



D Y Patil International University
Akurdi, Pune

Doctoral Program Regulations



Overview:

D Y Patil International University, Akurdi, Pune offers an interdisciplinary research program under the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research (SISR). Doctoral studies conducted under SISR will be managed and supervised by the Doctoral Committee (DC).

1) Doctoral Committee and functions

- a) The Doctoral Committee will be formed by:

Table I. Members of the Doctoral Committee

i.	Dean of Research/Dean of Academics	Chairman
ii.	Director, School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research	Convener
iii.	Four members approved by the Vice Chancellor	Nominated Member (s)

- b) The three nominated members must belong to different disciplines and will have a tenure of 3 years as a member of DC.
- c) In case any member goes on long leave or resigns or retires from the Institute, the Vice Chancellor will nominate another member in consultation with the Dean of Research.

2) Educational Qualifications

- a) The candidates seeking admission to the PhD program must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
 - b) The candidate should have a Bachelor's/Master's degree in Engineering/Technology with a first class or a minimum 55% marks (CGPA 6.5 on a 10-point scale)
 - or
 - Master's degree (MBA/MCom/MCA/MSc/MSc (Engineering)/M.S. by Research) with a minimum 55%
 - or
 - an equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions

Note: Other relevant Masters degrees approved by UGC may be considered for admission based on the current research at DYPIU.

- c) Candidates possessing a degree considered equivalent to MPhil from an Indian Institution/ 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 another statutory authority in that



country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to PhD program.

- d) For SC/ST/persons with disabilities and those who have obtained a Master's degree before 19th Sept 1991, may be given a relaxation as per UGC guidelines.

3) Categories and Eligibility

- a) Full-time Candidates:

A candidate who wishes to pursue a PhD degree should apply on the online application portal which is open throughout the year. These candidates will carry research work full time on campus. Full time candidates may receive teaching assistantship based on availability. Those candidates who do not receive teaching assistantship have to sustain on their own.

OR

Full-time candidates may seek a research assistantship from the grants of individual faculty members.

- b) Part-time candidates:

Candidates fulfilling minimum qualifications may be permitted to pursue their PhD with DYPIU on a part time basis but they should apply via the online application portal which is open throughout the year. Coursework must be taken at DYPIU in person. Part-time candidature can be approved under following categories:

i) *Sponsored Category*

This category includes sponsored candidates from the organizations with whom DYPIU has established MoU. Candidates employed in recognized R&D organizations, Research Labs in industry, employed as regular faculty in colleges and universities and desirous of pursuing PhD may apply for admission in PhD program.

ii) *Sister Institution Category*

This category includes candidates from the sister organizations of DYPIU. Candidates employed as regular staff in colleges and universities in the premises of D Y Patil Education Complex, Akurdi, Pune may apply for admission in PhD program at DYPIU.

iii) *External Category*

This category includes external candidates from the organizations with whom DYPIU does not have MoU. Candidates employed in recognized R&D organizations, Research Labs in industry, employed as regular faculty in colleges and universities and desirous of pursuing PhD studies may apply for admission in PhD program.

Part-time students must also spend at least 6 months on campus after registration and upon completion of coursework to earn their PhD degree. Any registered PhD student can convert a full-time PhD candidature into a part time-candidature after 2 years of registration.



AND

Part time candidates must get a letter of approval from their employers at the time of admission so that they can spend time at the campus for the fulfillment of their coursework.

4) Admission Procedure

- a) Applications will be invited by open advertisement in DYPIU website/ all leading newspapers/local announcement for all categories of candidates mentioned in section-2. Application will be accepted only if made via the DYPIU admission portal.
- b) The candidate shall apply online for a PhD admission programme on DYPIU website as per admission notification. Candidates have to upload the statement of purpose and curriculum vitae at the time of application. The statement of purpose should include their past experience, research motivation and a proposed plan for future research.
- c) Each applicant must achieve a 50% score in the entrance test to qualify for the interview. This entrance test can be conducted in person or online depending on the number of applicants.
- d) Selection of the candidate will be based upon his/her performance in the previous university examinations at Bachelors and Masters level. Additionally, the performance in the written test and the interview will be considered with equal weightage.
- e) Exemption from the written test: Candidates who have qualified in GATE/CSIR-UGC/NET/SET/DBT/DST scientist / JRF may be exempted from the written test requirement. However, they will be required to appear for a personal interview.
- f) The interview shall consist of the following aspects. viz. whether:
 - i) The candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
 - ii) The proposed research work can be suitably undertaken at institution;
 - iii) The proposed area of research will contribute new/additional knowledge/can solve societal problems.
- g) The list of selected candidates will be displayed on the notice board/website of the University. However, the final admission will be given after verifying eligibility as per the provisions of the relevant regulations of the University.
- h) All qualified candidates who are willing to pursue a PhD program at DYPIU must complete the admission process by submitting the fees before the beginning of the next semester. PhD admission process can be deferred by a maximum of one semester on special approval from the Vice-Chancellor.
- i) The University shall maintain the list of all the PhD registered students on its website on a year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, topic of the research, name of his supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment /registration.

5) Duration of the Program

- a) Ph.D. program shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including coursework and a maximum of seven years.



- b) Persons with Disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years during the doctoral program. In addition, the women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of PhD for up to 240 days.

6) Course Registration

- a) All PhD students at DYPIU are considered as PhD candidates until they pass their qualifying examination. Upon passing the qualifying exam, the PhD candidate will be referred to as a PhD scholar.
- b) Every semester (Winter and Monsoon) a PhD student (candidate/scholar) has to do a course registration as a student.
- c) All PhD candidates and PhD Scholars who are keeping their registration alive, should pay the prescribed fees every semester / year till their submission of the thesis.
- d) The course registration of a PhD student who has not registered in person for any one semester is liable to be cancelled by the DC.
- e) During their PhD, scholars have to essentially complete a period of two years Residency after clearing their qualifying examination. PhD scholars cannot apply for long leave during this period.
- f) Conversion of the PhD program from full-time to part-time and vice versa can be done only after PhD registration and will come into effect only at the start of the subsequent semester with permission from the supervisor. The decision must be informed in writing to the doctoral committee.

7) Teaching Assistantship

- a) All full time PhD students are eligible to apply for paid Teaching Assistantship (TA) as per university norms.
- b) Any PhD student holding a grant cannot apply for TA until the validity of the grant. However, the student must be available for any assistance required at the University.
- c) Faculty members must indicate their TA requirements to the Head of their Program at the beginning of any semester. The Head of the Program will advertise the TA requirements of their department. Each PhD student must apply for the TA position directly to the concerned faculty members for the course of their interest in each semester. The faculty of the concerned subject must evaluate the student before confirmation.
- d) PhD students can avail TA for not more than 10 semesters.
- e) Students must dedicate at least 20 hours/week for TA with not more than 10 contact hours.
- f) Teaching Assistantship performance will be evaluated by the respective teaching faculty after the completion of the course on the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale.
- g) Teaching assistants should complete all the tasks assigned to them by the faculty of the course before the end of the semester. A TA cannot be relieved from their position until the tasks are declared to be complete by the faculty.
- h) No TA can be relieved from their responsibilities during an ongoing semester.



8) Eligibility criteria for Research supervisor, Co-supervisor

- a) Any regular Professor of the University with a PhD and at least five research publications in refereed journals (\$) and Associate/Assistant Professor of the university with a PhD and at least two research publications in refereed journals may be recognized as Research Supervisor.
\$ the publications should be indexed journals listed in the Web of Science / SCOPUS/ Indian Citation Index as per UGC norms.
- b) Only full-time faculty of DYPIU can be research supervisors. External supervisors are not allowed. However, co-supervisor can be allowed from interdisciplinary areas from the sister institutions of DYPIU with approval of the DC.
- c) The number of research candidate can be supervised by:
 - i) The Research supervisor who is Professor is eligible to guide 8 PhD students at any given point of time.
 - ii) The Research supervisor who is Associate Professor is eligible to guide 6 PhD students at any given point of time.
 - iii) The Research supervisor who is Assistant professor is eligible to guide 4 PhD students at any given point of time.
- d) Any supervisor can take maximum two candidates in an academic year
- e) There shall not be more than two supervisors for a PhD student.
- f) Prospective supervisors should have a minimum of three years of service left at the institute.
- g) Discontinuation of faculty members as supervisor:
 - i) Any supervisor who discontinues his/her full-time faculty position at DYPIU may be permitted to continue as a co-supervisor upon approval from the Doctoral Committee in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor.
 - ii) If the PhD student has a co-supervisor, he/she will be assigned the role of the supervisor for the administrative work and the research responsibilities of the student. In case there is no previously assigned co-supervisor, DC must reallocate a supervisor for the student.
 - iii) If the work done for PhD is nearing completion (more than 80%), then the Supervisor will continue to be the supervisor and for administrative purposes a co-supervisor will be assigned from DYPIU.

9) Qualifying Examination

- a) The qualifying examination will be conducted under the supervision of the Doctoral Committee.
- b) No PhD candidate will be permitted to take the qualifying examination unless
 - i) tuition and other fees as prescribed are paid
 - ii) hostel and library dues up to the month are cleared
- c) It is mandatory to qualify the written PhD qualifying examination in order to continue the PhD program. The qualifying exam is a two-part exam: written and viva-voce with equal weightage.
- d) Questions for written and viva-voce will be based on: (a) the core subjects and (b) a topic of interest indicated by the student while registering for the qualifying exam. The viva-voce will be conducted as an open-door examination.
- e) Every student must register for the qualifying examination 2 months prior to the examination.



- f) The topic of interest of the student indicated for the qualifying exam must align with his/her research interest.
- g) DC will appoint the experts to design the question paper for the qualifying examination.
- h) Qualifying exams will be conducted at the beginning of January and August of each year. Students must have completed their core subjects (as detailed in Section 10(e), Table III) before applying for the qualifying examination.
- i) A student has to pass the qualifying examination in a maximum of two attempts within two years of enrolment. In case the PhD student does not qualify even after 2 attempts, the student may request for a third (and last) attempt to the Dean of Research. Upon reviewing the case, a special consideration for a third attempt can be made after Vice-Chancellor's approval. Upon due approval, the student will be assigned with a Faculty mentor who must follow the progress of the student every week until the next decided qualifying examination in which the student can appear.
- j) All PhD students at DYPIU are considered as PhD candidates until they pass their qualifying examination. Once qualified, the student will be declared and registered as a full time PhD scholar of DYPIU.
- k) After passing the Qualifying examination, a PhD scholar has to submit the research proposal and conduct an open seminar evaluated by an examination committee. This open seminar has to be conducted in the beginning of the subsequent semester. The examination committee members can be suggested by the supervisor but has to be approved by a Doctoral committee one month before the proposal submission. The examination committee must include 3 members: 1 of the members should be a TAC member and the other 2 have to be from the other faculty members of DYPIU. An additional external evaluator (outside of DYPIU) can be included in the committee based on the supervisor's discretion.
- l) The research proposal must be less than 10-page document and should include:
 - i) Introduction
 - ii) Extensive literature review
 - iii) Research gaps
 - iv) Why this research?
 - v) Problem statement
 - vi) Objectives of the research
 - vii) Scope and limitations if any
 - viii) Methodology tools and techniques planned
 - ix) Timeline (GANTT CHART)
 - x) Bibliography

Candidate has to submit 1 copy of the research proposal to each of the members of the examination committee and the Doctoral Committee. The examination committee will evaluate the proposal and will give recommendation such as;

- xi) Recommended
- xii) Recommended with modification
- xiii) To be recommended after major corrections
- xiv) Not approved

The recommendation will be based on the proposal and the open seminar.



In case of Not approved recommendation from the examination committee, the student must resubmit the proposal within the time suggested by the examination committee.

- m) If the proposal is not approved twice, the student's candidature will be cancelled.
- n) The University shall maintain the list of all the Ph.D. registered students on its website on a year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration.

10) Selection of Research Supervisor

- a) DC will organize a research orientation seminar (ROS) at the beginning of each semester for incoming students. All the faculties who are eligible for PhD supervision must give a seminar on their research area/domain.
- b) Each student must submit their supervisor preference (maximum three) to the Doctoral Committee by the end of their 6th month of their registration as a PhD scholar.
- c) Supervisor can be decided based on:
 - i) *Rotatory process*: The student opting for this method must choose at least two faculties to work with for a period of 2 weeks each. This process of identifying the supervisor can be pursued anytime between the student's enrolment in DYPIU PhD program and within the two months of their successful completion of qualifying examination. At the end of these two rotations, students must submit their preferences of supervisor to the Doctoral committee. In the event of not being able to find the faculty of choice after two rotations, students can opt for a maximum of a third rotation. Any student must approach the faculty of their preference to apply for rotations. Also, any faculty can take a maximum of 4 students for rotation in a particular intake and a maximum of 2 students for rotation at a particular time.
 - ii) *Direct process*: A student can directly choose his/her supervisor if the faculty member and the student have reached an agreement of supervision in advance.
 - iii) *Grant based process*: If a student comes with his/her own grant or on the supervisor's grant, he/she can directly register under the supervisor.
- d) Once the research supervisor has been finalised by the PhD student (by any of the methods mentioned in Section 9(c)), DC must be intimated formally.
- e) The supervisor then must form the Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) for the student. This committee should include an interdisciplinary team of 2 researchers with different research domains. This committee must be approved by the DC within 1 month of the registration of the student. The Co-supervisor, if any, cannot be a member of the TAC.
- f) The tentative title of the thesis must also be indicated along with the TAC member list. The thesis title may be changed later before thesis submission based on suggestions from TAC and the supervisor.
- g) If the supervisor has more than one student, then the supervisor must ensure that at least one of the TAC members is unique for each student. DC will hold the supervisor responsible for any such discrepancy.



11) Course-work and Credit Requirement

a) The minimum credits assigned to the PhD course work has to be earned by research candidate as per the table below:

Table II. PhD course work and credit requirements

Category	Highest degree	Suggested Course work Duration	Course work credit	Minimum research credits to get degree	Min duration \$(Months)	Maximum
I	BTech	3 semesters	22	120	24 Months	As per UGC guidelines
II	MTech/ MPharma	2 Semesters	18	120	24 Months	
III	Integrated MTech	2 Semesters	22	120	24 Months	
IV	MSc/MCA /MBA/ MCom	3 Semesters	18	120	24 Months	

\$Counted from the day of enrolment

b) The course work shall be treated as a prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. Core courses shall be organised by the SISR under the course code SIS701 onwards. The core courses together must amount to 12 credits. Core subjects must include courses on Research Methodology and Research Seminar. Other courses will include advanced level elective courses preparing the students for research.

c) Research Methodology is a 4-credit course which could cover areas such as Quantitative Methods. Research Seminar is a 2-credit course, where a PhD student must conduct a seminar every semester on a research topic which is not from their research domain. The Research Seminar is a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory course where a student will get the 2 course-work credit only after satisfactorily presenting in every semester of his/her candidature.

d) All other core courses must be 2-credit courses. Other core courses will focus on computational thinking, probability and statistics, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, quality improvement program, refresher program, etc.

e) Each elective course must be of 2 credits. For the elective courses, each student can choose a maximum of 3 courses in a given semester from a list of courses provided by schools participating in the research activities. Each of the schools will provide a list of 5 courses for monsoon and winter semesters respectively. Level-4 courses and above can be a part of the suggested electives. The list of elective choices for a student must be approved by the DC/Dean of Research and each student must register for the elective courses one month prior to the beginning of the semester.

f) PhD students from category I and IV must complete 10 elective course credits of which 18 credits must be completed from their field of research and 6 credits from other specialisation courses. PhD students from category II and III must complete 18 elective course credits of which 12 credits from their field of research and 6 credits from other specialisation courses.



g) Research credits will be counted only after the student has passed the qualifying examination. Minimum two years of research credits need to be earned for the completion of the degree. 30 credits will be assigned to each semester of research.

Table III. PhD course credit distribution

Category	Minimum Course Credits	Core Course Credits	Elective course Credits
I and IV	22	12 (4 core courses: Research methodology (4-credits) + Research Seminar (2 credits) + 3 core courses (see appendix I))	10 (5 courses of 2 credits: minimum 2 courses from cross departmental fields)
II and III	18	12 (4 core courses: Research methodology (4-credits) + Research Seminar (2 credits) + 3 core courses (see appendix I))	6 (3 courses of 2 credits: minimum 1 course from cross departmental fields)

h) The standards, regulations, requirements and assessment methods of all the courses prescribed for PhD course work are to be approved by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research.

i) The research coursework may comprise the lectures, laboratories, assignments, design work, minor projects, seminar, self-study courses depending on the recommendation of DC. In case, the class strength of a particular elective does not exceed 6 students, responsible faculty can choose to teach the course using approved MOOC platforms like NPTEL, Coursera or self-study mode. The responsible faculty must evaluate the progress of the student on a regular basis to ensure proper progress in self-study mode.

j) All PhD students must complete the coursework in the prescribed semesters. However, due to some genuine reason, if a particular student couldn't complete the course work, then based on DC's permission one semester extension can be granted. Failing to complete the course work in an extended course period leads to the cancellation of admission.

k) All grade sheets pertaining to the coursework of all research candidates shall be issued by the Controller of Examinations (COE).

l) Course work results should be declared within one month of conducting the examinations. The final marks are to be submitted to the COE.

m) Course wise grade shall be given on the basis of the total marks obtained by the student in the respective course/s. Grades will be given based upon the relative grading system. Every PhD student has to obtain a minimum of C+ grade in each course and minimum GPA 6.00 in order to be eligible to continue in the program.

n) Level-4 or above courses taken outside of DYPIU and MOOCs can be considered for coursework credits with due approval from the Supervisor and the DC. In case the course/training/MOOC has not been evaluated by the organisers, it must be evaluated by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research by appointment of a responsible faculty from the University. Micro-credits taken from DYPIU can also be considered for PhD course-work credits.



12) Procedure for Monitoring the Progress of PhD Scholars

- a) A PhD Scholar shall submit a research progress report within two weeks before the end of each six-month period from date of registration in the prescribed format to the supervisor and TAC. One copy must be submitted to the DC for reference.
- b) The report should clearly indicate the progress achieved and cover the following points.
 - i) Thesis proposal status
 - ii) Course work completion status
 - iii) Research Progress made during the period of the report
 - iv) Publications/Monogram/Copyrights/ Patents/Workshop/Conferences report if any
 - v) Problems/difficulty faced if any
 - vi) Plan of action for future work
- c) TAC shall meet at least once in six months. All the presentations to the TAC will be open doors. TAC may continue a closed-door discussion about the progress of the student and future directions of the research.
- d) TAC would review the progress and suggest further research if required. A report from the TAC must be submitted to DC within 10 days of the meeting. A minimum of 2 such reports must be submitted per year (before June and November of each year) in order to continue the scholar's candidature.
- e) If the progress of the PhD Scholar does not meet the action plan as per proposed time, the TAC shall record the reasons for the delay, warn the PhD scholar and suggest corrective measures. If the TAC finds that the progress is not satisfactory even after two such warnings, they must inform the DC, who will decide on the candidature of the research scholar. In such a case, the candidate can appeal through the research supervisor for reconsideration, however, the decision of the DC will be final.

13) Pre submission synopsis

- a) A PhD candidate, who has to publish two research articles in peer reviewed journals indexed in national/international citation databases, is eligible to submit the Pre-submission Synopsis. In case of patent application/approval, requirement of publications may be exempted. Each of these publications/patent applications must be informed to the Dean, Research and Development before submission.
- b) All full-time PhD Scholars should submit the pre-submission synopsis of their thesis within four years from the date of their PhD registration. The DC may extend the period of submission of thesis by not more than one year on valid reasons on the basis of one semester at a time.
- c) All part-time PhD Scholars should submit their pre-submission synopsis of their thesis within five years from the date of their PhD registration. The DC may extend the period of submission of thesis by not more than one year on valid reasons on the basis of one semester at a time.
- d) The PhD registration of a Scholar who has not submitted the pre-submission synopsis of their thesis by the end of the extended period as provided in the Regulations will be cancelled by the DC.
- e) Revocation of cancellation may be considered only when a draft copy of the pre-submission synopsis of the thesis is submitted to the DC. Revocation would require approvals from supervisor, DC and the Vice Chancellor.



- f) Once the candidate is ready for thesis submission, with approval from the supervisor, the candidate must submit a 5-page synopsis of their research work to the TAC. They will review the synopsis and invite for an open seminar within 15 days of the submission. This open seminar must be organised by the DC.
- g) During the seminar, the TAC will review the amount and quality of work done by the scholar and will submit their report to the DC within 10 days of the open seminar. If the TAC finds the work suitable for the submission of the thesis, the scholar must submit their thesis within 6 months of the approval. However, if the TAC finds his/her work unsatisfactory, the scholar may be asked to conduct further research and present the work again in the specified time as suggested by the TAC.

14) Financial Support for Registered PhD Scholars for Presenting the Research Paper in National/International Conferences

- a) The University will provide a grant of Rs. 50,000/- as a one-time grant for the expenses towards research associated activities, like APC for article processing, attending conferences etc.
 - i) The scholar/student can claim travel support until the date of the Final Viva-Voce Exam. The student should be a regular registered student (student who has cleared the qualifying exam) while availing of financial support.
 - ii) The registered student/scholar seeking financial assistance needs to be a first author and the work should have been carried out at DYPIU. The student and his supervisor should be an author in the paper.
 - iii) The application for financial support is to be submitted to Dean R&D at least 15 days in advance of the travel date. The application form should come with specific recommendations from the Thesis Supervisor.
- b) A registered PhD student can avail the financial support for attending any number of conferences with a gap of six months minimum, during their PhD program, subject to the maximum of Rs. 50,000/-.
- c) The reimbursement will include the Registration Fee and AC₃T Train fare by the shortest route.
- d) The student has to declare all their support received from other sources while making a claim by producing the original receipts, including relevant supporting documents.
- e) Former students who have done their work at DYPIU are not eligible for this grant if they are employed elsewhere. Students who are enrolled for part time PhD while working elsewhere are not eligible for this grant.
- f) Financial support is not an entitlement but will be decided on a case-to-case basis depending on the quality of conference and its ranking; connect with publishing houses, and peer review.
- g) Students who claim financial support are requested to submit a copy of the attendance certificate and a short report on their learning and interactions at the conference to Dean R&D.

15) Thesis submission

- a) The thesis submitted for a PhD degree should show a significant contribution to advancement of knowledge in the candidate's chosen field of study. It will be evaluated primarily on the quality and quantity of its contribution to new knowledge, interpreted in the widest sense, to include instrumentation, design, development and applied work of an innovative-adoptive nature.



- b) The candidate shall submit the thesis within six months from the date of pre-submission seminar in which the thesis was approved for submission. In any other circumstances, another three months extension can be approved by the DC in consultation with the Vice-chancellor and the supervisor.
- c) The candidate must submit the Thesis evaluation fees while submitting the thesis for evaluation. The fee amount will be fixed for all as per the University norms.
- d) Thesis must be written in English in the prescribed format.
- e) Research candidate has to check the plagiarism by a GC approved software. The similarity percentage should not be more than 10%. The plagiarism report must be submitted along with the thesis.
- f) Every student must comply with the guidelines for ethical code of conduct in research. If a student is performing clinical research, he/she must get an ethical clearance from the concerned regulatory authorities.

16) Thesis evaluation

- a) The pre submission evaluation process would facilitate finalisation of a panel of examiners for evaluation of the thesis, in advance. The TAC in consultation with the supervisor will recommend a panel of at least eight international experts in the subject area for evaluation of the thesis.
- b) Criterion for examiners suggested-
 - i) The examiners suggested, should not have worked at DYPIU in the last 5 years.
 - ii) The examiners should be from the domain of work submitted with at least 2 publications in SCI journals.
 - iii) The examiners should not have any collaborations with the supervisors and/or student during the last 5 years.
 - iv) If the above criterion is not met then DC will appoint appropriate evaluators from the same domain of research.
- c) The DC will review and submit the list of suggested experts for final approval from the Vice-Chancellor. DC will also ensure the evaluation process of the thesis. The Vice-Chancellor will finalize three relevant examiners, who will be contacted and registered by the DC for the thesis evaluation. DC would invite the examiners and enclose a copy of the synopsis therewith.
- d) On receiving their consent, the DC would refer the soft copy of the thesis to the three examiners for evaluation upon its submission. Thesis must be evaluated within three months of thesis acceptance by the examiners. DC must follow up with the examiners on regular intervals during this time.

17) Thesis examination Report

- a) Each examiner is expected to send a detailed report of his/her evaluation of the thesis within three months of the receipt of the thesis. The report should highlight the contributions of the thesis, its strengths and weaknesses, modifications / corrections / clarifications if any needed and should include a recommendation regarding the acceptability of the thesis for the award of the PhD degree.
- b) In case of undue delay (maximum one month) in receiving the evaluation report from any examiner, the DC shall appoint another examiner in his/her place for evaluating the thesis.
- c) If all the thesis examiners declare the thesis as 'Not Commended', the thesis would be rejected and the candidate will need to do further research based on the examiners' recommendations. However, if one of the thesis examiners declares the thesis as 'Not Commended' the thesis shall be referred to another examiner from the suggested panel



for the thesis evaluation. If the newly appointed examiner also declares the thesis as 'Not Commended', the thesis would be rejected and the candidate will need to do further research based on the examiners' recommendations.

- d) The scholar must answer all the review questions asked by the examiners and send it back to them in a written format.

18) Dissertation Presentation

- a) If reports of all examiners declare the thesis as 'Commended', the DC will consider the reports and recommend to conduct a dissertation presentation within 2 months of the reception of the examiner reviews. The DC must ensure that at least one of the thesis examiners is present during the dissertation presentation of the candidate.
- b) Following is the composition of the Dissertation Presentation Evaluation Committee:
 - i) One examiner of the thesis – Member
 - ii) Two examiners appointed by the DC after consultation with the supervisor
- c) TAC members, the scholar concerned, all the members of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research, the staff and students of the University will be invited to the Dissertation Presentation. DC will give an open invitation to the University for the dissertation presentation.
- d) If an examiner suggests resubmission of the thesis after modification, the scholar will be allowed to resubmit the thesis with necessary revision within the time stipulated by the examiners to the DC. Failing which, the revised thesis will not be accepted and the scholar's registration will be cancelled.
- e) At the dissertation presentation, the scholar will first give a seminar on his / her thesis work. The examination panel then examines the scholar on his / her thesis work. The scholar is expected to satisfactorily answer all the questions raised by the thesis examiners, members of the Dissertation Presentation Examination Panel (DPEP) and the general audience present for the dissertation presentation. The DPEP would, then, evaluate the performance of the scholar as 'Satisfactory' or 'Not Satisfactory'.
- f) If the DPEP declares the performance of the scholar as 'Not Satisfactory', the scholar would be asked to reappear for the dissertation presentation to be held not earlier than one month and not later than three months from the date of the first dissertation presentation.
- g) If the DPEP on the second occasion also evaluates the performance of the scholar as 'Not Satisfactory', the matter would be referred to the DC for final decision.
- h) The scholar must answer the thesis examiners' review questions during their dissertation presentation and include the relevant modifications in the revised thesis before final submission. Thesis must also be revised based on the questions and comments made during the dissertation presentation.
- i) If the DPEP evaluates the performance of the scholar at the dissertation presentation as Satisfactory, it will send a report highlighting the proceedings of the panel signed by all the members.
- j) The report of the DPEP should include the following:
 - i) A brief summary of the thesis highlighting the contributions of the scholar.
 - ii) Summary of the reports of the thesis examiners including both the positive and negative points.
 - iii) A note on the dissertation presentation of the scholar.
 - iv) A summary of the suggested modifications / corrections.



- v) Evaluation of the performance of the scholar by the board as Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory.
- vi) Recommendation to the DC regarding the acceptance of the thesis and award of PhD degree to the scholar.
- k) Upon approval by the DPEP, the scholar must submit a final corrected soft and hard copy of the thesis to be lodged in the central library of the University. The submitted thesis must incorporate all the corrections suggested by the thesis examiners and DPEP.
- l) Scholars who have been permitted to leave the university without taking the Dissertation Presentation are required to come for the Dissertation Presentation at the University, when arranged, at their own expense. Failure to conduct the Dissertation Presentation within 2 months of receiving the reviews from thesis examiners may lead to cancellation of the PhD registration. Online Dissertation Presentation may be conducted upon DC's approval.
- m) In all other cases, not covered by the above Regulations the matter will be referred to the DC for consideration.

19) Repository

After successful completion of examination process the copy of thesis (Hard and soft) will be kept open to access for all university stakeholder.

20) Award of PhD Degree

- a) Based on the recommendation of the DPEP, the University would award the PhD degree to the scholar after due approvals by the DC.
- b) After successful completion of the degree, University shall issue the provisional degree certificate as per UGC min guidelines.
- c) The degree awarded must indicate the name of the scholar, the title of the thesis and date of final submission (final thesis submission to the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research).

21) Withdrawal of degree

In case of any complaint of plagiarism or any misconduct of research, the Vice-Chancellor can form a committee for investigation of such cases. If the committee finds the complaints valid, the university can withdraw the awarded degree.

22) Power to Modify

Notwithstanding all that has been stated above, the DC has the right to modify any of the above Regulations from time to time in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor.

23) Leave Policy

- a) Any PhD student can avail a maximum of 25 days of leave/year upon approval from the Supervisor.



- b) A PhD student can take a maximum of a semester long break from the PhD candidacy in the event of genuine reasons approved by the DC and the Supervisor.
- c) If a student needs a break longer than a semester, special permission from the Vice Chancellor would be required



Appendix I

- 1) SISR will decide the 2 alternate core courses based on the current research directions of the university.
- 2) Beside Research Methodology and Research Seminar, SISR has decided on one common core course and two subject related core courses.
- 3) Common Core courses suggested by SISR on the basis of current research directions:
 - a) Computational Thinking
 - b) Statistics for Research
- 4) Subject related core courses suggested by SISR on the basis of current research directions:
 - a) Computer Sciences - Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence
 - b) Management - Fundamentals of Management
 - c) Biosciences and Bioengineering - Fundamentals of Biology
 - d) Engineering - Fundamentals of Engineering
 - e) Journalism Social sciences - Fundamental of Social Sciences