 20% of the maximum marks, such a script shall be assessed by a third external examiner. The marks awarded to the script shall be the average of two higher marks out of the three evaluations. The minimum pass marks for Ph.D. Course Work shall be 55% marks in each paper.
- (6) If the candidate does not pass in two consecutive Ph.D. Course Work examinations conducted in the concerned subject, his/her Ph.D. registration shall automatically get cancelled. For this purpose, the two successive examinations conducted after the admission of the candidate, and for the batch of students of which he/she belongs to, be counted.

9 Research Advisory Committee(RAC) and its Functions.- (1)There shall be a Research Advisory Committee as defined in the Statutes/Ordinances of the MRDU concerned 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.

The composition of RAC consists of

- i. The Supervisor (Convener).
- ii. One faculty member from the same department/discipline.
- iii. One external expert from a recognized academic or research institution in a related field. In the case of interdisciplinary research, the Co-Supervisor shall also be a member.
- iv. Head of the department/chairman

The composition of the RAC shall be approved by the MRDU.

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

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

10 Progress Reports:

- (1) After the completion of the Course Work and the Ph.D. Course Work examination, every candidate shall submit half-yearly progress report to the Dean(R&D) duly forwarded by the Research Supervisor. The half-yearly Progress Report should cover, among others, the aspects such as the review of literature, data collected, techniques developed, progress in research, discussion of the work done including any findings, etc. If necessary, this progress report may be forwarded to the RAC by the Dean(R&D) for further examination.
- (2) If a candidate fails to submit two consecutive half-yearly progress reports in time and/or if the progress of the candidate is not satisfactory for two half-year periods, the Department Research Committee shall recommend to the Dean(R&D) for the cancellation of his/her registration in consultation with the concerned Research Supervisor.

11 Seminar Presentations:

- (1) During the tenure of the Ph.D. Program, candidate shall present three seminars of which the first one is presented after the Ph.D. Course Work examination results. This seminar designated as "Research Design Seminar" will be a comprehensive literature review of the research topic and the plan of work.
- (2) This seminar shall be conducted within three (3) months from declaration of such results in the main Campus department where the candidate is concerned registered. The Head, one recognized Supervisor of the Department and the Research Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor of the Candidate shall certify the conduct of the seminar.
- (3) The second one is "Research Progress Seminar", where the candidate presents the progress of his research work. The Head, one recognized Supervisor of the Department and the Research Supervisor of the Candidate concern shall certify the conduct of the seminar. The second seminar shall be conducted within three (3) years from the date of joining/registration.
- (4) The last seminar designated as "Pre-Submission Seminar" is presented by a candidate whose Ph.D. thesis is ready for submission. This seminar deals with the entire Ph.D. work of his/her carried out by the candidate and is presented in the Department where he/she is registered and any feedback, comments and suggestions from the participants be included in the final manuscript of the thesis. The draft copy of the Ph.D. thesis must be available during this presentation.
- (5) The pre-submission seminar shall be held within six (6) months prior to the thesis submission duration. The presentation of this pre-submission seminar shall be certified by the Head of the Department, one faculty of the department (recognized supervisor), and the Research Supervisor of the candidate and three (3) certificates (Research Design

Seminar, Research Progress Seminar and Pre-Submission Seminar) must be enclosed at the time of thesis submission.

12 Extension of Registration:

Scholars seeking extension of registration shall submit a written request, along with the progress report of the work done and the prescribed fee, duly recommended by the supervisor(s), and the Head of the concerned Department in the University. The request must be submitted to the Dean(R&D) at least two months before the expiry of the registration period, failing which the request for extension is liable for rejection.

Based on the recommendations of the Supervisor(s), and the Head of the Department, the Dean(R&D) may extend, not exceeding one (1) year at a time, the Ph.D. registration of a scholar for a maximum period of two (2) years in case of a full-time, and one year (1) in case of part-time research scholar, provided that he / she has been continuously engaged in active research, the progress of the research work in the previous years has been satisfactory as certified by the supervisor(s), and that he / she has No-Dues in the library / department / college / hostel as certified by the concerned authority.

The registration of a research scholar whether full time or part-time shall automatically stand cancelled after the completion of SIX (6) years from the date of joining.

13 Publication of a Research Paper:

A Ph.D. Research Scholar and Supervisors shall jointly publish research paper related to his/her Ph.D. work in a Peer- reviewed indexed Journals (SCI/ Scopus/Web of Science) before the submission of thesis for adjudication and produce the evidence of the same in the form of the reprint in original.

At least two papers published in refereed journals indexed in Science Citation Index (SCI / SCI-E)

(Or)

At least two papers published in refereed journals indexed in Scopus, and one paper published in SCI

(Or)

At least three papers published in refereed journals indexed in Scopus, and at least two papers presented and published in Scopus-indexed conference proceedings

These research papers shall be enclosed in the thesis as an appendix.

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

- a. Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft dissertation/thesis.
- b. Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee of MRDU, which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars/students.
- c. MRDU shall have a mechanism using well-developed software applications to detect Plagiarism in research work and the research integrity shall be an integral part

of all the research activities leading to the award of a Ph.D. degree.

- d. 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 Supervisors attesting to the originality of the thesis and that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other University.
- e. The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by three external examiners who are experts in the field and not in employment of the MRDU concerned. Such examiner(s) shall be in academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. The viva-voce board shall consist of the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners and may be conducted online. The viva-voce shall be open to the members of the Research Advisory Committee/faculty members/research scholars, and students.
- f. The viva-voce of the Ph.D. scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted if both the external examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis after incorporating any corrections suggested by them. If one of the external examiners recommends rejection, MRDU shall send the thesis to an alternate external examiner from the approved panel of examiners, and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the alternate examiner recommends acceptance of the thesis. If the alternate examiner does not recommend acceptance of the thesis, the thesis shall be rejected, and the Ph.D. scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of a Ph.D.
- g. MRDU 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.

15 Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by Colleges/ Organisation for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes.-

- 1. Post-graduate Colleges offering 4-year Undergraduate Programmes and/or Post-graduate Programmes, may offer Ph.D. programmes, provided they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure, and supporting administrative and research facilities as per these Regulations.
- 2. Colleges and research institutions established by the central government or a State government whose degrees are awarded by Higher Educational Institutions shall offer Ph.D. programmes provided they have:
 - i. At least two faculty members in a college or two Ph.D.-qualified scientists in the research institution.
 - ii. Adequate infrastructure, administrative support, research facilities and library resources as specified by the HEI.

16 Ph.D. through Part-time Mode-

- 1. Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.
- 2. MRDU shall obtain a "No Objection Certificate" through the candidate for a part-time Ph.D. programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:
 - a. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.
 - b. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.
 - c. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work

17 Change of Research Supervisor

- (1) The Supervisor/Co-Supervisor of the candidate once allotted and approved shall not ordinarily be changed. However, the Dean(R&D) may, after ascertaining the facts, permit change of Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor in exceptional circumstances like demise / non-availability of the approved Supervisor / Co-Supervisor for a continuous period of six months or more due to ill health or residing outside India. Such a change in Supervisor/Co- Supervisor is subject to availability of vacancy with new Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor and is permitted only once.
- (2) All requests for change of Supervisor/Co-Supervisor should originate from the candidate with necessary documentary evidence.
- (3) The candidate will have to work with new supervisor for a period of at least one year before submitting his / her thesis.

18 Change of Status of Research Scholar:

A candidate is permitted to change his/her status from full-time to part-time research, or vice versa, for any valid reason and upon approval by the Dean(R&D). In such cases: If the candidate changes his/her status from full-time to part-time, for example, after two (2) years, the remaining tenure of the Ph.D. course for such candidate shall be four (4) years minus the period already spent as a full-time scholar. Similarly, if a part-time research scholar changes his/her status to full-time, the remaining tenure of the Ph.D. course for such a candidate shall be four (4) years minus the period already spent as parttime.

19 Cancellation of Ph.D. Admission/Registration:

1. The Dean(R&D) may cancel the registration of a Ph.D. scholar, if the candidate fails to satisfy the conditions stipulated in the admission order, within the prescribed period.
2. The Dean(R&D) may cancel the registration of a Ph.D. Scholar on the recommendation of the Supervisor, co-supervisor(if any) and the Head of the Department under any one or more of the following circumstances:
 - a. Where the progress of the research work has been found to be unsatisfactory in two consecutive Half-yearly reports or when two consecutive progress reports are not submitted.
 - b. Where a candidate discontinues his/her research or when he/she accepts any employment without the written consent of the Dean(R&D).
3. The MRDU may cancel the admission of a research scholar at anytime for proven misbehavior or misconduct of the candidate in the University or elsewhere.
4. If a research scholar is found guilty of committing any irregularity, malpractice, plagiarism, etc. in research, his/her result will be withheld / cancelled by the Controller of Examinations, even after the publication of the result.
5. If the stipulated period of Ph.D. course is completed as per Ph.D. Rules and Regulations in effect.
6. Any violation of this regulation will automatically lead to the cancellation of his/her admission in Ph.D. Course.

20 Submission of Ph.D Thesis:

- (1) A full-time research scholar is eligible to submit his/her Ph.D. thesis at the completion of three (3) years of research and after four (4) years in case of Part-time research scholars from the date of joining the Ph.D. programme.
- (2) A research scholar, full-time or part-time, whose registration has expired / cancelled, is not eligible to submit the thesis.
- (3) After the completion of his / her Ph.D. research work, each candidate is required to submit to the Controller of Examinations, the following along with the prescribed application form and fee:
 - a. An undertaking declaring no plagiarism and
 - b. Certificate from their respective Research Supervisors attesting to the originality of the thesis and confirming that it has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution.
- (4) When submitting the thesis for evaluation, the Ph.D. scholars shall provide:
 - a. An undertaking declaring no plagiarism and
 - b. Certificate from their respective Research Supervisors attesting to the originality of the thesis and confirming that it has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution.
- (5) Four soft bound copies of the thesis incorporating a certificate from the Supervisor to the effect that the thesis is an original work of the candidate and a declaration by the candidate to the effect that the thesis either in part or full does not constitute any part of any thesis/dissertation/monograph submitted by him/her or any other person to this or any other University/ Institute. The candidate is also required to submit a soft copy (on CD) of the thesis.
- (6) A Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Controller of Examinations for the prescribed fee.
- (7) Memorandum of marks of Ph.D. Course Work Examination and copy of the PG and UG Degrees.
- (8) A reprint of the papers published in a Peer-reviewed Journals (Listed in Scopus/Web of Science/ UGC-CARE List) as an enclosure in the thesis.
- (9) A copy of the admission letter/ extension (if any) / change of title (if any) / etc., the Ph.D. course work memo along with a proof of having paid the prescribed fees and satisfied all terms and conditions stipulated at the time of admission.
- (10) A copy of the permission letter for change of title / topic / supervisor, if applicable any).
- (11) Certification from the Head of the Department and the Research Supervisor, that the candidate has:
 - a. Presented the three seminars during the tenure of the Ph.D. work,
 - b. Certificate that he/she has conducted the research work in an institution recognized for the purpose by the University, and
 - c. Followed all the leave particulars in case of part-time Research Scholar
- (12) No Dues Certificates from the Chief Warden, Principal of the concerned Campus College, Head of the concerned Department and University Librarian.

- (13) The thesis submitted for adjudication shall conform to the following specifications:
- It must be typed on both sides of A4 size paper using font type "Times New Roman", font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing. For drawings and maps, these restrictions do not apply. Binding should conform to the norms fixed by the University Library.
 - The Research Supervisor of the candidate shall certify and submit six (6) copies of the synopsis of the thesis along with a panel of nine(9) examiners in a cover marked "confidential" to the COE at least three months before the actual submission of the Ph.D. thesis.
 - The Panel of Examiners lapses after a period of six (6) months from the date of approval, in such case, a new panel must be suggested by the supervisor
 - MRDU will endeavor to complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph.D. thesis, including declaring the viva-voce result, within a period of six (6) months from the date of thesis submission.

21 Ph.D. Thesis Evaluation/ Adjudication:

- (1) Before submitting thesis at the Examination Branch, the thesis shall be checked with Plagiarism Software (as approved by the University) and a certificate should be enclosed in the thesis stating similarity index (10%) as per the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity & Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations-2018, dated 23-07-2018.

After the submission of the thesis, the Supervisor shall submit a panel of **at least nine external examiners** to the University, drawn from reputed universities, research institutions, or organizations. These examiners must be experts in the area of the scholar's research. The panel should include at least **five (5) examiners from outside the state of Telangana/Andhra Pradesh** and may also include experts from outside India. The final selection of examiners shall be made by the University. In any case only one examiner from the institute/organization will be allowed in the panel of examiners.

- (2) Three independent Examiners/Referees appointed for the purpose by the Vice-Chancellor, shall evaluate/ adjudicate the thesis.
- (3) The Controller of Examinations, while communicating the appointment to the Examiner/Referee, shall send a copy of the synopsis of the thesis and seek his/her willingness to adjudicate it based on the synopsis submitted. After obtaining the consent of the Examiner, a copy of the thesis will be sent with a request to submit his/her report in a prescribed format.
- (4) The format consists of three parts. Part-1: A Detailed Evaluation, Part-2: A Detailed Report mentioning the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, and Part-3: A Final Recommendation.
- (5) A candidate needs to score a minimum of 55 per cent of the points in Part-1 to be eligible for the viva-voce examination. As a final recommendation, the examiner must state in clear/ unequivocal terms whether, in his/her opinion,
- The thesis can be accepted for award of Ph.D. degree in its present form

- b. The thesis be accepted subject to revision/corrections suggested and be verified by the Research Supervisor.
 - c. The thesis be revised/resubmitted for re-evaluation by same adjudicator.
 - d. The thesis is rejected
- (6) After all the three (3) reports are received, a decision is to be taken for the conduct of a viva- voce examination before the award of the Ph.D. Degree, as per the following guidelines.
- a. If the reports of all the three examiners are favorable (i.e., accepting the thesis as it is), the candidate is permitted to take the Ph.D. viva-voce Examination.
 - b. If any one /two of the examiners suggest a revision, the thesis shall be revised accordingly and resubmitted for approval to the same examiner(s).
 - c. If two or all the three examiners reject the thesis, it will be rejected for the award of Ph.D.degree and the registration of the candidate shall stand cancelled.
 - d. If anyone of the examiners rejects the thesis, the thesis shall be sent to another examiner from the existing panel of examiners approved by the Vice-Chancellor. If this examiner also rejects the thesis, the thesis is deemed to be rejected and the registration of the candidate shall stand cancelled.
- (7) In the event of any adjudicator's report not received even after 3 months from the date of Submission, the thesis may be referred to a fourth Examiner from the same panel for adjudication.
- (8) Minor corrections suggested by the examiner(s) shall be intimated to the Research Supervisor of the candidate by the Controller of Examinations before the conduct of the Ph.D. Viva-voce Examination. These corrections must be incorporated in the thesis and errata are enclosed in the thesis and shown to the Ph.D. Viva-voce Board of Examiners.

22. Ph.D. Viva-Voce Examination:

- (1) The Ph.D. Viva-voce examination of the candidate is conducted only after all the three examiners recommend the award of Ph.D. Degree. The Controller of Examinations shall instruct the Head of the department, to conduct the Ph.D. Viva-voce examination by constituting a Board of Examiners.
- (2) The Ph.D. Viva-voce examination shall be conducted in the concerned Department by a Board of Examiners, and comprise the following five (5) members: (a) Head of the Department, (b) Two faculty members of the Department who are recognized supervisors and working in the area related to the thesis work, approved by the Vice-Chancellor out of the four (4) suggested by the supervisor, and (c) the Supervisor of the candidate, who shall be the Convener.
- (3) If no eligible faculty member is available in the Department for inclusion in the Board of Examiners, an external expert may be invited for the purpose.
- (4) After the Board of Examiners is constituted for the conduct of Viva-voce examination, the Head of the Department shall obtain two copies of the thesis and make it available to the members of the Board to enable them to conduct the Viva-voce examination.

- (5) The Viva-voce examination is open to the students and faculty of the Department, and to the scientists in the concerned/allied subject. The Head of the concerned Department shall display on the notice board the date and time of the Viva-voce examination one week in advance.
- (6) The Board of Examiners, who conduct the viva-voce examination shall either recommend for the award of the Ph.D. Degree or recommend that the candidate be asked to take the Viva-voce examination a second time giving reasons thereof. The second Viva-voce examination shall be conducted by the same set of examiners, and not earlier than three (3) months but not later than six (6) months from the date of the first Viva-voce examination. The Dean(R&D) of the concerned Faculty shall participate in the second Viva-voce examination and record his/her observations and send it directly to the Vice-Chancellor

23 Declaration of the Ph.D. Results and Award of Ph.D. Degree:

- (1) After completion of the Viva-voce examination, the adjudication reports of the thesis by External Examiners and the report of the Viva-voce Board of Examiners shall be immediately sent to the Controller of Examinations in a cover marked as "Confidential".
- (2) After successful completion of the viva voce examination and incorporating the suggestions made by the Board of examiners/ participants the candidate must now submit two (2) hard bound copies of the thesis and two (2) soft copies of the thesis. The hard bound copies shall be made available to all, one (1) in the University General Library and the other in the Department Seminar Library.
- (3) A soft copy of the thesis shall be sent to the UGC, New Delhi within 30 days of award of the Ph.D. degree for hosting the same in INFLIBNET, accessible to all Indian Universities/ Institutions. Another soft copy is for hosting the thesis in the MRDU website. The Controller of Examinations declares the Ph.D. result of a candidate only on receipt of two (2) hard bound copies of the thesis and two (2) soft copies of the thesis.
- (4) Pending the convocation, the MRDU may issue a **Provisional Certificate** to the scholar on request. The certificate shall state that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the **UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022**.

24 MISCONDUCT, ETHICS AND CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

1. Academic Integrity

Every scholar and supervisor shall uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, honesty, and research ethics. Any form of plagiarism, falsification of data, fabrication of results, or unethical practices shall be treated as serious violations.

2. Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Cases of plagiarism or academic misconduct will be dealt with as per the University's **Plagiarism Policy** (Annexure C). Depending on the severity, penalties may include revision and resubmission of the work, withholding of degree, or cancellation of registration.

3. Misrepresentation

If a scholar is found to have gained admission by misrepresentation of facts, submission of false documents, or suppression of relevant information, the admission shall be cancelled with immediate effect.

4. **Unethical Conduct in Research**

Engaging in unethical research practices, including but not limited to ghostwriting, duplicate submission, or violation of ethical clearances (such as animal ethics or human ethics approvals), shall invite disciplinary action, including termination of registration.

5. **Unsatisfactory Progress**

If a scholar consistently fails to demonstrate satisfactory progress, as recorded in two consecutive Doctoral Committee reviews, the Committee may recommend cancellation of registration, subject to approval by the University.

6. **Prolonged Absence** Scholars who are absent without prior approval for a continuous period exceeding six months may have their registration cancelled, after due intimation and consideration by the University.

7. **Disciplinary: Misconduct** Involvement in activities that bring disrepute to the University or violate its disciplinary code may also lead to suspension or cancellation of Ph.D. registration, based on the recommendation of a duly constituted disciplinary committee.

8. **Right to Appeal:** A scholar whose registration is cancelled shall have the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within 30 days of the order. The Vice-Chancellor may review the case and take a final decision, which shall be binding.

25 FEES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (The following is an indicative structure. The Academic Council may revise the fee schedule from time to time.)

S.No	Faculties	Fees per semester
1	Engineering and Technology	Rs. 20,000/-
2	Humanities and Sciences	Rs. 15,000/-
3	Management	Rs. 15,000/-

1. Mode of Payment

- All payments shall be made only through the MRDU's official payment portal / bank account.
- Receipts must be preserved and submitted with forms wherever required.

2. Revision of Fees

The University reserves the right to revise the fee structure from time to time with the approval of the Academic Council. Revised fees will be applicable to both new and continuing scholars, unless otherwise specified.

26 AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Power to Amend

The University reserves the right to amend, modify, or add to these Regulations from time to time in order to maintain compliance with UGC directives, Government of India guidelines, or other statutory requirements. Such amendments shall come into force only after approval by the **Academic Council** and ratification by the **Governing Body** of the University.

2. Applicability of Amendments

Any amendments made shall normally apply to scholars admitted after the date of enforcement of the amendment. However, if the amendment is beneficial to existing scholars, the University may choose to extend the benefit to them as well, with proper notification.

3. Interpretation of Regulations

In case of doubt or dispute regarding the interpretation of any provision of these Regulations, the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, based on the recommendation of the Research Board or Academic Council, shall be final and binding.

4. Transitional Provisions

- a. Scholars admitted prior to the enforcement of these Regulations shall continue to be governed by the rules and regulations applicable at the time of their admission.
- b. However, such scholars may opt to be governed by these revised Regulations, subject to the approval of the University.
- c. No scholar shall be disadvantaged due to the transition from previous regulations to the revised ones.