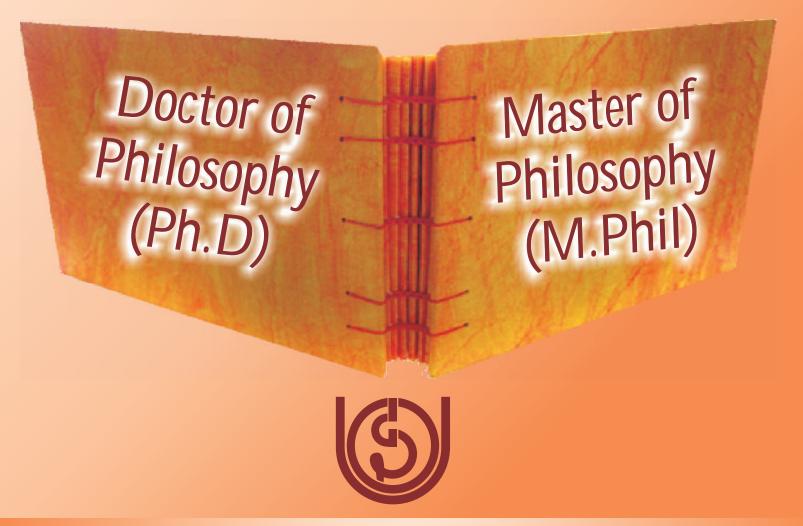


Prospectus for Research Degree Programmes



Research Unit

इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय

Indira Gandhi National Open University
New Delhi- 110068

"शिक्षा मानव को बन्धनों से मुक्त करती है और आज के युग में तो यह लोकतंत्र की भावना का आधार भी है। जन्म तथा अन्य कारणों से उत्पन्न जाति एवं वर्गगत विषमताओं को दूर करते हुए मनुष्य को इन सबसे ऊपर उठाती है।"

- इन्दिरा गाँधी



"Education is a liberating force, and in our age it is also a democratising force, cutting across the barriers of caste and class, smoothing out inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances."

– Indira Gandhi

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1. About the University

Introduction

The Indira Gandhi National Open University was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985. IGNOU offers various academic programmes that lead to Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees. It develops and produces courses for delivery through open and distance education mode. IGNOU is also actively involved in research, training and extension education activities.

How IGNOU is different from other universities

- national and international reach
- need based leaner centric programmes of study
- flexible admission rules in terms of eligibility, choice of courses, pace and place of study
- diverse learner groups
- use of latest educational and communication technologies
- student support services through the network of Regional Centres and Study Centres
- cost-effective programmes
- modular nature of programmes
- resource sharing, collaboration and networking with other open universities
- multiple media instructional packages
- collaboration with industry/professional institutions in the development & delivery of programmes
- convergence with formal higher learning institutions
- collaboration with community colleges

Present Status of the University

The University in a relatively short time, contributed significantly to higher education, community education and continual professional development. Apart from Schools of Studies for launching various academic programmes and courses university has also established various Centres and Chairs. Some of the Centres are Extension Education, National Centre for Differently Abled, National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education, Staff Training Research Institute of Distance Education and Inter University Consortium (for technology enabled education and development). Among Chairs – Tagore Chair for Indian Literature, Raman Chair for Science Education, Chair for Industry-Academy Interfacing, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Contemporary Studies, Chairs for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Sustainable Development, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Chair for Social Change, ISRO Chair on Satellite Communication and Development.

The University offers variety of academic programmes ranging from professional, technical and vocational and continuing education covering disciplines of Management, Information and Computer Sciences. Engineering, Agriculture, Health Sciences, Pure Sciences, Education, Law, Journalism and Mass Communication, Tourism and Hospitality Service, Social Work, Vocational Education and Training, Rural Development, Women Studies, Child Care, Extension and Development, Performing and Visual Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities, Translation and Training, Foreign Languages, Inter-Disciplinary and Trans Disciplinary Studies etc.

The University began its journey with just two academic programmes viz., Diploma in Distance Education and Diploma in Management with 4800 students in 1987. Today, IGNOU has evolved in to the world's largest university, with most diverse courses, offering more than 330 academic programmes, with a few thousands of courses enrolling more than 6,00,000 in 2008-09(annual) with 2.5 million on rolls in 2009.

The Vice Chancellor of the University says that IGNOU's founding principles were social inclusion and democratization of education. It was to provide a powerful alternative to the conventional education system of education. IGNOU has the most flexible education system in India offering a vast array of courses from certificate, diplomas, degree and doctoral degrees adopting modular approach for many of its programmes. The University ensures learner convenience through its unique age no bar, place no bar, pace no bar. The University is committed to being accessible to all, provide education with out barriers, to be the University of a billion plus Indians. Today, IGNOU with its own courses/programmes adopting ODL mode and convergence modes, it is also moving towards collaborations (public, private, NGO etc.) and community participation under the innovative schemes of Convergence and Community Colleges. Thus, the university appears today as a true open university with multiple mode of operations in the development and delivery of courses and programmes.

In order to offer these programmes, the University has established 59 Regional Centres, more than 2500 study centres for supporting learners from all possible strata of the society viz., rural, urban and tribal areas, physically challenged, jail inmates, women and weaker sections, personnel of armed and para military forces etc. The University established regular Regional Centes across the country with specific emphasis for North East States, recognised Regional Centers for Armed, Navy forces and Special Study Centres for disadvantaged groups and locations.

2. Research Unit

The Research Unit has been established at Indira Gandhi National Open University on October 6th, 2008. However, the unit came into existence on February'2009.Prior to that research related activities were looked after by the Academic Coordination Division of the University. The Unit has been established with the following objectives:

- To conduct Research Council (RC) and Research Council's Standing Committee (RCSC) meetings for developing policies and frameworks for conduct of research activities.
- To prepare agenda items on various matters pertaining to research and place the same before the RC/RCSC for consideration and approval.
- To send offer letters to all approved candidates for registration for all full-time/part-time M.Phil/Ph.D candidates and confirm their registration.
- To engage Research Teaching Assistants under the Research and Teaching Assistantship (RTA) Scheme for conduct of research and teaching in different disciplines.
- To facilitate systemic research in the form of research projects (Minor and Major Projects).
- To recognise higher learning educational institutions as Recognised Research Centers of IGNOU
 for conducting research degree programmes as per IGNOU's guidelines within the framework
 of the Ordinances and Regulations of the University.
- To conduct workshops/seminars in Research Methodology for full-time and part-time research candidates.
- To facilitate various administrative activities in conducting research such as conduct of entrance examination, registration & re-registration, conduct of term-end examination, etc.

3. Research Degree Programmes

M.Phil/Ph.D Programmes of the University

SL. No.	Discipline	SL. No.	Discipline
1	History	22	Mathematics
2	Economics	23	Physics
	(i) M.Phil full time on Campus	24	Chemistry
	(ii) Ph.D	25	Life Sciences
3	Sociology	26	Hindi
4	Political Science	27	English
5	Library and Information Science	28	Computer Science
6	Public Administration	29	Knowledge Management
7	Tourism and Hospitality Services	30	Information Communication Technology
8	Commerce	31	Informatics
9	Management	32	Mechanical Engineering
10	Eduction	33	Civil Engineering
11	Distance Education	34	Journalism & Mass Communication
	(i) M.Phil	35	Nursing
	(ii) Ph.D	36	Interdiciplinary & Trans-disciplinary
12	Vocational Education	07	Studies
13	Law	37	Astrophysics
14	Social Work	38	Sri Aurobindo Studies
	(i) M.Phil full time on Campus		(i) M.Phil (full time/part-time)
	(ii) Ph.D	00	(ii) Ph.D (full time/part-time)
15	Women's Studies	39	French
16	Rural Development	40	Extension and Development Studies
17	Child Development	41	Extension Education
18	Nutritional Sciences		M.Phil/Ph.D
19	Gender and Development Studies	42	Community Out Reach
20	Agriculture Extension		M.Phil/Ph.D
21	Dairy Science & Technology		

However, with the introduction of Research Degree Programmes with Integrate mode, Schools/Centres/Institutes shall be offering M.Phil degree subject to availability of Course Work or subject to offer of M.Phil programme in the discipline concern for Category 'B' candidates.

Ph.D programme on offer for July 2010/Jan. 2011 are specially listed in the Chapter 5 dicipline-wise. These specifics will provide various inputs for prospective research candidates viz., specific eligibility criteria, selection procedure, course work, list of research supervisers, M.Phil/Ph.D programme coordinators, etc.

4. Procedures for Admitting Candidates

i) Ph.D Programmes with Integrated Mode

The Research Council at its 15th meeting held on 21st October, 2009 approved the following guidelines/modalities for integrated Research Degree Programme for Category 'B' candidates.

Ph.D with Integrated Mode

SI. No.	Name of the Programme	Total Credits	Credits for Course Work	Credit for Thesis	Duration	Prog. Fee (Rs)
1.	M.Phil	48	32-36	16-12	18 months to 4 years	10500/-
2.	Ph.D (with Course Work) (Category"B")	96-100	32-36	64-68	3 to 5 years	7000/- per annum for 3 years
3.	Ph.D. (without Course Work) (Category"A")	64-68	Nil	64-68	2 to 5 years	7000/- per year
4.	Ph.D (with integrated mode)	112-116	32-36	16-12 (M.Phil) 64-68 (Ph.D)	3 to 5 years	7000/- Ist year, or 7000/ + 3500/- (for integrated Ph.D) and 7000/- each in 2 nd and 3 rd year respectively.

Terms and Conditions for M.Phil/Ph.D with Integrated Mode

- 1. The programme fees shall include registration fee, fee for the course work, evaluation fee and any other fees prescribed by the University from time to time, and shall always be charged on annual basis. All candidates re-registered shall pay full fees on re-registration.
- 2. The minimum and maximum duration after registration for the Ph.D programme shall be 2 years to 5 years depending upon the category. However, the maximum duration can be extended by one more year with the permission of the competent authority subject to such work requires additional time.
- 3. Optional for those who desire to work additionally for M.Phil dissertation for 12-16 credits.
- 4. Candidates are required to submit M.Phil dissertation between 6 months to 12 months after completing the Course Work successfully.
- 5. Rs 3500/- will be charged additionally towards M.Phil Programme fee beside Programme fee Rs 7000/- for the first year for Ph.D.
- 6. Evaluation of Course Work and Thesis of M.Phil and Viva-Voce will be done as per University Ordinances & Regulations, 2008 and subsequent notifications issued by the University.
- 7. Ph.D candidates registered under RTA scheme or other under Category 'B' with or without M.Phil after completing the Course Work will be allowed to pursue their research for thesis. The extra/additional work done for M.Phil dissertation will be counted only for M.Phil as he/she is opting additionally for M.Phil dissertation.

Terms and Conditions for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D under Integrated Mode

- 1. After completing successfully 32 to 36 credits Course Work and 12 to 16 credits Dissertation, an M.Phil degree will be awarded.
- 2. After completing successfully 32 to 36 credits Course Work and 64 to 68 credits Thesis Work, a Ph.D degree will be awarded (Category 'B')
- 3. After completing successfully 64 to 68 credits Thesis Work for Ph.D, a Ph.D degree will be awarded (Category 'A').
- 4. After completing successfully 32 to 36 credits course Work, 12 to 16 credits Thesis for M.Phil and 64 to 68 credits for Ph.D, an M.Phil and Ph.D degrees will be awarded under the Integrated Research Degree Programme.

ii) Eligibility Criteria for M.Phil/Ph.D

- a) A candidate will be eligible for admission and registration for the Ph.D programme provided he/she qualified:
 - for the award of the Master's Degree of any recognised
 University/Higher Learning Institution in the relevant discipline **or** any other qualification recognised as equivalent thereto in such fields of study as notified for the purpose from time to time by the University; and
 - ii) in an entrance examination conducted by the University at the national level on the pattern of UGC/CSIR.

OR

b) Talented graduates in a discipline, through laid down procedures will be eligible for admission into a full-time Integrated Doctoral Programme offered in collaboration with institutions of repute.

However, candidates holding an M.Phil. Degree or those candidates who have cleared JEST of DAE, or UGC-NET, or GATE of IIT, or those having five years of relevant teaching/practical/industry/professional experience will be exempted from appearing at the Entrance Examination.

Provided further that candidates who are employees of the University shall have completed at least two years of service in the University on the date they submit the application for admission.

Note: Some of the disciplines under Schools of Studies/Institutes/Centers have recommended specific eligibility criteria for specific disciplines /areas keeping in view specialization that are required for a particular discipline/ area. General criteria for admission into Ph.D shall be considered subject to no specific eligibility criteria (if any) prescribed by the discipline of the School/ Centre/Institute.

The advertisement for the programme shall be issued twice a year, indicating in the advertisement names of research degree programmes and Schools/Centers/Institutes offering such programmes. The applications in the prescribed format, shall be received by the Director of the Research Unit of the University. All eligible applications after initial scrutiny shall be sent to respective Schools/Centers/Institutes of the University.

The initial screening of the applications shall be done by the faculty of the discipline/area concerned. Applications received for Ph.D programmes shall be classified into two categories:

- **Category A:** Candidates having M.Phil or 5 years' relevant teaching/professional experience, who can directly undertake thesis work for Ph.D.
- **Category B:** Candidates who have to undergo basic Course Work before or alongside undertaking thesis work.

iii) Process of Selection of M.Phil/Ph.D Candidates

Entrance Test for Selection of Ph.D Candidates under Category 'B'

The University conducts an Entrance Test for all eligible candidates. However, the School/Centre/Institute concerned shall look into applications received for Ph.D and the School/Centre/Institute shall decide about conducting Entrance Test for selecting Ph.D candidates. The Research Unit with the support of the School concerned shall conduct the entrance test. The successful candidates shall face an interview/make presentations about their Ph.D proposals before the Doctoral Committee (DC) of the discipline of the School/Centre. The DC shall recommend all qualified candidates based on the proformance through the entrance test and interview/presentations to the School Board. In turn, the School Board recommends names of candidates, topics and research supervisor(s) to the Research Council for consideration and approval for Ph.D registration.

Presentations for Selection of Ph.D Candidates under Category 'A'

Candidate under Category 'A' shall make presentation of his/her research proposal to the Doctoral Committee. The procedure to be followed for the selection of these candidates are given below:

The Doctoral Committee for each discipline/area will comprise the following:

(i) Director of the School/Division/Institute/Centre - Chairperson

(ii) Faculty of the Discipline concerned - Member

(iii) At least one External Expert from the panel (Recommended by the School Board and approved by the VC) - Member

(iv) Ph.D Programme Coordinator of the Discipline/area - Convener

The candidates of Category 'A' shall present their proposals before the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee would also prescribe necessary course work, particularly Research Methodology to the selected candidates if required. The recommendations of the Doctoral Committee shall be placed before the School Board for approval. The Director of the School shall forward the same to the Research Unit for placing before the Research Council (RC) for final approval. After approval by the RC the Research Unit shall intimate the candidate about his/her selection through an offer letter. The candidate then shall submit the programme fee and relevant documents to the Research Unit and get Ph.D registration and confirmation with a unique Enrolment Number, topic for Ph.D along with the names of research supervisor(s).

Some candidates may not found eligible at the time of short-listing. However if the faculty feels that the research proposals need any modification, the Director of the School/Centre concerned may intimate the applicants to resubmit the proposals by carrying out necessary modifications. All such revised proposals shall be considered by the Discipline of the School/Centre for same cycle/future cycles depending upon their submission time.

Every candidate shall register for Research Degree Programmes annually by paying prescribed registration fee. The candidate so registered for 1st year shall re-register for 2nd and 3rd year under Category 'B' and for 2nd year under Category 'A' respectively. Re-registration for subsequent years after the first registration for 1st year is mandatory. However, a candidate is required to pay a fee of Rs. 10,500/- in one go as registration for M.Phil is being done only once. There is no re-registration for M.Phil candidates under independent mode/integrated mode.

iv) Course Work for M.Phil/Ph.D Candidates

The Category 'B' candidates are required to undergo course work worth 32 to 36 credits as approved by the Research Council. The Course work shall be prescribed by the respective School/Centre concerned based on the recommendations of the Doctoral Committee. Provided that where such course work is deemed unnecessary, a prescription to that effect of exemption shall be made by the School Board concerned to be approved by the Research Council. A candidate may be exempted (partially or fully) from the requirement of the course work by the School Board concerned and endorsed by the Research Council. Course Work for Category 'A' could be recommended by the Doctoral Committee in case a candidate do not posses adequate knowledge and skills in the area for which he/she has been assigned research for Ph.D

v) Research Supervisors

Every candidate registered for a research degree programme shall be required to pursue the programme under the approved research supervisor(s) of the University. Independent supervision/Joint Supervision for candidates shall be assigned by the Doctoral Committees & School Boards (discipline wise). Research Supervisors approved by the School Boards/other competent bodies shall only be considered for guiding research candidates.

The School Board concerned shall recommend to the Research Council, a panel of experts to be recognised as research supervisors who may or may not belong to the University.

List of internal supervisors of the University and some of the external supervisors who are willing to guide/supervise research candidates are available with School/Centre of the University. Candidates can opt for any of the supervisor(s) subject to availability and expertise in the area/ discipline, of research being pursued by the candidate.

At any time, a research supervisor shall not guide more than 6-12 candiadtes prescribed for M.Phil/Ph.D candidates by the University taking into consideration independent supervision/joint supervision of candidates to be taken for research guidance. The University may allow a change of supervisor under exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the Research Council.

All the 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 with five years of teaching experience shall be eligible to be recognised as research supervisor.

vi) Status of Research Candidates

The Ph.D programme of IGNOU can be pursued full-time as well as on 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 a Ph.D programme of the University on a full-time basis and comprise the category of 'full-time candidates.

The Research Council, on the recommendation of his/her research supervisor(s) the School Board concerned may recommend candidates without a fellowship to register as full-time candidates. All full-time candidates shall work towards their Ph.D programme at the University headquarters or at its Regional Centres or at any other institution recognised by the University for a specific purpose.

Persons employed in any organization and desirous of pursuing the Ph.D programme may register as

part-time candidates, if they want to pursue their research studies at their own place of work. The research supervisor(s), Programme Coordinator and Director of the School concerned shall take such decisions and advice the candidate accordingly.

vii) Progress of Research Candidates

Every candidate shall carry out the study and related research tasks under the supervision of his/her research supervisor(s). Monitoring the routine progress of the Ph.D candidate shall be the responsibility of the supervisor(s). The Six monthly Progress Reports are to be submitted to his/her supervisor(s) in the prescribed format. The Director of the school/centre concerned shall report the recommendations of Research Supervisor(s) to the School Board and also forward the same to the Research Unit for placing before the Research Council. A format of the progress report is placed at Annexure 1.

Each candidate shall give at least two Seminars during the whole duration of the programme before the Doctoral Committee. Every candidate has to clear course work on Research Methodology and other courses, if any, prescribed by the Doctoral Committee of the discipline/area.

viii) Cancellation of M.Phil/Ph.D Registration

The registration of a candidate for M.Phil/Ph.D may be cancelled for any of the following reasons:

- i) Non-payment of registration/re-registration fee.
- 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 prescribed time limit.

ix) Evaluation of Course Work

The School Board concerned or the Research Committee, as the case may be, shall prescribe an evaluation scheme for the course work to be done by the research candidate. Depending on the nature of the course and the specific needs, the evaluation methodologies may include:

- i) Evaluation system of a comprehensive examination as applicable to the prescribed credit-based courses.
- ii) A term paper on a theme or presentation of an assignment at a seminar
- iii) Oral examination
- iv) Any combination of these methods to be decided by the faculty of the discipline.

Evaluation Methodology for Course Work consists of Assignments, Seminars, Term papers, etc under Continuous Assessment and Term-end Examination and Practical if any under Term-End Assessment. The tools of assessment under Continuous Assessment and Terminal Assessment shall be decided by the faculty of the School. The University shall conduct term-end examination in January, April, July and October every year. Candidates eligible for writing examination can attempt. The Research Unit shall conduct term-end examination with the support of the School/Centre concern. A format for term-end examination is placed at Annexure 2.

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 of the programme.

x) Submission and Evaluation of M.Phil Dissertation

After successful completion of the course work in the discipline, the candidate shall take up the dissertation work. The candidate shall submit two spiral/hard bound copies of the dissertation along with one in the electronic form to the Research Unit through the Director concerned. The thesis shall include a certificate signed by the supervisor(s) about the originality of the work.

- The dissertation shall be examined by an external examiner nominated by the Vice Chancellor form a list of at least 10 experts submitted by the faculty through the School Board concerned.
- After evaluation of the dissertation 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 of the School/Centre concerned as the Chairperson of the panel. The report of the evaluation will be given on a prescribed format.
- For successful completion of the M.Phil programme, the candidate shall secure a minimum 50% marks in each course, the dissertation work as well as the viva-voce.
- In case the candidate fails in the dissertation work, the Research Unit shall communicate the report of the examiner to the candidate.

xi) Submission and Evaluation of Ph.D Thesis

a) Requirements for Submission of Ph.D Thesis

After the research supervisor(s) is/are satisfied that the candidate has acquired a sound understanding of the substance of the thesis and the relevant research approaches, the research supervisors shall permit the candidate to proceed with the submission of her/his thesis. The submission of the thesis will include the following:

- i) At least one research paper in the area of the study for Ph.D should be published/accepted for publication in a peer reviewed/referreed journal before the pre-submission Seminar.
- ii) The candidate shall present her/his thesis work in a 'pre-submission seminar' to be convened exclusively for this purpose by the Director of the School/Centre/Institute concerned. The audience of the 'pre-submission seminar' may remain the same as that of the Doctoral Committee.
- iii) After the seminar, the candidate and research supervisors shall consider the reactions and observations expressed by the participants. The Director of the School concerned and supervisor(s) will then assess whether the candidate has attained the expected level in conceptualization and quality of research work. If their assessment is in the affirmative, the candidate shall be allowed to submit the thesis to the University. However, if it is realized that the expected level has not been reached the supervisor(s) shall suggest to the candidate specific tasks to be accomplished before submission of the thesis. On satisfactory completion of the assigned tasks, she/he shall be allowed to submit the thesis.
- iv) The candidate shall submit a copy in electronic form and five hard copies of the Summary of the thesis (3000-5000 words) duly approved by the supervisor(s) at least 45 days before the submission of the thesis to the School concerned and the same shall be sent to the Director, Research Unit of the University by the Director/Head of the School/Centre/Institute concerned.
- v) Five spiral bound copies of the final thesis and one in the electronic form shall be submitted to the Director, Research Unit through the Director of the School/Division/Institute/Centre

concerned. The thesis will include a certificate signed by the supervisor(s) about the originality of the work.

b) Evaluation of Ph.D Thesis & Viva-voce

- i) The thesis shall be examined by three external experts nominated by the Vice- Chancellor. From a list of 7-10 experts submitted by the supervisor(s) through the School Board concerned.
- ii) The examiners will submit their Evaluation Reports to the University individually.
- iii) On the recommendation of the examiner for the award of a Ph.D. degree, an open defence of the thesis shall be conducted at the place of research by a panel comprising one of the external examiners, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, and one of the supervisor(s) of the candidate. The Director of the School/Institute/Centre concerned would be the Chairperson of the panel. The supervisor will be the Convenor of the panel. The defence shall be open to all interested participants.
- iv) The examiners' reports shall be shown to the candidate before hand to enable her/him to address the issues raised therein while preparing to defend the thesis during the open defence.
- v) In case any examiner suggests certain modifications and re-submission of the thesis, the same should be communicated to the candidate, who will be asked to resubmit the thesis with all the modifications within six months. The research supervisor(s) will ensure that the suggestions of the examiner(s) are adequately addressed before resubmission of the thesis. The modified thesis shall be referred again to the examiner(s) concerned for re-evaluation.
- vi) If one of the examiners does not recommend the thesis for the award of a Ph.D. Degree, the thesis shall be referred to another examiner for independent evaluation. If the fourth examiner recommends the thesis for the award of a Ph.D. Degree, the viva voce examination shall be organized by the Director of the School/Centre/Institute concerned. However, if fourth examiner also rejects the thesis, the thesis shall be rejected by the University.
- vii) The date, time and venue of the open defence, along with a one-page abstract of the thesis, shall be notified to all concerned by the Research Unit.
- viii) The report of the open defence, prepared by the external examiner, the supervisor(s) and the Director of the School/Division/Institute/Centre, concerned, shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor for approval and issue of Ph.D notification.

xii) Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees

A candidate shall be awarded the M.Phil/Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council of the University. The Registrar, Student Evaluation Division of the University shall issue the Provisional Degree and final degree to all qualified candidates.

xiii) Conduct of Research Degree Programmes

Research Degree Programmes of the University shall be guided by the existing Ordinances and Regulations of the University. Any amendment/modifications prescribed by the UGC from time to time shall be considered by the University Authorities/Bodies before their implementation. Till that date the University shall follow its own Ordinances and Regulations maintaining standards/quality in conducting research programmes.