



Indira Gandhi National Open University

Academic Session 2010

Prospectus for Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Programme in Distance Education

Research Unit

Indira Gandhi National Open University

New Delhi 110068

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (M.Phil) PROGRAMME in DISTANCE EDUCATION

1. Introduction

The M.Phil Degree programme in Distance Education aims at training professionals and teachers in the skills and competencies related to the systematic investigation of various issues and problems in the field of Distance Education. At this level, the study is expected to provide new and original insights into the problems faced by the Distance Education system and strive to develop a body of new knowledge to solve educational problems. The M.Phil Programme in Distance Education shall commence from January 2010, and admission shall be made every calendar year based on number of seats available in accordance with the approved supervisor list.

2. Programme Design

The M.Phil programme shall consist of 32 credits of Course Work. The Course Work component shall have the following courses:

RDE-01: Research Methodology (8 Credits)

RDE-02: Information and Communication Technology (6 Credits)

RDE-03: Web-based Education (6 Credits)

RDE-04: Contexts and Concerns of Distance Education (6 Credits)

RDE-05: Term Paper and Seminar (6 Credits)

Dissertation: Besides the Course Work, the candidates have to undertake a dissertation of 16 Credits in a topic of their choice.

The M.Phil. Programme in Distance Education is offered in a blended mode with 2 compulsory face-to-face workshops of 5 days each at the headquarters to be held in the month of March and September. Much of the interaction shall be one-to-one with the Course Coordinators, to whom all assessment related works have to be submitted.

3. Duration

The duration for M.Phil Programme will be 18 months (minimum) and four years (maximum). The maximum duration can be extended by one more year with the permission of the Vice Chancellor.

4. Eligibility Criteria

A candidate will be eligible for admission and registration for the M.Phil programme in Distance Education provided he/she has a Post Graduate degree in Distance Education (MADE of IGNOU) or Education (M.Ed. or MA (Ed.)) from any university or a recognized institution of higher learning.

5. Admission Process

- i) Filled in application form for admission to the M.Phil programme in Distance Education shall be submitted in the prescribed form to the **Director, Research Unit, IGNOU, New Delhi- 110068**.
- ii) After initial scrutiny, the Research Unit will forward filled-in M.Phil forms to the STRIDE. **The selection for admission to M.Phil programme in Distance Education will be done on the basis of the performance in the Entrance Test to be conducted by the University.**
- iii) The Research Unit will declare the results of successful and unsuccessful candidates and intimate the same. The Director, Research Unit will also intimate candidates about his/her selection sending an offer letter.
- iv) The candidate shall submit the programme fee and other relevant documents to the Research Unit along with the offer letter and other relevant documents as per the University norms.
- v) Selected candidates will be admitted provisionally as per the University norms and the Research Unit will confirm the admission of the candidate.
- vi) All the Candidates admitted shall undergo the Course Work worth 32 credits as approved by the Research Council of the University.
- vii) *Number of seats available for the January 2010 session is 24. Admission shall be offered to only those candidates who receive at least 50 per cent mark in the test, in order of ranking. Rules for reservation as per GOI norms applicable for Indian students.*

6. Proposed date for Entrance Examination and Admission Cycle

- i) Applications received up to 30th September 2009 – Entrance Exam will be conducted during October 2009 and will be considered for admission to the January 2010 session.
- ii) Applications received up to 31st March 2010 – Entrance Exam will be conducted during April 2010 and will be considered for admission to the July 2010 session.

The Research Unit with the support of STRIDE, will conduct the Entrance Examination. The Research Unit will declare the results and inform candidates with an Offer Letter asking the candidate to submit the application within in **one month** from the date of Offer Letter issued. If the candidate fails to submit the fee, the offer of registration shall be treated as cancelled. However, under special circumstances, an extension up to six months may be given by the Vice-Chancellor. A written request with mention about the compelling reason(s) to this effect will have to be made to the Director, Research Unit for formal approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

7. Programme Fee

7.1 For Indian Candidates: Selected candidate is required to pay Rs 10500/- (Rupees Ten Thousand and five hundred only) towards Programme Fee. The remittances are to be made through a Demand Draft only in favour of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), payable at New Delhi, India.

7.2 For International Candidates

Sl. No.	Prog. Fee for SAARC (Countries)	Prog. Fee for Non-SAARC (Countries)
1. Application Fee	INR- 1000 (non-refundable)	US \$- 100 (non-refundable)
2. Registration	INR- 25, 000/-	US \$ - 1500

International candidates should note that the programme needs participation in two face-to-face workshops at the Headquarters, IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, and it would be their responsibility (towards visa, air fare, boarding and lodging) to attend the same. No relaxation shall be given on this.

Selected candidates will be intimated about his/her selection for M.Phil by the Research Unit through the International Division of the University and the candidate is required to pay Registration Fee i.e. INR 25000/- for SAARC countries and USD 1500/-for Non-SAARC candidates. The remittances are to be made through a demand draft only in favour of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), payable at New Delhi, India.

8. Research Candidate Status

The M.Phil programme of IGNOU can be pursued full-time as well as part-time basis. All those candidates who are offered a fellowship by the University or any other agency shall register with the University to pursue M.Phil programme of the University on a full-time basis and comprise the category of 'full-time students'. In exceptional cases, the Research Council, on the recommendation of the School Board/Area Committee concerned may allow candidates without a fellowship to register as full-time candidates. All full-time candidates shall work towards their M.Phil programme at the University headquarters or at its Regional Centres or at any other institution recognized by the University for the purpose with the recommendation of the supervisor and the Director of STRIDE and with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. Persons employed in any organization and desirous of pursuing the M.Phil programme may register as part-time candidates, if they want to pursue their research studies at their own place of work.

However, they will work at the University headquarters or at any Regional Centre as and when needed. The Research Guide(s), Programme Coordinator and Director of STRIDE will decide such situations and ask the candidate accordingly.

The procedure for monitoring of the progress of the foreign candidates may be the same as for Indian candidates. However, all information will be routed through the International Division of the University.

All registrations to M.Phil programme shall be provisional and the same will be confirmed only on approval by the Research Council.

9. Cancellation of Registration

The registration of a candidate may be cancelled for any of the following reasons:

- i) Non-payment of fees
- ii) Unsatisfactory progress.
- iii) Non-compliance with the provisions of the Ordinances and other Regulations of the University.
- iv) Failure to complete Course Work and/or submit the thesis within the time limit prescribed.

The Research Council may however consider requests for re-registration. The application for reregistration must be made within a period not exceeding six months from the cancellation of registration and should be recommended by the supervisor(s) and the School Board concerned. All students re-registered shall pay full fees on re-registration as per University rules prevailing at the time.

10. Medium of Instruction

The language in which the dissertation and other related work shall be in English only. In cases where the study pertains to regional languages, dissertation work could be in that language.

11. Research Supervision

Every candidate registered for M.Phil. programme shall be required to pursue the programme under the supervisor(s) recognized by the University. Supervision/Joint Supervision for candidates shall be assigned by the School Board/Area Committee (discipline) concerned in accordance with their choice from among the panel of supervisors recognised by the university.

Provided that where there are joint supervisors, one of the supervisors shall be from the university. The internal supervisor shall be responsible for providing the necessary link between the candidate and the University for academic, administrative and organizational matters. Supervisory responsibility, however, will be shared jointly in case of joint supervision.

All Professors and the Readers of IGNOU shall be eligible to be research supervisors in the discipline concerned of the University. All IGNOU teachers/academics including lecturers/ARDs, with a Ph.D degree and with at least five years of post-doctoral teaching/research experience shall be eligible to be recognized as research supervisors.

The School Board/Area Committee shall recommend to the Research Council, a panel of experts to be recognized as research supervisors who may or may not belong to the University. The School Board concerned/Area Committee may also recommend for consideration and approval of the Research Council, a retired teacher

identified by the candidate to act as her/his supervisor(s), provided the teacher is qualified to do so as per the norms laid down by the University.

The University may allow a change of supervisor under exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the Research Council of the University. List of Internal Supervisors of STRIDE are placed in the sub-section 16 of the prospectus. Supervisors for M.Phil dissertation shall be allotted by the Faculty depending on the topic chosen by the scholar and availability of supervisor in STRIDE and the University.

At any time, a research supervisor shall not guide more than the number prescribed (M.Phil Candidates) by the University taking into consideration independent supervision/joint supervision of candidates to be taken for research guidance.

12. Library Facility

The University shall extend the library facility as per University rules to the registered candidates of all full-time M.Phil programme. For membership, the candidate may contact: The Librarian, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068. Similarly, the facilities at the Regional centre libraries may also be availed of the Library and reading hall facilities of ICWA, Sapru House, Barakhamba Road and other libraries, New Delhi are also available for research scholars of the University on producing a letter of introduction as a proof of registration in the University.

13. Progress of Research Candidates

Commencing from the date the candidates are short-listed for admission to the programme, each candidate will be attached to a faculty member. Once the candidate registers for the M.Phil programme, she/he shall be assigned one (or more) research supervisor(s). During the period, the candidate shall carry out the study and related research tasks under the supervision of the research supervisor(s).

Monitoring the routine progress of the M.Phil candidate shall be the responsibility of the supervisor(s). Every candidate is required to clear Course Work on Research Methodology and other courses, prescribed by the School Board/Research Committee of the discipline/area. The Candidate can do the course work and dissertation work simultaneously.

14. Assessment and Evaluation

- i) Assignments and Term Paper, and Seminars under Continuous Evaluation and Term-End Examination, Practical if any, under Terminal Evaluation and Thesis and *Viva-Voce* form the assessment package for M.Phil Programme.
- ii) The Thesis shall be examined by an external examiner nominated by the Vice Chancellor from a list of at least 10 experts submitted by the faculty through the School Board/Research Committee concerned.

- iii) After evaluation of the thesis by the examiner, the *Viva-voce* shall be conducted by a panel comprising the external examiner, the supervisor of the candidate (Convenor of the panel) and the Director concerned as the Chairperson of the panel. The report of the evaluation will be given on a prescribed format.
- iv) A candidate shall be deemed to have completed his/her course work successfully if he/she obtains at least 'C' Grade (measured on a five point scale) or 50% of the maximum score in the course work.

Award of Degrees

A Candidate shall be awarded the M.Phil Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council. The Registrar, Student Examination Division shall issue the Provisional M.Phil Degree and final M.Phil Award to all qualified students.

15. Removal of Difficulties

Notwithstanding anything in the above document, the Vice-Chancellor may take such measures as may be necessary in respect of candidates registered with the University for M.Phil Degree. The University reserves the right to change the rules from time to time and only the latest rules will be applicable to all the students irrespective of the year of registration.

16. Research Guides/Supervisors for M.Phil Programme in Distance Education

Name of the Supervisor	Areas of Specialization within Distance Education Discipline
Prof. P.R. Ramanujam (ramanujam_p_r@hotmail.com)	Open and distance education: theory and practices; curriculum and course design and development; editing DE materials; staff development; research methods; English literature; online education; disability studies; quality assurance in ODL.
Prof. Santosh Panda (spanda@ignou.ac.in)	Staff/ professional development/ online CPD/ distance teacher education; distance, online and blended learning; educational technology; curriculum development & instructional design; learners and learning; student attrition and persistence; virtual research; economics of distance and online learning; policy and management of open and distance learning; open schooling and open basic education.
Prof. C.R.K. Murthy (murthycrk@hotmail.com)	Planning and management in ODL; curriculum design and development of multiple media materials; learner support services, programme evaluation, impact studies, training methods.
Prof. Madhu Parhar (madhu.parhar@gmail.com)	Educational media and technology; Open and distance education

Name of the Supervisor	Areas of Specialization within Distance Education Discipline
Prof. Basanti Pradhan (pradhan_basanti@yahoo.com)	Distance education theory and practice; learning theories; open and distance learners and their learning; evaluation in open and distance learning; formative and summative evaluation in distance education; course development and instructional design.
Prof. Prabir K. Biswas (pkbiswas_g1@hotmail.com)	Distance education and psychology; learner support; staff development; learner needs and characteristics; attrition/ dropout.
Dr. R. Satyanarayana, Reader (at Regional Centre, Hyderabad) (dr_rsn@hotmail.com)	Philosophy of ODL; learner support services; computer mediated learner support; quality and management of DE; policy issues and networking.
Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Reader in Distance Education (s-mishra@ignou.ac.in)	Philosophical and theoretical foundations; use and impact of communication technologies, e-learning, educational multimedia; learner support; instructional design; use of SLM; student learning; library and information services for distance learners.

Besides, the above list the University has other supervisors approved for Distance Education and M.Phil. Scholars would be provided adequate supervision through approved supervisors for their research work.

17. Some Tips for M.Phil Candidates

Tips given below are for information only. Procedures pertaining to M.Phil programme registration are given in this section of the Prospectus.

17.1. Availability of M.Phil Prospectus for Sale

i) Through the sale counter of the:
Student Registration Division (SRD)
Block 3, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi,
New Delhi – 110068

ii) Cost of the Prospectus:

a) For Indian Candidates

- By Hand : Rs 750/-
- By Post : Rs 800/-

Demand Draft should be drawn in favour of IGNOU, payable at New Delhi.

b) For International Candidates

- Cost of Application Form for SAARC Countries : INR 1000/-
- Cost of Application Form for other countries (other than SAARC) USD 100/-

17.2. Availability of M.Phil Prospectus for Sale

- i) An Electronic Version of M.Phil Prospectus is placed on IGNOU's Website (www.ignou.ac.in), all Regional Centres' websites and the International Division website.
- ii) A candidate is required to enclose a Demand Draft of Rs. 750/- (Indian Candidates) drawn in favour of IGNOU payable at New Delhi along with the application form.
- ii) International candidates should enclose a Demand Draft of INR 1000/- for SAARC countries and USD 100/- for other countries drawn in favour of IGNOU payable at New Delhi, India.

17.3. Submission of Filled-in Application Form

Filled-in application form along with relevant documents should be submitted to:

The Director,

Research Unit, IGNOU

Room No. 3, Block 6,

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi- 110068

Tel: 91-011-29534326, 29571523

Email-id: researchunit@ignou.ac.in

17.4. Entrance Examination for M.Phil Programme in Distance Education

- i) An Entrance Examination will be conducted for all eligible applicants as per University norms.
- ii) Hall-Tickets for Entrance Exam will be sent to candidates by the Research Unit and the same will be posted on the IGNOU's website.
- iii) Entrance Examination will be conducted at the Headquarters, IGNOU.
- iv) Results of Entrance Examination along with the Offer Letter will be sent to all qualified candidates by the Research Unit, IGNOU. Similarly, results of the Entrance Examination will also be sent to all non-qualified candidates.
- v) Eligible and qualified candidates will submit filled-in Proforma enclosing Offer Letter to the Director, Research Unit, IGNOU, New Delhi along with Programme Fee as given in the Section 7 of this Prospectus.
- vi) The Director, Research Unit will confirm his/her provisional M.Phil registration as per the University norms.
- vii) **Syllabus:** As per the contents of PGDDE and MADE of IGNOU covering the following courses:
 - Growth and Philosophy of Distance Education
 - Design and Development of Self-Learning Print Materials
 - Learner Support Services
 - Management of Distance Education
 - Communication Technology for Distance Education
 - Research for Distance Education
 - Curriculum Development for Distance Education

- Distance Education: Economic Perspectives
- Staff Development in Distance Education

viii) **Format of Test:** The test shall be as per Paper III of UGC-NET covering the following types of questions:

Part-A

Section I: It requires the candidates to write a critique of a given passage or stanza from a known thinker/writer. Five carefully considered specific questions are to be asked on the given passage, requiring an answer in up to 30 words. It shall carry 5 X 5 = 25 marks. Five questions will be asked thereon. Questions in this section shall be numbered as 1 – 5. No choice of questions.

Section II: Fifteen questions will be asked across the syllabus. The questions will be definitional or seeking particular information and are to be answered in up to 30 words each. Each question will carry 5 marks (15 x 5 = 75 marks). There will be no internal choice. The questions in this section shall be numbered from 6 to 20.

Part-B

Section III: Five extended answers based on analytical/evaluative questions will be asked covering all areas of the syllabus. There is to be no internal choice. Each question will be answered in up to 200 words and shall carry 12 marks (5 x 12 = 60 marks). The questions in this section shall be numbered from 21 to 25.

Section IV: Essay writing – One question with internal choice on general themes and contemporary, theoretical or of disciplinary relevance will be given. The candidate would write up to 1000 words. The question should be numbered as 26. Maximum 40 marks.

Thus, the entrance test shall have 200 marks.

ix) **Duration:** The duration of test shall be 2 and half hours.

17.5. Term-end Examination for Course Work and Evaluation of Thesis

- University conducts Term-End Examination twice a year in June and December. Candidate is required to submit exam form before March 31st for June and before Sept 30th for December without late fee. Submission of Term-End Examination form for Course Work should be submitted to the Registrar, SED, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.
- Submit Term-End Exam form to the Registrar, SED, along with a demand draft (Rs 50/- per course as examination fee) drawn in favour of IGNOU, payable at New Delhi. Registrar, SED, IGNOU will send Hall tickets to eligible candidates. Hall Tickets will also be available on the IGNOU's website. Candidate can download the same and may use it for attending to term-end-exam at the exam

Centre allotted to her/him. She/he must carry the Identity Card issued to the candidate without which he/she will not be allowed to appear in the examination.

- iii) Candidate will submit an Abstract of his/her M.Phil thesis to the Director, Research Unit through the Director of the School concerned.
- iv) The Director, Research Unit will send the thesis for evaluation and invite the candidate and experts and others for *Viva –Voce* as per University norms.