



## **CU Regulation for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy May 2019**

### **A. Preamble**

Christ University, formerly Christ College affiliated to Bangalore University, established in July 1969 was declared an Institution Deemed to be University by Notification No. F. 9-34/2007-U.3 (A) dated 22 July 2008 of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) under Section 3 of the UGC Act 1956. Guided by the instruction of UGC pursuant to the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Christ University changed its name as CHRIST (Deemed to be University) with effect from 30 November 2017.

### **B. Policy**

The University will encourage Ph.D Research of highest quality on subjects and topics within its authorised Disciplines which will have an implication on core knowledge, value added applications and innovativeness. Research Projects in the form of impact studies or time related statistical analysis/interpretation of mundane matters may not generally be considered for award of Ph.D.

### **C. Regulation**

This Regulation of the University lays down the conditions and procedures for the award of the Degree of PhD. It is the revised and updated version of the CU Doctoral Regulation of 2016 and complies with the guidelines contained in the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 and the notified amendments thereto. The CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018 which was originally an addendum to the CU Doctoral Regulations 2016 shall now be an addendum to this Regulation. Hence the said Regulation along with the Operational Guidelines thereto including the Explanatory Note on Research Advisory Committee (RAC) under Clause 9 of the said Regulation as given in Annexure 1 hereto will be deemed to be part of this Regulation and the words 'Doctoral Regulation 2016' wherever it appears therein is to be read as 'PhD Regulation 2018'

#### **1. Format of the PhD Programme**

- a. Award of Degree of PhD by CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will require the candidate to successfully complete the structured Coursework (including general and domain related Research Methodology), comprehensive Research Work, Publications in Refereed Journals, Participation and/or Presentation in Doctoral Colloquium/National or International seminars, Synopsis Review, Thesis Evaluation and Public Defense.
- b. The Programme shall be on full-time basis. Candidates who are engaged in employment with a minimum work experience of two years in related field may be admitted to the Programme with the consent of their employer in the prescribed form and subject to their full-time presence for the Coursework of stipulated duration and full compliance of all other requirements of this Regulation.
- c. There shall be no PhD Programme on Distance Education Mode.
- d. The PhD Degree Certificate will indicate the Discipline under which the Programme was pursued, the Title of the Thesis and the Date of Public Defense.

## **2. Duration of the Programme and Fee Rules**

- a. The PhD Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years including the Coursework and maximum of six (6) years for both full-time and part-time mode other than under Caluse 2.e.
- b. A full-time PhD Scholar shall be present during all working days of the University and shall not undertake any employment while being on rolls of the University. However, the University after the recommendation of the RAC can permit a candidate to opt for the part time doctoral programme.
- c. Part-time PhD Scholars are free to undertake any employment that does not conflict with the quality research of the candidate.
- d. The time taken from the date of provisional admission till the submission of the doctoral thesis shall be considered as the duration of the programme.
- e. Women candidates and Persons with Disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of up to two years for PhD in the maximum duration. 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 which will not be counted while reckoning the maximum duration.
- f. The Course Fee for the PhD Programme as may be notified shall be payable yearly in advance for every year of its duration.
- g. In case, the duration is required to be extended beyond the minimum period as indicated above shall be subject to approval of the Doctoral Committee (DC) based on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee of the Centre for Research or of the Department as the case may be. The Candidate will be required to pay the prescribed annual fee for each year or part thereof of extension prior to such extension.
- h. No extension beyond one year shall be considered at any one point of time and any request for extension beyond the first extension will carry a Course Extension Fee as may be prescribed.

## **3. Doctoral Committee**

The University shall have a centralized Doctoral Committee (DC) to be the apex body to oversee and approve the conduct of all PhD Programmes of the University. The DC shall be responsible for all policy decisions concerning the doctoral programmes (PhD) of the University duly supported by scholarwise Research Advisory Committees.

- (i) Specific responsibilities of DC shall include:
  - a. Approval/ratification of enrolment of students provisionally admitted to the PhD Programmes conducted by the University including ratification of their eligibility norms and exemption from the requirement of MPhil with such conditions as it may impose.
  - b. Approval for empanelment of Supervisors and Co-Supervisors for the PhD Programmes conducted by the University including variations (by exception) in their eligibility norms and fixing the number of scholars they may supervise.
  - c. Approval of disciplinewise coursework as suggested by the Research Advisory Committee/s.
  - d. Review of the Progress Reports of the Scholars as may be approved by the Research Advisory Committee.
  - e. Approval of External Experts for Synopsis Review/Defense Examination.
  - f. Approval of continuation of Supervision by the retiring/discontinuing faculty and/or change of Supervisor under exceptional circumstances on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee.

- (ii) The DC shall have a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 members including the permanent invitees and shall consist of the following members:
  - a. Vice Chancellor - Chairperson
  - b. Pro-Vice Chancellor - Deputy Chairperson
  - c. Director/Additional Director of Centre for Research – Secretary
  - d. Up to two Deans (by rotation) from among Research Disciplines nominated by the Vice Chancellor.
  - e. Up to three members (by rotation) from among the Research Supervisors (representing Sciences/Engineering, Social Sciences/Law and Commerce /Management) nominated by the Vice Chancellor.
  - f. Two External Experts with research credentials nominated by the Vice Chancellor.
  - g. Controller of Examinations – Invitee
  - h. Registrar – Invitee.
- (iii) The DC shall meet as and when needed but at least twice in a year. The Quorum for the Meetings of DC will be six (6) members other than invitees physically present.
- (iv) All nominated members of DC shall have a tenure of three years who may be reappointed at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor.

#### **4. Research Disciplines**

- a) Following academic disciplines have been approved for the doctoral research programme: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Life Sciences–Botany, Zoology and Biotechnology, Engineering (for all branches in the academic stream), Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Education, Media Studies, English Studies, Social Work, Tourism, Law, Management, Commerce and Economics.
- b) More disciplines may be added from time to time with the approval of the Academic Council of the University.

#### **5. Eligibility for the Programme**

- a. The minimum eligibility for admission to PhD Programme shall be:
  - i. Postgraduation (Master's degree) in the specified/related discipline from any recognized University with at least 55% Marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree with equivalent grade from a foreign educational Institution as may be approved by AIU
  - ii. A pass in the Entrance Test and Interview conducted by CHRIST (Deemed to be University). Entrance Test and Interview for those students who qualified UGC-NET (including JRF)/ UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF)/ SLET/ GATE/ MPhil shall be of different nature.
- b. Professional qualification in Chartered Accountancy /Cost Accountancy/ Company Secretary as awarded by the respective Statutory Institutes of India will be considered as equivalent to Master Degree for the purpose of enrolment for PhD in Commerce, Management and/or related disciplines as approved by the Regulatory Authority concerned.
- c. No candidate will ordinarily be permitted for admission to PhD programme in a Subject/Faculty different from the one in which the candidate has obtained the Master Degree. However, permission to pursue in a different Subject/Faculty may be considered by the DC in special cases on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

## 6. Admission Process

- a. Disciplinewise intake for PhD programme shall be determined annually by the academic bodies depending on the availability of eligible Research Supervisors duly considering scholar-supervisor ratio and the required academic /physical facilities for research.
- b. The Office of Admissions by or during March and October shall publish the admission notification in the University website and also in two national newspapers of which one shall be in the regional language. It shall specify the subject/ disciplinewise distribution of available seats, eligibility criteria, application procedure, centre/s for entrance test, scheduled date of test /interview and such other relevant information for the benefit of the candidates.
- c. Students who have qualified UGC-NET (including JRF)/ UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF)/ SLET/ GATE/ MPhil shall apply for PhD any time of the year by sending their research proposal and curriculum vitae to [research@christuniversity.in](mailto:research@christuniversity.in)
- d. The Application Form for PhD along with the Research Proposal shall be filed online through the specified link in the University Website ([www.christuniversity.in](http://www.christuniversity.in)) as per the directions given therein and by paying Online the prescribed non-refundable Admission Processing Fee. Duly signed Print copy of the filed Application Form along with the specified mandatory enclosures must be sent by surface mail to the Office of Admissions within the specified time limit. The Application Form may also be collected from the Office of Admissions by paying the Admission Processing Fee but online filing of the application will be a pre-requisite for consideration of the Application. Soft copy of the Research Proposal duly quoting the Application reference must also be mailed to [research@christuniversity.in](mailto:research@christuniversity.in).
- e. Only the Candidates who meet eligibility criteria and whose Application is complete in all aspects shall be able to download the E-Admit Card to appear for the Admission Process.
- f. The admission process will consist of an Online Entrance Test for 100 Marks of two hours duration followed by a personal interview. The syllabus for the entrance test will cover 50 percent relating to General Research Methodology and 50 percent on specific Discipline. Candidates must score at least 50% in the Entrance Test.
- g. The Personal Interview will be organised by the Office of Admissions on specified date/time (generally on the same date of Entrance Test) by constituting an Interview Board of three members consisting of the Head of the Department concerned or a Senior Professor/Associate Professor from the Department, a Supervisor in the field of Research and a chosen independent member from the panel of specific discipline experts recommended by the Centre for Research/ Department concerned.
- h. Candidates will be required to make a presentation of their Research Proposal to the Interview Board.
- i. Every member of the Interview Board will independently assess the Research Proposal /Candidate competency on a joint sitting based on the criteria such as the clarity of the proposed research problem including value added by the proposed research, research aptitude, analytical and interpretational skills, and the general subject knowledge of the candidate. The members will independently submit their individual assessment about the Candidates to the Office of Admissions in the prescribed format.
- j. The Office of Admissions will consolidate the candidate assessment duly compiling the scores on Eligibility Norms, Entrance Test, Personal Interview and Publications evaluated on a total Score of 100 Points (as per specified

Format) and prepare disciplinewise rank list of Provisional Admissions of candidates who have secured a total Score of at least 50 Points and forward the same to the Centre for Research. For the purpose of reckoning the score points the weight will be 70% for Entrance Test and 30% for Interview/Viva Voce.

- k. The Centre for Research will present to the DC the list of disciplinewise selected candidates duly considering the permissible Intake along with its recommendation for assignment of Supervisor for each candidate choosing from already approved panel of Supervisors and in consultation with the Department concerned. In the same manner, the Centre in consultation with the Supervisor may also propose to assign a Co-Supervisor for Candidates whose Research Proposal stretches its scope to multiple faculty disciplines.
- l. The DC will review, consider and approve the Provisional Admissions as well as assignment of Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if so proposed) as recommended by the Centre for Research and the list of candidates approved for Provisional admission will be sent back to the Office of Admissions through the Centre for Research to notify individually to the selected Candidates.
- m. The Office of Admissions will notify the selected candidates with direction to pay the prescribed Course Fee for the first year of the programme within the specified date and to appear for verification of documents.
- n. Deserving candidates of poor economic background may be considered for Fee Concession for which the Candidate may make a written request with supporting documents of financial status and will meet the Fee Concession Committee/ Chief Finance Officer of the University by prior appointment. This has to be completed after receipt of selection notification but prior to the date specified for payment of Fee.
- o. The Office of Admissions in due course will forward the disciplinewise list of candidates who have completed the document verification including fee payment to the Centre for Research and/or to the Head of the Department concerned (where the Department is authorised to conduct the PhD programme under the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018) for consideration by the Supervisor concerned and subsequently by the Departmental Research Advisory Committee for commencement of the Coursework.
- p. The approved list of Provisional Admissions will also be sent to the Office of Controller of Examination for its information and records.
- q. The Admission Process shall normally be completed within a period of sixty (60) days from closing date for receipt of applications.
- r. On the basis of the results of coursework completed by the Candidate as conveyed to the Office of Admissions, the Provisional Admission of the successful candidates will be confirmed to proceed with their PhD research.
- s. The Office of Admissions of the University shall maintain a yearwise Admission Register for all students admitted (confirmed admission) to the PhD Programme with such details as may be specified. The University shall also carry in its website yearwise list of students registered for PhD duly displaying the name of the scholar, topic/discipline of research, name of the Supervisor /Co-Supervisor and the date of enrolment.

## **7. PhD Programme Content and Conduct**

- a. The PhD programme shall consist of mandatory coursework, Pre-Doctoral Colloquium on the Research Proposal and the Doctoral Research in that order. Duration of the coursework shall be six months which shall be counted within the overall normal duration of three years for the Programme. The



Credit assigned to PhD coursework shall be a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of sixteen (16).

- b. The coursework will be based on specified syllabus divided into three or four units, duly approved by the Board of Studies/Research Advisory Committee of the Centre for Research or of the Department concerned (where the Department is authorised to conduct the PhD Programme under the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018), the DC and the Academic Council.
- c. The coursework will include topics on Research Practices and Doctoral Education, Higher education and Academic Communication, Leadership and Development in Academic Practice, Research Ethics, Tools and computer applications, Academic Writing and Doctoral Proposal Labs.
- d. The coursework will be conducted by the Centre for Research or by the Department (where the Department is authorised to conduct the PhD Programme under the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018) in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement/assessment method and specified content as per the Syllabus and a structured Course Plan.
- e. The coursework will require mandatory attendance of 85% and will be evaluated by conducting at least two (2) Continuous Internal Assessments (CIA) and an End of the Course Examination (ECS). The final result for the Coursework will be on a weight of 50% each for CIA and ECS with a minimum pass mark of 50% individually (for CIA and ECS) and 55% in aggregate.
- f. The ECS and its valuation will be conducted independently under the guidance/direction of the Controller of Examinations
- c) The Results of ECS will be announced within 30 days of its conclusion and will be individually communicated to the students.
- g. On successful completion of the coursework with the required marks/grade as specified in Sub-Clause (e) above the Candidate will be issued a Marks Card and the coursework Completion Certificate by the Office of the Controller of Examinations based on the information conveyed by the Centre for Research or the Department concerned, as the case may be.
- h. Obtaining the Coursework Completion Certificate by the candidate shall be a pre-requisite for confirmation of admission for the PhD Programme in order to pursue the PhD research
- i. Students who do not get minimum specified Marks for CIA may be given up to two chances for reassessment based on such new assignments as per the approved course requirements and as may be decided by the faculty concerned.
- j. Students who fail in ECS may be given one more opportunity by way of a Supplementary Examination which shall be held after a period of 30 days from the date of announcement of results but not later than 60 days thereof. Supplementary Examination shall be only for failed students.
- k. Students to write the Supplementary Examination will be required to pay a Fee as may be prescribed.
- l. Students whose attendance is below 85% may be required to complete additional research assignment/s to be eligible to write the ECS and those who do not have at least 75% attendance will not be permitted to write the ECS and may be required to repeat the Course Work.
- m. Candidates who fail in the coursework even after one permitted supplementary examination will have their Provisional Admission cancelled and may have to re-apply in case they wish to enrol for the Programme.
- n. There shall be no refund of fee already paid by the candidates whose admission could not be confirmed due to failure in coursework.

- o. The Pre-Doctoral Colloquium refers to a deliberated review of the Research Proposal in a presentation by the Candidate (Student) in consultation with the assigned Supervisor to a forum of Experts/Research Advisory Committee, invited Professors and interested Research Scholars. The Colloquium which shall be held within one month of the announcement of result of Course Work may suggest on various aspects of the Research Proposal including but not limited to thesis title, scope of research, methodology and statistical tools. The suggestions offered by the Colloquium need not necessarily be adopted absolutely but must be given due consideration by the Student based on appropriate guidance of the Supervisor concerned.
- p. Post Pre-Doctoral Colloquium the Student will be recognised as a Research Scholar to proceed with PhD research under the guidance of the Supervisor, which shall be subject to a bi-annual review by the duly constituted Research Advisory Committee of the Centre for Research or of the Department concerned as specified under Clause 9 of the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018 read with the Operational Procedures and Guidelines thereto.

## **8. Programme Administration**

- a. The PhD Programme of the University for All Disciplines shall generally be administered by the Centre for Research (PhD) except in the case of disciplines where the Department concerned is authorised to do so under the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018. Administration of the Programme starting from conduct of coursework and ending with Thesis Defense shall be coordinated by the Centre by constituting scholarwise Research Advisory Committee (RAC) in line with Clause 1(b) of the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018 – RAC. RACs for the programmes administered by the Centre will have at least three members (preferably Professor or Associate Professor) from the related Department/s concerning the Research Discipline, including the Supervisor and the Co-supervisor, as assigned. The RAC will be chaired by the Supervisor, Department PhD Coordinator or PhD Coordinator of the Centre. There may be more than one PhD Coordinator of the Centre to coordinate RACs of specific Discipline Groups—Sciences, Social Sciences including Education, Commerce and Management, Engineering, Law etc—who shall be the Secretary responsible for compliance of all regulatory compliances under the guidance/supervision of the Director/Associate Director of the Centre.
- b. Departments authorised to directly handle the PhD Programme shall do so in strict compliance of the CU Regulation for Delegation of PhD Programme to Academic Departments 2018 read with the procedures and guidelines thereto relating to RAC and the conduct of the Programme.

## **9. Assigning the Research Supervisor**

- a. Every candidate provisionally selected for the PhD programme shall be assigned a Research Supervisor under whose guidance the PhD Research shall be carried out.
- b. The candidates whose research is inter-disciplinary requiring guidance from multiple faculty disciplines may at the request and consent of the Supervisor be allotted a Co-Supervisor to guide the candidate on such specific areas as may be required. The Co-Supervisor will work inclusively in collaboration with the Supervisor and not as an independent Supervisor.
- c. The Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor will be allotted by the Centre for Research as specified in Clause 6(k) above and in accordance with their discipline expertise choosing from the pre-approved panel of Research

Supervisors duly considering the number of scholars they are already guiding and the maximum number of scholars they are permitted to guide at any point of time.

- d. The Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor shall be required to sign a declaration that he/she is not a relative of the candidate.
- e. No candidate will be permitted to seek a particular Supervisor or to directly or indirectly influence the allotment of the Supervisor.
- f. The candidate while undergoing the coursework may start interacting with and/or acting on the guidance of the assigned Supervisor with regard to planning or scheduling their PhD Research including literature survey/review, though however, all such interactions/actions taken shall have continuity and effect only subject to successful completion of the coursework by the candidate.
- g. The candidate and the Supervisor shall be required to sign a PhD Study Agreement in the form prescribed by the University, which will elaborate on the duties, responsibilities and compliance requirements to be abided by the candidate and the supervisor.
- h. The Research Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor shall be from among the full-time regular faculty of the University at the level of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor working in the Department of the applicable faculty discipline. Centre for Research shall evolve adequate measures in case of assigning research scholars to persons holding academic administrative positions or having a say in the administration of the PhD Programmes to ensure professionalism and transparency.
- i. In case the specific additional expertise required for multi-disciplinary/inter-disciplinary research is not available within the University there may be a Co-Supervisor appointed from recognised/approved external institutions provided the person so appointed meets the eligibility conditions for PhD supervision and has been duly empanelled by the University as per its Rules.
- j. The qualification/eligibility of Research Supervisor, empanelment procedure, limits of number of scholars for guidance, sharing of guiding with the Co-Supervisor, duties/responsibilities of the Supervisor/Co-Supervisor etc shall be as per UGC Guidelines (where applicable) and as specifically stated in the CU Regulation for Engagement of PhD Supervisors.

#### **10. PhD Scholarship/Fellowship**

- a. The PhD Scholars (post completion of coursework) of the University shall be entitled for performance-based Scholarship in accordance with the University Scholarship Scheme for PhD Scholars as given in Annexure 3 hereto.
- b. The Scholars interested in availing the Scholarship will be required to apply for the same in the prescribed form as per the Scheme and on its approval the eligible amount of scholarship will be adjusted against the annual course fee payable. There shall be no cash payment of Scholarship.
- c. The full time PhD Scholars of the University may also be awarded a Fellowship as per the University Scheme of JRF/SRF for PhD Scholars as given in Annexure 4 hereto subject to their eligibility and selection under the Scheme.
- d. The Scholars who are awarded JRF or SRF shall not be entitled for Scholarship.



## **11. PhD Thesis Process**

- a. Upon satisfactory completion of the coursework and obtaining the Course Completion Certificate as per Clause 7(g), the Candidate (Research Scholar) shall continue to carry out the research as per the approved Research Proposal under the guidance of the Research Supervisor.
- b. Prior to the commencement of the research work, the Research Scholar shall prepare a six-monthly work schedule with the help of the Supervisor.
- c. The Research Scholar in consultation with and approval of the Supervisor shall finalize the Research Proposal and title of the Thesis duly considering and reflecting the object and scope of the Research. This must be done within the first six months of commencement of research work and be got approved by the RAC by making a presentation. Any suggestions made by RAC must be duly adopted. If RAC is not satisfied with the presentation it may seek a repeat presentation.
- d. Any change of the topic or major modification to the scope of study/ research design or research methods shall need the approval of the DC on the recommendation of the RAC based on presentation made to it by the Scholar.
- e. No alteration in the PhD Thesis Title and /or its modification will be permitted once it is approved by the DC except under exceptional circumstances with full justification for such change.
- f. Half yearly progress of research done shall be evaluated by the Supervisor and shall be presented to the RAC by the Candidate for its review and feedback. This requirement is mandatory.
- g. The supervisor shall ensure that the Candidate is given or has access to the required research facilities including material, machine or laboratory support as may be needed for successful and timely completion of the research.
- h. The Research Scholar and the Supervisor shall ensure that the research work is done with due adherence to CU Regulation for Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics to the extent it may apply.
- i. There shall be at least two Doctor Colloquia (yearly once) held within the duration of the PhD Programme. The Colloquia will be organised at the instance of the Supervisor and in consultation with the Centre for Research/Department concerned as the case may be wherein the Scholars shall make a detailed presentation of their doctoral research work - its conceptual framework and progression - to an invited audience consisting of internal and external academicians, researchers and students. The Colloquia will have a discussion forum and the Scholars shall make use of the opportunity to enhance the value of their Research with inputs or suggestions that may be evolved by such discussion.
- j. The Research Scholar after due completion of the research shall produce a draft Thesis and Synopsis thereof within the stipulated time limits but not earlier than two years from completion of the Coursework, duly complying with the requirements under this Regulation. Any extension of time in this regard shall be as provided in Clause 2 of this Regulation.
- k. The Research Scholar shall make a presentation of the Thesis Synopsis before the Research Advisory Committee of the Centre for Research or of the Department concerned as the case may be in duly conducted meeting for the purpose which shall also be open to all faculty members of the discipline and other research scholars. The RAC may also invite an External Expert for the review of Synopsis Presentation. The feedback and comments obtained from all participants at the Presentation may be suitably incorporated into the Draft Thesis in consultation with the Supervisor.

Approval of Thesis Synopsis by the RAC is a pre-requisite for submission of the Thesis for Evaluation.

1. The Research Scholar shall ensure that the Thesis is not affected by plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty. The Thesis shall have an undertaking from the Research Scholar and a Certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the University or to any other Institution.

## **12. PhD Thesis Submission**

- a. Prior to submission of the Thesis for evaluation, the Research Scholar must publish at least two (2) research papers in a Scopus/Web of Science or the refereed/indexed journal approved by the Centre for Research and make two paper presentations in conferences/seminars and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.
- b. The Research Scholar must also have complied with all the conditions specified under this Regulation, particularly of the PhD Thesis Process as contained in Clause 11 to be eligible for submission of the Thesis. There shall also be no arrears on account of fee payable.
- c. The Thesis must be prepared in strict conformity to the format specifications and style specified by the University for the Cover Page as well as the Content as provided in Appendix I and must be submitted to the Centre for Research / Head of the Department as the case may be, in soft bound form, in three identical originals along with the specified Declaration, Undertaking and Certificate. In addition, the soft copy of the Thesis must also be sent to the Centre for Research at [research@christuniversity.in](mailto:research@christuniversity.in).
- d. No Thesis shall be published in full prior to its final approval and completion of Viva - Voce Defense and without the approval of the University. The University may grant permission for publication with such conditions as it may impose.
- e. The thesis defended successfully shall be the property of the University.

## **13. PhD Thesis Evaluation:**

- a. The PhD thesis submitted by the Research Scholar shall be evaluated by the Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, who are not in employment of the University of whom one examiner may be from outside the State or the Country.
- b. The External Examiners will inter-alia examine whether the candidate has achieved the objectives mentioned in the Thesis while preparing the Evaluation Report on the Thesis as per the prescribed format. The Evaluation Report shall be sent directly to the Director of the Centre for Research.
- c. The public Viva-Voce of the Research Scholar to defend the Thesis shall be conducted only if the Evaluation Reports of both External Examiners on the Thesis are satisfactory and include specific recommendation for conducting the Viva-Voce Examination. If any one of the external evaluation reports is unsatisfactory and/or does not recommend Viva-Voce, the University shall get the Thesis evaluated by a third External Examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the Viva-Voce Examination shall be held only if the report of the third examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the third External Examiner is also unsatisfactory, the Thesis shall be rejected and the Research Scholar shall be declared ineligible for Viva-Voce Examination and for the award of the Degree.
- d. If the Examiners recommend corrections or revisions to the Thesis submitted the Research Scholar will be obliged to incorporate same in the Thesis in

consultation with the Supervisor and only the updated version as so certified by the Supervisor shall be considered for Viva - Voce Examination.

- e. In exceptional circumstances any one External Examiner may seek re-submission of the Thesis for specified reasons and if it is so justifiable in the opinion of the RAC in its special meeting held for its consideration the Research Scholar will re-submit the Thesis within a maximum period of 30 days. If the RAC feels that there is no justification for re-submission, the Thesis will be sent for evaluation to a third External Examiner out of the approved panel of External Examiners. If the re-submission is requested by both the External Examiners the Research Scholar will re-submit the Thesis in consultation with the Supervisor without need for review by RAC for resubmission. The process of re-submission /decision of RAC in this regard shall be coordinated by the Centre for Research.
- f. The External Examiners shall be chosen at random by the Vice Chancellor or his authorised nominee from the panel of External Examiners consisting of five Examiners from within Karnataka and five Examiners from outside Karnataka as recommended by the RAC in consultation with the Supervisor to the Centre for Research and approved by the DC. Examiners from outside Karnataka may also include those from outside the Country, if available. The Vice Chancellor or his authorised nominee shall choose up to two Examiners marking the order of preference from each category (within and outside Karnataka) and the Centre for Research shall forward the Thesis to the selected Examiners, after seeking their acceptance, for its adjudication and Report as per the prescribed form. The service of the second preference Examiner shall be taken only when the first preference Examiner is not available or when reference to a third examiner is required under Sub-Clauses (c) or (e) above.
- g. The External Examiners shall be asked to sign a Declaration that he/ she is not a relative of the Research Scholar or the Supervisor or the Co- Supervisor and that he / she has no conflict of interest in adjudicating/valuing the PhD Thesis.
- h. The External Examiner is normally given 30 days time to evaluate the Thesis and to submit the Report which may be extended up to 45 days on specific request. If the Examiner fails to complete evaluation even after extension of time or fails to communicate on the evaluation status in spite of reasonable follow up, the External Examiner will be advised to return the Thesis and the same will sent to another External Examiner duly following the specified procedure as provide in Sub-Clause (f) above.
- i. The Centre for Research will be the coordinating body to complete timely evaluation of the PhD Thesis of all disciplines (including that of the PhD Programme directly conducted by the authorised Departments) and shall ensure that the evaluation process is completed within a maximum period of 120 days from the date of submission of the Thesis.

#### **14. PhD Viva-Voce Defense**

- a. The Research Scholar whose Thesis has been duly evaluated as per Clause 13 shall present for a public Viva-Voce Defense Examination organised by the Centre for Research/Department concerned as the case may be, with the assistance of the Research Supervisor/s. The Public defense will normally be held within 60 days from receipt of Report of Evaluation from all the Examiners.
- b. The Research Scholar shall submit three (3) copies in original of hard bound Thesis duly incorporating all the corrections/revisions suggested by the Examiners in consultation with the Supervisor and otherwise completed in

- all aspects (declarations/Certificates) as required by this Regulation at least 15 days prior to the Viva-Voce date.
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the Research Scholar to coordinate with the Centre for Research for timely communication about/invitation for the Viva-Voce to a large group of audience and to ensure essential convenience and facilitation for the visiting Examiners /Special Invitees.
  - d. The Viva - Voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor/s in the presence of at least one of the two External Examiners who evaluated the Thesis and the Chairperson of the RAC and all of them together will constitute the Board of Examiners for the Viva - Voce which shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department/s concerned, other research scholars and invited/ interested experts/researchers.
  - e. The Viva – Voce shall be for a minimum duration of 60 Mts including the question-answer session.
  - f. The Research Scholar shall present the Research Thesis before the Viva-Voce Examination Board in an open forum of audience and shall adequately respond to the Thesis related queries raised or clarifications sought. The Board of Examiners based on the performance of the Research Scholar shall prepare jointly their Report on the proceedings with specific individual recommendation as per the prescribed format. The Viva-Voce Evaluation Report duly signed by all Examiners shall be sent to the Director of the Centre for Research with a copy (mandatory) to the Controller of Examinations.
  - g. If the majority view of the Examiners is to have a repeat of the Viva -Voce for reasons and with such suggestions that may be specified the Research Scholar shall appear again for the same on a future date which shall be held not later than 90 days from the first Viva-Voce. The Research Scholar in this regard shall be required to pay the specified Fee and to comply with the requirements stated in Sub-Clauses (b) and (c) above.

#### **15. Notification and Award of the PhD Degree**

- a. The Centre for Research will consolidate the Viva –Voce Report and present the same to the DC with recommendation for award of the Degree subject to favourable comments by the External Examiner and at least one of the other Examiners.
- b. Subject to approval for the award of the Degree by the DC the Controller of Examinations/the Registrar in coordination with the Centre for Research shall notify the award of the degree on the Official Letter Head of the University which will have details of (a) The Name of the candidate, (b) the Discipline/Subject of the PhD. (c) the Names of Research Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor (if any) and (d) The Title of the Thesis.
- c. Pursuant to the Notification and prior to the actual award of the Degree subject to ratification by the Academic Council / Board of Management, the University by the Controller of Examination / the Registrar shall issue a Provisional Certificate to the Research Scholar in the specified format with a declaration that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the UGC Regulations, 2016.
- d. After the Notification is issued and prior to the actual award of the Degree the PhD Thesis will be hosted on the website of the University and an electronic copy of the Thesis will be sent to INFLIBNET as prescribed by UGC.
- e. Actual award of the Degree shall be in the subsequent official Convocation of the University as per the prescribed Rules.

## **16. Cancellation of PhD Registration**

- a. The PhD Registration of the Candidate shall be cancelled forthwith under any one or more of the following circumstances:
  - i. False declaration or fraudulent claims in respect of eligibility.
  - ii. Non- payment of prescribed Fee within specified/extended time.
  - iii. Direct or indirect influencing in the appointment of Supervisor/s.
  - iv. Non-completion of the Coursework as prescribed.
  - v. Indulging in unethical research practices or academic dishonesty, including plagiarism.
  - vi. Failure to comply with mandatory requirements under this Regulation.
  - vii. Failure to submit the Thesis for Evaluation within the specified/ extended time.
  - viii. Failure to appear for Viva-Voce.
- b. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with as guided by the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018. (UGC Regulation on Plagiarism).
- c. If the candidate is proved to be guilty of repeated offence of Plagiarism at any time during the PhD Programme in respect of his/her PhD Research, not only it will lead to cancellation of Admission but also the Candidate may be disqualified to apply in future for any PhD Programme of the University.
- d. If the PhD Thesis of the Candidate is proved to be inflicted by Plagiarism after award of the PhD the University may decide to cancel and withdraw the Degree awarded by an Official Notification in which case the Supervisor/s concerned may be stripped of eligibility for continuation of existing supervision and/or to supervise in future the PhD Programme of the University.
- e. Any suo-motu observation by the University or its Examiners or by any complaint received from other sources about plagiarism concerning the PhD Research or the Thesis shall be examined by an Expert Committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor in accordance with the UGC Regulation on Plagiarism. The findings of the Committee shall be adjudicated and decided by the Vice Chancellor or his nominated Official in the presence of the Candidate and the Supervisor/s concerned and any decision taken shall be binding on the Candidate and the Supervisor/s concerned with no appeal thereon.

## **17. Removal of Difficulty**

- a. Any matter concerning the PhD Programme which is not specifically stated or provided for in this Regulation shall be referred to the Vice Chancellor or to the DC as may be approved by the Vice Chancellor whose direction /decision on such matters shall be duly documented and be made binding on all concerned.
- b. Any dispute or difference of views between the Candidate and the Supervisor or between the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor with regard to the PhD Research shall be heard and resolved by the RAC without involving the interested party in RAC in the decision making. If the matter is not resolved by the RAC it will be referred to DC through the Centre for Research and the decision of the DC shall be final and binding.

## **18. Revision of Regulations**

- a. The University may from time to time revise, amend or change its PhD Regulations depending on the directions it may receive from the UGC which may be prospective or retrospective.



- b. The University may from time to time revise the scheme of Examinations, the Syllabus for Coursework, the Thesis Evaluation procedure, the Viva-Voce procedure, the Fee Structure, the Scholarship/ Fellowship Scheme etc in respect of its PhD Programme which shall be normally prospective unless specified to have retrospective effect in respect of specific matters.

*Approved: 17 May 2019*

*Notified: 18 May 2019*