

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

OC-7

ON THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

(Revised)

[Approved by the Executive Council in its 45th meeting held on 30.07.2024 vide resolution No. EC 45.5.1 (i)]

(Under Section 30(d) of the SU Act, 2006 (10 of 2007)

(BASED ON UGC REGULATIONS, 2022)

Admission & eligibility	1.	<p>The candidates who have been declared eligible in Category A/Category B/Category C in the UGC-NET and with at least 55% (50% for SC/ST/OBC/DA/EWS or any other category as may be notified by the Government of India from time to time) marks or equivalent grade in their Master's Degree in the subject concerned or allied / cognate subject offered by the Departments shall be required to appear in the interview to be conducted by the Department. Other National Level Tests like UGC-CSIR-NET / GATE/CEED/ICMR-NET/DBT-NET/ICAR-NET etc. shall be treated at par with UGC-NET for admission to Ph.D programme.</p> <p>International students with equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorised by an authority established under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.</p> <p>Candidates with Master's Degree in the subjects in which UGC-NET is not conducted are required to qualify in written examination and interview out of 100 marks (70 marks for written and 30 marks for interview) to be conducted by the Department.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria and Selection of the candidates for the Ph.D programme shall be as per the provisions of the UGC / Competent authority notified from time to time.</p> <p>The admission to Ph.D shall be once / twice a year as may be decided by the University from time to time.</p>
Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	2.	<p>There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each and every Ph.D scholar in the department with Research Supervisor as Convener. It shall perform such other functions as may be defined by the UGC/ University Regulations notified from time to time.</p>
Departmental Council (DC)	3.	<p>There shall be a Departmental Council (DC) consisting of all eligible regular faculty members of the Department and shall perform such other functions as may be defined / provided in the University Regulations for PhD programme notified from time to time.</p>

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

Course Work	4.	Students admitted to PhD programme shall complete a Coursework of a minimum duration of one semester (minimum 12 credits) / two semesters (maximum 20 credits) as per the norms of the UGC / Regulatory body.
Supervisor	5.	<p>The Departmental Council (DC) shall allot a Supervisor. The Supervisor shall be a Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor of the University / College appointed on permanent basis with Ph.D and required number of publications in referred / peer reviewed journal and other qualifications as may be provided in the UGC / University Regulations notified from time to time.</p> <p>The DC may, in addition and with the approval of the School Board, allot one or two Co-Supervisor in interdisciplinary areas from the same / other University Departments / other research institutions who may be a person recognized by the University / College as qualified and knowledgeable enough to supervise a doctoral thesis.</p>
Registration	6.	<p>The application for registration of Ph.D shall be made to the Department concerned along with a detailed research proposal including the topic, statement of research, objectives, research questions, and research methodology. The Department shall forward the research proposal to the School Board through the Board of Studies.</p> <p>The date on which the School Board approves the proposal for registration shall be the date of registration of the scholar for the purpose of this Ordinance. However, the maximum permissible period between the date of admission / commencement of classes and the date of registration for Ph.D programme shall be as per the provisions made in the relevant Regulations.</p>
Re-Registration	7.	Candidates who fail to submit Ph.D thesis within the stipulated time period i.e. 6/8 years from the date of admission, may apply for Re-Registration for a period of two years by paying requisite fee as may be notified by the University from time to time. The application for re-registration shall be recommended by RAC to DC, BoS and SB for approval.
Duration	8.	<p>The duration of the Ph.D programme shall be for a minimum period of 3 years, including course work, and a maximum period of 6 years from the date of admission / commencement of classes to the Ph.D programme or as may be notified by the UGC from time to time.</p> <p>A female Ph.D scholar and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of 2 (two) years but should not exceed 10 years from the date of admission/commencement of classes.</p> <p>A female Ph.D scholar may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D programme i.e. within 8 (eight) years.</p>
Review of Progress	9	The RAC shall regularly monitor the progress of the research work of the scholar. If the RAC finds that the progress of the research work of the Scholar is not

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

		satisfactory, a report to that effect shall be submitted to the School Board through the Departmental Council (DC) and Board of Studies (BoS) for appropriate action.
Modification of Title	10.	If there is a need for modification of the title of research, the candidate shall apply to the Departmental Council (DC) through the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) at least six months before the date of submission of the thesis for approval of the concerned Board of Study and School Board.
Pre-Submission Seminar	11.	When the Supervisor is of the opinion that the thesis is in the final stage of completion, the scholar shall be required to give an open pre-submission seminar on her/his research findings. This seminar will be given in the presence of an Evaluation Committee of at least three faculty members, of which one will be from outside the Department, who will be nominated by the Dean of the Concerned School. The candidate shall incorporate the recommendations of the Committee in the thesis.
Submission of Thesis	12	<p>i. A candidate shall submit her/his thesis for Ph.D in which s/he may incorporate the text of any work which s/he may have published on the subject. But s/he shall not submit as her/his thesis any work for which a degree has already been conferred on her/him by the University or any other universities.</p> <p>ii. The Scholar shall satisfy that the research work is characterized either by discovery of new facts or by fresh interpretation of facts or theories. In either case it should evince his capacity for critical examination, original thinking and judgement. Its literary presentation should also be satisfactory.</p> <p>iii. The thesis should include a certificate from the Supervisor and the declaration from the candidate that the thesis incorporates the student's Bonafide research and that the same has not been submitted for award of any degree in the University or any other universities or institute of learning.</p> <p>iv. The application for submission of thesis shall be countersigned by the Head of the concerned Department. The Head of the Department shall forward the thesis together with the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee for pre-submission seminar to the Controller of Examinations for further necessary action.</p> <p>v. Plagiarism test certificate is mandatory before the submission of the thesis.</p>
Panel of Examiners	13.	The Supervisor shall submit a panel of seven external examiners with postal address, email id and mobile phone number, in the prescribed proforma to the School Board through the Board of Studies for approval by Academic Council and onward submission to the Controller of Examinations. The School Board shall also submit a copy of the panel of examiners to the Chairperson of the Academic Council.
Evaluation	14.	The thesis submitted by the candidate for Ph.D shall be examined by at least three examiners from a panel approved by the Academic Council on the

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

		recommendations of the School Board. Two of the examiners shall be those who are not in the roll of the University and at least one of them shall be from outside the State, while the third examiner shall be the Supervisor.
Examiner's Report and Viva-Voce	15.	<p>i. Each examiner shall, after examining the thesis submit a report in a prescribed proforma to the Controller of Examinations clearly stating that in his/her opinion (a) the thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D Degree, or (b) the thesis should be modified / revised, or (c) the thesis may be rejected.</p> <p>ii. In case an examiner suggests some modifications / improvements of the thesis or points out certain lacunae in the thesis, the candidate should be asked to reply or modify the thesis as suggested and resubmit the thesis to be forwarded to the concerned examiner within a period of one year from the date of intimation of the requirement of modification by the Controller of Examinations.</p> <p>iii. A thesis shall be accepted for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy on the recommendations of all the examiners. If both the external examiners reject the thesis, no degree will be awarded. If there is a difference of opinion between the external examiners it should be referred to a fourth examiner to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor out of the panel already approved by the Academic Council on the recommendations of the School Board. If the reports are satisfactory s/he will undergo a viva-voce examination which shall be openly defended.</p>
Award of Degree	16.	Based on the recommendations of the examiners and successful completion of viva-voce, the Controller of Examinations with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor shall declare the results and notify within seven days from the date of approval of the Vice-Chancellor. The notification shall clearly mention the date, name of the candidate, registration number of the candidate and the date of registration, title of the thesis, degree awarded, name of the Supervisor, name of the Joint / Co-Supervisor (s), if any, name of the Department, name of the School of Studies. The notification shall be uploaded on the University website.
Depository with UGC	17.	University shall upload the thesis in its D-Space Repository and one hard copy shall be sent to the Central Library of the University for record and referential use.
Removal of Difficulties	18.	Notwithstanding anything stated in the above Ordinance, the Vice-Chancellor may take such measures or make such regulations as may be necessary for removal of difficulties.