

PhD Regulations 2026



GURUCHARAN UNIVERSITY

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Adopted in the Academic Council meeting held on 11-03-2026 vide no. AC:01/03-26:17.

1.1. Frequently Used Words

- Recognised Research Institute/Centre: An institute/centre recognised by Gurucharan University for carrying out research leading to the Ph.D. degree. Recognition shall follow the procedure laid down by the University.
- Supervisor: A faculty member recognised by Gurucharan University to supervise a Ph.D. scholar.
- External Examiner: An Examiner other than the Supervisor(s), not belonging to Gurucharan University or its affiliated/recognised institutions.
- College/Institute: A college or institute affiliated to Gurucharan University conducting UG/PG programmes.
- Research Eligibility Test (Gurucharan University-RET): An entrance test conducted by Gurucharan University for admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- Counselling/Interview: The academic interaction/assessment conducted by Gurucharan University or a recognised institute/centre for final admission into the Ph.D. programme.

1.2. General Introduction

The management and organisation of research programmes leading to the Ph.D. degree shall remain vested with the Research Council, subject to approval of the Academic Council and final ratification by the Executive Council of Gurucharan University.

All research activities shall strictly follow the guidelines laid down in these Regulations, which are framed in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and subsequent amendments of 2024.

Any modification or policy change in these Regulations shall require approval of the Academic Council and subsequent ratification by the Executive Council.

1.3. Statutory Bodies and Their Responsibilities

1.3.1. Executive Council (EC): The Executive Council is the highest executive body of Gurucharan University. It has the authority to approve and implement all matters including Ph.D. regulations, academic policies, and award of degrees.

1.3.2. Academic Council (AC): The Academic Council is the supreme academic body responsible for maintaining academic standards, monitoring teaching, research, and evaluation in accordance with UGC guidelines.

1.3.3. Research Council (RC): The Research Council oversees all research activities of Gurucharan University. It is responsible for:

- Recognition of research supervisors and research laboratories.

- Monitoring implementation of Ph.D. regulations.
- Supervising doctoral and post-doctoral research activities.

Composition of Research Council (Tenure: Three years, excluding ex-officio members)

- Chairperson: Vice-Chancellor, Gurucharan University
- Members:
 - Deans of all faculties
 - One senior Professor/Associate Professor with proven research credentials nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
 - Two senior faculty members from reputed Universities/research institutes with significant contributions, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
- Academic Registrar – Ex-Officio Secretary

1.3.4. Ph.D. Committee: An academic body functioning at the faculty level, overseeing registration and progress of scholars.

Composition:

- Dean of the concerned Faculty, Chairperson
- Head of the concerned Department of the Faculty, Member(s)
- Recognised Ph.D. supervisors of the Department, Member(s)
- Academic Registrar – Convener

The Committee shall approve PhD proposals for registration, pre-submission reports and submission of the thesis after recommendation by DRC. The meeting of the committee will be convened as and when required.


1.3.5. Departmental Research Committee (DRC): Each department shall have a DRC to handle Ph.D. matters at departmental level.

Responsibilities include:

- Screening Ph.D. applications as per University regulations and **as per the merit list of the entrance test and submit the recommended list to the Academic Registrar.**
- Constituting the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each scholar **before the Registration. If necessary, the DRC may revise the composition of the RAC within the stipulated norms with approval from the Vice Chancellor.**
- Recommending recognition of supervisors and laboratories.

Composition:

- Chairman and Convener: Head of the concerned Department. In case the Head is not a Ph.D. degree holder, then the next senior teacher with a Ph.D. Degree will be the Chairperson.
- In case a Department has no teacher with a Ph.D. degree, then the Academic Registrar may entrust the Dean of the respective faculty as the Chairperson of the DRC of that department subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.


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- All teachers having a PhD degree will be Members. In case of non-availability of required number teacher(s) in a department or in any difficulty, the Vice Chancellor will take necessary measures to constitute DRC by nominating teachers from other departments.

1.3.6. Research Advisory Committee (RAC): There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. student comprises (1) HoD as Chairperson (2) The research supervisor of the concerned student as the convener (3) One other members from the same department to be nominated by HoD and (4) Two other teachers from allied or other departments from the University as external members suggested by the Supervisor. Members superannuated from service, or leaving service permanently/temporary on lien or deputation must be replaced by another member. The RAC will be constituted by the respective DRC for each student within Six months of Ph.D. admission and notified by the HoD. Three members including one external member will constitute the quorum in the meeting. If the HoD is a Supervisor, then one more teacher will be nominated in the RAC. In case of non-availability of required number of teacher(s) in a department the Academic Registrar shall take necessary action to constitute RAC incorporating teachers from other departments with due approval of the Vice Chancellor.


This committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- Review the research proposal and finalise the topic of research on completion of the Coursework.
- Periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the scholar.
- Make assessments during Registration and Pre-Submission Seminars of the scholar.
- The scholar shall appear before the RAC at least once in a semester and present the progress of his / her work. However, the RAC may call for a review at any time and may decide to ask the scholar for a more frequent presentation of his/her progress.
- Any change of Supervisor, thesis title, addition of Co-Supervisor, appeal for extension of period of research work will have the approval of this committee.
- In case the RAC is not satisfied with progress of the scholar, it shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Research Scholars fail/ or showing negligence to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend to the DRC and then to the Academic Registrar with Specific reasons for Cancellation of the registration of the research Scholar.
- All RAC reports to be submitted to the Research Council via DRC.

1.3.7. Ph.D. Admission Committee (PAC): The Ph.D. Admission Committee shall decide on the matters related to Ph.D. Admissions. All rules and regulations of the admission test shall be framed and overseen by the Admission Committee. The Admission Committee will discuss and decide on any matter related to any difficulty or issue which may arise during the process of admission. This committee will Coordinate with all the departments and ensure that the UGC rules and regulations are followed during the written test and interview for Selection of Candidate for Ph.D. The Admission Committee shall have to follow all admission rules laid down by this regulations.

Composition:

- Vice-Chancellor, Chairperson
- Deans of Faculties, Members


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- Two Senior teachers nominated by the Vice Chancellor
- Academic Registrar, Convener

1.4. Research Supervisor

1.4.1. Recognition of Ph.D. Research Supervisor

- Applications for recognition as Ph.D. Supervisor at Gurucharan University shall be submitted in the prescribed format to the Academic Registrar.
- Applications will be evaluated by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) and forwarded with comments to the Academic Registrar.
- The Research Council shall review and recommend recognition.
- Final approval shall be given by the Academic Council of Gurucharan University.
- The minutes of the DRC to be placed to the Research Council which will recommend to AC.

1.4.2. Eligibility Criteria

A faculty member intending to become a Ph.D. Supervisor must fulfill the following conditions:

1.4.3. Employment Status:

- Must be a full-time, regular faculty member of Gurucharan University or its affiliated colleges.
- Faculty of recognised research institutes/centres may also apply, provided the laboratory is recognised by Gurucharan University.

1.4.4. Academic Qualifications:


- Must hold a Ph.D. degree in the relevant/allied discipline.
- Minimum qualifications as per UGC norms for Assistant Professor or equivalent or higher positions.

1.4.5. Research Publications:

- Professor/Associate Professor: Minimum five research publications in peer-reviewed /UGC-CARE/Scopus/Web of Science indexed journals.
- Assistant Professor/Scientists: Minimum three publications in UGC-CARE/Scopus/Web of Science indexed journals/Peer Reviewed journals.
- For disciplines where indexed journals are not available, the department shall prepare a journal list, to be approved by the Research Council.

1.4.6. Experience:

- Teachers must have regular teaching experience.


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1.4.7. Exclusions:

- Adjunct, guest, part-time, and contractual faculty cannot act as supervisors. They may only act as co-supervisors if approved.
- Faculty members with less than three years of service remaining before retirement may continue guiding PhD students subject to inclusion of Co-supervisor(s) before retirement.
- Retired faculty may continue supervising only if they are Principal Investigators of an ongoing funded research project, until its completion or for already registered students.
- Persons on lien/deputation are not eligible to act as supervisors but may continue as Co-supervisor.

1.4.8. Number of Scholars per Supervisor

- A Professor may supervise a maximum of 8 Ph.D. scholars.
- An Associate Professor may supervise a maximum of 6 scholars.
- An Assistant Professor may supervise a maximum of 4 scholars.
- This limit excludes scholars who have submitted their thesis.
- A supervisor may additionally supervise up to 2 international scholars on a supernumerary basis.

1.4.9. Co-Supervisor

- Allowed when a scholar's research requires specialised knowledge.
- May be from Gurucharan University or any other recognised Institution/University.
- No scholar may have more than three supervisors (including two co-supervisors).
- Appointment of a co-supervisor must be approved before the Registration Seminar.
- A co-supervisor may supervise a number of scholars entitled as per UGC guidelines..

1.4.10. Change of Research Supervisor

- A change of supervisor requires written consent (No Objection Certificate) from the present supervisor, along with the consent of the proposed new supervisor.
- If the present supervisor refuses consent, the DRC may allow the change on valid grounds, with the condition that the scholar cannot continue on the same topic (unless approved by DRC and Research Council).
- The Academic Registrar shall place such requests before the Research Council for final decision.
- Change of supervisor implies reconstitution of RAC.

1.4.11. Change of Status of Supervisor

If a supervisor retires, resigns, goes on lien/deputation, or demises, the following apply:

- Scholars already registered will be allowed to continue with the same supervisor till thesis submission (where feasible).
- In case of resignation or demise, a new supervisor must be allotted by the DRC.
- Retired supervisors with ongoing projects may continue guiding until project completion.
- If the University withdraws recognition of a supervisor, the scholar must apply for a change of supervisor through DRC.

1.5. Admission Procedure:

1.5.1. Candidates will be admitted to Ph.D. programmes through an Entrance Test/ CUET.

1.5.2. Bonus marks in the following categories may be awarded:

- A student having a PG degree from Gurucharan University will get 10% of their PG grade/percentage of marks as bonus over the entrance examination score.
- Research fellows in an externally funded research project of two or more years duration will get additional 10% of their PG marks as bonus.
- Candidates with M.Phil. degree as per UGC regulations will get 10% of their coursework grade/percentage of marks as bonus.

These will be included at the time of preparation of the merit list.


1.5.3. Candidates will be selected through a two-stage process that is: (a) A Written Test conducted by the University to test the knowledge of research methodology (50%) and the relevant subject (50%). Qualifying marks for the test will be 50%. The test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance. Changes of Centres, if any, are also to be notified well in advance. (b) An interview, to be organised by the concerned department where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted DRC. (c) 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 shall be given.

1.5.4. The DRC during the interview shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

- the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
- the research work can be suitably undertaken at the department concerned;
- the proposed area of research can contribute to new/ additional knowledge.
- a candidate may not be selected for admission unless the above-mentioned criteria are fulfilled.
- DRC will allocate the supervisor to the candidate.
- A scholar admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall pay the fees as prescribed by the University from time to time.
- The University shall maintain the year-wise list of all the Ph.D. scholars on its website.

The list shall include the name of the scholars, topic of research, name of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s), date of admission/ registration. A unique enrolment number will be assigned to each admitted candidate.

- A relaxation of 5% marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the


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candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time.

2. Eligibility for Admission

Eligibility Criteria:

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

The candidates who have completed:

- (a) (i) A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme in the same and allied subjects after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme in the same and allied subjects after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree in the same and allied subjects 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 an international educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in the respective country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

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

- (b) Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programmes in the same or allied subject according to UGC regulations with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed 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-able, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.


(c) Candidates in service (permanent or temporary) must submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer at the time of counselling.

3. Ph.D. through Part-Time Mode

- (i) Part-time Ph.D. is permitted, provided all conditions of these Regulations are met.
- (ii) Candidates must submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer clearly stating:
- Permission to pursue Ph.D. on a part-time basis.
 - Official duties will not hinder research work.

3.1. Gurucharan University – RET (Research Eligibility Test)

- (i) The RET is the first level of screening for admission into the Ph.D. programme (except for exempted candidates).
- (ii) The examination will have two components:


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- General Paper – Research aptitude, reasoning, and basic computer skills of 50 marks.
 - Subject Paper – To test discipline-specific knowledge 50 marks.
- (iii) The structure and marking scheme of RET shall be finalised each year by the University.

3.2. Exemption from RET

- NET (including JRF) /SLET/ UGC-CSIR NET / GATE / CEED / DBT-JRF / ICMR-JRF / ICAR-JRF qualified candidates.
- International applicants.
- Exemption does not guarantee admission; exempted candidates must also undergo counselling/interview.

3.3. International Students

An International Applicant is one who is not a domicile of India. An International Applicant is not required to appear in the Gurucharan University-RET. The Counselling process for International Applicants can be carried out through other methods. The selection criteria for international students are:

- (i) Must have a Master's degree (or equivalent) with at least 55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant discipline.
- (ii) Must demonstrate proficiency in English through:
 - TOEFL/IELTS scores, OR
 - Proof of prior education in English medium.
- (iii) DRC will evaluate international applications based on:
 - Research proposal quality.
 - Reference letters.
 - Standardised test scores (GRE/other international benchmarks where applicable).
- (iv) International applicants are exempted from RET but must undergo counselling (in person or via online mode).

4. The Ph.D. Programme

4.1. Ph.D. Coursework

Students admitted into the Ph.D. programme will have to undergo a compulsory 6 (six) months course designed by the University and have to complete the course successfully. At the end of the Coursework, the students shall have to appear in an examination and secure at least Pass Grade, to qualify for Provisional Registration. If an admitted scholar has completed the Coursework from Gurucharan University (through an earlier admission) or from other recognised Universities (in case of transfer), the Coursework may be treated as valid provided it has been approved by the concerned DRC. In case of Re-Admission, a scholar need not do the Ph.D. Coursework again, if it has been successfully completed during the earlier registration. If, however, the coursework was not completed

successfully, the scholar would need to undergo the compulsory coursework for 6 (six) months and all other conditions at par with a new scholar.

4.2. Duration:

Coursework shall be of one semester (minimum 6 months).

4.3. Credit Requirement

Minimum 12 credits (UGC norm), distributed among:

- Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) (Compulsory)
- Research Methodology (Compulsory)
- Subject-specific papers – (decided by DRC)
- Dissertation

Departments may include courses on computer applications, data analysis, or allied topics.

4.4. Mode

Coursework must be conducted at Gurucharan University campus. MOOC/SWAYAM courses may be considered for credits with prior DRC approval.

4.5. Examination and Passing Criteria:

Minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade (Grade B) required to pass each paper.

Grading System:

O = 90% and above

A = 75–89%

B = 55–74%

F = Below 55% (Fail)

Scholars failing must reappear in the next session.

4.6. Attendance Requirement:

Minimum 75% attendance.

4.7. Exemption:

Candidates with M.Phil. degree from UGC-recognised Universities may be exempted from coursework (subject to RAC approval). However, completion of RPE is compulsory even for exempted candidates. The candidates having completed Course Work programme from other Universities may be exempted from Course work to be decided by DRC.

Regular Teachers and professionals are exempted from attending classes. In lieu of that they need to submit assignments on each course as decided by the concerned DRC.

4.8. Completion Timeline:

Coursework must be successfully completed within 2 years of admission, failing which admission will be cancelled.

4.9. Certification:

On completion, departments shall issue a Coursework Completion Certificate

4.10 Allotment of Research Supervisor

During the counselling of the Ph.D. Programme, the DRC of the concerned department will allot the scholar a supervisor. This allocation of the supervisor for a selected student shall be decided by the DRC in a formal manner depending on the number of students per faculty member, the available specialization/research area among the supervisors, and the research interest of the student as indicated during the counselling session.


4.11. Registration

The process of registration of all admitted Ph.D. scholars who have successfully completed their Ph.D. Coursework will begin after the declaration of results of the Ph.D. Coursework examination. Successful Ph.D. scholars will be required to submit a synopsis of the proposed Ph.D. work to the respective DRC through the RAC, which after due consideration by the DRC, will be forwarded to the Academic Registrar for registration. All registration cases shall be placed in the Academic Council via the Research Council. The date of Registration will be with effect from the date of admission into the Ph.D. programme. On Registration the PhD scholar will be allotted a PhD Enrolment number. If the candidate completed his Master degree other than Gurucharan University, then the scholar will obtain a separate University registration number on submission of Migration certificate.

4.12. Pre-Submission Seminar

The scholar shall be required to present a Pre-Submission seminar on her/his research findings at least a month before submission of the thesis, when the supervisor is of the opinion that the thesis is in the final stage of completion. The presentation will be given in the presence of the RAC and other faculty members and scholars of the concerned department.

- The Pre-Submission seminar is an open seminar, which will be notified at the department level.
- During the Pre-Submission seminar, an evaluation will be necessary whether the earlier recommendations during the progress Seminar, if any, have been incorporated in the thesis or not.
- The candidate shall follow the recommendations of the Committee and modify the thesis based on these recommendations in her/his thesis. A copy of the recommendation shall be submitted to the Academic Registrar for record. The certificate of completion of the pre- submission seminar must be signed by the HOD, supervisor and members of RAC. The Head of the concerned Department should facilitate the organization of the Pre- Submission seminar within the stipulated time so that the scholars can conveniently submit the thesis.


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- A scholar should submit the thesis for evaluation within six months from the clearance of the pre-submission seminar or within the expiry of the period of research work, whichever is earlier. A scholar failing to submit the thesis for evaluation within six months from the clearance of the Pre-Submission seminar should re-apply for a fresh Pre-Submission seminar. For this, necessary permission must be applied for, and approval sought from the Vice Chancellor.

4.13. Topic and Title of Ph.D. Thesis

Till two years after PhD registration the topic and title of the proposed Ph.D. thesis may be changed within the broad area of the topic and title on which the candidate was registered. Minor modifications are allowed till the pre-submission seminar. The minor modification/correction of the Title of the Thesis is permitted with due recommendation from the RAC and approval from the DRC. A change of the department due to change of proposed topic and title will not be permitted.

4.14. Submission of Progress Reports

A candidate admitted into the Ph.D. Programme has to submit a progress report to the RAC in every semester. If the reported progress is found to be satisfactory, the RAC will recommend that the scholar may deposit the fees at the prescribed rate. A scholar shall not deposit any fees without the recommendation of the concerned supervisor. Any such payment which is not endorsed by the supervisor will be treated as invalid. All six monthly progress reports are to be submitted to the Research Council via DRC.

4.15 Submission of Ph.D. Thesis

When the scholar is cleared for submission of the Ph.D. thesis after the Pre-Submission seminar, the scholar will submit four copies of the Ph.D. thesis (five copies, if a Co-supervisor is present). All these five copies should be soft bound. No hard bound copies will be accepted at this stage (see below for specifications for a Ph.D. thesis). An exact soft (digital) copy of the submitted thesis should be submitted along with the printed copies with a separate abstract of the thesis. This is required to expedite the evaluation process. This soft copy of the thesis will not be utilized for any purpose other than evaluation. The exact procedure for submission of the soft copy of the thesis will be notified by the Academic Registrar. The candidates must submit evidence of two publications in peer reviewed journals and two seminar presentations during the submission of the thesis.

4.16. Plagiarism Check of Ph.D. Thesis

The supervisor should carry out a plagiarism check (i.e. similarity index) with the software provided by the University (and recommended by the UGC). The report and other details of the plagiarism check should be shared with the Librarian, Gurucharan University, on which the scholar should obtain a certificate from the Librarian, Gurucharan University indicating the similarity index of the contents of the thesis with any other existing material.

A certificate from the supervisor indicating that the softcopy of the thesis on which the


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Plagiarism Check has been carried out is identical in all respects to the softcopy and hardcopy, which is being submitted for evaluation, is essential without which the thesis will not be accepted for submission. A similarity index of more than 10% (excluding the Bibliography and self-Citation and any publication which are part of thesis) will necessarily require a revision of the thesis. Such a thesis will not be accepted for submission and will be returned to the scholar for revision. The revised copy should go through the same procedure before the thesis can be accepted for evaluation. The Plagiarism check need not be submitted for clearance in the Pre-Submission seminar. It is needed on the final version of the submitted thesis after necessary revision, if any, suggested during Pre-Submission Seminar. So, the certificate from the Librarian, Gurucharan University indicating the similarity index should be obtained after clearance in the Pre-Submission Seminar. It is thus advisable that the scholar and the supervisor carry out a plagiarism check on the contents of the thesis well in advance before submission.

4.17. Contents of the Ph.D. Thesis

The Ph.D. dissertation/thesis should embody the results of research and show evidence of originality through publications in standard peer-reviewed research journals. The Ph.D. Thesis should contain material that has been part of publications in peer-reviewed UGC-CARE/Scopus/Web of Science indexed journals. For those subjects which do not have such types of journals, the concerned department will prepare a list of Journals and get it approved in the Research Council.

Qualifying publications are encouraged to be with joint authorship of the student and the supervisor. In qualifying publications students' affiliation must be in the format: "name of research scholar, Department of XYZ, Gurucharan University, Silchar" or "name of research scholar, recognised Institute/Centre, recognised to Gurucharan University".

The supervisor should mandatorily certify the authenticity and absence of plagiarism of the paper written with her/him.

4.18. Period of Research Work

A scholar registered for the Ph.D. Degree may submit the thesis after the compulsory Coursework and completion of 3 (three) years of research work including course work. However, coursework exempted candidates may submit the thesis after two years of PhD work since registration. A maximum of an additional 2 (two) years can be given through a process of re-registration provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed 8 (eight) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

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

Female Ph.D. scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration (10 years) of the Ph.D. programme. Any application for such extension(s) and leave should have the approval of the RAC and the respective DRC/FRC.

- (i) If a scholar fails to submit the thesis within 6 (six) years from the date of Registration, she/he may be allowed two years of extension on the recommendation of the RAC, which will be effective after the completion of 6-year term of registration.
- (ii) For an extension of two years, the scholar shall be required to submit an application to the Academic Registrar through the RAC justifying the need for extension and will be required to pay a prescribed fee for the extended period of 2 (two) year. In such a case, the application should be made prior to the expiry of 6 (six) years or at most within a month from the expiry of 6 (six) years.
- (iii) The Registration of the scholar shall stand cancelled after 8 (six) years from the date of Registration (after 6 years, if the scholar did not apply for extension mentioned above) if she/he fails to submit the thesis, and his/her name shall be struck off from the Ph.D. registration. The scholar shall not be allowed to work on the same topic any further, even if the scholar takes a fresh admission. However, under very special circumstances, the Vice Chancellor may grant another grace period of 90 (ninety) days for the submission of thesis after the expiry of the 8 (eight) year period from the date of Registration. In such a case, the application for extension of 90 days should be made prior to the expiry of the 8 (eight) year period.
- (iv) After the lapse of 8 years and 90 days, if the scholar fails to submit the thesis, the registration shall stand cancelled and will not be revived under any circumstances. If such a scholar takes a fresh admission (through the usual procedure), the scholar will not be allowed to work on the same topic again.

4.19. Re-admission

- i. A scholar may apply for re-admission into the Ph.D. programme, if she/he fails to complete the work after expiry of 36 months from the date of admission.
- ii. The application for re-admission should be made within one month of the date of expiry of registration (see above).
- iii. Re-admission will be permitted only when the Ph.D. topic is the same and the supervisor is the same.
- iv. The application for re-admission should be recommended by the supervisor and the concerned RAC.


A re-admission will essentially replace all the previous records of Ph.D. admission of the applicant including those of Registration. The re-admitted applicant will have to go through the process of Registration along with the regular scholars. All other stipulated

conditions for regular scholars will also apply to the re-admitted scholar including the need to present a fresh Registration Seminar. However, re-admitted scholars are exempted from taking the Coursework examination, if the scholar has already successfully passed this examination.

Re-admission will be allowed only once for a particular Ph.D. registration.

4.20. Evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis

- i. The Ph.D. thesis shall be examined by a Board of Examiners consisting of two external examiners and the supervisor concerned. For this purpose, the Academic Registrar shall finalize the Board of Examiners from the Panel of at least 7 (seven) external examiners including at least three from outside the North East region in the subject provided by the supervisor besides the supervisor (s). Consent of the external examiners to be ensured by the supervisor before submitting the panel to the Academic Registrar. It will be assumed by the Academic Registrar that the supervisor has included external examiners in the panel with their formal consent.
- ii. The Vice-Chancellor shall select the Board of Examiners from the finalised panel and the Academic Registrar will take necessary steps for evaluation of the thesis. If need arises, the Vice Chancellor (or the Academic Registrar) may refer the panel to the DRC for comments and suggestions.
- iii. All the examiners appointed to evaluate the thesis shall be requested to send a report on the thesis along with questions to be put to the scholar during the Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination.
- iv. If the thesis is recommended for PhD degree unanimously by all the examiners, then it will be processed according to clauses under 'Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination'.
- v. If the thesis is recommended for revision by any one examiner or more, the thesis will have to be revised accordingly and re-submitted. However, the scholar may appeal for a review of the comments of the examiner. In such cases, the appeal will be sent to the examiner concerned. If the examiner still recommends revision, the thesis should be revised accordingly and re-evaluated.
- vi. If the thesis is recommended for the PhD degree by any two examiners and rejected by the third examiner, then the thesis will be referred to an external examiner (i.e. 4th examiner) from the panel already approved and to be selected by the Vice-Chancellor. The assessment of the 4th examiner shall be final. If the 4th examiner suggested re-submission after revision, then the scholar will be allowed to resubmit the thesis after necessary revision in the light of the comments of the examiner within one year on payment of half of the prescribed examination fees and the revised thesis will be sent only to this examiner who


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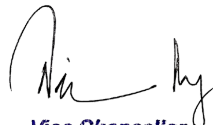
suggested revision. If the 4th examiner recommends the thesis, the report of the recommendation will be considered along with the other reports already received and will be processed for 'Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination'.

- vii. If the thesis is suggested for re-submission after revision by any two examiners, the scholar will be allowed to resubmit the thesis after revision in the light of the comments of the examiners within one year on payment of half the prescribed examination fees and the revised thesis will be sent to only those examiners who have suggested revision. If the revised thesis is recommended, the reports and the recommendation will be considered along with the other reports already received and will be processed for 'Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination'.
- viii. If the thesis is rejected by any two examiners (including the 4th examiner, if any), it shall be rejected.

4.21. Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination

After the thesis has been recommended by all the examiners for award of PhD degree, the report of the examiners will be made available to the Dean of concerned Faculty by the Academic Registrar and the scholar shall be asked to appear at a Viva-Voce and/or practical examination.

- i. The Viva-Voce will be conducted by at least two examiners, one external examiner and the supervisor, the concerned Head of the department to be chaired by the Dean of Faculty.
- ii. The external examiner for the Viva-Voce examination will be any one of the two evaluators of the thesis (except the supervisor), approved by the Vice Chancellor. If the external evaluators and/or the supervisor are not readily available to conduct the Viva-Voce examination, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint other examiners for this purpose from the approved panel.
- iii. The report of the Viva Voce will be forwarded to the Academic Registrar by the Dean of the Faculty.
- iv. Candidates will be required to pay a PhD Viva-Voce fee for appearing in the Viva-Voce and/or practical examination at the prescribed rate on or before the date of the said examination. The fee for re-appearing at the Viva-Voce and/or practical examination shall be half the prescribed Viva-Voce fee.



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4.22. Rules for Compulsory Viva-Voce and/or Practical Examination

- i. The Viva-Voce examination shall be an open one and its arrangement is the responsibility of the Supervisor concerned in consultation with the Head of the concerned department and the external examiner.
- ii. A general notice shall be issued by the Head of the concerned Department for this purpose with a copy to the Academic Registrar for record.
- iii. The Viva-Voce shall be held in the concerned department in the presence of research scholars and teachers of the concerned department. The Viva-Voce for scholars from recognised Research Institute/Centre and affiliated Colleges should be held in the parent department to which the scholar belongs.
- iv. Online attendance of External Experts and Research scholars may be allowed with prior approval of the Vice Chancellor.
- v. The Viva-Voce should not be held on University holidays/vacations.
- vi. The examiners of the Viva-Voce may ask questions beyond the subject of the thesis in order to satisfy themselves that the scholar has adequate knowledge of the particular branch of studies in which she/he has submitted the thesis.
- vii. The examiners, if satisfied with the Viva-Voce, shall submit a joint report recommending the work of the scholar for award of the PhD Degree. If they are not satisfied, then may recommend the scholar to re-appear in another Viva-Voce examination after 3 (three) months but not later than 6 (six) months to defend her/his thesis.
- viii. The Viva-Voce report should be forwarded by the concerned Dean of Faculty.
- ix. If the examiners recommend modification of the thesis during the Viva-Voce examination, otherwise recommending the scholar for award of the PhD Degree, the thesis should be revised accordingly and submitted.

4.23. Award of the Ph.D. Degree

If the thesis is recommended for award of the PhD degree after the viva-voce and/or practical examination, the Academic Registrar with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor shall declare the result, after the mandatory submission for publication through INFLIBNET (see below), subject to approval of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall approve the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and shall cause her/his name to be published with the title of the thesis, name of the supervisor and name of the faculty and Department to which the thesis belongs.


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A certificate under the seal of the University and signed by the Vice-Chancellor will be given to each successful candidate at the next convocation for conferring the degree. However, a provisional degree certificate may be issued by the Registrar after declaration of final result. For all other matters not covered above, the decision of the Research Council based on the recommendation of the Ph.D. Committee shall be final and binding.

4.24. Publication of Ph.D. thesis

4.24.1. Copyright

Any Ph.D. thesis submitted to Gurucharan University for the award of the Ph.D. degree will be a property of Gurucharan University and the copyright will belong to Gurucharan University.

4.24.2. Publication of thesis

A scholar, after receiving the Ph.D. degree may choose to publish her/his thesis (i) if the thesis is recommended for publication by any one examiner, provided that the other two examiners have not recommended against its publication OR (ii) if the thesis is recommended for publication by any two examiners. (iii) if the thesis is recommended for publication by any one examiner with corrected form, the concerned supervisor and Chairperson, DRC should verify it before seeking permission to publish. In case of no direct recommendation, publication of revised or abridged version of the thesis may be applied for. A scholar should apply to the Academic Registrar seeking permission to publish the thesis.

4.24.3. Publication through INFLIBNET

Any PhD dissertation/thesis which has resulted in the award of the PhD degree will eventually be published by the Gurucharan University Library through the INFLIBNET (UGC). For this purpose, the scholar after the viva-voce examination should submit an electronic copy of the PhD thesis to the Gurucharan University Library. The scholar shall have to abide by any other guidelines recommended by the Librarian, Gurucharan University for smooth publication of the thesis while submitting the electronic copy. The announcement of the Award of the PhD Degree after the successful completion of the viva-voce examination will be made only after the submission of the electronic copy to the Gurucharan University Library along with the hard copy. The scholar should obtain a statement from the Librarian, Gurucharan University that the electronic copy has been submitted. The announcement of the award of the degree will be made only after this process is completed.

4.24.4. Remuneration

The evaluation of a Ph.D. thesis examination will be remunerative, irrespective of the comments of the reviewer. This will include the remunerations for the dissertation/thesis

supervisor and the external examiners. The evaluation process during the viva-voce examination will also be remunerative. All remunerations will be paid as per university rules, which might change from time to time without any prior notice.

4.24.5. Guidelines for Preparing Ph.D. Thesis

4.24.5.1. Language:

- Thesis should be written in English (unless the subject specifically requires another language).

4.24.5.2. Format:

- Title Page (Title, Scholar's Name, Supervisor(s), Department, Faculty, Gurucharan University).
- Declaration by Scholar.
- Certificate by Supervisor(s).
- Acknowledgements.
- Table of Contents.
- List of Tables/Figures.
- Abstract (≤ 500 words).
- Main Text (Chapters).
- References (APA/MLA/Discipline-specific standard).
- Appendices (if any).

4.24.5.3. Printing:

- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing.
- Paper size: A4, left margin 1.5", others 1".
- Binding: Hard bound/spiral binding/ as per guidelines.

5. Removal of Difficulties

Notwithstanding anything contained in the above Regulations, the Vice-Chancellor may take such measures as may be necessary for removal of difficulties for the academic interest.



Vice Chancellor
Dated: 11-03-2026
Vice Chancellor
Gurucharan University
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