



# VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

P.O.: Vidyasagar University, Midnapore-721102, Dist.: Paschim Medinipur,  
West Bengal, INDIA.

Date: 21.01.2025

## NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for general information that as decided by the Board of Research Studies (BRS) of Vidyasagar University in its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13.12.2024 vide Table Item No. IV and duly approved by the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor, the Ph.D. Regulations, 2022 of Vidyasagar University prepared based on the UGC Regulations, 2022 has been finalised and such Regulations will come into force with effect from the academic year 2024. A copy of the Ph.D. Regulations, 2022 is being enclosed herewith for information and necessary action in this regard.

This notification is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl.: as stated above.

Sd/-  
Dr. J. K. Nandi  
Registrar

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

Memo No. : VU/R/Noti./BRS-11/Ph.D. Regulation/77/ 2025 dated 21.01.2025.

- (1) the Deans of the faculty concerned ;
- (2) the Heads of all academic and administrative Departments/Centres;
- (3) the Secretary, Faculty Councils for Postgraduate Studies ;
- (4) the Principal(s)/Teacher(s)-in-Charge of the affiliated colleges wherein the Research Centres established ;
- (5) the Senior Information Scientist - for uploading the same on the University website ;
- (6) the Secretary to the Vice-chancellor for kind information of the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor ;
- (7) the Ph.D. Cell.



  
(Dr. J. K. Nandi)  
Registrar

Registrar  
VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY  
Midnapore-721102

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**VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY**  
**Midnapore**  
**Ph.D. Regulation, 2022**  
REGULATIONS RELATING TO  
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)  
IN ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE

Based on UGC Regulations, 2022

w. e. f. 13.12.2024

**Introduction**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme of the University is intended towards the achievement of new insights and findings, new methods of analysis and conclusions. The Ph.D. degree shall be awarded to a candidate on the basis of original contributions incorporated in his/her thesis, adjudicated and recommended by a Board of Experts and successfully defended by the candidate in a *viva-voce*.

**1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT**

- 1.1 These Regulations may be called 'Regulations Relating to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Arts, Commerce and Science, 2022 or the Ph.D. Regulations, 2022.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall come into effect from the date of Notification issued by the University and shall apply to all such cases coming under the purview of these Regulations, 2022 of Vidyasagar University.
- 1.3 'Research Scholar' shall mean and also be known as a student or a candidate engaged in research with or without scholarship and registered as such by the appropriate authority under these Regulations.
- 1.4 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, modifications and regulations received from the UGC from time to time in this regard shall be applied and incorporated suitably in these Regulations with necessary notifications.

**2. BOARD OF RESEARCH STUDIES**

- 2.1 The Ph.D. Programme of the University shall be monitored by the Executive Council through the Board of Research Studies (BRS) constituted for a period of four years.
- 2.2 The BRS shall consist of:
  - (i) The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor – Chairman;
  - (ii) The Dean, Faculty of Arts and Commerce;
  - (iii) The Dean, Faculty of Science;

- (iv) Two Senior Professors of the Vidyasagar University from each Faculty, to be nominated by the Executive Council;
  - (v) Four External Experts (not below the rank of Professor) to be nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (preferably two from each faculty)
  - (vi) The Registrar, Member Secretary.
- 2.3** Under the overall supervision and guidance of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, a meeting of the BRS shall be held at least thrice a year to make policy decisions for planning, promoting, coordinating and monitoring research activities at the University.
- 2.4** The BRS shall discharge the following functions for smooth and effective implementation of the Ph.D. Programme of the University:
- (i) To review the progress of research activities of the research scholars on the basis of reports of Research Advisory Committee (RAC), submitted by the respective Ph.D. Committee, in case of any dispute;
  - (ii) To consider the names of institutions or research organizations and recommend to the Executive Council for its approval of the signing MoUs/Linkages for research collaborations with the University;
  - (iii) To consider reports of examination/adjudication and make suitable recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor in case of rejection of a thesis;
  - (iv) To deal with all such matters as may be referred to BRS by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for advice and /or by the Ph.D. Committees for direction from time to time.

### **3. Ph.D. COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 a)** There shall be a Ph.D. Committee in each of the Post-Graduate Departments of the University to implement the Ph. D. programme, which shall include:
- (i) The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Chairman;
  - (ii) The Dean of the concern Faculty to which the Post-Graduate Department belongs, Vice-Chairman;
  - (iii) The Head or a teacher designated as the Teacher-in-Charge of the concerned Post-Graduate Department, Member Secretary;
  - (iv) All Professors of the concerned Post-Graduate Department;
  - (v) At least three internal members of the Department other than HOD/TIC.
  - (vi) If a department has less than three professors then remaining members will be nominated by the Departmental Committee (DC) from the Associate Professors, if possible, and from the Assistant Professors, if required, of the department other than

the HoD/TIC. In case of nonavailability of sufficient members of a Department, the remaining member(s) will be nominated from allied Department(s) by the DC. All nominated members must have at least a Ph. D. Degree.

- (vii) Two External Experts, not below the rank of Professor of a University or HEIs outside Vidyasagar University nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor out of a panel of five experts recommended by the DC.

**3.1 b)** The Vidyasagar University Research Centres which are conducting Ph.D. programme(s) shall constitute the Ph.D. committees as follows:

- (i) The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Chairman;
- (ii) The Dean of the concern Faculty to which the center belongs Vice-Chairman;
- (iii) The Director of the centre-Member Secretary;
- (iv) Four Faculty members not below the rank of Associate Professors of the concerned Post-Graduate Departments, as Ph D Committee members, nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
- (v) Two External Experts, not below the rank of Professor of a University or HEIs outside Vidyasagar University nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

**3.1 c)** The Colleges affiliated to Vidyasagar University which are conducting Ph.D. programme(s) at their Research Centre(s) of Colleges shall constitute the Ph.D. committees as follows:

- (i) Chairperson of the Ph.D. committee will be nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University out of the External members mentioned below in (iv) and (v);
- (ii) Principal/TIC/OIC/Director of the college, Vice-Chairperson;
- (iii) One member will be nominated by the Principal/TIC/OIC/Director of the college out of the Supervisors of the concerned Research Centre;
- (iv) Two Experts, not below the rank of Professor of Vidyasagar University nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor;
- (v) Two External Experts, not below the rank of Professor of a University or HEIs from outside the Vidyasagar University nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor;
- (vi) Coordinator of the Research Centre(s) of Colleges, Member Secretary.

**3.2** Terms and Conditions of the Ph.D. committee

- (i) A Ph.D. Committee shall function for a term of four years from the date of its constitution. In case of any vacancy in the position(s) referred to in sub-clause (vi) of Rule 3.1(a) and in sub-clause (iv) and (v) of Rule 3.1(b), the same criterion as specified above shall be adopted to fill in the vacancy within a period of three months;

- (ii) The presence of 50% of the members in a meeting of the Ph.D. Committee including at least one external expert, excluding the non-member supervisor(s) shall constitute the quorum;
- (iii) The presence of external members in a meeting shall not be mandatory for consideration of routine matters like determination of number of available positions /seats in a year, scrutiny of application forms, preparing the questions papers for Entrance Test, finalization of panel including merit list, preparation of list of paper setters, moderators, examiners for Entrance Test and Course Work Examinations etc.;
- (iv) In absence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty concerned shall chair the meeting. In absence of both the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and the Dean, the members shall select a Chairman not below the rank of a Professor from amongst themselves;
- (v) The Ph.D. Committee shall meet at quarterly intervals in a year or more frequently, if necessary.
- (vi) The non-member Supervisor(s) shall be invited to participate as invitee member(s) without voting right in connection with the research work of the scholar(s) concerned.

### **3.3 The functions of the Ph.D. Committee shall be:**

- (i) To submit the list of vacancies available in an academic year to the authority for publication of notification in the University website and in national dailies;
- (ii) To prepare the final merit list after the Interview of the candidates (adhering to the official Reservation Policy), in which the presence of external member(s) is mandatory, and to recommend such merit list to the Registrar for admission to the programme;
- (iii) To decide the allocation of Supervisor(s) for a selected candidate considering the proposed topic for research and the available expertise in the department concerned;
- (iv) To conduct the Pre-registration seminar of each eligible candidate and to send the reports of the seminars to the Registrar of the University;
- (v) To form the RAC for each registered scholar;
- (vi) To conduct the Pre-submission seminar of each registered scholar and to send the reports of the seminars to the Registrar of the University;
- (vii) To recommend the change of supervisor in case of demise of the Supervisor or for non-availability for other reasons, if the change is necessary on academic ground only;
- (viii) To recommend a list of adjudicators, prepared by Supervisor(s), for evaluation of the

- thesis at the time of pre-submission seminar, and it will be sent to the Registrar;
- (ix) To discharge such functions and responsibilities entrusted to it by the Vice- Chancellor from time to time;
  - (x) To consider and evaluate the applications of the teachers of colleges affiliated to Vidyasagar University, willing to act as co-supervisors, following the Ph. D. rules and regulations of Vidyasagar University (vide 4.1);
  - (xi) To consider the applications of Director(s) /Scientist(s)/ Researcher(s) of the Research Institute(s) who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor, as per clause 2.4 (ii), to act as co-supervisor abiding by all the stipulated criteria regarding the allocation of supervisor;
  - (xii) In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a co-supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/College/University may be appointed with the consent of the Ph. D. committee.

#### **4 ALLOCATION OF SUPERVISOR**

##### **4.1 A Supervisor can be allocated from:**

- (i) Any regular Professor/Associate Professor of Vidyasagar University with a Ph. D. degree with at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and any regular Assistant Professor of the University with a Ph.D. degree and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor. Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the BRS, on recommendation of the concerned Ph.D. committee, may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing. Supervisor other than parent institute will act as co-supervisor.
- (ii) Only a regular teacher of Vidyasagar University can act as a supervisor. However, Co-Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary/multidisciplinary areas from other Department/School/Centre/College/University/from other research institutions (vide clause 2.4 (ii)) with the approval of the BRS.
- (iii) The allocation of Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Ph.D. Committee concern depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisor(s) and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview.
- (iv) In case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary and / or multidisciplinary in nature

where the Ph. D. Committee of the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Ph. D. Committee of the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/ Faculty/College/Research Institution(s) on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions/Colleges and the BRS of Vidyasagar University.

- (v) A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor at any given point of time, cannot guide more than Eight (08) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide a maximum of six (06) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide a maximum of four (04) Ph.D. scholars.
- (vi) Each Supervisor can guide a maximum of two (02) international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in clause 4.1 (v) above.
- (vii) Adjunct Faculty members (appointed by the University as per UGC norms) shall not act as Research Supervisor(s) but may act only as co-supervisor(s). ('Adjunct Faculty' means a part-time or contingent instructor, but not full-time faculty member hired to teach by a HEI);
- (viii) The University shall maintain a list of Ph.D. Supervisors (specifying the name of the Supervisor, his/her designation, and the department/school/centre), along with the details of Ph.D. scholars (specifying the name of the registered Ph.D. scholar, the topic of his/her research and the date of admission) admitted under them on the website of the institution and update the list every academic year.
- (ix) In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, within two years of enrollment in the Ph. D. programme, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University/HEI to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these Regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will however give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already done. In such a case the allocated seat to the female scholar in the University shall be treated as vacant.
- (x) A teacher of a college, affiliated to Vidyasagar University, may act as co-supervisor, if

- he/she fulfils the following criteria: (1) he/she must be a permanent teacher (in a substantive post) of the college, (2) he/she must have a doctoral degree, (3) he/she must have at least three years' experience in teaching as a permanent teacher in a substantive post, (4) continuous research activities for the last three years with proven publications (at least five (05) publications for Associate Professor and at least three (03) publications for Assistant Professor in peer-reviewed or refereed journals).
- (xi) A permanent teacher holding full-time substantive position in an affiliated college under Vidyasagar University for at least 3 years may co-supervise not more than two scholars at a time. The matter will be decided by the concerned Ph.D. Committee and the BRS.
  - (xii) After successful pre-submission seminar given by a candidate registered under a supervisor, one position for registration will be treated as vacant under the same supervisor.
  - (xiii) Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars for Ph. D. programme 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.
  - (xiv) An Emeritus Professor/Fellow can enroll new research scholars under his/her supervision for the Ph.D. programme up to the age of 67 years. However, such Professor/Fellow cannot supervise any Ph.D. research scholar after attaining the age of 70 years.
  - (xv) In no instance, a supervisor can guide a close relative (e.g., son, daughter, sister, brother, first cousins, mother, father, wife, husband, in-laws etc.) for pursuing Ph. D. degree.

**4.2** One, who has enrolled himself/herself as a scholar for doing Ph.D. work at this University or elsewhere, shall not be eligible to act as a Supervisor.

**4.3** The allocation of Supervisor for a selected scholar shall be decided by the Ph.D. Committee in a meeting in consideration of the proposed topic for research vis-à-vis the available specialization among the eligible faculties. The faculty members having declared vacancy will be invited in the said meeting.

## **5 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION**

**5.1** An application for admission to the Ph.D. Programme of the University shall be made to the Registrar within the stipulated date in the prescribed form along with documents as per the

advertisement.

**5.2** Candidates who have completed:

- (i) 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 or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated 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.

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 UGC from time to time.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree (Hons. with Research) programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. 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 per the decision of the UGC from time to time.

- (ii) A candidate who has regular M.Tech./ or a degree deemed to be equivalent by the BRS (on the recommendation of the Ph.D. Committee concerned) shall be exempted from appearing at the Research Eligibility Test (RET) conducted by the Vidyasagar University for this purpose and will have to appear only at an interview to be conducted by the Ph.D. Committee;
- (iii) The University may decide its own selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by statutory/regulatory bodies concerned from time to time;
- (iv) Candidates qualified in the UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar national level test and SET that are considered equivalent to the aforesaid examination, shall

also be exempted from appearing at the Written Admission Test and will have to appear at an interview.

- (v) The Research Eligibility Test (RET) conducted by the Vidyasagar University shall be conducted for 100 marks. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology along with Research and Publication Ethics with the Computer Applications and 50% shall be subject-specific.
- (vi) The selection of candidates based on the Research Eligibility Test (RET) conducted by the Vidyasagar University, a weightage of 70% for the entrance test and 30% for the performance in the interview/viva-voce shall be given. **A certificate will be issued by the concerned authority to each RET-qualified candidate.**
- (vii) In all other cases, the candidates, including ones willing to pursue Ph. D. research in the Research Centre of Colleges affiliated to the University, will have to appear at the Written Admission Test (RET, conducted by Vidyasagar University) and if qualified with at least 50% at the RET, will have to appear at an interview to be conducted by the respective Ph.D. Committee;
- (viii) Final semester UG (Hons. with Research)/PG students are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. Programme provided that they fulfill the above requirements during admission.
- (ix) The Selection Committee of the designated Research Centre(s) of Colleges will include subject experts nominated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor as required for the interview of the candidates of specific disciplines.
- (x) The Syllabus of the Research Eligibility Test (RET) for Ph.D. Programme shall be at par with the University Grants Commission.

**5.3** During interview, the candidates are required to present their research area of interest before the departmental Ph.D. Committee. The committee shall consider whether a) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research, b) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University and c) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

**5.4** The reservation policy of the Government with regard to admission into Post-Graduate courses shall be followed strictly in admitting the students into Ph.D. Programmes.

**5.5** Those candidates who qualify at the Admission Test and/ or Interview (as the case may be) shall be eligible for admission against available seats/positions the time frame as announced by the University.

**5.6** The Written Admission Test will be conducted by the University following the academic

calendar (see 5.9). The information for Ph.D. admission will be available from the University website.

5.7 The result of the Written Admission Test (RET) shall remain valid for two years applicable only PG Departments of the University and the Research Centres affiliated to Vidyasagar University, and the qualified candidates shall be required to appear at the interview only, if they desire admission.

5.8 In case of any dispute relating to the conduct of Admission Test, Interview and publication of merit list thereof, the decisions of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor shall be final and binding on all concerned.

### 5.9 Academic Schedule

The University shall arrange for the admission to the Ph.D. programme once in a year [ 1<sup>st</sup> session (July to December)]. The University may arrange an admission to the Ph.D. programme in a 2<sup>nd</sup> session (January to June), exclusively for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar national level test based on an interview. The academic schedule for admission to the Ph.D. programme will be announced on the University website in due time.

Candidates selected for the Ph.D. Programme shall be required to pay a non-refundable Admission Fees as decided by the University Authority. The admitted students will be eligible for attending the Ph.D. Course Work.

## 6. Duration of the Programme:

- (i) Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (03) years, including course work and a maximum of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme. However, a scholar can apply to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for early submission not before two and half years after the date of admission through the Supervisor(s) **but the Ph.D. degree of the scholar will not be awarded before three years.**
- (ii) A maximum of an additional two (2) years may be given through a process of "re-registration" by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor on the basis of the application by the scholar concerned, duly forwarded by the supervisor and recommended by the RAC and Ph.D. Committee. Candidate will have to pay the stipulated re-registration fee.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (more than 40% disability) may be

allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years for Ph.D. The total period for the 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.

- (v) Female Ph.D. scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for 240 days in the entire duration of Ph.D. programme.
- (vi) If a candidate fails to complete the submission of the thesis even after the above stipulated period [clause 6. (iii) and 6. (iv)], the candidate may register afresh for the Ph.D. programme following all the Rules and Regulations.

## 7. REGISTRATION

7.1 The selected candidate shall apply to the Registrar in the prescribed proforma for registration in Ph. D programme.

- (i) Every such application must include bio-data of the candidate along with supporting documents. After application for registration, each scholar will get one 'Enrolment Certificate'. After submission of the proposal (Plan of Work) consisting of around 1000 words duly endorsed by the supervisor within one (01) year, he/she will get the Registration Certificate.
- (ii) All candidates will have to give an undertaking in the query form, if necessary.
- (iii) Each application submitted to the Registrar shall be sent to the Secretary of the Ph.D. Committee within ten (10) days by the Registrar for consideration and for organizing a pre-registration seminar for approval of the plan of work by the Ph.D. Committee.
- (iv) A candidate shall deliver one lecture on his/her Ph.D. proposal in a Seminar within three (03) months from the date of submission of application for registration before the members of the Ph.D. Committee and other faculty members of the department (s) concerned. The participants of such seminar may give suggestions to the candidate. The candidate shall incorporate the suggestions in his/her Ph.D. proposal and a revised proposal shall be submitted to the Secretary, Ph.D. Committee. However, in case of major changes, the scholar shall have to deliver the seminar again on the revised proposal. The Secretary of the Ph.D. Committee shall submit a report to the Registrar informing the decision of the Ph.D. Committee on the proposal (plan of work) within one month from the date of the seminar. The presence of the supervisor(s) at the seminar is mandatory.
- (v) The Registrar shall issue a Registration Certificate within thirty (30) days from the date

of receiving the recommendation of the Ph.D. Committee. The Registration shall remain valid initially for a period of six (06) years from the date of admission.

- (vi) The applications for extension of the last date for Ph.D. Thesis submission of the Research Scholars should have to be forwarded to the Registrar of the University only through the concerned Supervisor and through the Dean of the concerned Faculty.
- (vii) The admitted candidate must complete the course work and collect the Course Work Completion Certificate from the authority before the pre-registration seminar.
- (viii) The registered scholar must submit the thesis within one year from the date of pre-submission seminar.

**7.2** The Ph.D. Registration of any candidate may be cancelled on the expiry of the registration period or if the Ph.D. Committee is of the opinion as per the report of the RAC that the candidate's progress is not satisfactory. The report, in this regard, shall be placed before the BRS for the final decision.

**7.3** The Ph.D. Cell shall maintain the list of all the Ph.D. registered students on its website on the basis of year and subject specific. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration.

## **8. ATTENDANCE OF FULL-TIME Ph.D. SCHOLARS**

A scholar who enjoys research fellowship shall be treated as full-time scholar and must attend the department concerned on all working days, as per mandate of the funding agencies, unless his/her absence is justified for reasons of research and other exigencies and duly permitted by his/her supervisor(s) to that effect.

## **9. COURSE WORK**

**9.1** All Research Scholars must successfully complete a Course Work (comprising 16 credits) consisting of 4 courses (Courses I, II, III & IV) of 4 credits each within a period of not more than one year from the date of the enrolment in the Ph.D. Programme.

**9.2** The student in consultation with the Research Supervisor may opt for Credit of the course work, which he/she intends to attend in any Department of the University, if necessary. Such credit(s) should be carried forward to the Department with which the candidate has been registered.

**9.3** The University shall prepare the syllabus for the course I (general research methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics, research methodology etc., including the "Research and Publications Ethics") whereas each

Department or University Centre (or Group of departments) shall prepare the syllabus for the courses II and III (in which advanced topics of the concerned subject, related to the subject, may be included). The syllabus for the courses, I to III, should be given on the University website.

- 9.4** Course IV will consist of special topics related to the Core Areas of Research (04 Credits). This course may include review of literature/submission of research-based term papers/investigation/seminar/collection and analysis of data relevant to the area of research on the recommendation of the supervisor(s) concerned. The performance of the course IV will be evaluated by the concerned supervisor(s).
- 9.5** The Course Work for all Courses (each course is of 4 credits, corresponds to 50 marks) will be organized by the respective Departmental Committee. After the completion of the Course Work, examinations will be conducted by the Controller of Examinations with necessary and active assistance from the Departmental Committee. The Departmental Committees are authorized to take all necessary steps relating to paper setting, moderation, evaluation, and tabulation of results pertaining to the Course Work. However, the preparation of schedules for examination, holding of examinations and the publication of results thereof will be conducted by the Controller of Examinations in consultation with the Departmental Committees.
- 9.6** The Registrar will act as the link between the Controller of Examinations on the one hand and the Departmental Committees on the other in respect of matters included in Regulation 9.5.
- 9.7** 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.

The Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) system will be followed for evaluation as given below:

<b>Performance: Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value per Credit</b>	<b>Corresponding Range of Numerical Marks in Percentage</b>
Excellent: A	10	85-100%
Very Good: B	8	75% - below 85%
Good: C	6	65% - below 75%
Satisfactory: D	4	55% - below 65%
Unsatisfactory: F	2	Below 55%

Letter Grade “D” is the minimum qualifying grade, Grade “F” means that the candidate has failed to qualify. In such case, the candidate must have to clear the course work examination within three months from the publication of the result, and the concern department will arrange the said examination accordingly.

- 9.8 After successful completion of course work (16 credits), the Controller of Examinations will issue the mark sheet and the Registrar will issue a certificate to the Research Scholar confirming his/her registration for Ph.D. Programme.
- 9.9 If a candidate has completed the Course Work from other UGC recognized University or institute, the completion of the Course Work will be accepted only after evaluating the equivalence of the courses offered by those universities/institutes by the BRS or an equivalent committee constituted by BRS.
- 9.10 Fees for the Course Work (the amount of fees decided by the University authority) will be paid by the candidate.
- 9.11 All Ph.D. full time scholars, irrespective of discipline, may be required to be trained 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.

## 10 Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. scholar. The composition of the RAC shall be as follows:

- (i) The Secretary of the Ph.D. Committee as Chairman
- (ii) One member of the Ph.D. Committee
- (iii) One external subject expert in the concerned/allied field of research of the candidate.  
The presence of such external expert is mandatory for the RAC meeting.
- (iv) The Research Supervisor of the scholar will be member and the Convener of this Committee.
- (v) Co-supervisor, if any, also will be a member of the committee.

The list of members of RAC for each scholar should be submitted to the office of the Registrar of the University for record and any kind of changes in the committee can be done with proper justification and prior approval of the authority. It is desirable that the RAC will function from the registration of the scholar to the pre-submission seminar.

This Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. To review the research proposal and the topic of research;
- b. To guide the Research Scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.
- c. A Research Scholar shall appear before the RAC once in a semester preferably in the month of January and July to make a presentation of the progress of work for evaluation and further guidance. The progress report in the prescribed format shall be submitted by the RAC to the HOD/TIC/Director of the concern Departments of the University with a copy to the Research Scholar.
- d. The renew of registration of each research scholar on the basis of the recommendation of the RAC in each semester on the payment of a prescribed fee (Rupees one thousand (Rs. 1000) only, or an amount, which may be decided by the University authority) is mandatory.
- e. If the progress of the Research Scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Research Scholar fails to implement those corrective measures, the RAC may recommend to the University with specific reason(s) for cancellation of the registration of the Research Scholar. The issue will be decided by the BRS.

## **11. PRE-SUBMISSION SEMINAR**

- 11.1 On receipt of such an application from the candidate, duly forwarded by the supervisor(s) and duly recommended by the RAC, the Registrar shall forward the application to the Secretary, Ph.D. Committee immediately who shall arrange the pre-submission seminar within one (01) month from the date of receipt of the application from the Registrar.
- 11.2 A Research Scholar shall deliver a lecture on his/her Ph.D. work in a seminar before the members of the Ph.D. Committee and other faculty members of the department(s) concerned prior to the submission of the thesis. The application submitted by the candidate to the Registrar for pre-submission seminar must include ten (10) copies of the synopsis on the work, i.e., the summary of work comprising of around 5000 words.
- 11.3 The participants of such seminar may give suggestions to the candidate. The candidate may incorporate such suggestions in his/her Ph.D. thesis. The candidate shall submit a report on the proposals of inclusion of such suggestions to the Secretary, Ph.D. Committee through the supervisor(s) concerned. If the candidate disagrees to incorporate such suggestions, he/she will have to explain his/her points to the supervisor(s). The supervisor(s) will have to take the sole responsibility either in the case, and the matter shall be reported to the Secretary, Ph.D.

Committee for record.

- 11.4 The Secretary, Ph.D. Committee shall send the report of the pre-submission seminar within ten days to the Registrar who shall issue a certificate within fifteen (15) days after the pre-submission seminar, if approved, to the candidate. The presence of at least one external expert and supervisor(s) is mandatory in the pre-submission seminar.
- 11.5 At least four RAC reports of the candidate should be available at the time of pre-submission seminar in case of seeking early submission. Otherwise, one report against one semester must be submitted.
- 11.6 Scholars must publish at least two (02) research papers in refereed journal(s)/chapter(s) and make two paper presentations in conferences/seminars before the pre-submission seminar and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.

## **12. CHANGE OF THE TITLE OF THE THESIS**

In consultation with the supervisor, if the candidate thinks that it is necessary to change the title of the thesis in view of the new dimensions of the work, either on his/her own or at the suggestion of the Ph.D. Committee and/or RAC, he/she may apply to the Registrar before the presentation of the pre-submission seminar. The Ph.D. Committee may permit such a change. The registrar will issue a certificate to the candidate mentioning the updated title of the thesis and the new title will be treated as the registered title instead of the previous one.

## **13. SUBMISSION OF THE THESIS**

- 13.1 On receipt of the communication from the Registrar after pre-submission seminar, the Scholar should submit two CDs/specified Email ID containing soft copies of the Ph.D. thesis in the prescribed format for plagiarism checking before one month from the stipulated date of submission. After successful clearance of plagiarism checking, a Plagiarism Testing Report will be issued by the competent authority. The permissible percentage of similarity derived from the checking of plagiarism software, regarding the submission of Ph.D. thesis for adjudication, shall be as follows (after first or 2nd or subsequent number of checking):
- (i) Up to 10% similarity – Permissible.
  - (ii) 11% to 40% similarity – revised thesis/script to be submitted or joint statement of justification to be submitted by the concerned scholar and his/her supervisor(s).
  - (iii) 41% to 60% similarity – the scholar concerned should be debarred from submission of his/her revised thesis/script for a period of one year.
  - (iv) Above 60% similarity – the registration for the Ph.D. programme of the concerned

scholar would stand cancelled with the approval of the BRS.

- 13.2 The University shall have the liberty to revoke any Ph.D. degree conferred duly, if subsequently charged with plagiarism. Plagiarism checking of Language other than English will be done on the basis of availability of software of the language. Otherwise, a declaration/undertaking is to be submitted jointly by the scholar and the supervisor(s) concerned as follows:

Declaration/Undertaking (prescribed format will be available in the University Website):

- (i) Cross checked the dissertation/thesis thoroughly by the scholar and the Supervisor(s) concerned and confirm that the extent of similarity in the dissertation/thesis is restricted up to ten percent (10%) of the entire manuscript or less.
- (ii) If there are any discrepancies or complications which may arise in future regarding the thesis, the scholar and supervisor(s) concerned will remain responsible for this.

13.3 Necessary requirements for submitting the thesis:

- (i) The candidate shall submit four (4) paperback bound hard copies of the thesis along with a soft copy in the format notified by the University in a CD/specified email ID along with the Plagiarism Testing Report issued by the competent authority.
- (ii) The scholar shall submit the synopsis (one hard copy and one soft copy) consisting of 250-300 words on the basis of summary and findings of the work and stating how the work contributes to the general advancement of knowledge.

- 13.4 The candidate shall submit his/her thesis for adjudication within a period of one year from the date of pre-submission seminar. Before submission of the thesis, the candidate shall apply to the Registrar together with (a) certificate from the supervisor(s), and (b) the letter containing the permission from the Registrar. The Registrar shall give permission within seven days, if the candidate complies with the Ph.D. Rules and Regulations.

- 13.5 The thesis shall be in typed or printed (both sides) form and bound with a cover page inscribing only the title of the thesis, the names of the Researcher, Supervisor(s), Department, University and the year of submission.

- 13.6 The candidate shall tender the prescribed submission fees as decided by the University authorities at the time of submission of the thesis.

- 13.7 The candidate cannot submit any part of work of his/her proposed Ph. D. thesis for another Degree/Diploma/ academic award by this Vidyasagar University or any other University or Institute. The candidate must make a declaration to this effect in his/her thesis.

- 13.8 The Registrar shall communicate with the adjudicators for their consent within fifteen (15) days after receiving the list of adjudicators approved by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. The Registrar shall dispatch the thesis to the adjudicators within fifteen (15) days from the date of receiving the consent of the adjudicators. It shall be the responsibility of the Registrar to keep the names and addresses of the adjudicators confidential.
- 13.9 The candidate must have to attach the documents mentioned in 11.6 during submission of the dissertation/thesis for adjudication.
- 13.10 While submitting for evaluation, the dissertation/thesis shall have an undertaking from the Research Scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting the originality of the work, vouching that there is permissible level of plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the same Institution where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution.
- 13.11 The plagiarism check certificate must be attached to the thesis.
- 13.12 The thesis shall be an original contribution to knowledge and must, therefore, bear evidence that the scholar has carried out individual investigations in her/his chosen field.
- 13.13 At the time of submission of thesis, the Scholar will give his/her written consent for uploading the thesis on the website of INFLIBNET (UGC), Vidyasagar University etc. after the receipt of Ph. D. degree.
- (i) The lists of Research Scholars who obtained Ph.D. degree provisionally will be uploaded on the University website and the lists will be sent to the UGC and AIU for information.
- 13.14 The Ph.D. thesis should be printed in the prescribed format given below:  
Page Size – A4, Font size – 12, Font – Times New Roman, Line spacing – 1.5, References:  
American Psychological Association (APA) Style, Chicago Style, Harvard Style.

#### **14. LANGUAGE OF THE THESIS**

The thesis should generally be written in English, except for language based subjects. If any candidate (of non-language based subjects) desires to submit his/her thesis in a language other than English, he/she should take prior approval from the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. In this case, a proper justification from the end of the scholar and the supervisor(s), recommendation of the RAC and concern Ph.D committee must be attached with the application. The Ph.D. thesis written in language other than English should have copies of synopsis or abstract in English.

#### **15. ADJUDICATORS**

15.1 For the purpose of adjudication of the thesis, a panel of external adjudicators (not below the

rank of Associate Professor) prepared by the Supervisor(s) shall be considered and recommended by the Ph.D. Committee.

- (i) The supervisor(s) as specified in Regulation 4.1 shall act as adjudicator(s).
- (ii) A panel of six (06) external adjudicators, as prepared by the supervisor(s) and recommended by the Ph. D. Committee. Of this panel, three (03) will be from the State of West Bengal and another three (03) from outside West Bengal or outside India, provided that not more than one belongs to the same University/Institute.

**15.2** The panel shall be prepared at the same meeting of the Ph.D. Committee in which the pre-submission seminar is organized.

**15.3** The recommended panel of adjudicators will be sent to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor through the office of the Registrar for the next course of action and shall comprise the Supervisor(s), one external examiner from within the state of West Bengal, and another examiner from outside West Bengal/India.

**15.4** Communication by the Registrar with the adjudicators shall be made electronically to expedite the process of adjudication. The concerned scholar may be asked to bear the actual expenses, if necessary, by the Registrar. In case of electronic communication – initially 15 days will be given for receiving consent from the adjudicators; after that period a reminder will be issued; after one week from issuing reminder, if response is not received, the adjudicators will be changed by the competent authority.

## **16. ADJUDICATION REPORT**

**16.1** An adjudicator, on evaluation of the thesis, shall furnish a report confidentially to the Registrar stating therein *inter-alia*, the following:

- (i) Whether the award of the Ph.D. degree to the scholar is (a) recommended, (b) recommended with modifications and (c) not recommended, in the prescribed format. And also, whether the thesis is fit for publication by the scholar in the form in which it was presented or with modification(s), if any, or whether the thesis is considered to be of outstanding merit so that it would be advisable for the University to get it published on the expenses borne by the scholar. The reports of the external adjudicators will be handed over to the supervisor(s) ten (10) days prior to the *viva-voce*.
- (ii) After successful completion of open *viva-voce* the scholar shall incorporate the suggestions, if any, given by two adjudicators in their reports as well as the points raised by the *viva-voce* examiner(s). The candidate shall also rectify the typographical or

logical/technical errors, if any, in the thesis, which were detected after the submission of the thesis.

(iii) If the thesis is not acceptable in its present form for the award of the Ph.D. degree, then it is likely to be considered for acceptance after due revision(s) along the lines as indicated in the report(s).

16.2 If the thesis is revised in the light of the recommendations of the adjudicators, the adjudicators concerned shall thereafter furnish report(s) either of the type mentioned in clause (i) (a) or (i) (c) of Regulation 16.1.

16.3 If the thesis is adjudicated by more than one internal adjudicator, in case of co-supervisor, a joint report is to be submitted by them.

16.4 The award of the degree/completion of evaluation shall normally be completed within six months from the date of submission of the thesis.

16.5 The adjudicator will submit the report within two months from the date of receipt of the thesis.

## **17. APPRAISAL OF THE ADJUDICATION REPORT**

17.1 The adjudication reports shall be placed, on arrival, before the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. If all the reports fulfill the conditions mentioned in Regulation 16.1 (i), the Registrar will communicate the matter with the concern supervisor(s) to fix a date for *viva-voce* in consultation with the external expert.

17.2 If two adjudicators recommend the award of the degree and the third one recommends rejection of the thesis, it shall be referred to a fourth adjudicator selected by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor from the original panel of adjudicators. The fourth adjudicator so appointed shall not be informed of the reports of the other three adjudicators.

17.3 In case of any ambiguity in the said reports, the entire matter shall be placed before the BRS in its next meeting for appropriate decision.

17.4 If two of the adjudicators, other than the Supervisor(s), recommend the rejection of the thesis, the thesis will be rejected. The Supervisor(s) will be informed accordingly.

17.5 If the thesis of the Ph. D. scholar is rejected, the registration of the candidate shall stand *ip so facto* cancelled.

## **18. VIVA-VOCE**

18.1 If the adjudicators recommend the thesis for the award of the degree as specified in the above Regulations, the scholar will be asked to appear for the open *viva-voce*, to be attended by the members of the Ph.D. Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other Research Scholars and other interested experts/researchers/students.

- 18.2 The Supervisor(s) and one of the external adjudicators, who have examined the thesis, shall be appointed by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor to act as examiners at the open *viva-voce*. In case of non-availability of the external adjudicator who has examined the thesis, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor will nominate another expert from the existing panel.
- 18.3 *Viva-voce* for Ph.D. may be held normally offline at the University. If necessary, it may be held online also with prior approval of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. The Supervisor(s) will coordinate the arrangements of the *Viva-voce* and also keep the record of the attendance of the same meeting before sending it to the Registrar.
- 18.4 After satisfactory performance of the scholar at the *viva-voce*, the examiners will submit a written report jointly to that effect in the prescribed format. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor will recommend the award of the Degree to the scholar in the next Convocation and will report to the Executive Council about the award of such degree. A Provisional Certificate will be issued to the scholar within seven (07) days after the *viva-voce* subject to the uploading of the thesis in the UGC website. In the provisional certificate the University will also certify that the Ph. D. Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the Ph. D. Regulations, 2022 of the UGC. This declaration will also be appropriately incorporated in the Degree (final certificate).
- 18.5 If the scholar fails to satisfy the examiners in the open *viva-voce*, the scholar will be given two more chances to defend the thesis within one year from the date of the first *viva-voce* meeting. If the scholar fails to satisfy both the *viva-voce* examiners on all the occasions, the thesis will be rejected and the scholar's registration shall stand cancelled. If the thesis is rejected at the final *viva-voce*, the examiners will give specific reasons in writing for the rejection of the thesis provided that the *viva-voce* examination has been conducted by the same examiners.
- 18.6 The Ph.D. *viva-voce* of a scholar registered in a Research Centre of a College will be held in the University campus. The HOD or his/her nominee of the concerned University department will act as the Observer of the entire process of Ph.D. *viva-voce*. Where there is no department at the University, related to such topic of research, the concerned Dean or his/her designated faculty will act as an Observer. The Observer will submit a report about the proceedings of the said *viva-voce* to the Registrar.
- 18.7 The scholar will have to pay an additional fee as decided by the University authorities for each time after the first *viva-voce*.

## 19. RESUBMISSION

19.1 If a scholar is required to re-submit the thesis vide Regulation 16.2, the candidate may submit the revised thesis after a period of three (03) months but not later than one (01) year from the date of communication issued by the Registrar on payment of prescribed fees.

19.2 If the scholar fails to resubmit the thesis within one (01) year as stated above, the scholar's registration shall stand cancelled.

## **20. AWARD OF THE DEGREE**

(i) The Degree of Ph.D. will be awarded with effect from the date of *viva-voce*.

(ii) The final certificate of the Ph.D. Degree will be given at the next Convocation of the University.

## **21. PRESERVATION OF THE THESIS**

21.1 A declaration is to be submitted by the scholar, that all corrections/modifications in the final thesis suggested by the Adjudicators/Examiners, have been incorporated in it prior to uploading the soft copy on the INFLIBNET (SHODHGANGA). The Supervisor(s) concerned should check and verify the thesis before forwarding any application regarding uploading the thesis on "SHODHGANGA" portal.

21.2 The thesis must also be preserved within one month from *viva-voce* examination in the following ways:

(i) One copy for the Central Library, both hard copy and in electronic form.

(ii) One copy for the Departmental Library, or with the Ph.D. Cell of the University, if there is no Departmental Library.

(iii) The Provisional certificate shall be issued after compliance of all the rules given above.

## **22. INTERPRETATION/MODIFICATION OF RULES**

The powers of interpretation and modification of the above Regulations are vested in the Executive Council of the University, provided that any of the powers mentioned above (excluding those relating to modifications or changes in Rules) may be delegated to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor by a specific resolution of the Executive Council and subsequent notification to give effect to the changes.

## **23. Academic, administrative and infrastructure requirement to be fulfilled by Research Centre(s) of the Colleges approved by the University, for offering Ph.D. programme(s):**

23.1 Research Centre(s) of the Colleges (approved by the University) may be considered eligible to offer Ph.D. programme(s) if they satisfy the availability of the eligible Research

Supervisors, required infrastructure and supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations.

23.2 Colleges and research institutions established by the central government or a State government whose degrees are awarded by the University shall offer Ph.D. programme(s) provided they have:

- (i) Two eligible supervisors/scientists in the concerned department of a college/research institution.
- (ii) Adequate infrastructure, administrative support, research facilities and library resources as specified by the University.

23.3.1 In case of science and technology disciplines, exclusive research laboratories with sophisticated equipment as specified by the University with provision for adequate space per research scholar along with computer facilities and essential software, and uninterrupted power and water supply;

23.3.2 Earmarked library resources including latest books, national and international journals, e-journals, extended working hours, adequate space for Research Scholars in the Department/ library for reading, writing and storing study and research materials.

The facilities provided by the college for the above purpose may be considered by the University after proper verification by the expert committee duly constituted by the University.

#### **24. Ph.D. through Distance Mode/Part-time:**

24.1 The University will not conduct Ph.D. Programme through distance education mode.

24.2 The University will allow Part-time scholars in the Ph.D. programme(s) provided all the conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. Regulations are met.

25. The University will obtain “No Objection Certificate” from the aspiring candidate as part-time scholar from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:

- (i) the candidate is permitted to pursue Ph.D. programme on a part-time basis;
- (ii) the official duties permit the candidate to devote sufficient time for research;
- (iii) if required, the candidate will be relieved for completing the course work.

#### **26. Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations:**

Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme in or after 2016, 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. 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.

27. **Whatever provisions for pursuing Ph. D. research have been written above in the Ph. D. Regulations of Vidyasagar University, 2022, have to be followed in all the designated Research Centres of the Colleges under the University in toto.**

**RULES and REGULATIONS**  
**for**  
**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LITERATURE (D.Litt.)/  
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (D. Sc.)**

**D.Litt/D.Sc. is the highest academic degree offered by the University against the thesis of exceptionally high quality. The quality of the thesis shall be judged by the leaders in the field.**

1. The University would consider the applications for the submission of high-quality independent research for the degree of D.Litt. /D. Sc. on a case-by-case basis.
2. Both published or unpublished high-quality work(s) may be submitted by the candidate. The candidate has to submit the processing fee of Rs. 20, 000.00 (Rupees twenty thousand) only or as may be prescribed by the University authority from time to time at the time of submission.
3. The candidate has to be recommended by two senior professors (or equivalent). One of them will be from the concerned faculty of Vidyasagar University and one from a professor (or equivalent) from outside Vidyasagar University in the concerned field.
4. Such cases will be placed directly before the BRS for consideration. The BRS will refer to an external expert for screening the quality of the thesis. If the report(s) of the external expert(s) for primary screening of the thesis is not satisfied, then one year will be given to the candidate for submitting the revised form of the thesis with paying the requisite fees. After ascertaining the quality of the thesis, the BRS will suggest a panel of adjudicators.
5. The book/published work/thesis will be sent to 3 (three) external experts out of which 1(one) shall be from within West Bengal, another one from the outside of West Bengal but within India, and 1(one) form outside India. In case of any dispute among the reports by the experts, the thesis may be sent to fourth external examiner. In this matter the decision of Hon'ble Vice-

Chancellor will be final.

6. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 50,000.00 (Rupees fifty thousand) only or as may be prescribed by the University authority from time to time shall be payable by each candidate on his/her being granted the permission for registration for the purpose of D.Litt./D.Sc. degree.

### List of Abbreviations

APA	American Psychological Association
BRS	Board of Research Studies
CD	Compact Disk
CEED	Common Entrance Examination for Design
CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
DC	Departmental Committee
D.Sc.	Doctor of Science
GATE	Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
HEI	Higher Educational Institute
HOD	Head of the Department
ICHR	Indian Council of Historical Research
ICSSR	Indian Council of Social Science Research
INFLIBNET	Information and Library Network
INSPIRE	Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research
JRF	Junior Research Fellow
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NET	National Eligibility Test
OIC	Officer-in-Charge
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
RAC	Research Advisory Committee
RET	Research Eligibility Test
SET	State Eligibility Test
SHODHGANGA	A reservoir of Indian theses, is a digital repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Universities in India.
TIC	Teacher-in-Charge
UGC	University Grants Commission