27921/2025
20/3/2025

Regulations for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, 2025

(As per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022)

PREAMBLE

These regulations, named as Mahatma Gandhi University Ph.D. Regulations 2025, and in accordance with University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 notified in the Gazette of India MNo. F. No. 1-3/2021(QIP). —New Delhi, the 7th November, 2022.

Mahatma Gandhi University is conducting research programmes in various subjects and interdisciplinary areas in its Schools/Departments/Centres/Approved Research Centres leading to the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the Faculties listed in the Statutes. The Standards and Procedure for registration, research and award of Ph.D. Degree of the University shall be as per these Regulations.

1. Short title, Application, and Commencement

1.1 These Regulations may be called Mahatma Gandhi University Ph.D. Regulations, 2025.

1.2 These Regulations shall apply to every (Schools/Departments/Centres of Mahatma Gandhi University/Approved Research Centres/Institutions, where Research Programme leading to Ph.D. of Mahatma Gandhi University is being conducted.

1.3 The Research Supervisor of Mahatma Gandhi University shall not be research supervisor of any other University/Institution.

1.4 These regulations shall come into force from 2025 Ph.D. Admission onwards, and shall govern all new Ph.D. registrations from the date it comes into force. No new registration may be given under the previous Ph.D. Regulations thereafter. The Ph.D. scholars registered under the old regulations shall continue under the same.

2. Definitions - In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires: -

2.1 'Act', 'Statutes', 'Ordinance' and 'Regulations' mean the Act, Statutes, Ordinance and Regulations respectively of the Mahatma Gandhi University.

2.2 "Affiliated College" means a college affiliated to the University in accordance with the provisions of the University Act and Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

2.3 "Adjunct Faculty" means a part-time or contingent instructor, but not full-time faculty member hired/assigned to teach by Schools/Departments/Centres of Mahatma Gandhi University.

2.4 'Adjudicators' or 'Examiners' mean the experts appointed on nomination by the Vice Chancellor of the University for the evaluation of the Ph.D. theses.

2.5 "Approved Research Centre" means the institution where the University allows a research scholar to carry out research leading to the award of the Ph.D. degree of the University in the subject concerned.

2.6 "Candidate" means any person who satisfies the prescribed eligibility conditions as stated in the Regulations and who intends to register for the Ph.D programme.

2.7 "Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)" means a measure of the overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places.

Approved

Issue

VICE CHANCELLOR

Approved by exercising power as provided in chapter III, section 10 (17) of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act 1985. Issue orders and report to the Syndicate / Academic Council.

2.8 "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, with each 'one-hour' lecture counted as one credit.

2.9 "College" means an institution engaged in higher education and/or research, either established by a university as its constituent unit or is affiliated with it.

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

2.11 'Course' means one of the specified units which comprises a programme of study.

2.12 "Course Work" means courses of study prescribed by the Schools/Departments/Centres to be undertaken by a student registered for the Ph.D. programme.

2.13 "Degree" means a degree awarded by Mahatma Gandhi University in accordance with the provisions of THE MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY ACT, 1985.

2.14 'School'/'University Department' means the University Department of Teaching and Research established under the statutes. 'Inter-School'/'Inter-University Centre means Centre established by Mahatma Gandhi University or Government of Kerala.

2.15 "Discipline" means a branch of knowledge.

2.16 "External Examiner" means an academician/researcher with published research work who is not a part of Mahatma Gandhi University.

2.17 "Foreign Educational Institution" means–(i) an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country and offering educational programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate and higher levels in its home country and (ii) which offers programme(s) of study leading to the award of a degree through conventional face-to-face mode, but excluding distance, online, ODL modes.

2.18 "Foreign students" mean those students who are citizens of a country other than India.

2.19 "Grade Point" means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale.

2.20 "Guide/Research Supervisor/Supervising Teacher/Research Guide" means an academician/researcher recognized by the University to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for research.

2.21 "Research Scholar/Ph.D. Scholar" means any candidate admitted by the University either under Full-time or Part time category for pursuing research for the award of Ph.D. degree of the University.

2.22 "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 for Ph.D. programme.

2.23 "Research Portal" means a web-based platform developed and maintained by the university for automating the activities related to Research and Development Cell.

2.24 "Research Synopsis" means the summary of the research work to be submitted as a prerequisite for submission of the Ph.D. thesis

2.25 "University" means the University as defined in THE MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY ACT, 1985

2.26 "Interdisciplinary Research" means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in two or more academic disciplines.

2.27 "Open and Distance Learning Mode" shall have the same meaning as defined under the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations 2020.

2.28 "Online Mode" shall have the same meaning as defined under the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations 2020.

2.29 "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing claiming them as one's own.

2.30 "Programme" means a higher education programme pursued for a degree.

2.31 "Prospectus" means any document, whether in print or otherwise, issued for providing fair and transparent information about programmes offered by Mahatma Gandhi University to the general public.

2.32 Words and expressions used and not defined in these Regulations but defined in Act and not consistent with these Regulations shall have the meanings assigned to them in that Act.

3 Approved Research Centre

Mahatma Gandhi University may decide to accord recognition, in specified faculties, on the recommendation of the Syndicate, to a Research/Educational Institution under the control of Central/State Government as per the provisions of the MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY ACT, 1985 as approved research centres.

4. Supervision of Research -Research Supervisor

4.1 Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor with a Ph.D. and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors with a Ph.D. and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals, may be recognized as a Research Supervisor.

4.2 Research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in institutions other than Mahatma Gandhi University; but they can only act as co supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by the university under the supervision of a research supervisor not recognized by the University would be in violation of these regulations.

4.3 Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no, or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor may be relaxed with the recommendation of the Syndicate of the University.

4.4 Scientists working in Central government/State government research institutions, who hold a position equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can be recognized as supervisors at Approved Research Centre of the university, if they fulfil the requirements mentioned in Clause 4.1.

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

4.6 If a Co-Supervisor is required for the research work, the same shall be appointed by the University on the recommendation of the RDC.

4.7 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.

5. Notifications for Ph.D. Programme- Admission to the Ph.D Programme shall be governed by the UGC/University Regulations and amendments from time to time.

6. Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme.

VICE-CHANCELLOR

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

Candidates who have completed:

a) 1-year/2-semester Master's degree programme, after a 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's degree programme, or a 2-year/4-semester Master's degree programme, after a 3-year Bachelor's degree programme, or qualifications declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

b) Equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution/university under the 1500 QS global ranking/The Times Higher Education ranking.

c) 4 year/8 semester Bachelor's Degree (honours with research) having a minimum of 75 % marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

Note: A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled/Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission from time to time. This relaxation to the categories mentioned above are permissible based on the qualifying marks without including the grace marks.

7. Duration of the Programme. -

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

7.2. A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the Statute/Ordinance of the Higher Educational Institution concerned; provided, 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.

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.

7.2. 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.

8. Procedure for admission

8.1. The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by Mahatma Gandhi University, 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.

8.2. All Candidates seeking admission for Ph.D. Programme in a particular subject under this University shall satisfy any of the following requirements :

i. Candidates with fellowships from CSIR-UGC/KSCSTE/DST-INSPIRE/RGNF/DBT/ICMR/CEED/AICTE or any similar agencies of Government of India or Government of Kerala in the relevant discipline as approved by the university from time to time. They can join research at any time, provided they satisfy other academic requirements.

ii. Candidates who have qualified NET/GATE/GPAT/JEST/SLET recognized by UGC or other tests conducted by Government bodies such as UGC, CSIR, ICAR, ICSSR and ICMR or Research Fellowships of Central or State Government departments/agencies as approved by the university, as the case may be.

iii. DST Women Scientist Awardees and candidates under Visvesvaraya Ph.D. scheme.

iv. Students who have qualified the entrance test for PhD programme conducted by the university, if any.

v. Foreign students duly selected by MoU, UCIC under relevant national bodies.

vi. Students holding Master's degree from foreign universities under 1500 QS global ranking/Times Higher Education ranking (latest or at the time of awarding degree).

vii. Candidates who are working in research projects funded by Central/State Govt./Govt. agencies in the Schools/Departments/Inter University Centres/Approved Research Centres with assured fellowship for at least two years.

9. Allocation of Research Supervisor

9.1. An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor /Scientists in equivalent positions in Approved Research Centers of the university can guide up to eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time. Out of this, one seat shall be reserved for SC/ST reservation category.

9.2. A Research Supervisor can take two foreign students sponsored under a scholarship scheme by the Government of India/under an MoU with Mahatma Gandhi University, for Ph.D. Programme over and above the allotted number under clause 9.1.

9.3. A Research Supervisor recognized under more than one discipline shall furnish the total number of scholars guided by him in various Faculty. The total number of scholars in all disciplines under a Supervisor shall also be limited to the number as per Clause 9.1.

9.4. If a Research Supervisor from School/Department of Mahatma Gandhi University leaves the present post of Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor and takes up another assignment (Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor) in another University, his/her guideship will be terminated. However, the Supervisor may be allowed to retain the scholars already registered. Such a Research Supervisor will not be allowed to register new candidates for supervision in Mahatma Gandhi University.

9.5. Teachers under the Directorate of Collegiate Education (DCE) and working in Engineering/Polytechnic/Medical Colleges may be permitted to take up guideship in the Research Centre of their choice coming under Mahatma Gandhi University.

9.6. If a Research Supervisor leaves the present job on deputation and takes up another assignment in an Institution which is not a Recognized Research Centre of the University, the Supervisor may be allowed to retain the scholars already registered under his/her supervision.

9.7. The transfer of registration to Mahatma Gandhi University is allowed for female research scholars who have been relocated due to marriage or having valid reasons. These research scholars should satisfy all conditions as stipulated in the Research Regulations of the University. The research work shall not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/ Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholar shall, however give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken. Research Advisory Council of Mahatma Gandhi University shall consider such applications on a case-to-case basis and recommend for admission to Ph.D. programmes of the University. The Doctoral Committee (DC) concerned shall recommend any additional requirements.

9.8. In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred from Mahatma Gandhi University to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these Regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholar shall, however, give due credit to Mahatma Gandhi University and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

10.Course Work-*Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.*

VICE-CHANCELLOR

10.1. All scholars registered shall attend the Course Work that begins on the **1st of January and July** every year (if not a holiday), at the Research Centre allotted unless otherwise specified. For full-time research scholars, the coursework shall be conducted in an offline mode at the Research Centre. For part-time scholars, the first spell of three months of the course work (January to March) shall be conducted in a blended mode. The second spell of three months of the course work (April to June) shall be in an offline mode at the Research Centre concerned.

10.2. The effective date of registration shall be the date of commencement of Course Work in the Research Centre for the scholars registered in all approved Research Centers/University Teaching Departments/ Schools /Inter-university and Inter-school centers. For the candidates registered under Any Time category, the effective date of registration shall be the date of joining in the Research Centre after obtaining the registration order.

10.3. The registration shall be confirmed only after successful completion of the Course Work.

10.4. All scholars shall pay the required fee to the University and to the Research Centre concerned, as fixed by the University from time to time.

10.5. The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits comprising four courses including "Research and Publication Ethics" and a "Research Methodology Course". However, M.Phil degree holders with 'Research Methodology' as a paper have to appear for the examination for Course III and Course IV only. M.Phil holders without 'Research Methodology' as a paper have to appear for courses I,III&IV.

10.6. All Ph.D. Scholars, irrespective of discipline must complete Course 1 to 4 and shall appear and qualify examination of all four papers of the course work examination.

10.7. Those scholars admitted for research after 4-year/5-year UG programme shall earn 6 more credits in addition to the 12 credits.

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

10.9. All P.HD. 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. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.

11. Ph.D. through Part-time Mode

11.1. Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode will be permitted for eligible candidates in a Higher Educational Institution or a Research Institution, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.

11.2. The candidate shall submit a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for a part-time Ph.D. programme from the employer/appropriate authority where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:

i. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.

ii. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.

iii. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

11.3. Teachers working in Self-Financing Colleges shall produce an undertaking from the manager that the teacher concerned has served the same institution for three years, in addition to the NOC mentioned above.

12. Research Advisory Committee and its Functions -

12.1. There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Supervisor of the Ph.D. scholar concerned shall be the Convener of this committee.

12.2. The RAC shall have the following responsibilities:

a. Review the syllabus for Course 3 of the Course Work.
b. Initial review and approval of research proposal.
c. Periodic review of research progress.
d. Review and approval of final synopsis.
e. Approval of draft thesis for pre-submission.

12.3. For every six-months, a Ph.D. scholar shall appear before the RAC to make a presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The RAC shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the University. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar.

12.4. For pre-Ph.D. presentation of the research scholar, the research supervisor shall countersign and forward the application, duly signed by the principal of affiliated college/Director of the School or Research Centre along with the progress report and the recommendations of the RAC to Director, Research and Development Cell (RDC).

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

13. Methods of Evaluation and Assessment - minimum standards/credits for award of Ph.D. Degree-

13.1. Upon the successful completion of the course work, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and a draft dissertation/thesis may be submitted.

13.2. A Research Scholar shall publish at least one research paper or article in a Peer reviewed /University approved journal, and have at least one paper presentation in seminars/conferences of National/International standards and approved by the University or State/ Central Funding Agencies. Copies of the same attested by the Guide & Director of RDC shall be submitted along with the Synopsis.

13.3. The University have well developed software to detect Plagiarism in research work and ensure research integrity which is an essential aspect of all the research activities leading to the award of a Ph.D. degree.

13.4. A Ph.D. scholar shall submit the thesis for evaluation, along with (a) an undertaking that there is no plagiarism and (b) a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the thesis and a declaration that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution.

13.5. The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by three external examiners of Associate Professor/Professor grade or scientists of equivalent grade who are experts in the field and not in employment of Mahatma Gandhi University. Such examiner(s) should be academicians with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. Wherever possible, one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India. The viva-voce board shall consist of the Research Supervisor and at least one external examiner, and the Dean of Faculty concerned. The external examiner shall be the chairperson of the board. The viva-voce shall be open to the members of the RAC/faculty members/research scholars, and students.

13.6. The viva-voce of the Ph.D. scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted if all the external examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis after incorporating any correction suggested by them. If one of the external examiners recommends rejection, university shall send the thesis to the external examiner in the approved panel of examiners, and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the newly assigned examiner recommends acceptance of the thesis. If he/she also rejects the thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall be

VICE-CHANCELLOR

declared ineligible for the award of a Ph.D. The student may resubmit the thesis for re-evaluation after effecting the required corrections within a period of three to six months along with prescribed fees.

14. Conferment of the Degree of Ph. D.

14.1 The Controller of Examinations, on receipt of the report of the Chairperson, recommending the conferment of the degree of Ph.D. to the research scholar, shall submit the same along with the reports of the examiners to the Syndicate.

14.2. The Syndicate, based on the reports of the examiners and of the viva-voce that the candidate is adjudged worthy of being awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall pass a resolution to that effect; and there upon the candidate shall be admitted to the degree of Ph.D. with effect from the date of Open Defence and Public Viva-Voce.

14.3. Prior to the actual award of the Ph.D. degree certificate, university shall issue a provisional certificate upon request and remittance of fees, after the award of the degree to the candidate by the Syndicate.

15 Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by colleges with 4-year Undergraduate Programmes for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes. - Colleges offering 4-year Undergraduate Programmes and/or Post-graduate Programmes may offer Ph.D. programmes, provided they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure, and supporting administrative and research facilities.

16. Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations.

Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of these Regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016 as the case may be. Further, the award of degrees to candidates already registered and pursuing Ph.D. shall be governed by these Regulations or UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016. Nothing in these Regulations shall impact the M.Phil. degree programmes commencing prior to the enactment of these Regulations.

17. Depository with INFLIBNET

After the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), Mahatma Gandhi University shall submit an electronic copy of the synopsis/ abstract / summary as the case may be of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET.

VICE-CHANCELLOR