



VIKRANT UNIVERSITY

Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

(Established under M.P. Private University Act)

RESEARCH POLICY FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

(As per UGC Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree)
Regulations, 2022

Approved by the Board of Management
Resolution No.: VU/G/2022-23/48 Dated: 05/05/2023

Effective from: Academic Year 2023–24

VIKRANT UNIVERSITY

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PREAMBLE

These PhD Rules, titled the 'Vikrant University Ordinance Governing the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)', have been framed by Vikrant University, Gwalior (hereinafter referred to as 'the University') in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 544, dated November 7, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as 'UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022'), and in supersession of all previous Ph.D. Ordinances/Regulations of the University.

The University is committed to promoting high-quality, original, and impactful research across all disciplines. These PhD Rules establish a transparent, equitable, and academically rigorous framework for the registration, supervision, conduct, evaluation, and award of the Ph.D. degree. They shall be read in conjunction with the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 and any subsequent amendments notified by the UGC or relevant statutory bodies.

The University affirms that all Ph.D. Programme shall be conducted exclusively in the full-time and part-time physical (face-to-face) mode and shall NOT be offered through distance, open, or online modes, as prohibited under the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.



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I: INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 Short Title and Commencement

1.1.1 These Rules shall be called the 'Vikrant University Ordinance Governing the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) - 2023' (hereinafter referred to as 'these Rules' or 'Ph.D. Rules').

1.1.2 These PhD Rules shall come into force from the date of approval by the Board of Management of Vikrant University and shall be applicable to all Ph.D. scholars enrolled from the academic year 2023-24 onwards.

1.1.3 The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) of Vikrant University shall be conferred on candidates who fulfil all requirements specified in these PhD Rules and the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.

1.1.4 These PhD Rules supersede and replace all previous Ordinances, Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars, and Notifications issued by the University regarding the Ph.D. programme, to the extent they are inconsistent with these PhD Rules. Existing Ph.D. scholars registered prior to the commencement of these PhD Rules shall be governed as per the transitional provisions laid down in Chapter XXIII.

1.2 Application and Jurisdiction

1.2.1 These PhD Rules shall apply to the Ph.D. programme offered by all Faculties, Departments, Schools, and Centres of Vikrant University.

1.2.2 The University shall offer the Ph.D. programme ONLY in full-time and part-time (face-to-face) modes. No Ph.D. programme shall be conducted through distance education, open learning, or online mode.

1.2.3 There shall be two semesters in an academic year: Odd Semester (July–December) and Even Semester (January–June). Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall normally be conducted once a year for the Odd Semester (July term), with a limited window for the Even Semester (January term) for specific categories as prescribed herein.

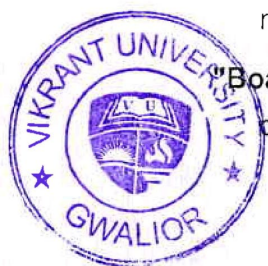
1.3 Definitions

In these PhD Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

"Act" means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956).

"Adjunct Faculty" means a part-time or contingent instructor, but not a full-time faculty member, hired to teach by the University or an affiliated institution.

"Board of Management / BOM" means the highest executive body of Vikrant University constituted under the relevant provisions of the M.P. Private University Act.



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- "Co-Supervisor"** means a faculty member of the University or an external expert assigned to jointly guide a Ph.D. scholar along with the primary Supervisor.
- "Course Work"** means the courses of study prescribed by the Department/School/Centre for a Ph.D. scholar registered for the Ph.D. Degree.
- "Credit"** means the number of hours of instruction required per week over the duration of a semester. A three-credit course in a semester means three one-hour lectures per week.
- "CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average)"** means the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in all courses across all semesters to the sum of total credits in all semesters expressed up to two decimal places on a 10-point scale.
- "Dean"** means the Dean of the concerned Faculty of the University.
- "Department / School / Centre"** means a constituent academic unit of the University that offers the Ph.D. programme.
- "Departmental Research Committee (DRC)"** means the committee constituted at the Department/School/Centre level for supervising Ph.D. admissions, research progress, and related matters as specified in Chapter VI.
- "Degree"** means the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree awarded by Vikrant University in accordance with the provisions of Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956.
- "External Examiner"** means an academician/researcher with published research work who is not employed by Vikrant University and who evaluates the Ph.D. thesis.
- "Faculty"** Faculty is a major University Unit That Manages a group of related academic Department.
- "Foreign Educational Institution"** means an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country offering educational programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, and higher levels through conventional face-to-face mode and not through distance or online mode.
- "Grade Point"** means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale.
- "HEI"** means Higher Educational Institution as defined in the UGC Act 1956.
- "Head of the Department (HoD)"** means the Head of the concerned Department/School/Centre of the University.
- "INFLIBNET"** means the Information and Library Network Centre, an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC.
- "Interdisciplinary Research"** means Ph.D. research conducted across two or more academic disciplines.
- "M.Phil."** means Master of Philosophy. Note: Vikrant University shall NOT offer or award the M.Phil. degree in compliance with UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.



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"No Objection Certificate (NOC)" means a certificate issued by the employer of a part-time Ph.D. candidate permitting him/her to pursue Ph.D. studies.

"Plagiarism" means the practice of presenting someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property as one's own original work.

"Pre-Submission Seminar" means an open seminar delivered by the Ph.D. scholar before the Research Advisory Committee and Department prior to submission of the thesis.

"Programme" means the Ph.D. programme pursued for the Doctor of Philosophy degree as specified under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the UGC Act.

"Prospectus" means the official document/notification published by the University providing information about seats, eligibility, procedure, and other details of the Ph.D. programme.

"Research Advisory Committee (RAC)" means the committee constituted for each Ph.D. scholar as prescribed in Chapter XI of these PhD Rules, responsible for guiding and evaluating research progress.

"Research Integrity" means adherence to the highest standards of ethical conduct in all aspects of research including honesty, objectivity, transparency, fairness, and accountability.

"Research Plan Proposal (RPP)" means a brief written document submitted by the Ph.D. scholar outlining the proposed research topic, objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes.

"Research Supervisor / Guide" means a faculty member recognized by the University who is authorized to supervise a Ph.D. scholar as per criteria in Chapter IX.

"Shodhganga" means the reservoir of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations maintained by INFLIBNET.

"Supervisor" shall mean and include Research Supervisor/Guide as the context requires.

"University" means Vikrant University, Gwalior, established under the M.P. Private University Act and recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956.

"UGC" means the University Grants Commission established under Section 4 of the UGC Act, 1956.

"UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022" means the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 as published in the Gazette of India dated November 7, 2022.

"Vice-Chancellor" means the Vice-Chancellor of Vikrant University.



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1.3.1 Words and expressions used in these PhD Rules but not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them under the UGC Act, 1956, and the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022, as applicable.



II: APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

2.1 Academic Calendar for Ph.D. Admissions

2.1.1 The University shall ordinarily conduct Ph.D. admissions Twice per academic year for the Odd Semester (July–December). However, for categories eligible for direct admission (VURET-exempt), a second round may be conducted for the Even Semester (January–June), subject to availability of vacancies and eligible supervisors.

2.1.2 The University shall publish a detailed Prospectus well in advance (at least 30 days before the application deadline) on its official website (www.vikrantuniversity.ac.in), containing: (a) number of seats available in each Department/School/Centre and discipline; (b) subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats; (c) eligibility criteria; (d) admission procedure; (e) reservation policy; (f) fee structure; and (g) all other relevant information for prospective candidates.

2.1.3 A candidate may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme at the beginning of any semester, provided: (a) the result of the qualifying examination has been declared before the commencement of the admission process; and (b) he/she fulfils all eligibility criteria prescribed in these PhD Rules.

2.2 Advertisement and Application

2.2.1 The University shall advertise Ph.D. vacancies through its official website, leading national newspapers, and such other media as deemed appropriate, specifying the number of seats, disciplines, eligibility criteria, application process, dates, and reservation provisions.

2.2.2 Eligible candidates shall apply in the prescribed format available on the University website. The application shall be the same for all categories those appearing in the Research Entrance Test (VURET) and those claiming exemption from VURET. Candidates eligible for direct/exempt admission shall indicate their category in the application.

2.2.3 Candidates shall submit the duly filled application form, along with all supporting documents, to the Office of the Director (Research) / Office of the Dean of the concerned Faculty on or before the last date notified by the University.

2.2.4 All applications from candidates belonging to sponsored/employed/direct admission categories shall be submitted through proper channel (i.e., through their Head of Institution / Employer).

2.2.5 The University shall maintain complete transparency in the admission process. All information relating to the admission process shall be made publicly available on the University website.



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2.3 Reservation Policy

- 2.3.1 Reservations in Ph.D. admissions shall be provided in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Madhya Pradesh and the policies of the Central Government and UGC as amended from time to time.
- 2.3.2 Candidates claiming SC/ST/OBC-NCL/EWS/PwD benefits shall submit valid certificates in the prescribed Government format issued by a competent authority. Certificates shall be subject to verification by the University. OBC-NCL certificates must specifically state that the candidate does not belong to the 'creamy layer'.
- 2.3.3 A PwD candidate belonging to a reserved category (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) shall not be entitled to claim double benefit of relaxation simultaneously as PwD and as SC/ST/OBC/EWS.
- 2.3.4 The number of seats reserved for SC/ST/OBC/EWS categories shall be reduced proportionately if the number of qualified candidates is less than the reserved seats. Unfilled reserved seats shall be handled as per Government of India and M.P. Government rules.

Vijay Singh Singh



III: QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 Minimum Qualification for Admission

A candidate seeking admission to the Ph.D. programme at Vikrant University must satisfy the criteria as per UGC norms/ Guidelines.

3.2 Academic Record Assessment

3.2.1 For determining eligibility, the academic record of the candidate shall be assessed based on the marks/grades obtained in all examinations from High School onwards using the formula prescribed by the University. The Academic Record score (M) shall be calculated as follows:

Case 1: Where Postgraduate degree is the qualifying examination:

$$M = (X1 + 0.6 \times X2 + 0.25 \times X3 + 0.15 \times X4) / 2$$

Case 2: Where 4-year Undergraduate degree is the qualifying examination:

$$M = (X2 + 0.4 \times X3 + 0.3 \times X4) / 1.7$$

Where:

X1 = Percentage of marks at Postgraduate examination

X2 = Percentage of marks at Undergraduate examination

X3 = Percentage of marks at Intermediate / Higher Secondary examination

X4 = Percentage of marks at High School examination

M, X1, X2, X3, X4 shall be calculated up to two decimal places.

3.2.2 The minimum Academic Record score for General category candidates shall be 50. For SC/ST and PwD candidates, the minimum shall be 45. For OBC-NCL candidates, the minimum shall be 47.50.

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IV: MODE OF ADMISSION

4.1 Methods of Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be made through the following methods, in accordance with UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022:

Method I – National Level Test with Interview (Direct/Exempt Category)

4.1.1 Candidates who have qualified in any of the following national/state-level tests shall be eligible for direct admission to the Ph.D. programme subject to an interview (Test B Viva-Voce):

- UGC-NET (JRF or LS), CSIR-UGC NET (JRF or LS)
- GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) – valid score
- CEED (Common Entrance Examination for Design)
- State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) accredited by UGC
- ICAR-NET, ICMR-JRF, DBT-JRF, DRDO, DAE, DST, AICTE, and other national fellowship/scholarship awarded through All-India selection procedure
- AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) national fellowship/scholarship through All-India selection
- National Doctoral Fellowship or similar fellowships from Government/Semi-Government organizations through All-India competitive process

4.1.2 All candidates under Method I shall be required to appear in the Personal Interview Viva-Voce/Test B) conducted by the University.

4.1.3 Candidates admitted under Method I shall be entitled to University/departmental financial support, subject to availability and fulfilment of eligibility conditions, as prescribed in Chapter XVII.

Method II – University-Level Research Entrance Test (VURET)

4.1.4 Vikrant University shall conduct a Research Entrance Test (VURET) for admission to Ph.D. programmes for candidates who do not qualify under Method I. The VURET shall consist of two components:

- (a) **Test A (Written Test):** Test A shall be a written examination consisting of 100 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) carrying a total of 200 marks. The duration shall be 120 minutes. Each correct answer shall carry 2 marks. The test shall consist of: (i) 50% questions on Research Methodology – covering Foundations of Research, Problem Identification and Formulation, Research Design, Qualitative and Quantitative Research, Measurement, Sampling, Data Analysis, Interpretation, Scientific Writing, Use of Reference Tools, Research Ethics, and Publication Norms; and (ii) 50% questions at Master's level of the subject/discipline concerned, testing advanced domain knowledge, analytical and logical reasoning capabilities.



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(b) **Test B (Personal Interview):** All candidates who secure a minimum of 50% marks in Test A (45% for SC/ST/PwD/OBC-NCL/EWS candidates) shall be eligible for Test B. Test B shall be a Personal Interview/Viva-Voce conducted by the Interview Board in the concerned Department/School/Centre, carrying 30 marks. Marks in Test B shall not be below 12. Detailed justification shall be recorded for marks awarded outside this range.

4.1.5 The weightage in the final merit shall be: Test A (Written) – 70% and Test B (Interview) – 30%.

4.1.6 The VURET shall ordinarily be conducted Twice in a year, normally in the month of May/June for the Odd Semester and November/December for the Even Semester. The results shall be declared by the second week of July.

4.1.7 The validity of the VURET score shall be for the current admission cycle (two semesters of one academic year). Candidates qualifying in VURET but not admitted in the July term may be considered for the January term, subject to availability of seats, at the discretion of the DRC.

Method III – Sponsored / Employed Candidates (Direct Admission – Special Categories)

4.1.8 The following categories of candidates may be considered for direct admission to the Ph.D. programme without appearing in the VURET, subject to an interview:

(a) Employees of any university, institution, college, Government department, public sector undertaking, R&D organization, or private industry, who are sponsored as full-time candidates by the said organization with at least 3 years of experience AND who are relieved on study leave for a period of not less than 3 years for pursuing the Ph.D. programme at the University. The employing organization must undertake responsibility for financial support and must provide a No Objection Certificate.

(b) Candidates selected under Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) of AICTE, Faculty Development Programme of a State Government, or UGC Faculty Development Programme.

(c) Employees of the University or constituent/affiliated colleges holding substantive/permanent posts (including those on probation), admitted as Internal Part-Time Research Scholars.

(d) A candidate working in an externally funded research project within the University as research staff, may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme, provided: (i) minimum 1 year tenure remains in the project; (ii) at least one research paper has been published/accepted in a peer-reviewed journal from the project work; (iii) the consent of the Project Investigator and the proposed Supervisor is available; and (iv) the research work of the project and the Ph.D. are overlapping/complementary.



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- (e) A candidate occupying a senior management position (at least 5 years of professional experience) in a Government department/PSU/R&D organization/private industry of repute, sponsored as a part-time candidate, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor and DRC, provided the DRC is satisfied that the candidate can effectively pursue Ph.D. research from his/her parent organization.
- (f) A candidate already registered as a Ph.D. scholar in another recognized university whose Supervisor joins Vikrant University, provided all other conditions of these PhD Rules are fulfilled.
- (g) Foreign national candidates who are recipients of fellowships by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India, or who are sponsored by their respective governments; or self-financing foreign national candidates admitted through the Embassies/High Commissions of their home countries under valid MoUs with the University.

NOTE: *Note for Candidates under Clause 4.1.8: (a) The candidate must be in permanent/regular employment of the concerned organization. (b) The employer must undertake financial responsibility and sanction leave with salary. (c) A Sponsorship Certificate and Work Experience Certificate from the parent organization shall be mandatory. (d) Equivalence of foreign qualifications shall be settled by the University's Equivalence Committee.*

4.2 Interview Board for Admission

4.2.1 The Interview Board (for Test B / Personal Interview) for Ph.D. admission shall be constituted by the Dean of the concerned Faculty and shall consist of:

- Dean of the Faculty – Chairman
- Director of the Institute (where applicable) – Member
- Two senior Professors from outside the concerned Department (nominated by the Dean) – Members
- Two senior members of the DRC of the concerned Department/School/Centre (excluding the HoD) – Members
- Head/Coordinator of the concerned Department/School/Centre – Member
- One faculty member from OBC community – Member
- One faculty member from SC/ST community – Member

4.2.2 The Interview Board shall evaluate candidates on: research aptitude, subject knowledge, proposed research area, previous research experience, communication skills, and overall academic preparation for Ph.D. research.



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V: CLASSIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

5.1 Categories of Ph.D. Scholars

All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme at Vikrant University shall be classified under one of the following categories:

5.1.1 Full-Time Research Scholar (Category FT)

A candidate who has been admitted to the Ph.D. programme through VURET (Method II) or through direct admission based on national-level fellowships/qualifications (Method I – Clauses 4.1.1 to 4.1.3), or sponsored full-time candidates (Clause 4.1.8(a) and (b)), and who devotes full time to research shall be classified as a Full-Time Research Scholar. Full-Time Research Scholars are expected to be physically present at the University campus during the entire period of their registration (subject to leave provisions in Chapter XII).

5.1.2 Internal Part-Time Research Scholar (Category IPT)

A candidate who has been admitted directly to the Ph.D. programme based on eligibility under Clause 4.1.8(c) i.e., a regular employee (Teaching or Non-Teaching) of Vikrant University or its constituent/affiliated colleges holding a substantive post shall be classified as an Internal Part-Time Research Scholar. Such scholars shall carry out their research at the University while continuing to perform their official duties.

NOTE: Teaching and Non-Teaching employees enrolled as Internal Part-Time Research Scholars who subsequently join another organization on lien from Vikrant University may continue their Ph.D. at the University, subject to the condition that they shall not resign from University service before thesis submission.

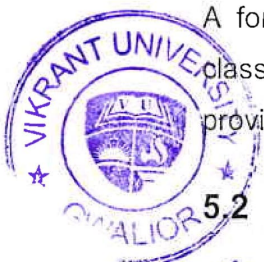
5.1.3 External Part-Time Research Scholar (Category EPT)

A candidate who has been admitted to the Ph.D. programme under Clauses 4.1.8(d), 4.1.8(e) i.e., employed in an external organization and carrying out research work at their parent organization under an Internal Supervisor from the University and an External Supervisor from their organization shall be classified as an External Part-Time Research Scholar. Such scholars shall be required to satisfy the residency period requirements prescribed in Chapter VIII.

5.1.4 International Research Scholar (Category INT)

A foreign national admitted to the Ph.D. programme under Clause 4.1.8(g) shall be classified as an International Research Scholar and shall be governed by the special provisions for international students prescribed in Chapter XVIII.

5.2 Restrictions on Full-Time Research Scholars



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- 5.2.1 No full-time Ph.D. scholar shall accept any paid employment or assignment during the period of research, apart from: (a) Research Fellowships/Research Assistantships sanctioned by the University; (b) Senior Residency/Service Senior Residency (for medical disciplines); (c) Externally funded research project assignments, provided they do not adversely affect the research programme as determined by the DRC.
- 5.2.2 A full-time Ph.D. scholar shall not enroll in any other degree programme simultaneously. However, the DRC may permit enrollment in a part-time Diploma or Certificate Course on the recommendation of the RAC, if it is not detrimental to the research programme.
- 5.2.3 If a full-time research scholar is appointed as a regular employee (Teaching/Non-Teaching) of Vikrant University during the course of Ph.D., his/her category may be changed to Internal Part-Time Research Scholar on application, with recommendation from the RAC and approval by the DRC, subject to the condition that the minimum residency period of 04 years is fulfilled.



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VI: RESEARCH COMMITTEES AND BODIES

6.1 Overview

The following committees shall deal with all matters connected with the Ph.D. programme of the University, subject to the general superintendence of the Academic Council:

- Research Degree Committee of the University (RDCU)
- Departmental/School/Centre Research Committee (DRC/SRC/CRC)
- Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. scholar

6.2 Research Degree Committee of the University (RDCU)

6.2.1 Composition

S.No.	Member	Designation in RDCU
1	Vice-Chancellor	Chairman
2	Registrar	Member Secretary
3	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (if any)	Member
4	Deans of all Faculties	Members
5	Directors of Institutes (where applicable)	Members
6	Heads of Departments/Coordinators of Schools/Centres	Members
7	Supervisors and Co-Supervisors of concerned Ph.D. scholars (for agenda items concerning that scholar)	Members
8	Professors Emeritus/Distinguished Professors/Visiting Professors/Honorary Professors/Adjunct Faculty (if any)	Special Invitees

6.2.2 Functions of RDCU

- To frame, amend, and interpret rules and regulations governing the Ph.D. programme.
- To approve panels of examiners for thesis evaluation in cases of dispute or ambiguity.
- To consider and decide cases not covered by these PhD Rules.
- To grant extensions beyond the power of the Dean, as prescribed in Chapter VIII.
- To review and decide upon appeals from DRC decisions.
- To approve the award of Ph.D. degrees based on recommendations received from the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

(g) To perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Academic Council.

6.2.3 The Registrar shall convene all meetings of the RDCU. A quorum of 1/3rd of total members shall be required for RDCU meetings.



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6.3 Departmental/School/Centre Research Committee (DRC/SRC/CRC)

6.3.1 Composition

S.No.	Member	Designation in DRC
1	Head of the Department / Dean of the School / Centre	Chairman
2	All Professors and Senior Research Scientists of the Department/School/Centre	Members
3	One Associate Professor and One Assistant Professor (by rotation, every two years, based on seniority)	Members
4	Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) of the concerned Ph.D. scholar (for agenda items concerning that scholar)	Members
5	Professors Emeritus / Distinguished Professors / Visiting / Honorary / Adjunct Faculty (if any)	Special Invitees

NOTE: Where there are three or fewer teachers in a Department/School/Centre, the DRC shall be constituted with the Dean of the Faculty as Chairman, all teachers of the Department, and a senior teacher from a sister Department nominated by the Dean.

6.3.2 Functions of DRC

- To recommend, approve, or reject applications for Ph.D. admission.
- To allocate Supervisors and Co-Supervisors to Ph.D. scholars.
- To approve research plan proposals and topic of research.
- To review and act upon the progress reports and RAC recommendations of Ph.D. scholars.
- To approve changes of Supervisor, research topic, or category of scholar.
- To approve panels of examiners for thesis evaluation.
- To recommend extension of time for thesis submission.
- To recommend cancellation or withdrawal of Ph.D. registration.
- To recommend pre-submission seminar and thesis submission.
- To co-opt such members of the teaching staff as may be helpful in deliberations.

6.3.3 The DRC shall appoint a Secretary/Convener from among its members. The DRC shall meet at least twice a semester. A quorum of 50% of members shall be required. The DRC shall not make any recommendation that is inconsistent with these PhD Rules or any directive issued by the RDCU or Academic Council.

6.3.4 A faculty member who is not eligible to guide Ph.D. scholars (as per Chapter IX) shall not be a member of any research committee.

6.4 Research Advisory Committee (RAC)



6.4.1 Composition

A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) shall be constituted for each Ph.D. scholar and shall consist of:

- Supervisor of the Ph.D. Scholar – Convener/Chairman
- Co-Supervisor (if any) – Member
- A nominee of the DRC Chairman – Member
- One expert in the specific field from the Department/School – Member
- One or two experts from outside the Department within the University or from allied disciplines – Member(s)

6.4.2 Experts in the RAC shall be nominated by the Supervisor and approved by the DRC. They should have experience in the broad research area of the scholar. The RAC composition may be modified with DRC approval if the research topic changes significantly.

6.4.3 Functions of RAC

- (a) To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research.
- (b) To guide the scholar in developing the study design and research methodology, and to identify courses to be undertaken.
- (c) To periodically review and assist in the progress of research work.
- (d) To evaluate seminar presentations and research plan proposals.
- (e) To recommend the pre-submission seminar and thesis submission.
- (f) In cases of unsatisfactory progress, to record reasons and suggest corrective measures. If the scholar fails to implement corrective measures, the RAC may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of Ph.D. registration to the DRC.

6.4.4 Each Ph.D. scholar shall appear before the RAC at least once per semester to present a brief report on the progress of his/her research work and to seek evaluation and further guidance. The RAC shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of the scholar's progress report to the DRC.

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VII: ADMISSION PROCEDURE

7.1 Eligibility Verification

- 7.1.1 Before appearing in the VURET or Interview, candidates must ensure they meet the qualifying examination criteria and minimum marks requirements as prescribed in Chapter III. The University shall verify documents at the time of admission.
- 7.1.2 Senior Residents / Service Senior Residents of medical faculties shall also be eligible to appear in the VURET, subject to fulfilling other eligibility conditions.

7.2 Research Entrance Test (VURET) – Test Design

7.2.1 Test A:- Written Examination:

- Total Questions: 100 MCQs
- Total Marks: 200
- Duration: 120 minutes
- Marking: +2 for correct answer
- Minimum qualifying marks: 50% (General); 45% (SC/ST/PwD/OBC-NCL/EWS)
- Question distribution: 50% Research Methodology; 50% Subject/Discipline-specific at Master's level

7.2.2 Test B – Personal Interview:

- Conducted by the Interview Board in the concerned Department/School/Centre
- Total Marks: 30 (Range: 9-24; justification required if outside this range)
- Focus: Research aptitude, subject knowledge, proposed research area, analytical thinking

7.2.3 Interdisciplinary Admission: A candidate can apply for Ph.D. in an allied discipline by appearing in the VURET of the related main discipline, subject to the following conditions: (a) not more than 20% of vacancies in a main discipline shall be filled by candidates from allied disciplines; (b) mobility is restricted to disciplines where the candidate's main discipline is an allied subject; (c) if vacancies are unfilled from the main discipline, candidates from allied disciplines may be considered if otherwise qualified.

7.3 Final Merit and Selection

7.3.1 Final Merit for VURET Category:

Composite Index = Academic Record Score (M) + Test A Score + Test B Score

*Minimum Composite Index required: 215 marks (to be eligible for registration)

7.3.2 Final Merit for VURET-Exempt / Direct Admission Category:

Composite Index = Academic Record Score (M) + Test B Score



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Minimum Composite Index required: 65 marks (to be eligible for registration)

7.3.3 Meeting the minimum composite index does not guarantee registration; the number of seats available shall be a determining factor.

7.3.4 Separate merit lists shall be prepared for VURET category and VURET-exempt/direct admission category candidates. An equal number of wait-listed candidates shall also be prepared in order of merit to fill vacancies arising from non-joining of selected candidates.

7.4 Admission, Fee Deposit, and Supervisor Allocation

7.4.1 Based on the final merit list, the Head of the Department/Coordinator of the School/Centre shall issue offer letters to selected candidates, specifying the last date for fee deposit. A list of faculty members with their research areas shall be provided to selected candidates.

7.4.2 The admission process is complete only upon payment of prescribed fees by the candidate. The date of fee deposit shall be treated as the date of admission for all purposes under these PhD Rules.

7.4.3 After fee payment, the candidate shall be permitted to attend the coursework classes and other facilities from the University like Using the library, E-library, Sports, Extracurricular and the assistance from the Department/School/Centre.

7.4.4 The DRC shall allot the Supervisor to each admitted scholar, taking into account as far as practicable the mutual preference of the candidate and the faculty member, and the Supervisor's quota availability.

7.4.5 The HoD shall submit a complete list of admitted scholars with all details to the Director (Research) with a copy to the Dean within one week of admission.

7.5 Registration

7.5.1 Every candidate shall be registered (enrolled) only at the beginning of each semester (July for Odd Semester, January for Even Semester). Registration shall continue every semester until the thesis is submitted.

7.5.2 Failure to renew registration in any semester, without prior written application and valid reason, shall be treated as a ground for cancellation of admission as per Chapter XX.

7.5.3 A candidate who already holds a Ph.D. degree from this or any other recognized university may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme for an additional Ph.D. in a different subject, at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor, based on specific recommendation of the DRC with full justification.



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7.5.3 The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 permit the transfer of a Ph.D. scholar from one university to another in exceptional circumstances, subject to the approval of the competent authorities of both universities, consent of the concerned supervisor(s) and the scholar, and compliance with the Ph.D. rules, ordinances, and regulations of the respective institutions. The receiving university shall determine the recognition of coursework, research progress, and continuation of registration in accordance with its applicable provisions and the UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022.

7.5.3 As per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, candidates who already possess an M.Phil. degree or have successfully completed Ph.D. coursework in an integrated M.Phil. & Ph.D. programme may be exempted from Ph.D. coursework by the concerned department/university.



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VIII: TIME PERIOD REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Minimum Duration of the Ph.D. Programme

8.1.1 The Ph.D. programme at Vikrant University shall be for a minimum duration of THREE (3) years, including course work, from the date of admission (date of fee deposit). This applies to all categories of scholars (Full-Time, Internal Part-Time, External Part-Time).

8.1.2 For candidates admitted under Clause 4.1.8(f) – whose Supervisor has joined Vikrant University from another institution – the minimum period of research work before submission shall be the maximum of: (i) one year from the date of joining Vikrant University; or (ii) three years taking into account the period spent at the previous institution; or (iii) the period required for completing course work.

8.1.3 For External Part-Time Research Scholars under Clause 4.1.8(e) (senior management/industry category), the minimum period of research work before submission shall be FOUR (4) years.

8.2 Maximum Duration and Extensions

Category of Scholar	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration (Base)	Maximum (with all extensions)
Full-Time Research Scholar	3 years	6 years	8 years
Internal Part-Time Scholar	3 years	7 years	8 years
External Part-Time Scholar (General)	4 years	7 years	8 years
External Part-Time Scholar (Senior Mgmt.)	4 years	7 years	8 years
Female Ph.D. Scholars (Parttime/ Regular)	3 years/ 4 years	6 years/ 7 years	10 years
PwD Scholars (>40% disability)	3 years	6 years	10 years

8.2.1 If a candidate fails to submit the thesis within the minimum stipulated period (3/4 years), he/she may continue research and submit within the maximum period (6/7 years from date of admission).

8.2.2 Extension beyond 6 years – First Extension: The HoD, with recommendation of the RAC and DRC, may grant extension of up to two additional years (one year at a time) for submission. During this period, the scholar must pay full fees.

8.2.3 Extension beyond 8 years (for Female/PwD): Female Ph.D. scholars and PwD scholars (with more than 40% disability) may be granted an additional relaxation of up to two (2) years through a process of re-registration, as per the Statute/Ordinance,



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subject to DRC recommendation and Dean's approval. The total period shall not exceed 10 years from the date of admission.

8.2.4 No further extension shall be granted beyond the maximum period specified in Clause 8.2 under any circumstances. Failure to submit within the maximum permissible period shall result in cancellation of registration.

8.2.5 Female Ph.D. scholars shall be entitled to Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave of up to 240 days during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme, without counting such leave towards the maximum time limit.

8.3 Residency Period

8.3.1 For Full-Time Research Scholars and Internal Part-Time Research Scholars, the residency period shall be the same as the entire period taken for the submission of the thesis (subject to the maximum time frame).

8.3.2 For External Part-Time Research Scholars (other than senior management category under Clause 4.1.8(e), the residency period shall be at least ONE WEEK per semester or the minimum period required for completing course work, whichever is more. Such scholars must deliver at least two open seminars at the University to evidence research progress.

8.3.3 For External Part-Time Research Scholars under Clause 4.1.8(e) (senior management category), the residency period shall be at least ONE WEEK per semester during the minimum time period for thesis submission. At least two open seminars shall be delivered at the University.

8.3.4 The residency period shall be calculated from the date of fee deposit at the time of admission.

8.3.5 With recommendation of the DRC and approval of the Dean (for periods up to 6 months) or the RDCU (for periods beyond 6 months), a full-time Ph.D. scholar may be permitted to pursue part of the research work at a place outside the University, without exceeding the maximum time limit for thesis submission.



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IX: SUPERVISORS AND CO-SUPERVISORS

9.1 Appointment of Supervisors

9.1.1 Every candidate, After completion of course work to the Ph.D. programme (at the time of fee payment), shall be assigned a Research Supervisor by the DRC. A Co-Supervisor may be appointed by the DRC, if necessary.

9.1.2 For External Part-Time Research Scholars, there shall ordinarily be one Internal Supervisor from the University and one External Supervisor from the parent organization where the candidate shall carry out research work. The candidate must submit a certificate from the External Supervisor confirming the nature and quantum of research guidance provided.

9.2 Eligibility Criteria for Research Supervisors

9.2.1 Professors and Associate Professors

Permanent faculty members holding the position of Professor or Associate Professor in Vikrant University, with a Ph.D. degree and at least five (5) research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals, shall be eligible to be recognized as Research Supervisors.

9.2.2 Assistant Professors

Permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors in Vikrant University, with a Ph.D. degree and at least three (3) research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals, shall be eligible to be recognized as Research Supervisors in the University or its affiliated postgraduate colleges/institutes.

9.2.3 Scientists in Research Institutions

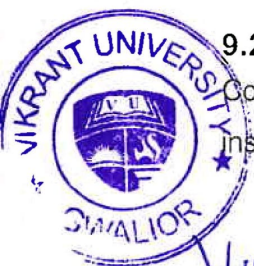
Scientists/Scientific Officers in Central/State Government Research Institutions whose Ph.D. degrees are awarded by Vikrant University, and who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor, shall be eligible to be recognized as Supervisors, provided they fulfil the publication requirements specified above.

9.2.4 Relaxation for Areas with Limited Journals

In areas/disciplines where there are no or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, the University (through the DRC and RDCU) may relax the above publication requirements for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor, with reasons recorded in writing.

9.2.5 Co-Supervisors

Co-Supervisors from within the same department, other departments of the same institution, or from other institutions may be appointed with the approval of the competent



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authority (DRC/Vice-Chancellor). Adjunct Faculty members shall NOT act as Research Supervisors; they may only serve as Co-Supervisors.

9.2.6 Professors Emeritus / Distinguished Professors / UGC Scientists/Fellows

Central Universities/ IITs/ NIPER /National Professors Emeritus / Distinguished Professors / UGC Scientists /Fellows appointed at Vikrant University shall be eligible to guide Ph.D. scholars, provided their tenure of appointment has at least three years remaining at the time of enrollment of the research scholar.

9.2.7 External / Outside University Supervisors

A teacher from outside Vikrant University may be assigned as a Co-Supervisor by the DRC with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. In case of Interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/ School/ Centre/ College/ University may be appointed.

9.2.8 Restriction – Enrolled Supervisors

A faculty member of Vikrant University who is enrolled as a Ph.D. scholar (in this or any other institution/university) shall NOT be entitled to guide Ph.D. scholars. Those appointed as Supervisors who subsequently enroll for Ph.D. shall cease to be Supervisors.

9.2.9 Ph.D. Awarded by Another University Under Vikrant Supervisor

Any Ph.D. degree awarded by a university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not a regular employee of that university or its affiliated postgraduate colleges/institutes shall be treated as a violation of the UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022. Faculty members of Vikrant University may act only as co-supervisors for research scholars registered at other institutions, subject to the approval of the DRC, and shall not serve as primary supervisors.

9.3 Supervisor Quota (Maximum Permissible Ph.D. Scholars per Supervisor)

Designation	Maximum Full-Time Scholars	Additional International Scholars (Supernumerary)
Professor	8	2 (additional, supernumerary)
Associate Professor	6	2 (additional, supernumerary)
Assistant Professor	4	2 (additional, supernumerary)
Professors Emeritus / Distinguished Professors	8 (same as Professor)	2 (additional, supernumerary)

9.3.1 Where a Co-Supervisor is appointed, a full-time scholar shall be counted towards the quota of BOTH the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor.



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9.3.2 All full-time research scholars registered for Ph.D. shall be counted within the quota until they submit their theses.

9.3.3 A faculty member can supervise a maximum of two (2) External/Internal Part-Time scholars at any given time. Part-time scholars shall NOT be counted towards the full-time quota.

9.3.4 An Internal Adjunct Faculty member may enroll a maximum of two (2) candidates in the host department and such enrolment shall not be counted towards the quota above.

9.3.5 At any point in time, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member (as Supervisor or Co-Supervisor combined) shall not exceed the limits prescribed in the Quota table above (excluding supernumerary international scholars).

9.3.6 Faculty members with less than THREE (3) years of service before superannuation/retirement shall NOT be permitted to take new Ph.D. scholars under their supervision. However, they may continue to supervise scholars already registered under them until their retirement, and may act as Co-Supervisor (not Supervisor) post-retirement until attaining the age of 70 years.

9.4 Continuation of Supervision – Special Cases

9.4.1 If the Supervisor proceeds on leave/lien/deputation for a period exceeding 12 months, a Co-Supervisor shall be appointed by the DRC. If the Supervisor is on leave for less than 12 months but subsequently extends the leave beyond 12 months, a Co-Supervisor shall be appointed forthwith.

9.4.2 If the Supervisor expires or is terminated from University service, he/she shall cease to be the Supervisor.

9.4.3 If the Supervisor is placed under suspension, he/she shall cease to be the Supervisor for the entire period of suspension.

9.4.4 Upon retirement/resignation: (a) A faculty member who has supervised a scholar and the scholar has fulfilled the minimum period requirement for thesis submission shall be permitted to continue as Supervisor after retirement/resignation. (b) A faculty member who retires/resigns and is subsequently re-employed or appointed as Professor Emeritus/Distinguished Professor may continue as Supervisor. (c) A faculty member who retires/resigns in all other cases shall cease to be the Supervisor.

9.4.5 Appointment of New Supervisor: In all cases where the existing Supervisor ceases to be the Supervisor, the DRC shall appoint the Co-Supervisor (if any, from the same discipline) as the new Supervisor. If there is no Co-Supervisor or the Co-Supervisor is from a different discipline, the DRC shall appoint a new Supervisor.



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- 9.4.6 Change of Supervisor: If a scholar, for cogent reasons, requests change of Supervisor, the DRC may permit such change with the mutual written consent of the existing Supervisor, the proposed new Supervisor, and the scholar.
- 9.4.7 Transfer of Scholar on Supervisor Transfer: If a supervisor is transferred or appointed in another department of the University, a candidate may be transferred to that department with the consent of the scholar and approval of the DRCs of both departments.
- 9.4.8 Relocation of Female Scholar: In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or other circumstances, the research data shall be permitted to be transferred to the new HEI, provided: (a) all other conditions of these PhD Rules are fulfilled; (b) the research work does not pertain to a project funded by an external agency to the parent institution/Supervisor; and (c) the scholar gives due credit to the parent institution and the original Supervisor for the research already undertaken.



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X: COURSE WORK

10.1 Mandatory Course Work

- 10.1.1 Every candidate admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to undertake course work for a minimum of ONE or TWO (2) semesters as a prerequisite for undertaking research work and submitting the thesis.
- 10.1.2 The minimum credit requirement for Ph.D. course work is TWELVE (12) credits. These 12 credits shall mandatorily include: (a) A course on 'Research and Publication Ethics' as prescribed by UGC (D.O. No. F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) 2019); and (b) A course on Research Methodology. Additional courses may be added as required by the concerned Faculty/Department.
- 10.1.3 All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of their discipline, shall be required to undertake training in teaching/education/pedagogy/scientific writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may be assigned 4–6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for tutorial, laboratory work, and evaluations.

10.2 Structure of Course Work

- 10.2.1 Semester 1 (Course Work): The first semester shall comprise at least four regular courses of 3 credits each (minimum 39 hours of teaching per course). These courses shall be from the relevant discipline and shall NOT include Research Methodology or Seminar as one of the four courses. The Departments shall have autonomy in deciding specific courses, credits, mode of examination, and evaluation.
- 10.2.2 Semester 2 (Course Work): The second semester may include courses related to practical work, laboratory work, dissertation preparation, seminar presentation, book review, research methodology practice, and similar experiential components.
- 10.2.3 The courses offered for the Ph.D. programme may be of the following types: lecture-based, laboratory, design, self-study, mini-projects, and seminars. Each course shall be of postgraduate or doctoral level.
- 10.2.4 The scholar shall pursue courses as advised and approved by the RAC and approved by the DRC. Courses may be from the scholar's own Faculty or from other Faculties, depending on the nature of the research area.

10.3 Minimum Standards for Completion of Course Work

- 10.3.1 A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks (or equivalent CGPA/grade in the UGC 10-point scale) in the course work to be eligible to continue in the Ph.D. programme and submit the thesis.
- 10.3.2 There shall be no grading system for overall course work assessment only pass/fail based on the 55% minimum. The pass mark for each course work component requiring



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a written examination shall be 55%. Scholars meeting this criterion shall be declared to have successfully completed that course work component.

10.3.3 For experiential/practical course work components, satisfactory completion shall be determined by the RAC through oral presentation by the scholar. The scholar shall be declared to have successfully completed such component on the recommendation of the RAC.

10.3.4 After completing the course work, the scholar shall appear in a Comprehensive Examination. This exam shall test the overall understanding of the research area and allied subjects, and shall be evaluated by the RAC.

10.4 Online and Credit Transfer Provisions

10.4.1 The RAC may recommend UGC-recognized online courses (on platforms such as SWAYAM) as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme, subject to DRC approval.

10.4.2 Credit Transfer: If a research scholar has already cleared a course component (suggested as part of Ph.D. course work) from any other recognized institution within two years preceding the year of Ph.D. registration at Vikrant University, credit for clearing that component may be given on the recommendation of the RAC and approval of the DRC.

10.4.3 Part-Time Research Scholars: There shall be no mandatory attendance requirement for part-time scholars in course work. However, they shall appear in examinations and fulfil all other course work requirements. They may complete laboratory work either at the University campus or at their parent organization in a recognized laboratory, with certification, and demonstrate laboratory skills before the RAC at the University campus.

10.4.4 Teachers registered as part-time research scholars who have more than 5 years of experience teaching a course work component assigned to them shall still be required to appear in the examination and qualify by securing the minimum 55% marks.

10.4.5 International Research Scholars: International scholars may be assessed for course work adequacy through three open seminars delivered before the DRC, which shall make appropriate recommendations. The DRC shall have discretion to waive written examinations for international scholars.



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XI: RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

11.1 Research Progress Monitoring

11.1.1 The RAC and DRC shall jointly monitor the academic and research progress of each Ph.D. scholar. The RAC is the primary body responsible for guiding and evaluating the scholar's research at the semester level.

11.1.2 Progress Report: The Ph.D. scholar shall submit a Progress Report on a prescribed proforma (Annexure I) to the RAC through his/her Supervisor and Co-Supervisor at the end of each semester. The scholar shall make a presentation on the progress of research work through a seminar before the RAC.

11.1.3 The RAC shall evaluate the progress made by the scholar, record its assessment and recommendations, and submit a copy to the DRC. A copy of the RAC's recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar.

11.1.4 The DRC Chairman shall forward the progress reports with specific recommendations to the Director (Research) with a copy to the Dean.

11.1.5 Progress of a scholar in any semester shall be deemed Unsatisfactory if: (a) the scholar is absent for more than the period specified in Chapter XII; (b) the RAC records the progress as unsatisfactory; or (c) the scholar fails to appear before the RAC.

11.1.6 In case of Unsatisfactory progress: (a) The RAC shall record reasons and suggest corrective measures in writing; (b) A copy shall be sent to the scholar and the DRC; (c) If the scholar fails to implement corrective measures within the period specified by the RAC, the RAC may recommend cancellation of Ph.D. registration with specific reasons to the DRC.

11.1.7 Two consecutive Unsatisfactory progress reports shall ordinarily result in initiation of cancellation proceedings as per Chapter XX.

11.1.8 The scholar shall submit progress reports for each semester until the thesis is submitted. The last progress report shall be submitted within three days of thesis submission.

11.2 Research Plan Proposal (RPP)

11.2.1 At the end of the second semester, the Ph.D. scholar shall submit to the RAC a Research Plan Proposal (RPP) consisting of: preamble, definition of the problem, objectives of the research work, approaches/methodology to be adopted, expected outcomes, and review of literature, in about 8–10 pages, along with the second semester progress report.



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- 11.2.2 The RPP shall also indicate the proposed topic of research (the precise title of the thesis need not be finalized at this stage).
- 11.2.3 The scholar shall deliver a detailed seminar called the 'Research Plan Proposal Seminar' before the RAC and DRC. The RAC and DRC shall examine the RPP for academic merit and feasibility.
- 11.2.4 If the RAC and DRC are satisfied with the RPP and the seminar, they shall approve the research topic and forward the recommendation with the second progress report to the Director (Research).
- 11.2.5 If the RAC/DRC is not satisfied: (a) If both the proposal and seminar are unsatisfactory, the scholar shall submit a fresh RPP and deliver a fresh seminar within a period specified by the DRC (not exceeding 3 months in any case). (b) If only the seminar is unsatisfactory, the scholar shall deliver the seminar again within one month.
- 11.2.6 If the scholar fails to submit the RPP at the end of the second semester OR the RPP and/or RPP Seminar are not approved by the DRC even after the additional opportunity under Clause 11.2.5, the scholar's admission shall stand cancelled.
- 11.2.7 The format for the RPP presentation and approval shall be as given in Annexure C.



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XII: LEAVE AND ATTENDANCE

12.1 Leave Rules for Ph.D. Scholars

- 12.1.1 Annual Leave: A Ph.D. scholar shall be eligible to avail ordinary leave of 30 days in an academic year. Ph.D. scholars shall NOT be entitled to inter-semester breaks, winter vacations, or summer vacations as applicable to regular students.
- 12.1.2 Medical Leave: In addition to ordinary leave, a scholar shall be entitled to a maximum of 10 days of additional medical leave per academic year, subject to submission of medical certificates from a registered medical practitioner.
- 12.1.3 Maternity Leave / Child Care Leave: Female Ph.D. scholars shall be entitled to Maternity Leave / Child Care Leave for up to 240 days during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme, as per Government of India rules. This leave shall not be counted towards the maximum time limit for thesis submission.
- 12.1.4 Paternity Leave: Male Ph.D. scholars shall be entitled to 15 days of paternity leave, once during their entire tenure as research scholars.
- 12.1.5 All leave shall be granted by the HoD on the recommendation of the Supervisor/Co-Supervisor. Leave shall be applied for in advance, except in cases of emergency.
- 12.1.6 Absence without prior sanction of leave for a period of four (4) or more consecutive weeks shall be treated as ground for cancellation of admission (Chapter XX).

12.2 Attendance Requirements

- 12.2.1 A Ph.D. scholar shall be required to sign the attendance register maintained in the Department/School/Centre on all working days, except when on authorized leave or official duty.
- 12.2.2 A scholar who is pursuing course work as part of the Ph.D. programme is expected to maintain 100% attendance in each course. A maximum of 30% attendance may be condoned by the Dean for cogent reasons as per University rules. Attendance below 70% without valid reasons shall render the scholar ineligible to appear in the course examination for that semester.
- 12.2.3 Attendance requirements and leave rules shall apply to External Part-Time Research Scholars during their residency period at the University.
- 12.2.4 Attendance records of all Ph.D. scholars shall be maintained at the Department level and submitted to the Director (Research) at the end of each semester along with the semester progress report.



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XIII: SUBMISSION OF THESIS

13.1 Pre-Submission Seminar

- 13.1.1 Upon completion of research work, the Supervisor shall organize a Pre-Submission Seminar in consultation with the HoD. This open seminar shall be held to: (a) apprise the faculty and research community of the Department of the candidate's work; (b) receive suggestions for improvement; and (c) allow the RAC and DRC to assess the quality and completeness of the research work.
- 13.1.2 The Pre-Submission Seminar shall be open to all faculty members, research scholars, and students of the Department and the University.
- 13.1.3 If the RAC or DRC is not satisfied with the presentation or quality of work, the scholar shall undertake further research/improvements and deliver a fresh seminar after a definite period specified by the DRC.
- 13.1.4 Upon satisfaction of the DRC with the Pre-Submission Seminar, the exact title of the thesis shall be finalized and approved by the DRC.
- 13.1.5 The DRC Chairman shall forward the application for thesis submission, along with the Pre-Submission Seminar Completion Certificate (Annexure B), and the approved thesis title to the Director (Research) with a copy to the Dean.
- 13.1.6 Any extended residency period beyond the date on which the thesis is forwarded for submission shall be deemed terminated on that date.

13.2 Time Limit for Thesis Submission after Pre-Submission Seminar

- 13.2.1 The candidate must submit the thesis within SIX (6) months from the date of the Pre-Submission Seminar, without exceeding the maximum time limit prescribed in Chapter VIII. Failure to submit within 6 months shall require a fresh Pre-Submission Seminar.

13.3 Research Publications Requirement

- 13.3.1 Before submitting the thesis, a Ph.D. scholar shall have communicated/published at least TWO (2) research papers based on the Ph.D. research work in peer-reviewed/refereed journals and two conference attended. Evidence of submission/acceptance/publication of the papers (reprints/proofs/pre-prints or acceptance letters) shall be attached at the end of the thesis and submitted to the Office of the Director (Research) at the time of thesis submission.
- 13.3.2 At least one of the two research papers should have been published/accepted in a journal listed in ISSN Number/ Peer Reviewed Journal/ UGC-CARE List, SCI/ESCI/SCOPUS, or a nationally/internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal in



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the relevant field. The DRC shall determine the adequacy of journals for each discipline.

13.4 Documents to be Submitted Along with the Thesis

The candidate shall submit the thesis to the Director (Research), duly forwarded by the HoD. The following shall be submitted:

- Five (5) hard copies and one (1) soft copy (PDF format on CD/DVD/pen drive, duly authenticated) of the Abstract of the Thesis (approximately 600 words describing the salient features of the research).
- Five (5) hard copies and one (1) soft copy (PDF format on CD/DVD/pen drive) of the Thesis in Hindi or English (or any other language approved by the DRC), as per the format in Annexure E.
- Candidate's Declaration as per Annexure D.
- Pre-Submission Seminar Completion Certificate as per Annexure B.
- Course Work / Comprehensive Examination Completion Certificate (where applicable), duly certified by the HoD.
- Copyright Transfer Certificate as per Annexure E.
- Plagiarism Check Certificate (as per Chapter XVI) issued by the Departmental Anti-Plagiarism Committee (DAPC).
- Evidence of submission/acceptance/publication of at least two research papers (reprints/acceptance letters).
- One soft copy of the thesis and abstract to the Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, External Supervisor, and External Co-Supervisor (as applicable).

13.4.1 No part of the thesis shall have been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any university. A thesis, once submitted, cannot be re-submitted except when an Examiner recommends revision.

13.4.2 The R&D Section shall send the hard and soft copies of the thesis/abstract to the office of the Controller of Examinations within two working days of submission.

13.4.3 The candidate may submit copies of the abstract one month before the thesis submission to expedite the examiner appointment process.

13.5 Format of the Thesis

The thesis shall normally be presented in the following format (detailed Annexure C):

- Cover Page and Inner Cover Page
- Undertaking from the Candidate
- Self-Declaration Certificate (Annexure D) and Certificate from Supervisor/Co-Supervisor/HoD
- Certificate for Completion of Course Work / Comprehensive Examination



Vijay *Nishu* *Singh* *Sharma* *(S)*

- Pre-Submission Seminar Completion Certificate
- Copyright Transfer Certificate
- Acknowledgements
- Table of Contents
- List of Symbols, Figures, and Tables
- Preface
- Introduction and Background
- Literature Review
- Chapters covering the research work
- Conclusions and Future Directions
- References (arranged alphabetically and chronologically as per international standards, APA-7)
- Appendices
- List of Papers Communicated / Accepted / Published / Presented
- Copies of Acknowledgement / Acceptance Letters
- Copies of Published/Accepted Manuscripts
- Personal Profile (not exceeding one page, with photograph)



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XIV: EXAMINATION AND VIVA-VOCE

14.1 Panel of Examiners

- 14.1.1 Immediately after the Pre-Submission Seminar, the Supervisor shall propose a panel of at least Five (5) examiners for consideration by the DRC, as follows: (a) At least 4 Indian external examiners.
- 14.1.2 The panel shall NOT include: (a) the Supervisor or Co-Supervisor; (b) any person employed at an institution where the scholar carried out part of the research; (c) any person who has co-authored a research paper with the scholar.
- 14.1.3 Complete and current details of all proposed examiners (name, designation, institution, postal address, email, phone, ORCID, publications) shall be provided by the Supervisor along with the panel.
- 14.1.4 The Supervisor shall obtain prior written/email consent from all proposed examiners before submitting the panel to the DRC.
- 14.1.5 The panel shall be considered and approved by the DRC. The DRC may modify the panel if required to ensure adequate expertise coverage.

14.2 Board of Examiners

- 14.2.1 The Board of Examiners shall consist of TWO (2) external examiners (one Primary and one Supplementary). Wherever possible, one examiner shall be from outside India (i.e., a Foreign Examiner).
- 14.2.2 The DRC Chairman shall send the approved panel to the Dean of the Faculty, who shall nominate 2 examiners from the panel as the Primary Board of Examiners and 2 additional examiners as the Supplementary Board of Examiners, communicating this to the Controller of Examinations within three days.
- 14.2.3 The Controller of Examinations shall communicate with each examiner via email (with a soft copy of the abstract) and post, to secure acceptance, within three days of receiving the Board details.
- 14.2.4 If no response is received from an examiner within 15 days of the first communication, a reminder shall be sent. If no response is received within 30 days of the first communication, the appointment shall be cancelled and a new examiner appointed from the Supplementary Board. If the Supplementary Board is also exhausted, a new panel shall be obtained as per Clause 14.1.

14.3 Thesis Evaluation



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14.3.1 The Controller of Examinations shall forward the soft copy (PDF format) of the thesis to the examiners within three days of receiving their consent.

14.3.2 Examiners shall be requested to submit their individual reports within ONE MONTH of receiving the thesis. Reminders shall be sent if reports are not received within the stipulated time. If an examiner fails to submit the report within 30 days of the reminder, the appointment shall be cancelled and a replacement examiner appointed from the approved panel.

14.3.3 The examiners shall evaluate the thesis specifically with a view to assess whether it constitutes: (a) a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the subject; (b) a fresh approach towards interpretation of facts or theories; or (c) evidence of creativity and originality. The examiner shall also assess the candidate's ability for critical examination and sound independent judgment.

14.3.4 The entire process of evaluating the Ph.D. thesis, including the declaration of the Viva-Voce result, shall be completed within SIX (6) months from the date of thesis submission.

14.4 Examiner's Report and Recommendations

14.4.1 Each examiner shall submit a detailed signed report on a prescribed format (Annexure F) and make one of the following recommendations:

- (i) The thesis be accepted for the award of the Ph.D. degree.
- (ii) The thesis be accepted subject to the candidate providing satisfactory answers to specific queries at the Viva-Voce (queries to be listed separately).
- (iii) The thesis, in its present form, cannot be accepted; the candidate is advised to revise on specified issues and resubmit. The examiner shall indicate whether the revised thesis must be referred back to him/her or may be assessed by the DRC.
- (iv) The thesis be rejected (detailed comments to be provided).

14.5 Processing of Examiner's Reports

14.5.1 If BOTH examiners recommend acceptance (with or without clarifications at Viva-Voce), the thesis shall be accepted and the Viva-Voce conducted.

14.5.2 If BOTH examiners recommend rejection, the thesis shall be rejected. The Vice-Chancellor may constitute an independent three-member review panel to investigate the cause of rejection, suggest corrective action, and determine if the scholar may resubmit within the overall maximum time limit.

14.5.3 If one or both examiners recommend revision: The scholar shall revise the thesis as per the suggestions. If a specific examiner asks for the revised thesis to be referred back, it shall be sent to that examiner; otherwise, the DRC shall assess satisfactory



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compliance with the required revision. The Examiner's Report for the revised thesis shall be in the format at Annexure G.

14.5.4 If ONE examiner recommends rejection and the other recommends acceptance: A third examiner shall be appointed from the approved panel. The third examiner shall be an Indian or foreign expert, corresponding to whether the rejecting examiner was Indian or foreign. Once the third examiner is appointed, the rejecting examiner's recommendation becomes null and void. (a) If the third examiner recommends acceptance or revision, Clause 14.5.1 or 14.5.3 shall apply accordingly. (b) If the third examiner also recommends rejection, the thesis shall be finally rejected.

14.5.5 In case of any ambiguous recommendations, the Controller of Examinations shall seek clarification from the examiner. If no clarification is forthcoming, the matter shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor for decision.

14.5.6 After all reports are received, the Controller of Examinations shall inform the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor for conducting the Viva-Voce.

14.6 Viva-Voce Examination

14.6.1 If the thesis has been accepted for the award of the degree, the scholar shall defend the thesis in a Viva-Voce Examination before a duly constituted Viva-Voce Committee (VVC).

14.6.2 Viva-Voce Committee (VVC):

- The Supervisor – Chairman
- The Co-Supervisor (if any)
- The Indian Examiner who evaluated the thesis
- A nominee of the DRC

14.6.3 The date, time, and venue of the Viva-Voce shall be adequately publicized to enable other faculty members and students to attend. The Viva-Voce may be conducted through video conferencing (using platforms such as MS Teams, Zoom, Google Meet, Skype, etc.) if the Indian Examiner or the scholar is unable to attend in person, as per the conditions below.

14.6.4 The VVC shall be provided with the reports of ALL examiners before the Viva-Voce.

14.6.5 Online Viva-Voce: (a) If the scholar has gone abroad (other than SAARC countries) after submission and is not likely to return soon, AND the examiners' reports are unanimous without major critical comments, the Viva-Voce may be conducted via video conferencing. (b) The DRC Chairman shall certify the Viva-Voce report in all cases of video conferencing.



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- 14.6.6 The Viva-Voce shall ordinarily be conducted within ONE (1) month from the date of communication to the Supervisor by the Controller of Examinations.
- 14.6.7 If the Supervisor or Co-Supervisor is unable to conduct the Viva-Voce, the HoD shall make arrangements. The Ph.D. work shall still be deemed to have been carried out under the original Supervisor/Co-Supervisor.
- 14.6.8 Recommendations of VVC: The VVC shall submit a comprehensive report and recommend one of the following: (a) That the degree be awarded; (b) That the candidate be re-examined in a second Viva-Voce (to be conducted normally within 3–6 months of the first); (c) That the degree be not awarded and the thesis be rejected.
- 14.6.9 Submission of Hardbound Thesis: After the VVC recommends the award of the degree, the scholar shall submit five hardbound copies of the thesis incorporating corrections (if any), along with corresponding soft copy versions in CD/DVD/pen drive: one for the University Library (Sayajirao Gaekwad Library or equivalent) and one for the Department/School/Centre library. Spare copies shall be returned to the scholar.

14.7 Award of the Ph.D. Degree

- 14.7.1 The unanimous recommendations of examiners and the Viva-Voce report shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor by the Director (Research) for administrative approval as Chairman of the RDCU.
- 14.7.2 The year of award of the Ph.D. degree shall be: (a) the year of submission of the thesis, if the thesis is accepted without revision; OR (b) the year of submission of the revised thesis, if revision was recommended.
- 14.7.3 The Ph.D. degree certificate shall mention: (a) the title of the thesis; (b) the discipline/subject; (c) the Department/School/Centre; and (d) a statement that the degree is awarded in accordance with UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.
- 14.7.4 After approval, the abstract of the accepted thesis shall be published in the University's repository and submitted to Shodhganga/INFLIBNET as per Chapter XXII.
- 14.7.5 Once a thesis has been approved for the award of the Ph.D. degree, the scholar shall, in case of publication of the thesis in full or in part, state on the title page that it was a thesis approved for the Ph.D. degree of Vikrant University, or is based on that thesis.



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XV: FEES PAYABLE

15.1 General Fee Provisions

- 15.1.1 Fees payable by candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be as prescribed by the University from time to time and shall be notified in the Prospectus and on the University website. The University reserves the right to revise fees with due notice.
- 15.1.2 The fee structure shall be category-specific (Table 1 – Full-Time Scholars; External Part-Time Scholars; University Employees/Teachers). Details are provided in Annexure H.
- 15.1.3 Full fee shall be payable for all periods for which extension is granted beyond the stipulated minimum period.
- 15.1.4 External Part-Time Research Scholars shall pay fees as per Table 2 (Annexure J) during the period they carry out research at their parent organization, and as per Table 1 during their residency period within the University.
- 15.1.5 University employees and teachers of constituent/affiliated colleges admitted as research scholars shall pay fees as per Table 3 (Annexure J).
- 15.1.6 A candidate already enrolled in the University (in another programme) shall be exempted from the enrolment fee.
- 15.1.7 Fees once paid shall NOT be refunded, except for caution money, which shall be refunded within one year of the award of Ph.D. degree or cancellation of admission, subject to adjustment of all dues. If the candidate leaves or is terminated from the programme within one year of admission, the caution money shall not be refunded.
- 15.1.8 Fee Waiver: A waiver of 50% research and laboratory fees (where applicable) shall be available for: (a) Full-time research scholars not availing any fellowship; (b) Full-time sponsored candidates under Clause 4.1.8(a) not availing any pay/scholarship from the sponsoring organization; subject to satisfactory performance.
- 15.1.9 Additional fees for Foreign National Scholars and NRI candidates shall be as notified separately by the University from time to time.



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15.2 Fee Structure (Summary)

(Detailed tables in Annexure H. Figures are indicative and may be revised by the University.)

Table-1

Fee Head	Full-Time Scholar (₹)	External Part-Time (₹)	University Employee (₹)
Admission Fee (once)	2000	2000	2000
Research + Laboratory Fees	70000	70000	70000
Course Work Fee	5000	5000	5000
Examination Fee (at thesis submission)	20000	20000	20000

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XVI: UNFAIR MEANS, RESEARCH INTEGRITY, AND PLAGIARISM

16.1 Institutional Mechanism for Research Integrity

16.1.1 The Vikrant University shall have a robust, institutionalized mechanism for ensuring research integrity in all Ph.D. activities. Research integrity shall be an integral and non-negotiable part of all research activities leading to the award of the Ph.D. degree.

16.1.2 The Vikrant University shall use well-developed software applications (such as Turnitin With AI, Driblet, Ouriginal, or any other UGC/INFLIBNET-prescribed plagiarism detection software) for detecting plagiarism in research work.

16.2 Departmental Anti-Plagiarism Committee (DAPC)

16.2.1 Each Department/School/Centre shall constitute a Departmental Anti-Plagiarism Committee (DAPC) headed by the HoD, consisting of: the HoD (Chairperson), the Supervisor, the Co-Supervisor (if any), one senior Professor, one Associate Professor, and one Assistant Professor. The HoD may co-opt additional members if needed.

16.2.2 The DAPC shall run the thesis through the prescribed plagiarism detection software and issue a Plagiarism Certificate to the scholar, clearly mentioning: (a) that the thesis has been checked using the prescribed software; (b) the similarity index of the thesis; and (c) whether the contents are within permissible limits as per UGC Plagiarism Regulations.

16.2.3 A copy of the DAPC Report (with similarity index breakdown) shall be submitted to the Director (Research) along with the thesis.

16.3 Permissible Similarity Limits (as per UGC Plagiarism Regulations 2018)

Level	Similarity Index	Action Required
Level 0	Up to 10%	No action required. Thesis accepted.
Level 1	10% to 40%	Minor revision required. Scholar to submit revised thesis.
Level 2	40% to 60%	Major revision required. Re-submission with plagiarism check.
Level 3	Above 60%	Serious academic misconduct. Thesis may be rejected.

16.4 Scholar's Undertaking and Supervisor's Certificate

16.4.1 At the time of thesis submission, the Ph.D. scholar shall submit: (a) A signed undertaking (as part of Annexure F) that there is no plagiarism of any kind in the thesis; AND (b) A certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the



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thesis and confirming that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma to any other institution.

16.5 Handling of Plagiarism and Unfair Means

16.5.1 All cases of plagiarism, data fabrication, data falsification, misrepresentation, and other forms of academic dishonesty shall be dealt with in accordance with the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2018.

16.5.2 The University shall constitute a University-level Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) chaired by the Vice-Chancellor for investigating serious cases of academic misconduct. The AIC shall have the power to recommend: (a) withdrawal of the Ph.D. degree; (b) cancellation of Ph.D. registration; (c) debarment from appearing in any future examination; (d) such other penalties as may be appropriate.

16.5.3 If a Ph.D. degree awarded by Vikrant University is subsequently found to be based on plagiarism or academic dishonesty, the University reserves the right to withdraw the degree, subject to providing due opportunity to the concerned scholar to be heard, in accordance with law.



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XVII: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

17.1 University Research Fellowship (URF)

17.1.1 Subject to availability of funds, full-time Ph.D. scholars admitted through RET shall be entitled to the Vikrant University Research Fellowship (URF) of such amount as may be decided by the University from time to time, in line with UGC/MHRD/Government of India guidelines.

17.1.2 The URF shall be awarded on a year-to-year basis, subject to satisfactory academic and research performance and satisfactory performance in assigned responsibilities under the fellowship scheme.

17.1.3 The maximum duration for which the URF may be awarded to any Ph.D. scholar is THREE PLUS ONE (3+1) years. The first three years shall be at the initial fellowship rate; the fourth year (if approved) at the Senior Fellowship rate.

17.1.4 Scholars availing external fellowships (UGC-JRF, CSIR-JRF, DST-Inspire, etc.) shall not be entitled to the URF simultaneously. However, such scholars shall receive other entitled benefits (contingency, access to facilities, etc.).

17.2 Contingency Grant

17.2.1 In addition to the fellowship, full-time research scholars may be entitled to a contingency grant for research-related expenses (books, journals, consumables, conference travel, etc.), as per University norms and subject to availability of funds.

17.3 Extension of Vikrant /National Fellowships to RET-Exempt Scholars

17.3.1 A research scholar initially admitted under the RET-exempt (NET-LS/GATE) category may be extended University research fellowship without break in research, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions: (a) the scholar is not receiving any financial support from any other source; (b) the scholar has published at least one research paper in a peer-reviewed journal after enrolment at the University; OR has been shortlisted in the RET conducted by the University; (c) the fellowship shall be only for the remaining period as per the University Research Fellowship scheme.

17.4 Government Scholarships and Other Sources

17.4.1 Ph.D. scholars receiving fellowships from national agencies (CSIR, UGC, DST, DBT, DRDO, DAE, ICMR, ICAR, AYUSH, AICTE, etc.) shall be entitled to such fellowships as per the respective agency's rules. The University shall facilitate the receipt of such fellowships and shall maintain the necessary records.



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XVIII: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN PH.D. PROGRAMMES

- 18.1 Each Research Supervisor may guide up to TWO (2) international research scholars on a supernumerary basis, over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in Chapter IX (Clause 9.3). International scholars shall not be counted towards the regular quota.
- 18.2 The University may decide its own selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students, keeping in view the guidelines/norms issued by UGC, MHRD/MoE, and other statutory/regulatory bodies from time to time.
- 18.3 Equivalence of Qualifications: The equivalence of degrees held by foreign candidates shall be determined by the Equivalence Committee of the University before admission. Foreign candidates shall be admitted only if the degree held by them entitles them to enroll as Ph.D. scholars in the universities of their home country.
- 18.4 English Proficiency: All international candidates must submit a valid TOEFL score (minimum 70) or IELTS score (minimum 6 bands) at the time of application. Candidates unable to provide such certificates shall appear in the English Proficiency Test of the University (minimum 40% required).
- 18.5 Admission of international students shall be treated under the supernumerary quota of the Faculty and shall not be counted towards the normal seat quota.
- 18.6 Course Work for International Scholars: International scholars may be assessed for course work through three open seminars before the DRC (instead of written examinations), which shall make appropriate recommendations on the adequacy of their subject knowledge.
- 18.7 Visa and Regulatory Compliance: Foreign nationals desiring to undertake research at Vikrant University must obtain the appropriate Research Visa from the Indian Embassy/High Commission in their country. The University shall provide all necessary documentation for visa application. The scholar must comply with all FRRO/FRO registration requirements as applicable to foreign nationals in India.
- 18.8 Additional fees applicable to international (NRI/foreign national) scholars shall be as notified by the University from time to time (currently Rs. 4.5 Lakh Per Year, subject to revision).



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XIX: PART-TIME PH.D. PROGRAMME

- 19.1 The University shall permit Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode, provided all conditions stipulated in these PhD Rules and the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 are fulfilled. Part-time Ph.D. shall be conducted exclusively in physical (face-to-face) mode. No part-time Ph.D. shall be offered through distance, open, or online mode.
- 19.2 No Objection Certificate (NOC): The University shall obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the appropriate authority of the organization where the candidate is employed. The NOC (format in Annexure J) shall clearly state that: (a) the candidate is permitted to pursue Ph.D. studies on a part-time basis; (b) the candidate's official duties permit sufficient time for research; and (c) if required, the candidate will be relieved from duty to complete course work.
- 19.3 Part-time scholars shall be required to fulfil all other conditions of these PhD Rules, including minimum residency period, course work, research publication, pre-submission seminar, and thesis submission requirements.
- 19.4 There shall be no mandatory attendance requirement for course work for part-time scholars. However, they must fulfil course work credit requirements, appear in all examinations, and obtain the minimum qualifying marks.
- 19.5 Part-time scholars shall be required to renew their NOC annually and submit the same to the University as part of semester registration.
- 19.6 Internal Part-Time scholars (University employees) shall carry out research in the University itself, while continuing to perform their official duties, with the prior approval of their respective administrative authorities.
- 19.7 External Part-Time scholars shall primarily carry out research in their parent organization under the joint guidance of an Internal Supervisor (from Vikrant University) and an External Supervisor (from the parent organization). They shall meet the minimum residency period requirements at the University campus as prescribed in Chapter VIII.



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XX: CANCELLATION OF ADMISSION

20.1 Grounds for Cancellation

The admission of a Ph.D. scholar may be cancelled by the DRC on the recommendation of the RAC in any one of the following eventualities:

- 20.1.1 Absence: If the scholar is absent for a continuous period of FOUR (4) weeks without prior information/sanction of leave.
- 20.1.2 Non-Renewal of Registration: If the scholar fails to renew registration in any semester, subject to the provisions of these PhD Rules.
- 20.1.3 Consecutive Unsatisfactory Progress: If two consecutive semester progress reports of the scholar are unsatisfactory, as assessed by the RAC and DRC.
- 20.1.4 Research Plan Proposal Failure: If the scholar's Research Plan Proposal/RPP Seminar is not approved by the DRC even after the additional opportunity provided under Clause 11.2.5.
- 20.1.5 Non-Submission within Maximum Period: If the scholar fails to submit the thesis within the maximum stipulated time (including all permissible extensions) as provided in Chapter VIII.
- 20.1.6 Voluntary Resignation: If the scholar voluntarily resigns from the Ph.D. programme and the resignation is duly recommended by the Supervisor.
- 20.1.7 Misconduct/Indiscipline: If the scholar is found involved in an act of misconduct and/or indiscipline and the termination has been recommended by the competent authority of the University.
- 20.1.8 Academic Fraud/Plagiarism: If the scholar is found guilty of plagiarism, data fabrication, data falsification, or other serious academic misconduct as determined by the University's Academic Integrity Committee.

20.2 Procedure for Cancellation

- 20.2.1 No cancellation of Ph.D. registration (in the eventualities listed at Clauses 20.1.1 to 20.1.4) shall be effected by the DRC without: (a) serving a show cause notice on the scholar; and (b) giving the scholar an opportunity to be heard in person or in writing.
- 20.2.2 Cancellation orders shall be communicated in writing to the scholar, Supervisor, Dean, and Director (Research).
- 20.2.3 A scholar whose admission has been cancelled shall have the right to appeal to the RDCU within 30 days of the cancellation order. The RDCU's decision shall be final.



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XXI: TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAMME

21.1 A candidate admitted to the Ph.D. programme may be permitted for temporary withdrawal ONLY after completion of the course work. The Dean of the Faculty may permit temporary withdrawal on the recommendation of the RAC and DRC, for specific cogent reasons.

21.2 Permissible Grounds for Temporary Withdrawal:

- Prolonged illness of the scholar, supported by medical certificates from a recognized medical authority.
- Illness/death of the scholar's parents, guardians, or spouse.
- The scholar secures professional employment (full-time) during the Ph.D. programme.
- A full-time sponsored candidate who, after fulfilling the minimum period requirement for thesis submission, rejoins the parent organization.
- Any other extraordinary circumstance where the Vice-Chancellor is convinced that the situation warrants temporary withdrawal, without exceeding the maximum time limit.

21.3 The maximum period of withdrawal during the entire Ph.D. programme shall not exceed FOUR (4) semesters, which may be taken in a maximum of TWO (2) spells. Temporary withdrawal is permissible only within the maximum prescribed period for thesis submission (i.e., 6 years from date of admission, or 8/10 years for extended categories).

21.4 Rejoining after Withdrawal: (a) A scholar who has completed the course work and residency period shall be permitted to submit the thesis within two days of rejoining after withdrawal. (b) A scholar who has not completed the residency period shall complete the remaining residency period after rejoining before submitting the thesis.

21.5 During the period of withdrawal, the scholar shall not be required to pay any fee (registration/research/library fees). However, fees already paid for a semester in which only partial withdrawal occurs shall not be refunded. The scholar shall continue to be registered and shall recommence after the withdrawal period.

21.6 Application for Temporary Withdrawal: The scholar shall apply in writing to the HoD with supporting documents. The application shall be processed through the Supervisor → RAC → DRC → Dean, in that order. All approved withdrawals shall be communicated to the Director (Research).



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XXII: INFLIBNET DEPOSITORY AND PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE

22.1 Submission to Shodhganga/INFLIBNET

22.1.1 Following the successful completion of the entire evaluation process and BEFORE the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree, Vikrant University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the INFLIBNET Centre (Shodhganga repository) for hosting, so as to make it accessible to all Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions in India and abroad.

22.1.2 The Dean (Library) shall be responsible for ensuring timely submission of the electronic thesis to INFLIBNET. The scholar shall provide the final soft copy (PDF format) of the thesis in the prescribed format as required by INFLIBNET.

22.1.3 The University shall also submit the abstract of the accepted thesis to the INFLIBNET database as required.

22.1.4 The University shall maintain an institutional digital repository of all Ph.D. theses on its website, making them accessible with appropriate permissions.

22.2 Provisional Certificate

22.2.1 Prior to the actual conferment of the Ph.D. degree (at the annual Convocation), the University shall issue a Provisional Certificate to the successful scholar, stating that the Ph.D. degree is being awarded in accordance with the provisions of the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.

22.2.2 The Provisional Certificate shall be issued by the Controller of Examinations/ Director (Research) upon administrative approval by the Vice-Chancellor (as Chairman of the RDCU).

22.2.3 The Provisional Certificate shall be issued within 30 days of the Vice-Chancellor's approval, and the formal degree shall be conferred at the next Convocation of the University.



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XXIII: GENERAL PROVISIONS AND CONCLUSION

23.1 Primacy of UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022

23.1.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these PhD Rules, all matters relating to the Ph.D. programme shall be governed by the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 and any subsequent amendments issued by the UGC. In case of any conflict between these PhD Rules and the UGC Regulations, the UGC Regulations shall prevail.

23.1.2 The University shall review and amend these PhD Rules periodically to maintain compliance with UGC norms, statutory requirements, and best practices in research governance.

23.2 Powers of the Vice-Chancellor

23.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor shall have the power to: (a) Modify, amend, and/or delete any clause of these PhD Rules or add new clauses, which shall be reported to the Academic Council and Board of Management at their next meeting for ratification. (b) Order a special procedure for evaluation of a Ph.D. thesis to protect work of classified nature involving national security, sovereignty, or to protect intellectual property rights of the scholar, Supervisor, and University. (c) Relax any provision of these PhD Rules in specific circumstances not covered herein, subject to recording reasons in writing.

23.3 Prohibitions

23.3.1 Ph.D. via Distance/Online Mode: Vikrant University shall NOT offer or conduct Ph.D. programmes through distance, open, or online mode. Any such programme shall be deemed to be in violation of UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 and shall be null and void.

23.3.2 M.Phil. Programme: Vikrant University shall NOT offer or award the M.Phil. (Master of Philosophy) degree or programme, in compliance with Regulation 14 of the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022.

23.3.3 Violation in Supervision: A Ph.D. degree awarded by any university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of that university or its affiliated postgraduate colleges/institutes shall be considered a violation of UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 and will be treated as a breach of these PhD Rules.

23.4 Interpretation of PhD Rules

23.4.1 Any doubt or dispute about the interpretation of these PhD Rules shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision in his/her capacity as Chairman of the Academic Council shall be final.



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23.5 Transitional Provisions

23.5.1 M.Phil. degree programmes commenced prior to the enactment of UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2022 shall not be affected by these PhD Rules. However, subject to be matter new M.Phil. admissions shall be made.

23.6. Repeal and Savings

23.6.1 From the date these PhD Rules come into operation, all previous Ordinances/Regulations/Guidelines of Vikrant University on the Ph.D. programme shall cease to have effect. However, this repeal shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation, or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred under any previous Ordinance/Regulation & subject to be matter.



Vijay Singh *Singh* *Singh* *JA =* *(S)*

ANNEXURE A : FORMAT FOR RESEARCH PLAN PROPOSAL PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL

(Ref: Clause 11.2)

This is to certify that:

(a) Sri/Ms. _____, a bonafide Research Scholar of the Department/School/Centre of _____, has given a detailed seminar on the Research Plan Proposal before the Research Advisory Committee and the Departmental Research Committee as detailed below:

Proposed Research Topic:

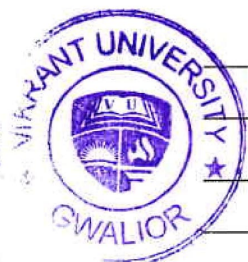
Date/Time: _____ Venue:

(b) The Research Plan Proposal has been examined in view of academic merit, feasibility, originality, and the DRC/RAC is satisfied / not-satisfied with the content and quality of the Proposal.

(c) The presentation was: Excellent / Good / Satisfactory / Not-Satisfactory and the scholar was able / unable to defend the proposal and answer related questions.

(d) The scholar is allowed / not-allowed to proceed with the proposed research work.

In case of unsatisfactory Proposal/presentation, the following suggestions are given by the RAC and DRC:



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Date: _____

Signatures of RAC Members:
Department/Coordinator:

Signature of Head of

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Signatures of DRC Members:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



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ANNEXURE B: PRE-SUBMISSION SEMINAR COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

(Ref: Clauses 13.1.5 and 13.4)

This is to certify that:

(a) Sri/Ms. _____, a bonafide Research Scholar of the Department/School/Centre of _____, has satisfactorily completed the Ph.D. Course Work and has been successful in the Comprehensive Examination.

(b) The open Ph.D. Thesis Pre-Submission Seminar on the topic:

" _____ "

was held on (date) _____ at (time) _____ in the Department/School/Centre.

(c) The Research Advisory Committee and the Departmental Research Committee are satisfied / not-satisfied with the quality of the research work presented.

(d) The candidate described the thesis work satisfactorily / unsatisfactorily and answered questions related to the basics of the subject and the thesis work satisfactorily / unsatisfactorily.

(e) The Approved Title of the Thesis:

" _____ "

(f) Suggestions for improvement of work/performance (if any):



Date: _____ Place: Gwalior

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Sachin".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Srinivas".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Srinivas".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Srinivas".

Signature of Head of Department / Coordinator of School/Centre (with Seal)

Signatures of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Members:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Signatures of Departmental Research Committee (DRC) Members:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



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ANNEXURE C: FORMAT OF THE PH.D. THESIS

(Ref: Clause 13.5)

The thesis shall be submitted in the following format:

1. Cover Page (Hard/Soft – colour, with University logo, title, scholar name, Supervisor name, Department/School, University name, year)
2. Inner Cover Page
3. Undertaking from the Candidate (Plagiarism and Originality Undertaking)
4. Self-Declaration Certificate (Annexure F) and Certificate from Supervisor/Co-Supervisor/HoD
5. Certificate for completion of Course Work / Comprehensive Examination
6. Pre-Submission Seminar Completion Certificate (Annexure D)
7. Copyright Transfer Certificate (Annexure G)
8. Acknowledgements
9. Table of Contents
10. List of Symbols, Abbreviations, Figures, Tables, and Plates (if any)
11. Preface / Executive Summary
12. Chapter 1: Introduction and Background
13. Chapter 2: Review of Literature / State of the Art
14. Chapter 3 onwards: Chapters covering the research work (materials and methods, experiments, data, analysis, results, discussion)
15. Summary and Conclusions
16. Future Directions
17. References (alphabetical, chronological order per international standards – APA/IEEE/ACS/Vancouver as applicable to the discipline)
18. Appendices (if any)
19. List of Papers Communicated / Accepted / Published / Presented at Conferences
20. Copies of Acknowledgement/Acceptance Letters for submitted/accepted papers
21. Copies of Manuscripts / Reprints of Published Papers
22. Personal Profile (not exceeding one page, with recent passport-size photograph)



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Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt (text), 14 pt (chapter headings), 16 pt (title); Line Spacing: 1.5; Margins: Top 1 inch, Bottom 1 inch, Left 1.5 inches, Right 1 inch; Page size: A4.



References should follow the style prescribed by the concerned Faculty/DRC (e.g., APA for social sciences, Vancouver for medicine, IEEE for engineering, ACS for chemistry).

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ANNEXURE D: CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

(Ref: Clause 13.4)

I, _____, certify that the work embodied in this Ph.D. thesis titled:

" _____ "

is my own bonafide work carried out by me under the supervision of _____ (Supervisor) and the co-supervision of _____ (Co-Supervisor, if applicable) for a period of _____ from _____ to _____ at Vikrant University, Gwalior.

The matter embodied in this Ph.D. thesis has NOT been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma to any other university or institution.

I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged, given credit to, and referred to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in the text and body of the thesis. I further certify that I have not willfully lifted up some other's work, paragraph, text, data, results, etc. reported in journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertations, theses, etc., or available on websites and included them in this Ph.D. thesis and cited them as my own work.

I further confirm that the thesis has been checked for plagiarism using the prescribed software and the similarity index is within the permissible limits as per UGC Plagiarism Regulations 2018.

Date: _____ Place: Gwalior

(Signature of the Candidate)

Name: _____

Enrolment/Registration No.: _____



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CERTIFICATE FROM THE SUPERVISOR / CO-SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that the above statement made by the candidate is correct to the best of my/our knowledge. The work in this thesis has been carried out under my/our supervision.

(Co-Supervisor's Signature, Name & Designation)

(Supervisor's Signature, Name & Designation)

(External Co-Supervisor's Signature, Name & Designation)

(External Supervisor's Signature, Name & Designation)

(Signature of the Head of Department / Coordinator of School/Centre – with Seal)

Name of Institution(s) where work has been carried out)



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[Handwritten name]

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ANNEXURE E: COPYRIGHT TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

(Ref: Clause 13.4)

Title of the Thesis:

Name of the Candidate: _____ Registration No.:

DECLARATION OF COPYRIGHT TRANSFER

The undersigned hereby assigns to Vikrant University all rights under copyright that may exist in and for the above thesis submitted for the award of the Ph.D. degree. The University shall have the right to use this thesis in its academic programs, research, and knowledge repositories.

Note: The author retains the right to reproduce or authorize others to reproduce material extracted verbatim from the thesis or derivative works for the author's personal use, provided that the source and the University's copyright notice are indicated.

Date: _____ Place: Gwalior

(Signature of the Candidate)

Name: _____



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ANNEXURE F: FORMAT OF EXAMINER'S REPORT (INITIAL EVALUATION)

(Ref: Clause 14.4.1)

VIKRANT UNIVERSITY
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh – 474001
RECOMMENDATION ON PH.D. THESIS

Name of the Candidate: _____ Registration No.: _____

Title of the Thesis: _____

Department / School / Centre: _____

Supervisor: _____ Faculty: _____

EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION (please tick one):

- The thesis be ACCEPTED for the award of the Ph.D. degree.
- The thesis be ACCEPTED for the award of the Ph.D. degree, subject to the candidate providing satisfactory answers at the Viva-Voce to the specific queries raised in the report (list of queries to be enclosed).
- The thesis, in its present form, CANNOT be accepted; the candidate is advised to REVISE the thesis on the issues raised in the report and resubmit. After modification, the thesis NEED NOT be referred back to me for re-evaluation.
- The thesis, in its present form, CANNOT be accepted; the candidate is advised to REVISE the thesis on the issues raised in the report and resubmit. After modification, the thesis SHOULD be referred back to me for final assessment.
- The thesis be REJECTED (detailed comments enclosed).



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Note: A detailed report on separate sheet(s) is MANDATORY. Please sign each page of the report. The list of specific queries (if any) for Viva-Voce should be enclosed separately.

Date: _____ Place: _____

Signature of Examiner: _____

Name: _____ Designation: _____

Department / Institution: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



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ANNEXURE G: FORMAT OF EXAMINER'S REPORT ON REVISED THESIS

(Ref: Clause 14.5.3)

VIKRANT UNIVERSITY
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh – 474001
RECOMMENDATION ON REVISED PH.D. THESIS

Name of the Candidate: _____ Registration No.: _____

Title of the Thesis: _____

EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION ON REVISED THESIS (please tick one):

- The REVISED thesis be ACCEPTED for the award of the Ph.D. degree.
- The REVISED thesis be REJECTED (detailed comments enclosed).

A detailed report on separate sheet(s) with specific observations on the revisions made is mandatory.

Date: _____ Place: _____

Signature of Examiner: _____

Name: _____ Designation: _____

Department / Institution: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



ANNEXURE H: FEE STRUCTURE TABLES

(Ref: Chapter XV)

Table-1

Fee Head	Full-Time Scholar (₹)	External Part-Time (₹)	University Employee (₹)
Admission Fee (once)	2000	2000	2000
Research + Laboratory Fees	70000	70000	70000
Course Work Fee	5000	5000	5000
Examination Fee (at thesis submission)	20000	20000	20000



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ANNEXURE I: PROFORMA FOR SEMESTER PROGRESS REPORT

(Ref: Clause 11.1.2)

VIKRANT UNIVERSITY – DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRESS REPORT

Name of Scholar: _____ Registration No.: _____

Department / School: _____ Faculty: _____

Supervisor: _____ Co-Supervisor (if any): _____

Title of Research (Approved): _____

Semester: _____ Academic Year: _____ Date of Admission: _____

SECTION A: RESEARCH PROGRESS (to be filled by the Scholar)

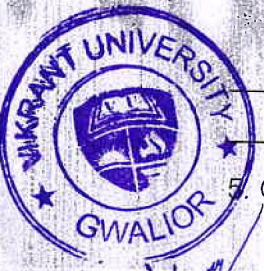
1. Summary of work done during this semester:

2. Objectives achieved during this semester:

3. Problems encountered:

4. Research papers published/submitted/communicated (give details): _____

5. Conferences/Seminars/Workshops attended:



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6. Plan of work for next semester:

SECTION B: SUPERVISOR'S ASSESSMENT (to be filled by Supervisor)

Assessment of Progress: Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory

Remarks / Recommendations:

(Signature of Scholar)

(Signature of Supervisor)

(Signature of Co-Supervisor)

SECTION C: RAC EVALUATION (to be filled by Research Advisory Committee)

Overall Assessment: Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory

RAC's Recommendations:

Signatures of RAC Members:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

(Signature of HoD / Coordinator with Seal) Date: _____



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To
The

ANNEXURE J: NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE FORMAT (FOR PART-TIME PH.D.)

(Ref: Clause 19.2)

(On the letterhead of the employing organization)

Date: _____

To,

The Director (Research),
Vikrant University,
AB Road, Indore Bypass,
Gwalior – 474001, Madhya Pradesh.

Subject: No Objection Certificate for Part-Time Ph.D. Admission

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to certify that Mr./Ms./Dr. _____, designation
_____, Employee Code _____, employed with
_____ (Name of Organization) since _____,
has applied for admission to the Ph.D. programme at Vikrant University, Gwalior.

We hereby issue No Objection and confirm the following:

(i) The candidate is a permanent employee of this organization and is permitted to pursue Ph.D. studies at Vikrant University on a part-time basis.

(ii) The official duties of the candidate permit him/her to devote adequate time for research.

(iii) If required, the candidate will be relieved from official duties to complete the course work at the University.

(iv) We understand that the candidate will be required to spend a minimum residency period at Vikrant University as required by the Ph.D. PhD Rules.



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[Handwritten signature]

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(v) We confirm that this candidate is sponsored by our organization and [is/is not] receiving financial support (fellowship/salary) during the Ph.D. period.

This NOC is valid for the duration of the Ph.D. programme. Any change in the employment status of the candidate shall be intimated to the University immediately.

(Signature of Authorized Signatory)

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Organization: _____

Office Seal / Stamp:



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[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]