REGULATIONS FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

(As per UGC Regulations 2022)

CONTENTS

Definitions and Nomenclature 2
General Instructions 3
1. Introduction 4
2. Research Bodies 4
3. Programmes Offered 7
4. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme 7
5. Categories of Ph.D. Programme 7
6. Duration of Ph.D. Programme 8
7. Procedure for Admission 9
8. Qualification and Allocation of Research Supervisor 10
9. Course Work 11
10. Ph.D. Course Work Examination and Evaluation 12
11. Monitoring the Progress of Research Scholars 13
12. Publication of Research Work 13
13. Evaluation and Assessment Methods 13
14. Thesis Evaluation, Thesis Defense and Award of Ph.D. degree 14
15. Change of Regulations 16
16. Fee Particulars, Financial Support and Leave Rules 16
17. Exceptional Circumstances 17

DEFINITIONS AND NOMENCLATURE

In the Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,

(i) "GMRITDU" means GMR Institute of Technology-Deemed to be University
(ii) "Programme" means Doctoral Programme leading to the award of Ph.D. in Science and Humanities/Engineering and Technology/Management/Law/Agricultural Sciences/Architecture and Planning/Fashion Technology/Medical and Health Sciences, etc.
(iii) "Research Advisory Committee (RAC)" means a committee constituted by GMRITDU for each scholar to monitor the progress of his/her research work.
(iv) "Chairperson" means the Head of the RAC.
(v) "Guide/Supervisor" means any faculty member of GMRITDU who has been recognized by GMRITDU to supervise the research scholars.
(vi) "Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor" means a recognized supervisor to guide the scholars in same/interdisciplinary research that requires more than one expert or to take care of the administrative and research responsibilities of the scholar.
(vii) "Supervisor-In Charge" means a recognized supervisor from a recognized Department/Centre/Institute appointed to take care of the research and administrative responsibilities of the scholar during the temporary absence of the supervisor from the workplace. The appointment is purely temporary and shall be revoked on the return of the supervisor within a year.
(viii) "Scholar" means any candidate admitted by GMRITDU either Full-time or Part-time category for pursuing research for the award of the Ph.D. degree of GMRITDU.
(ix) "Place of research" for the scholars shall be the Department where the Supervisor is working.
(x) "Specialization" means the discipline of the Post Graduate Degree Programme such as Electrical Engineering, Applied Electronics, Chemistry, etc.
(xi) "Course work" means a theory subject of the PG programme that is prescribed by the RAC for the scholar to undergo as a part of the Ph.D. programme requirement.
(xii) "Publication" means full-length research articles published after provisional registration of the Ph.D. programme reporting new research findings in respective fields comprising presentations on new concepts, the development of innovative methods that include figures, tables and references; the results of which have a general impact and contribute to the advancement of the particular field and are always peer-reviewed.
(xiii) "Patent" means the intellectual property rights obtained in Indian Patent Office for the research carried out during the period of the Ph.D. programme and filed after the provisional registration.
(xiv) "Corresponding Author" means the author who was involved in direct communication with the journal from submission till acceptance of the paper. In case of multiple corresponding authors, the one who meets the above criteria shall alone be considered as Corresponding Author.
(xv) "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own.
(xvi) "Research Proposal" means a brief write-up giving an outline of the proposed research work which the Ph.D. scholar shall submit along with the application for registration of Ph.D. programme.
(xvii) "EC" means the Executive Council
(xviii) "AC" means the Academic Council
(xix) "Act" means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (u/s 3 of 1956).

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Scholar Communications to the R&D Cell:

All scholar communications related to Seminar/RAC meetings shall be intimated to the R&D Cell at least 5 working days before the date of the Seminar/RAC meeting. The intimation letter shall be generated by the Supervisor and the same shall be forwarded to the R&D Cell through proper channel.

Forwarding Authority for University Departments:

All communications addressed to the R&D Cell from the Research Scholars attached to the Divisions/Departments/Centres of the University must be duly forwarded by the Supervisor, the respective Head of the Department and the respective School Dean.

Mode of conducting RAC Meetings/Viva-Voce Examination:

The RAC Meeting for Course work approval, Semester Progress Review, Evaluation of Examiner Reports & Oral Panel Nomination shall be conducted in online/physical/hybrid mode. However, the Synopsis RAC meeting and Viva-Voce Examination shall be conducted in the physical mode only.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. These Regulations shall be called the "Regulations for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)" and shall come into force upon approval by the Academic Council and ratified by the Executive Council.

1.2. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (herein after referred to as the Ph.D. degree) of the GMRITDU shall be conferred on the scholar who fulfills the requirements as specified in these Regulations and University Regulations.

2. RESEARCH BODIES

The Research activities in the University are administered by

2.1. University Research Committee (URC)

2.2. School Research Committee (SRC)

2.3. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

2.4. R&D Cell for Research Facilitation

2.5. Board of Research (BoR) at Department level (Chaired by HoD)

2.6. Research supervisor and Co-supervisor

The composition of each committee is given below:

2.1. University Research Committee (URC)

Member/Designation	Role
Vice Chancellor	Chairman
Executive Dean	Member
All Deans	Members
Experts (National/International) from Academic Institutions/R&D organizations/Industries (a min. of 5 in number)	Members
Dean-R&D	Member Secretary

The period of membership shall be for three years. The URC shall meet at least once in a year.

2.1.1. Functions of the University Research Committee

(i) To identify activities that strengthen, promote and support research within the University.
(ii) To consider and make recommendations on matters of policy related to research including matters referred to it by competent authorities.
(iii) To set targets in relation to key elements of the Research Strategy.
(iv) To monitor internal and external developments and trends, by taking them into consideration in the development of strategy and policies.

2.2. School Research Committee (SRC):

Member/Designation	Role
Dean-R&D	Chairman
Dean Academics	Co-chairman
International Expert	Member
External Expert (National) from Academic Institutions/Industry at least one to represent the research theme of every department	Members
Heads of the Departments	Members
Dean-R&D	Member Secretary
Senior Professor (one representing each department)	Members
School Dean	Member Secretary

The period of membership for external members shall be three years. The SRC meets preferably once in a semester.

2.2.1. Functions of the School Research Committee

(i) To create a conducive environment for promotion of Research & Innovation activities.

(ii) To help in setting the Department wise research priorities in line with the thrust areas at national and international level.
(iii) To monitor policies on all research activities concerned with the promotion of advanced Research.
(iv) To provide suitable directions regarding matters referred by RAC pertaining to research scholars.
(v) To promote collaborative research.
(vi) To encourage faculty members and research scholars to explore and apply prospective funding of Major, Minor Research Projects from external funding agencies.
(vii) To strengthen industry institute interaction by promoting consultancy, testing and need based research & innovation activities.
(viii) To support and steer the faculty members to identify the requirements and gaps in the Industry practices and transform them into Industry Sponsored Research activities.
(ix) To identify and approve the list of top-notch conferences at two levels to encourage the faculty and scholars to publish research in quality conferences.

2.3. Research Advisory Committee (RAC):

Member/Designation	Role
Head of the Department	Chairman
Professor/Associate Professor* (An expert member related to the proposed area of research within the discipline) (*to be nominated by School Dean)	Co-Chairman
Research Co-Supervisor (In case, any)	Member
R&D Cell nominees (One internal expert within the department & one expert from other department)	Members
Research Supervisor	Member Secretary

*If Professor/Associate Professor in the proposed area of research is not available even in the concerned School/University, an Expert from outside the University may be nominated as the Co-Chairman of the RAC.

2.3.1. Functions of the Research Advisory Committee

(i) To review the research proposal and finalize the topic and title of his/her research.
(ii) To advise the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.
(iii) To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.
(iv) After completing the course work, the research scholar shall appear before the RAC once in six months, for at least four RAC meetings before the synopsis presentation, to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six-monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the Research Advisory Committee to the R&D Cell with a copy to the research scholar and the respective department.
(v) If the candidate feels that, he/she would like to change the topic of research, he/she may be allowed to do so. However, coursework specific to the topic of research and Research Proposal Presentation may have to be registered afresh. Only one restart option could be made available in the entire duration of program. The credit carryover benefit for certain courses/cases may be considered by the RAC.
(vi) **Special Provision**: If a candidate thinks that area of research itself should be changed, his/her case could be considered, under expressed request to the R&D Cell through Head of the concerned department for the approval of the Vice Chancellor to that effect. Only one such re-start may be provided. However, the candidate has to start afresh from the beginning of the first semester. The credit carry over may be considered by the RAC.
(vii) In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the RAC may recommend the cancellation of registration from the Ph.D. programme to the R&D Cell for necessary action.
(viii) Shall formally permit the candidate to attend the Pre-Thesis Colloquium, subject to satisfactory completion of all the requirements including publications.
(ix) Shall meticulously go through the adjudication reports provided by the thesis examiners and advise the candidate accordingly.
(x) Shall convene the final thesis open defense.

2.4. R&D Cell for Research Facilitation:

The office of the Dean-R&D called R&D Cell is explicitly promoting research and development activities in the university. The R&D Cell drives strategic planning and provides guidance across academic and research programs, fostering new and interdisciplinary research initiatives and collaborations. The R&D Cell is headed by the Dean-R&D and composed of R&D Central Coordinators, Department Coordinators and support staff for facilitating various research activities of the University.

2.4.1. Functions of the R&D Cell for Research Facilitation

(i) Shall work to facilitate and promote quality research in the University and recognized research centers/laboratories.
(ii) Shall coordinate, supervise and recommend to the Vice Chancellor for approval of the admission of students into Ph.D. programs.
(iii) Allocate facilities, space, equipment and other resources to research personnel/projects.
(iv) Oversee research scholars funding, in particular Research Assistantships and Fellowships.
(v) Promote the School areas of priority for research funding with internal and external funding agencies.
(vi) Interact with the Industries to establish advanced research labs in the thrust areas of research.
(vii) Enable research Entrepreneurship by encouraging incubation of startups.

2.5. Board of Research (BoR) at the Department level:

Board of Research at department level is chaired by the HoD. It consists of a coordinator and two or more members as per the requirement of the department. It acts as the primary administrative point of contact through its coordinator for internal research staff and as the principal operational contact for other research organizations, funding agencies and regulating bodies.

2.5.1. Functions of Board of Research at the Department level

(i) Channelize all the departmental research requirements to the R&D Cell.
(ii) Promote research capacity building among faculty and student groups.
(iii) Coordinate the day-to-day activities of faculty specifically engaged in carrying out research.
(iv) Monitor the progress of research activities being carried by both faculty and research scholars.
(v) Develop and maintain records of research activities and prepare periodical reports, as required by administrators, accreditation bodies like NAAC/NBA and regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE and other ranking agencies National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Times Higher Education (THE), Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), etc.

2.6. Research supervisor/Co-supervisor:

Supervisor acts as Member Secretary of the RAC. Supervisor provides specific technical support, broader intellectual support, administrative support, management, and personal support to the research scholar.

2.6.1. Duties of Research supervisor/Co-supervisor

(i) A Research Supervisor shall be the single point of contact for all academic administration logistics of his/her candidate.
(ii) Supervisor shall be responsible for providing help, support and mentoring in order to enable the candidate to complete his/her proposed research work and produce a thesis to the best of the his/her ability.
(iii) The principal role of the Research Supervisor is to help and supervise candidates achieve their scholastic potential and to conduct Research Progress Colloquium. The Research Supervisor shall interact with the candidate ensuring reasonable commitment, accessibility, professionalism, guidance and consistent encouragement.
(iv) The Research Supervisor shall be available to help and guide candidates at every stage, from formulation of their research problems through establishing methodologies and discussing results, to submission of thesis that meets the standards of the University and academic discipline.

3. PROGRAMMES OFFERED

Ph.D. programmes are being offered on Full time and Part time basis at GMRITDU. The list of disciplines in which Ph.D degrees are being offered under various faculties is available at the official website of the University: https://gmrit.edu.in/du/

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE Ph.D. PROGRAMME

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

S.No.	Programme	Qualification for Admission
1	Ph.D. Degree in Engineering/Technology	10+2+4+2 (pattern of studies) or any equivalent in Engineering Degree 10+2+5 year Integrated M.Tech. programme, Integrated M.S Programme in Engineering MCA & M.Tech (CSE/IT) or M.Sc. (Maths/Computer Science) & M.Tech (CSE/IT) with any B.Tech discipline are also eligible for Ph.D in Computer Science and Engineering 10+2+4+1 for Ph.D. in Engineering (Foreign Degree holders also eligible to apply)
2	Ph.D. Degree in Science and Humanities	10+2+3+2 (pattern of studies) or any equivalent in Sciences and Humanities 10+2+5 year Integrated Master's Degree Programme
3	Ph.D. Degree in Management Sciences	MBA / Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management or Administration / M.S. (By Research) in Management Sciences / CA / ICWA
4	Ph.D. Degree in Law	Master's Degree in law (LLM / ML) from any recognized university / Institute
5	Ph.D. Degree in Fashion Technology	Master's degree in the relevant areas of Technology, Design / Science (or) Management (or) equivalent qualification from an institute / university of national / international repute
6	Ph.D. Degree in Architecture and Planning	M.Arch. / M.Plan. / M.S. (By Research) in Architecture and Planning

4.2. A minimum of 55% marks or a CGPA of 5.5 on a 10-point scale in the qualifying examination. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled (with disability score more than 40%), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

4.3. Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or a CGPA of 5.5 on a 10-point scale or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled (with disability score more than 40%), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

4.4. A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or a CGPA of 7.5 on a 10-point scale is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled (with disability score more than 40%), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

5. CATEGORIES OF Ph.D. PROGRAMME

Two categories of Ph.D. programme available are: Full-time and Part-time. Candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria as in Clauses 4 are eligible to apply for Ph.D. Programme.

5.1. Full-time Ph.D. Programme

5.1.1. Candidates under Full-time shall do research work in the University Departments should be available during the working hours for curricular and related activities.

5.1.2. Candidates who clear the selection criteria for the Ph.D. admission of the University and work in the projects undertaken from State/Central/Quasi Government and fully funded projects in the University Departments shall register for the research programme under the supervision of the Principal Coordinator/Investigator of such projects. Such Supervisors should be regular teaching faculty as well as recognized Supervisors of this University. The scholar should be appointed in a project sanctioned by a funding agency/organization at least for two years. Part employments in different spells or in different projects are not permitted.

5.1.3. Candidates in employment, who want to pursue Full-time study, should be sponsored by their employer and should avail leave for the minimum duration of the programme and should get formally relieved from their duty to join the research programme.

5.1.4. Candidates who are sponsored by AICTE under the Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) for teachers of Engineering Colleges and who satisfy the eligibility conditions shall apply for Full-time category only, in the specializations as notified in the AICTE guidelines.

5.1.5. Candidates who are selected at National-level Fellowship programmes or by any recognized bodies and who satisfy the eligibility conditions as per the regulations shall apply for Full-time category in the respective Specialization.

5.1.6. Foreign Nationals sponsored by the Government of India or their respective Government on any exchange programme and who satisfy the eligibility conditions as per the regulations shall apply for Full-time category in the respective Specialization.

5.1.7. Full-time scholars shall necessarily sign in the attendance register on all working days at the respective place of research.

5.2. Part-time Ph.D. Programme

The following categories of candidates are eligible to apply under Part-time programme:

5.2.1. Part-time Internal Scholars:

All scholars employed in GMRITDU who pursue part-time research in GMRITDU shall belong to this category.

5.2.2. Part-time External Scholars:

All scholars working in Colleges, Government departments, Research organizations, Industrial units or other Institutions, sponsored for pursuing Ph.D. Programmes in GMRITDU while continuing to serve in their respective Institutions/organizations shall belong to this category. They shall pursue research in their place of employment and/or in GMRITDU.

5.3. Change of Category

The change of category shall be approved by the R&D Cell once during the tenure based on the recommendations of the RAC, subject to submission of necessary documents along with the recommendation of the Supervisor and competent authorities of the Supervisor and the Scholar. Change of category more than once may be considered only under extraordinary circumstances, if deemed fit reasons. In case of change of category from Full-time to Part-time or Vice-Versa, the minimum period shall be accounted as whichever is high. Change of Category is permitted only for the scholars who have completed their course work. Under extraordinary circumstances, the change of category shall be given during the course work with approval from the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

6. DURATION OF Ph.D. PROGRAMME

6.1. Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years for full/part time, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.

6.2. Candidates admitted with UG qualification may submit the thesis only after completing a minimum of four (4) years from the date of registration.

6.3. A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the approval of the Academic Council (AC) and ratified by the Executive Council (EC) of the GMRITDU, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

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

6.5. Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

7. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION

The admission is be based on the criteria notified by the GMRITDU, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory/regulatory bodies concerned and taking into account the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.

7.1. Admission to the Ph.D. programme is be made using the following methods:

7.1.1 GMRITDU may admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview.

7.1.2. GMRITDU shall issue notification for Ph.D. admission twice every year. GMRITDU may admit students through an Entrance Test conducted at the level of the eligible individuals. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject-specific area.

7.1.3. Students who have secured 50% marks in the entrance test are eligible to be called for the interview.

7.1.4. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled (with disability score more than 40%), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

7.1.5. GMRITDU may decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D. seats available.

7.1.6. Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance test conducted by the GMRITDU, a weightage of 70% for the entrance test and 30% for the performance in the interview shall be given.

7.1.7. Candidates who have qualified in UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, GATE, JEST, APSET, SLET or other equivalent national-level examinations approved by the University shall be exempted from the Ph.D. Entrance Test. For preparation of the final merit list, the score obtained in the respective national-level examination shall be normalized and considered equivalent to the entrance test score, and combined with the interview score as per the prescribed weightages.

7.1.8. GMRITDU shall notify a prospectus well in advance on the university website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission and all other relevant information for the candidates.

7.1.9. GMRITDU shall adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable.

7.1.10. The Ph.D. Admission Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor shall approve and recommend the shortlisted candidates for admission to the Ph.D. programme. The selected candidate shall be admitted for the Ph.D. programme in the respective department based on his/her PG qualification through the R&D Cell.

7.1.11. The session of provisional registration for the Ph.D. programme shall be either November/December or June/July of the year in which the candidate is admitted.

7.1.12. The candidate reports to the assigned Research Supervisor and finalize the area of research.

7.1.13. In case of inter-disciplinary research, the Supervisor may suggest a suitable co-supervisor from within or outside the University.

7.1.14. The selected candidates shall be provisionally registered for Ph.D. programme either in the current session in which the candidate is selected or in the subsequent session, failing which will lead to the cancellation of the candidature without any intimation.

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

7.2. GMRITDU shall maintain a list of Ph.D. supervisors (specifying the name of the supervisor, his or her designation and the department/school/centre), along with the details of Ph.D. scholars (specifying the name of the registered Ph.D. scholar, the topic of his/her research and the date of admission) admitted under them on the website of the institution and update this list every semester.

7.3. Based on the candidate's proposed research area and specialization, the R&D Cell shall invite each candidate to indicate a preference list of up to three eligible research supervisors. The allocation of the Research Supervisor shall be made by the R&D Cell based on the candidate's merit rank, availability of vacancies under the preferred supervisors and the alignment of research interests.

7.4. If no vacancy is available under any of the supervisors opted by the candidate, the R&D Cell shall provide a list of available eligible supervisors, and the candidate shall be required to choose a Research Supervisor from the available pool. The decision of the University regarding the allocation of the Research Supervisor shall be final and binding.

7.5. Candidates working as Project Assistants/JRF/SRF in funded projects without NET/GATE/equivalent qualification and not registered for a Ph.D., are not eligible for direct Ph.D. admission. They must qualify the University Ph.D. entrance test and interview as per UGC regulations. Working in a sponsored research project does not replace the requirement of the entrance examination.

8. QUALIFICATION AND ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

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

8.1. The faculty should possess Ph.D. degree in the relevant area of research in which he/she has carried out the research.

8.2. The faculty should complete a minimum of one (1) year duration after the completion of his/her Ph.D. degree.

8.3. Any regular Professor/Associate Professor of the GMRITDU, with at least five research publications in peer-reviewed journals (SCIE/WoS/ESCI/SCOPUS as First/Equal Contributor/Corresponding Author) after obtaining Ph.D. and any regular Assistant Professor of the GMRITDU with a minimum of five years teaching/research experience with a Ph.D. degree and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed journals (SCIE/WoS/ESCI/SCOPUS as First/ Equal Contributor/Corresponding Author) may be recognized as Research Supervisor.

8.4. Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of peer-reviewed journals (SCIE/WoS/ESCI/SCOPUS as First/ Equal Contributor/Corresponding Author), GMRITDU may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

8.5. Recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by a university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the university or its affiliated Colleges/institutes would be in violation of these Regulations.

8.6. For Ph.D. scholars working in Central government/State government research institutions whose degrees are given by Higher Educational Institutions, the scientists in such research institutions who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can be recognized as supervisors if they fulfill the above requirements.

8.7. Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of peer-reviewed journals (SCIE/WoS/ESCI/SCOPUS/Journals approved by the University as First/Equal Contributor/Corresponding Author), GMRITDU may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

8.8. If retraction/plagiarism is ascertained in the publications of the applicant, the application will be summarily rejected and the applicant will not be permitted to apply for Supervisorship for the next two years.

8.9. Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of the same institution or other institutions may be permitted with the approval of the RAC.

8.10. If a supervisor recommends a co-supervisor from another institution for collaborative research purposes, and if such an arrangement is deemed beneficial to the scholar, the University may appoint the recommended individual as a Co-supervisor, subject to the approval of the RAC.

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

8.12. In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co- Supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/College/University may be appointed, subject to the approval of the RAC.

8.13. A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor cannot guide more than eight (8) Ph.D. scholars at any given point of time. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars. One additional research scholar can be allotted to each supervisor over and above the allotted number provided the Research Supervisor is implementing a major sponsored research project. Further, each Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor can guide two international students on a supernumerary basis. At any

point of time the total number of candidates under a research supervisor shall not exceed the number as prescribed above including the candidates under co-supervision.

8.14. The Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor can take a new Ph.D. scholar subsequent to the submission of the thesis by the existing Scholars.

8.15. In case of relocation of a Ph.D. scholar due to any reason, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University/College to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent Institution/Supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already undertaken.

8.16. Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a co-supervisor after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

8.17. Scholars under the supervision of a faculty member affiliated with a recognized National Research Laboratory may appoint a Co-Supervisor. The Co-Supervisor may belong to the same or an allied discipline, subject to the GMRITDU RAC approval, and must hold a faculty or scientist position either at GMRITDU or at the affiliated National Research Laboratory.

9. COURSE WORK

9.1. The coursework shall be treated as a mandatory stage towards the partial fulfillment of requirement for the Ph.D. studies.

9.2. Course work will be prescribed to the candidate depending upon his/her qualifications and approved by the Board of Studies (BoS).

9.3. Suitable credit transfer in view of equivalent credit courses completed may also be given due consideration by the RAC.

9.4. The credit equivalence and credit transfer for M.Phil. or equivalent courses may be considered.

9.5. Candidates from Industry can claim their experience and their role in technology in working on respective research problem for credit equivalence by furnishing proper documented evidence and justification.

9.6. A candidate may earn a minimum of 12 credits towards the completion of coursework.

9.7. All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period.

9.8. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, qualitative methods, computer applications, research ethics, and review of published research in the relevant field, fieldwork, etc.

9.9. Students who register for Ph.D. directly from four-year undergraduate with research will have to undertake 40 credits about relevant skills/research techniques/domain-specific subjects offered by the University.

9.10. A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent CGPA of 5.5 on a 10-point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit his/her thesis.

9.11. All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial one or two semesters. In case of pandemic like situation, provision of blended mode should be made available.

9.12. However, candidates already holding M.Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in an integrated course, may be exempted by the Department from the Ph.D. course work. The M.Phil degree shall be de-specified from the Academic year 2022-23 onwards. M.Phil. degree awarded till the date of notification of these regulations shall remain valid.

9.13. Research candidates may attend classes along with PG candidates of the respective department or allied departments if the subjects prescribed to them are offered in the ongoing PG programs.

9.14. Candidates, who have been provisionally considered for admission to Ph.D. program after the end of II semester M.Tech., may provisionally be permitted to pursue the Ph.D. coursework along with their M.Tech. project work. The evaluation parameters will be similar to that of academic regulations of the University.

9.15. The Ph.D. Course Work shall comprise of THREE (3) theory papers & ONE (1) seminar.

Paper-1: Research Methodology and Publication Ethics (100 Marks/4 Credits): Common to all the candidates admitted in a department. The syllabus of this paper includes the research techniques/methods of the concerned subject.

Paper-2: Broad field of specialization (100 Marks/4 Credits): The syllabus of this paper includes the current concepts/trends in the concerned specialization of the subject. The broad specializations in a department shall be restricted to maximum of ten (10).

Paper-3: Research specialization (100 Marks/4 Credits): The syllabus of this paper will be finalized by the research supervisor based on their specialization.

Seminar: A seminar on his/her proposed research work (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory):

Slide 1: Research Title & Background

Slide 2: Literature Review & Research Gap

Slide 3: Objectives & Novelty of the Work

Slide 4: Proposed Methodology/Experimental Plan

Slide 5: Expected Outcomes & Applications

Slide 6: References

9.16. Candidates admitted with UG qualification must acquire at least 40 credits, out of which 12 credits from the courses mentioned in section 9.9 are mandatory and the remaining 24 credits will obtained from well-defined PG programme.

10. Ph.D. COURSE WORK EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION

10.1. Ph.D. Course Work examination shall be conducted for the admitted candidates after the one semester of Ph.D. course work.

10.2. The pattern of the Ph.D. Course Work syllabus and the pattern of the Ph.D. Course Work examination question paper shall be uniform for the respective schools.

10.3. The medium of examination for the Ph.D. Course Work examination shall be English for all subjects except those in which the official medium of instruction is a language other than English.

10.4. The supervisor/co-supervisor of the Ph.D scholar shall communicate the syllabi to the Controller of Examinations through the R&D Cell for the purpose of conducting the Ph.D. Course Work examination.

10.5. The Controller of the examination shall arrange for the evaluation of the answer scripts. The Ph.D. Course Work examination is of three-hour duration and is for 100 marks per theory paper. Each answer script is assessed by two examiners who shall be recognized Ph.D. Supervisors. The marks awarded to the answer script shall be the average of these two evaluations, and if the difference in the marks between two evaluations exceeds 20% of the maximum marks, such a script shall be assessed by a third external examiner. The marks awarded to the script shall be the average of two higher marks out of the three evaluations. The minimum qualifying marks for Ph.D. Course Work shall be 55% marks in each paper.

10.6. If the candidate does not clear in three consecutive Ph.D. Course Work examinations conducted in the concerned subject, his/her Ph.D. registration shall automatically get cancelled. For this purpose, the three successive examinations conducted after the admission of the candidate, and for the batch of students of which he/she belongs to be counted.

10.7. The University permits Ph.D. scholars to complete Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3, mentioned in Section 9.15, through the SWAYAM Platform, subject to successful completion of the courses and compliance with the prescribed credit transfer norms of the University.

10.8. The respective Departments shall notify a bank of SWAYAM courses, and the scholar may select the courses from the notified bank based on the recommendations of the Supervisor.

10.9. In case a scholar is unable to successfully complete the courses through the SWAYAM platform, the University shall conduct written examinations for the respective courses based on the same prescribed syllabus.

10.10. In case Paper 3 (Research Specialization) is not available on the SWAYAM platform, the syllabus for Paper 3 shall be finalized by the Research Supervisor in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee

(RAC), based on the specific research domain and area of specialization of the scholar. The University shall conduct the examination for Paper 3 as per the syllabus so finalized. written examination for Paper 3 based on the approved syllabus prescribed for the respective scholar.

10.11. Upon successful completion of all three (3) papers, the R&D Cell shall issue a notification for the Seminar Presentation as part of the subsequent Ph.D. research process.

10.12. Upon successful completion of all three prescribed course work papers and the Seminar Presentation with a satisfactory seminar report, the research scholar shall be declared to have successfully completed the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work.

11. MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS

11.1. A research scholar shall appear before the RAC once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six- monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the RAC to the R&D Cell. The RAC meeting may be conducted through online mode, if a RAC member is not able to attend the meeting in person.

11.2. In case, the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the RAC may recommend to the R&D Cell with specific reasons for the cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

12. PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH WORK

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

12.1. ONE (1) research article published in SCIE and ONE (1) research article published in Scopus/Web of Science/Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).

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

13. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

13.1. Synopsis Submission

13.1.1. Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft thesis.

13.1.2. Draft thesis should be ready at the time of synopsis submission.

13.1.3. If any Research Paper resulting out of the research work contains those names which are other than the names of the Candidate/Supervisor/Co-Supervisor, then it is obligatory for the candidate to produce a No Objection Certificate from the concerned persons.

13.1.4. Joint Certificate from the Candidate and the Supervisor, stating that the work being submitted is original and has NOT been submitted elsewhere by them (or any other co-authors involved) for the award of Ph.D. Degree.

13.1.5. The synopsis report should mainly concentrate on the scholar’s work/contribution.

13.1.6. The scholar shall submit synopsis report of the Ph.D. work carried out in the prescribed format along with application form to the R&D Cell through the HoD and School Dean.

13.2. Pre-Thesis Defense

13.2.1. It is mandatory for every scholar, prior to the submission of thesis, to make an open presentation in the Department before the RAC, to which all faculty members and other research scholars are to be invited. The feedback and comments obtained during the Pre-Thesis Colloquium may be suitably incorporated in the synopsis report/thesis in consultation with the Research Supervisor, after due deliberations with the RAC.

13.2.2. The RAC may call for a repeat pre-thesis colloquium if required.

13.2.3. After the successful presentation of the Pre-Thesis Defence and incorporating all the suggestions made, the scholar shall be permitted to submit the thesis within a period of two month. If additional time is required,

the scholar may seek special approval from the RAC by submitting a written request clearly explaining the reasons for the extension.

13.3. Preparation of Ph.D. Thesis

13.3.1. The thesis shall be prepared in an organized fashion with an account of the original research work of the candidate leading to new techniques or correlation of facts already known (analytical, experimental etc.) and demonstrating a quality as to make a definite contribution to the advancement of knowledge. It should as well exhibit the scholar's ability to undertake independent research and present the findings in an appropriate manner with actual accomplishments of the work, plainly stated and honestly appraised.

13.3.2. The thesis shall be submitted for plagiarism checking (Turnitin), and the similarity index shall be within the acceptable limit of less than 15%, excluding the scholar's published work related to the thesis.

13.3.3. The thesis shall include a certificate from the concerned Research Supervisor (and co-supervisor, if any) to the effect that the thesis is a record of bonafide research work carried out by the candidate under his/her/their supervision and guidance and that the work reported in the thesis has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree or a diploma. A similar certificate from the scholar is also included in the thesis regarding the authenticity of the work.

13.4. Submission of Thesis

13.4.1. Each scholar, after completing the necessary formalities, is required to submit his/her e-thesis containing 3D-visualizations/animations/videos along with the duly filled in prescribed application form and the evaluation fee (as fixed by GMRITDU) within two months after the date of approval of Pre-Thesis defense.

13.4.2. Two hard copies of the thesis shall be submitted to the R&D Cell in accordance with the format and specifications prescribed.

13.4.3. The candidate shall submit a no dues certificate from all concerned during the submission of the thesis.

14. THESIS EVALUATION, THESIS DEFENSE AND AWARD OF Ph.D. DEGREE

14.1. Thesis Evaluation Process

14.1.1 The Supervisor in consultation with the RAC shall constitute a panel of adjudicators for the evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis. The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least TWO (2) external examiners who are experts in the field and not in employment of the GMRITDU. Such examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. Wherever possible, one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India.

14.1.2. A total of TEN (10) names shall be suggested, each of whom shall be of an expert in the area of the thesis to be evaluated. Their expertise should be well evidenced by the documents in support and kept available with the Supervisor, for perusal if so required by the office of the Vice Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor may, if deemed necessary, return the panel for resubmission and may also suggest the inclusion of additional or alternative evaluators in the panel.

14.1.3. Out of the TEN (10) suggested panelists, FIVE (5) panelists are from within India and FIVE (5) panelists are from outside India. Please ensure no two panelists from the same institution.

14.1.4. While approving the names for the evaluation panel, the Vice-Chancellor shall indicate order of priority in which the R&D Cell will approach them for their acceptance to evaluate the thesis under consideration, based on the synopsis communicated.

14.1.5. The thesis shall be forwarded by the R&D Cell to TWO (2) examiners, upon their acceptance selected by the Vice-Chancellor from the suggested panel of examiners.

14.1.6. The R&D Cell shall take necessary steps to get the reports from the examiners as quickly as possible. The examiners are expected to submit their evaluation reports in the prescribed format within SIX (6) weeks from the date of acceptance of the thesis for evaluation. The R&D Cell shall remind the concerned examiner beyond which the thesis may be sent to alternate examiner approved/appointed by Vice Chancellor. The entire process of Ph.D. thesis evaluation shall be completed within a period of SIX (6) months from the date of submission of the thesis.

14.1.7. The examiner shall include in his/her report, an overall assessment, in the prescribed format, placing the thesis in one of the following categories:

(a) Recommended in present form.
(b) Recommended in edited form (points for editing should be suggested).
(c) Recommended with minor corrections with addendum after the approval of RAC.
(d) Recommended with major corrections with addendum after the approval of RAC.
(e) Recommended with major corrections and advised re-submission for the re-adjudication by the concerned examiner.
(f) Rejected and fresh submission in the time frame as adjudicated by the examiners and as recommended by the RAC.
(g) Rejected in the present form.

14.1.8. The University shall take a decision on the thesis based on the reports according to the following:

Recommendations of Examiners		Decision
Examiner-1	Examiner-2	
Accept	Accept	Accept
Accept	Revise	Revise
Revise	Revise	Revise
Accept	Reject	Send to the Examiner-3
Revise	Reject	Revise and send to the Examiner-3
Reject	Reject	Reject

14.1.9. For the revision, resubmission or fresh submission (after rejection (as per clause 14.1.7(f))) of the thesis, the scholar shall be given a maximum period of six (6) months from the date of communication of the report(s). If additional time is required, the scholar may submit a request for an extension with the necessary approval from the RAC.

14.1.10. The revised thesis shall be referred to those examiners who have originally recommended revision and re-submission for revaluation.

14.1.11. If one of the evaluation reports of the examiner recommends rejection, the R&D Cell shall send the thesis to an alternate examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the alternate examiner is satisfactory. If the alternate examiner also recommends rejection, the thesis shall be rejected. In the event of rejection, the scholar may resubmit the thesis as a fresh submission in accordance with Clause 14.1.7(f) and (g) within a maximum period of one (1) year from the date of communication of the examiner's report(s). If additional time is required, the scholar may submit a request for an extension with the necessary approval from the RAC.

14.1.12. The comments of the external thesis adjudicators shall be sent to the research supervisor as soon as they are received, for necessary action and to prepare a Response to Examiner Comments (REC).

14.1.13. The Response to Examiner Comments (REC) prepared by the scholar in response to the comments/queries raised by the external thesis adjudicators shall be presented and addressed during the Thesis Defense for approval.

14.1.14. The revised copies of the thesis along with the REC, duly approved by the RAC shall be submitted by the Research Scholar to the Head of the Department, Library, and the R&D Cell for record.

14.2. Thesis Defense

14.2.1. Thesis Defense presentation is the final requirement. The public viva-voce examination for the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted by the Thesis Defense Committee (TDC) appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The viva-voce shall be held only after receiving a satisfactory evaluation report from the external examiners, with a clear recommendation to conduct the viva-voce. In exceptional cases, the public viva-voce may be conducted online with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. The TDC shall have the following composition:

Member/Designation	Role
Head of the Department	Chairman
One Adjudicator of the thesis	Member
Research Co-Supervisor (In case, any)	Member
Nominee from the R&D Cell	Member
Members of the RAC	Members
Research Supervisor	Member Secretary

After the completion of the thesis defense, the chairman shall formally declare the status of the award of the Ph.D.

14.2.2. If the candidate's performance in the thesis defense is reported as NOT SATISFACTORY by the TDC, the candidate may choose to appear for the defense again at a later date, but within six months from the date of the first defense. For the second attempt, the TDC shall include one additional examiner nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

14.2.3. If the candidate's performance in the defense on the second attempt is also reported as NOT SATISFACTORY, the Vice-Chancellor may, if considered necessary, review the remarks of the TDC along with the thesis and the examiners comments. The Vice-Chancellor may place these before a committee constituted for this purpose and take a decision. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final.

14.3. Award of Ph.D. Degree

14.3.1. Subsequent to the formal consent by the TDC, the acceptance of Ph.D. thesis for the award of Ph.D. degree will be approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

14.3.2. Upon the formal approval by the Vice-Chancellor, provisional result will be notified by the R&D Cell.

14.3.3. The candidate will be eligible to receive the Ph.D. degree in the convocation thereof.

14.4. Depository with INFLIBNET

Following the successful completion of the thesis evaluation process and prior to the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree, the University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the INFLIBNET for hosting in the Shodhganga repository, thereby making it accessible to all Higher Educational Institutions and research organizations.

15. CHANGE OF REGULATIONS

The Academic Council of GMRITDU may revise, amend or change the regulations from time to time.

16. FEE PARTICULARS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND LEAVE RULES

16.1. Fee Particulars

The fee shall be decided by the Institute from time to time and shall be the same for all categories of candidates. The candidate is responsible for paying the fee on time and maintaining a "No Dues" status until the submission of the thesis or cancellation of admission, as applicable. If the fee is not paid by the due date, a late fee will be charged. Failure to pay the prescribed fee even after the extended due date will result in cancellation of admission.

16.2. Financial Support

16.2.1. The financial support schemes will be notified by the university from time to time.

16.2.2. As per the University norms and based on the recommendations of the Ph.D. admission Committee, a limited number of eligible full-time Ph.D. scholars will be awarded a fellowship of Rs. 25,000/- per month for a period of three (3) years. This fellowship may be extended for one (1) more year upon the recommendation of the RAC.

16.2.3. They shall participate in the teaching and learning process to a minimum extent, as required.

16.3. Leave Rules

16.3.1. Full time research scholars are eligible for 15 days of casual leave per calendar year on a pro-rata basis. Casual leave shall not exceed 10 consecutive days at a time. Such leave shall be sanctioned by the Head of the Department through the concerned Supervisor.

16.3.2. Research scholars are eligible for medical leave up to 10 days in a calendar year on valid medical grounds, subject to submission of a medical certificate issued by an authorized medical authority. Medical leave for a maximum of 6 consecutive days at a time shall be sanctioned by the Registrar, based on the recommendation of the Supervisor and the Head of the Department.

16.3.3. Research candidates are permitted 15 days of Academic Leave per calendar year to attend conferences and workshops with prior approval from the Supervisor, Head of the Department and the R&D Cell.

16.3.4. 'On Duty' leave may be granted for visits or work at other institutions to carry out approved research work, subject to prior approval from the Supervisor, Head of the Department and the R&D Cell.

16.3.5. In addition, female scholars may be granted Maternity Leave or Child Care Leave once during the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme, for a period of up to 240 days with prior approval from the Supervisor, Head of the Department and Registrar.

17. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

17.1. Honorable Exits

17.1.1. An honorable exit option is provided for cases where a research scholar is unable to complete the research work due to unforeseen reasons.

17.1.2. Candidates admitted with UG qualification may choose to exit the programme with PG Diploma or M.Tech. degree after completing five semesters from the date of registration, if they fulfill the required credits and publication requirements. This will be allowed based on the recommendation of the RAC in consultation with the School Dean, R&D Cell and approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

17.1.3. Candidates admitted with PG qualification may choose to exit the programme with PG Diploma or M.Tech. degree after completing three semesters, provided they meet the required credit and publication requirements. This shall be subject to the recommendation of the RAC in consultation with the School Dean, R&D Cell and approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

17.1.4. In such cases, all the remaining credit requirements for the PG Diploma or M.Tech. shall be completed within one semester. No scholarship will be provided during this period.

17.1.5. After a certain period, if the candidate wishes to rejoin the Ph.D. programme, he/she may do so by surrendering the PG Diploma or M.Tech. degree to GMRITDU, subject to the recommendation of a committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.

17.2. Transfer/Migration of Candidates

17.2.1. Transfer/migration from a Ph.D. programme of another recognized university/institution to GMRITDU is allowed only for eligible candidates with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. The School Dean in consultation with the concerned Head of the Department shall decide the equivalence of credits that can be transferred from the previous institution. Only coursework credits are eligible for transfer. The candidate must also submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the previous university/institution including the Research Supervisor.

17.2.2. Any candidate who wishes to transfer out of or discontinue the Ph.D. programme before completing the minimum required duration shall be required to pay the remaining tuition fee for that period. After meeting this requirement, the Registrar shall issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) on the recommendation of the R&D Cell and with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

17.3. Termination of Registration

The registration of a research scholar may be cancelled by the Dean-R&D under any of the following conditions, based on the recommendation of the RAC and the School Dean with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

17.3.1. Involvement in anti-social activities.

17.3.2. Failure to complete the prescribed coursework.

17.3.3. Unsatisfactory progress for two consecutive semesters.

17.3.4. Failure to submit the thesis even after the approved extended period.

17.3.5. In the case of relocation of a research scholar due to unforeseen reasons, the research data may be transferred to the new university, provided all regulations are followed and the research work is not part of a funded project of the parent institution or supervisor. The candidate must give proper credit to the parent supervisor and institution for the research work already completed.

17.4. Change of Research Supervisor

17.4.1. Any request for a change of Research Supervisor(s), made either by the Supervisor or the research scholar, shall be reviewed by the RAC. If found appropriate, the RAC may recommend the change to the concerned School Dean for approval, and the same shall be reported to the R&D Cell.

17.4.2. If a Supervisor is away from the University for more than six months, the Supervisor shall continue to guide the candidate, but a Caretaker Supervisor shall be appointed by the School Dean in consultation with the Head of the Department for administrative purposes only.

17.4.3. A Supervisor who retires from service may continue to guide a candidate already registered under him/her, provided the candidate's provisional registration is confirmed for a maximum period of one year from the date of retirement subject to a written request by the Supervisor.

17.4.4. If a Supervisor moves to another university/institution, he/she may continue to guide the already registered candidates whose provisional registration is confirmed. Otherwise, an alternate Supervisor shall be appointed by the School Dean, based on the Supervisor's request and the recommendation of the Head of the Department, and the same shall be reported to the R&D Cell.

17.4.5. In the unfortunate event of the demise of a Supervisor, a new Supervisor may be appointed, wherever necessary, based on the recommendations of the RAC.

17.5. Change of Supervisor in the Final Stage of Ph.D.

Guiding a research scholar is a long-term and strongest academic relationship based on mutual trust and respect. A research scholar expects guidance and support from the supervisor, while the supervisor expects sincere effort and quality research work. Although changing a supervisor at an early stage is common and follows a standard procedure, in some cases the research scholar –supervisor relationship may need to end even at a later stage due to various reasons. When a supervisor change is required at a late stage, after some research work has already been completed, the following guidelines shall apply.

17.5.1. Changing a supervisor at a late stage of the Ph.D. should be avoided as far as possible. All efforts should be made to complete the research under the same supervisor and submit the thesis. Wherever possible, the option of the previous supervisor continuing as a co-supervisor should be considered. A late-stage change of supervisor should be treated as a last option only.

17.5.2. If the scholar continues in the Institute under a new supervisor and chooses not to use the earlier research work (for example, starts a new research topic), the change shall be treated as a normal supervisor change and will follow the existing procedure.

17.5.3. If the scholar continues in the Institute under a new supervisor and wishes to use part of the earlier research work in the thesis, the following steps shall be followed:

(i) A meeting shall be held by the Head of the Department involving the previous supervisor, new supervisor, and the scholar. Other faculty members of the department may also be included if required. If an agreement is reached regarding the use of earlier work and the role of the previous supervisor (such as continuing as a co-supervisor without acting as a thesis examiner), the agreement shall be recorded and should report to the R&D Cell.

(ii) If no agreement is reached, the contribution of the previous supervisor shall be clearly mentioned in the final thesis certificate (for example, stating the period during which each supervisor guided the scholar). If a significant portion of earlier work is included in the thesis, the previous supervisor may be recognized as a co-supervisor, without administrative responsibilities and without being an examiner.

17.5.4. If a change of supervisor becomes unavoidable, the new supervisor shall be a faculty member who has successfully guided at least one Ph.D. scholar.

17.5.5. If the scholar leaves the Institute and wishes to use the earlier research work while continuing the Ph.D. under a new supervisor at another university/institution, prior permission must be obtained through the new university/institution. The Institute will decide based on intellectual property considerations and the approval of the previous supervisor.

17.5.6. In case of an unexpected exit of the supervisor, the possibility of the supervisor continuing as a supervisor or co-supervisor may be explored. If this is not possible, the scholar may use the earlier research work in the thesis. In such cases, the period during which the outgoing faculty member served as supervisor shall be clearly stated in the final thesis certificate.

17.5.7. Any cases not covered above, any exceptions, or any disputes related to these guidelines shall be referred by the Dean-R&D to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision shall be final and binding.

17.6. Regarding IPR issues in Ph.D. Thesis (Arising because of the change of Supervisor)

17.6.1. The problem definition, research methodology, workflow design and research outputs such as publications, concept notes, review papers, patents and products are the exclusive intellectual property of the researcher (the scholar and the supervisor).

17.6.2. If the supervisor is changed, the researcher cannot use the existing problem statement, research methods, workflow, results or intellectual outputs such as publications, patents, models and products with the new supervisor.

17.7. Handling of Conflict

17.7.1. If there is any conflict between the research supervisor/co-supervisor and the scholar, the School Dean, after receiving a request letter from either party, will refer the matter to the R&D Cell. The R&D Cell will form a Conflict Handling Committee, with approval from the Vice Chancellor, to review the case and submit a report to the R&D Cell.

17.7.2. The committee will make every effort to protect the scholar's academic progress while ensuring proper credit to the current supervisor in publications, patents and the thesis. The matter will be reported to the Vice Chancellor for necessary action. The Vice Chancellor's decision will be final and binding.

17.8. Discipline and Ethics

17.8.1. Every Ph.D. scholar must maintain discipline and proper conduct both inside and outside the campus and must not engage in any activity that may harm the reputation of the University. Any act of indiscipline will be referred to the University Discipline Committee for inquiry and appropriate action.

17.8.2. With the approval of the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar may suspend a scholar from the programme based on initial evidence, while an inquiry is in progress.

17.8.3. Any unethical practice, including plagiarism, as confirmed by the concerned authorities, will lead to immediate dismissal of the candidate from the programme and cancellation of admission. Such candidates will also not be eligible to apply for any future programmes offered by the University.

17.8.4. He/She will be expelled from registering for any other programme in GMRITDU. The recognition of the guide will be withdrawn for five years and the guide and co-guide (if any) will not be allowed to supervise any research candidates during this period.

17.8.5. If a complaint is received and the thesis is proven to be copied, plagiarized, misrepresented or involved in any unethical practice, the University has the right to cancel the degree at any time. Such candidates will not be eligible to register for any future programmes at the University.

17.8.6. A candidate may appeal against any disciplinary action to the Vice Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor's decision will be final and binding.

17.9. Bar to Claim damages for Delay

17.9.1. No candidate shall be entitled to claim any damages, whatsoever from the University on the account of late declaration of result, delay in the issue of grade sheets or any other certificates, Thesis evaluation or any other process associated with the examinations or evaluation, or other like cases.

17.10. Interpretation

17.10.1. Any question that may arise regarding the interpretation of these regulations shall be decided by the Vice Chancellor, whose decision shall be final and binding. The University shall have the power to issue clarification to remove any doubt, difficulty or anomaly which may arise during implementation of the provisions of these Regulations.

17.11. Power to Modify

Despite what is stated in the above regulations, the Vice Chancellor has the right to modify any part or all of these rules from time to time on the recommendations of the Academic Council.



Registrar