

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
Ph.D. REGULATIONS**

(Approved by E.C. vide item No.2.5 dated 12.02.2011)

1. CONSTITUTION OF DOCTORAL COMMITTEE:

The Vice-Chancellor shall constitute a Doctoral Committee consisting of the faculty of the University and external experts to supervise doctoral degree for a period of two years at a time.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION:

a. To be admitted to the candidature for a doctoral degree an applicant shall have:

i) obtained a Master's Degree in law of any recognised university securing not less than 55% marks or its equivalent

or

ii) obtained a degree in law and Masters Degree with M.Phil in social sciences or humanities of any recognised university with not less than 55% marks or its equivalent
Provided that candidates with qualifications in social sciences and humanities may be admitted to the programme if the research they wish to pursue interfaces with the discipline of law with a special focus on Public Policy or Law.

or

iii) Degree in law and Ph.D. in any discipline.

or

iv) Judge of any State High Court in India with three years experience or Judge of Supreme Court of India.

or

(v) **A foreign student, who is interested to enroll from outside India from reputed University/Institutions may be allowed to be registered for Ph.D. in National Law University Delhi subject to the condition that one supervisor will be from the National Law University Delhi and one from the parent foreign University/Institutions of the student. He /She will be exempted from appearing in the Entrance Test subject to the condition that he/she fulfills the other minimum eligibility conditions. The Vice-Chancellor will be competent to allow registration of such students on case to case basis on the recommendations of Doctoral Committee. The student will be required to visit National Law University Delhi for Viva Voce to defend his/her Thesis as per University Regulations.

The Vice-Chancellor may permit a member of the NLU, Delhi faculty to take up Ph.D. Degree course along with his / her teaching assignment in the interest of faculty improvement on the condition that his / her teaching and other responsibilities are not hampered in any way provided such candidates fulfill the conditions prescribed in the Ph.D. Regulations.

3. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION: *

- a) The number of seats available for Ph.D. programme will be notified by the University every year before the start of admission process keeping in view the availability of teachers for guiding Ph.D. Scholars. However, the number of seats may be exceeded up to 25% for considering the applications of regular faculty members of the NLU Delhi for Ph.D. admission, who are otherwise fulfilling the required eligibility criteria.
- b) The admission shall be through a qualifying written test to be conducted by the university. The written test is only a qualifying test and there will be no weightage of marks secured in test in the final selection.
- c) The candidate shall secure minimum 50% marks (40% in case of SC/ST candidates) in the written test to qualify for submission of research proposal. The qualified candidates will be asked to submit their Research Proposal for scrutiny. The University has the right to keep the seats vacant if sufficient numbers of candidates with minimum cut off marks are not available.
- d) The candidates who have qualified UGC NET/JRF, SLET, and M. Phil are exempted from the taking the admission test. They will be asked to submit their Research Proposal for scrutiny along with other qualified candidates.
- e) All qualified candidates along with exempted category candidates shall submit research proposal. The Scrutiny Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor will short list the candidates after examining their research proposals for giving presentation before the Doctoral Committee. The candidates equal to three times of number of seats, based on scoring given by the Scrutiny Committee, will be called to give a presentation before the Doctoral Committee on the proposed topic of research on a date notified by the University.
- f) Based on identified criteria, the Doctoral Committee will evaluate the candidates for maximum of 10 marks. The decision of the Doctoral Committee in recommending the name of the candidates for admission to Ph.D. programme shall be final. The admissions will be finally approved by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendations of the Doctoral Committee. The University has a right to keep the seats vacant if the sufficient number of candidates are not found suitable by the Doctoral Committee.

4. CATEGORIES OF ENROLMENT:

- a. Full-time enrolment
 - i) Enrolment for the Ph.D. Degree shall ordinarily be full-time. The candidate shall put in a minimum of two-years residence of which at least 18 months shall be in the university. There shall thus be provision for the candidate to earn credits for research work done outside the university.
 - ii) Three years shall be the maximum period in which a full time candidate should complete the work and submit it for evaluation.

* Amended vide notification dated 26.04.2016/ E.C. Resolution No.1.4 dated 12.08.2016

- b. Part-time enrolment

There shall be provision for part-time enrolment for the Ph.D. Degree.

 - i) A part-time candidate shall put in a minimum of three years of part-time study in the University including time spent for research at any other place with the permission of the supervisor.

****Provided that the part-time candidates shall put in residence in the University for at least a total period of 06 months spread over the three year period. However, persons working at senior level such as a Judge in the High Court / Supreme Court, a senior Advocate in Supreme Court and Judicial Officers (with LL.M. degree and ten years' experience as Judicial Officer) may be exempted from the said residence condition with the condition that they should complete the certificate course in research methodology within six months after admission.**

- ii) Five years shall be the maximum period in which the part-time candidate shall complete the research work and submit it for evaluation.
- c) Conversion either from part-time to full-time or from full-time to part-time is to be permitted only with the approval of the Doctoral Committee.
- d) In cases of both part-time and full-time enrolment the supervisor of the candidate shall ensure monitoring of the research work done by the scholars outside the university campus by insisting on production of adequate proof of work done.
- e) Expiry / Lapse of Enrolment:
Enrolment for the Ph.D. shall be deemed to have lapsed after three years from the date of enrolment in the case of full-time scholars and five years in the case of part-time scholars. In such cases, however, the Doctoral Committee, on the application by the concerned scholar along with the report of supervisor, may give extension of time for a period of six months at a time but for a maximum period of not more than one year.

5. SUPERVISORS FOR RESEARCH:

- a) The Doctoral Committee shall appoint one or more faculty member(s) to supervise the Ph.D. scholars.

An external supervisor with expertise and experience in the area of study may also be appointed in addition to the internal supervisor who shall be a full time faculty member.

The Doctoral Committee shall ensure that supervisors be competent to supervise the scholar and also that they be available for supervision for the expected duration of the scholar's period of study.

- b) A scholar shall pursue the programme of study and research as approved by supervisor / supervisors. Such programme shall include the presentation of a thesis embodying the results of the scholar's research work.

** Amended vide E.C. Resolution No.2.9 dated 25.02.2013

- c) For the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy the thesis must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge in the subject and afford evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical analytical power.
- d) Not later than six months after admission, the scholar shall submit the title of the thesis for approval by the supervisor / supervisors. The title approved by the supervisor should not be substantially altered except with the permission of the Doctoral Committee.
- e) All Scholars registered for Ph.D. should submit the interim report every six months duly certified by the supervisor. If they fail to submit two interim reports the candidature will automatically stand cancelled.
- f) At least once a year, or at any other time considered desirable, the supervisor shall present to the Doctoral Committee a report on the work of the scholars working under his supervision.

- g) Only a Ph. D. Degree holder can be a supervisor for Ph. D. scholars provided that he / she has completed atleast two years after obtaining Ph.D. degree from any one of the Indian or foreign universities;
- h) A Professor of Law who has no Ph. D. Degree can be a supervisor provided he / she has minimum 15 years of teaching and research experience.
- i) *A Supervisor shall not have, at any given point of time, more than five Ph.D. Scholars. However, in exceptional cases, it may be extended up to eight Ph.D. Scholars. (***Amended vide E.C. Resolution No.2.9 dated 09.03.2016**)
- j) If the research theme requires the assistance of any of the external experts in any field, the Doctoral Committee may approve the list of such external supervisors from time to time and under no circumstances the external supervisors be appointed as the main supervisor for any scholar. Such external supervisors will be appointed along with an Internal supervisor for any of the Ph. D. scholars depending upon the circumstances.

6. COURSE WORK:

The scholars should undertake course work for a minimum period of one semester and take three courses. The details of the three courses are as follows:

- a. Course on Legal Education and Research, 2. Course focusing on the research area of Ph. D scholar and 3 Practical Teaching Course
- b. The scholars possessing M. Phil./ Ph.D. Degree may be exempted from taking the Research Methodology paper in the course work provided they have completed such course earlier.
- c. The Ph. D scholar shall secure at least 50% of marks in each paper.
- d. The course work shall be completed within six months from the date of registration.
- e. Ph. D Scholar failing to secure 50% of marks in the courses mentioned above, may be provided an opportunity to re-appear one or more time(s) within three months of the publication of results.
- f. The Ph. D scholar shall be allowed to continue further research work only after completing the course work as mentioned above.
- g. ***Provided that persons working at senior level such as a Judge in High Court / Supreme Court, a senior Advocate in Supreme Court and Judicial Officers (with LL.M. degree and 10 years' service as Judicial Officer) may be exempted from course work, with the condition that they should complete the certificate course in research methodology within six months after admission.**

7. TERMINATION OF CANDIDATURE:

- a. If in the opinion of the Research Committee a scholar's work is not satisfactory, the committee shall ask the scholar to show cause why his / her candidature should not be terminated.
- b. The response of the concerned scholar to the show cause notice shall be considered by the Doctoral Committee which may thereon recommend to the Vice-Chancellor that the scholar be allowed to continue with his / her research or that his / her candidature be terminated.
- c. After consideration of the recommendations of the Committee, the Vice-Chancellor may either permit the scholar to continue with his / her research or terminate the candidature or permit the candidature to re-enroll specifying conditions for such re-enrolment.
- d. If the scholar does not respond to the show cause notice, then on the recommendations of the Doctoral Committee the Vice-Chancellor shall terminate candidature of the concerned scholar and the Registrar shall officially inform the scholar of such termination.

- e. A scholar whose candidature is terminated under Regulation 7 (c) may prefer an appeal to the Academic Council. Such an appeal should be submitted in writing within 60 days from the date of receipt of the order.

The Academic Council on proper examination of the case may either uphold the Doctoral Committee's decision or may reverse such decision or may take any other appropriate decision in this regard.

8. EVALUATION / EXAMINATION OF THESIS:

- a. Prior to submission of the thesis the scholar shall submit a draft thesis to the Registrar through the supervisor and make a Pre-Ph.D. presentation which is open to all the faculty and research scholars for comments and the same may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis on the advice of the supervisor.
- b. Ph.D. scholars shall publish one research paper in a referred journal before the submission of the thesis / monograph for adjudication and produce evidence for the same in the form of acceptance letter or the reprint.

* Amended vide E.C. Resolution No.2.9 dated 25.02.2013

- c. The scholar shall be required to submit five copies of his / her thesis (all the five copies to be retained by the University) along with a soft copy on a CD, embodying the results of the scholar's research work to the Registrar. The thesis shall include an abstract / summary of approximately 300 words. The length of the thesis shall conform to the requirements as prescribed by the Research Committee.
- d. The thesis shall be in English and shall be the result of scholar's own work attaining a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.
- e. The evaluation / examination of the thesis shall be to assess the scholar's contribution arising out of research on the topic of the thesis not including any work which forms part of the scholar's work for the award of any other degree successfully completed at this University or elsewhere. The scholar shall clearly indicate in the thesis the nature and extent of the scholar's contribution.
- f. Before a scholar submits his / her thesis, the supervisor appointed under Regulation 5(a) must be satisfied that the thesis conforms to the requirements of Regulations 8 (a) to (d) and a certificate to this effect from the supervisor shall accompany the thesis when it is submitted. If the supervisor does not so certify, the Doctoral Committee shall determine whether the thesis shall be submitted or not for evaluation and take appropriate measures to submit the same.
- g. After submission of the thesis by the scholar, the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendation of the supervisor concerned, shall appoint three external examiners, of whom one shall be from outside the State.
- h. The examiners shall report in writing in the approved form to the University giving their assessment of the thesis and their recommendations as to whether the degree shall or shall not be awarded to the scholar. In the examiners' assessment the thesis does not qualify for the award of the degree the examiners shall indicate whether additional work should be undertaken by the scholar or whether the thesis should be rejected outright.
- i. If all the three examiners unanimously recommend the award of the degree there shall be viva-voce examination of the scholar conducted by one of the three examiners who evaluated the thesis. After successful completion of viva-voce examination, the award of the degree is recommended by the Doctoral Committee to the Academic Council. Once the Doctoral Committee recommends the award of the degree to the scholar to the Academic Council, a

notification will be released and the scholar may be given a Provisional Certificate specifying that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions to the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2009. The award of the degree will be made at the annual convocation with the approval of the Academic Council and the Executive Council.

- j. Where a thesis fails to obtain the unanimous recommendation of all the three examiners or where after the viva-voce examination, the viva-voce examiners do not recommend the award of degree, the Doctoral Committee may decide:
- i) to recommend that the degree be not awarded to the scholar ;
or
 - ii) to recommend that the scholar undertake additional work on the thesis and submit a revised thesis within a specified period;
or
 - iii) to take such action as deemed appropriate before making a recommendation, provided that in making its recommendations the Doctoral Committee shall be guided by the opinion of the majority of examiners.
 - iv) A scholar who is required to re-submit a revised thesis for evaluation / examination shall be re-enrolled for a period of not less than **one and a half year** prior to resubmission.
 - v) Only one re-submission may be permitted.
 - vi) If a scholar fails to defend his dissertation at the viva-voce examination, the scholar may be given one additional opportunity to defend the dissertation which shall be final.
- k. The re-submitted thesis shall go through the evaluation process as specified under Regulation 8 (g) to (i).
If the re-submitted thesis also fails at the evaluation process, there shall be no provision for a further resubmission.
- l. A copy of the thesis shall be deposited in the library which shall be available for consultation by others either on loan or photocopying forthwith; provided that, in exceptional cases, the Doctoral Committee, on the application of the scholar and on the recommendations of the supervisor, determine that it shall not be available for consultation by others until after the expiry of a period, which period shall not ordinarily exceed one year.
- m. The University shall submit a soft copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the UGC within a period of thirty days after the award of the degree.
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Note:

The Executive Council vide item No.1.1 dated 23.12.2016 has authorized the Vice-Chancellor to integrate the UGC Regulations[University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016] in the Ph.D. Regulations of the National Law University in an appropriate manner.