

# **Bharathiar University: Coimbatore 641 046**

## **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme**

### **Regulations 2023 - 2024 Onwards**

#### **1. Preamble**

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is awarded to a candidate who has submitted a thesis based on the original research carried out by him or her in any one particular discipline or involving more than one discipline (inter-disciplinary research) that contributes to the advancement of knowledge, which is approved by duly constituted Board of Examiners and prerequisites as per UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of M.Phil., / Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009/2016/2022. Hence, the degree awarded by Bharathiar University complies with the UGC Regulations 2009/2016/2022.

#### **2. Eligibility Criteria for Admission / Registration to Ph.D. Programme**

2.1 The candidates should have passed a post-graduate degree course either with SSLC + HSC + UG + PG (i.e., 10 + 2 + 3 + 2) or with 11-years SSLC + PUC + UG + PG (i.e., 11 + 1 + 3 + 2) or with 10-years SSLC + 3 years Diploma + 2 years UG degree + 2 years PG (i.e., 10 + 3 + 2 + 2) or with 10 years SSLC + HSC + 4 years UG degree and 1 year PG degree (i.e., 10 + 2 + 4 + 1). Thus, only the candidates possessing a PG degree with 17 years of total duration of study alone are eligible for admission to the Ph. D., programme.

2.2 Candidates for admission to the Ph. D. programme shall have a Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the statutory regulatory body of Bharathiar University, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree 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 educational institutions. The Candidates possessing professional degrees such as M. E., M. Tech., and PG degrees in Medicine, Law, Agriculture and similar other professional courses are not eligible for admission to the M.Phil., and Ph.D. programs of the University.

2.3 Candidates who have cleared the M.Phil., course work with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and successfully completed the M.Phil., degree shall be eligible to proceed to do research work leading to the Ph. D., degree in the same Institution in an integrated programme. 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.

2.4 Registration for Ph.D. programme shall be of two categories, viz., full-time and part-time (with or without stipend/fellowship) and shall be applicable for various categories of candidates as given under:

- (a) Any candidate with the minimum qualification prescribed by University Grants Commission (UGC) shall register as a full-time/part-time scholar to pursue research under a recognized supervisor in the University Department or affiliated colleges or in the research institutions approved by the University.
- (b) Any teacher with the minimum qualifications prescribed by UGC and working as (i) a teacher in the university departments/university colleges / constituent colleges/colleges affiliated to Bharathiar University, (ii) a teacher in higher secondary school/high school/middle school/polytechnics (only teachers of arts, science and allied multidisciplinary subjects) within Tamil Nadu which are recognized/approved by the government shall register as a part-time scholar to pursue research under a recognized supervisor in the university department or affiliated college or in the research centres of affiliated colleges approved by the University. The teaching faculty from other states may be considered on a case-to-case basis.
- (c) Scientists / Research Fellows / Research Assistants / Technical Assistants / Project Assistants / Project Fellows / Research Associates appointed in the research projects funded by recognized agencies/government/industries shall register as a full-time/part-time scholar to pursue research under a recognized supervisor in **the** University Department or in the research centres of affiliated colleges or in the Research Institutions, or Research and Development Centers / Laboratories approved by the University. h
- (d) Any Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant / Company Secretary and other professionals having experience for a minimum period of two years after obtaining their professional qualification shall register as a part-time scholar to pursue research under a recognized supervisor from the Departments of Commerce, Management Studies, Economics and/or related disciplines.
- (e) Candidates having professional post-graduate degrees are eligible to register for Ph.D. programme only if they are from the research institutions- DRDO, NIT, CSIR, ICMR, DBT as well as research institutes recognized by Bharathiar University (Refer Annexure 1 – Research Institutes recognized by BU)
- (f) Candidates (other than teachers), who are permanent employees including Directors of Boards, Proprietors and Partners in Government Organizations / Private or Public Limited Companies / Recognized Factories / Institutions / Research Institutions / Educational Institutions, having experience for a minimum period of two years after obtaining their Master's degree with a minimum of 55% of marks shall register as a part-time scholar to pursue research in the relevant discipline under a recognized research supervisor in the University Department or in the research centers of affiliated colleges approved by the University.

#### Explanation

- i. Recognized factory means an industrial establishment and regulated by the Factories Act.
- ii. Recognized institution means any institution registered with the Registrar of Societies and has been duly audited by a recognized auditor for the last three years from the date of application and duly supported by an audit certificate.

- iii. Private/Public Ltd., Company shall have been registered under the Companies Act.
- (g) Any candidate working as a Guest Lecturer in a Government College / in a Government Aided College in Tamil Nadu shall be allowed for registration, subject to the production of a 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' from his/her employer.
- (h) A candidate already holding a Ph.D. degree in a discipline / subject specialization is eligible to register for pursuing Ph.D. degree in another discipline / subject specialization subject to the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated for admission/registration in the present regulations.
- (i) A candidate whose M. Phil. dissertation has been evaluated and the viva - voce is pending may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme of the same Institution.
- (j) Candidates possessing a post-graduate degree in a discipline or its equivalent degree or an M. Phil. degree from an Indian Institution or a post-graduate degree 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 educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme of Bharathiar University.

**Note**

- (a) A candidate registered for a part-time Ph.D. programme shall submit the certificate on his / her employment from the employer to the university every year through the research supervisor and the concerned head of the department.
- (b) Transfer Certificate need not be insisted for admission to part-time M. Phil. / Ph.D. programmes.
- (c) The medium of language for the candidates registering for the Ph.D. programme in Yoga for Human Excellence is Tamil, only if they should have studied UG/PG degree courses with the medium of instruction in Tamil, and for other candidates, the medium is English.
- (d) Penalty of Rs. 3000/- per year shall be paid by the candidates of the approved Research Institution when they do not pay the special fee on time.
- (e) Candidates who wish to register for Ph.D. without fellowship are required to qualify for the Common Eligibility Test (CET) conducted by Bharathiar University

**3. Registration of Candidates for Ph.D. (Part-time) Programme Outside Tamil Nadu**

Candidates from outside Tamil Nadu working in National Institutes - DRDO, NIT, CSIR, DST, ICMR as well as research institutes recognized by Bharathiar University (Refer Annexure 1 – Research Institutes recognized by BU) are allowed to register for part-time Ph. D. programme subject to the production of a 'No Objection Certificate' from their respective Head of the Institution and payment of Rs. 5,000/- as special fee in addition to the fee prescribed for the programme. Such candidates shall fulfil the required eligibility conditions for admission into the programme.

#### **4. Duration of Research Programme**

##### **Full-time**

A candidate registered as a full-time scholar for Ph.D. programme must possess the qualifications of 2 supra and shall work continuously in the department under the research supervisor for a minimum period of three years including course work from the date of registration to submit the thesis.

##### **Part-time**

A candidate registered for Ph.D. programme under the part-time category must possess any one of the qualifications of 2 and 3 supra and must work for a minimum period of four years from the date of registration to submit the thesis.

##### **Exemption**

- a. Exemption of one year from the minimum duration period shall be permissible in respect of candidates who possess an M.Phil., or M. Litt., (in the relevant/related subject) at the time of registration. The candidates, who have appeared for Part I and Part II examinations of the M.Phil. programme and awaiting results at the time of interview during Ph.D. selection, shall be eligible for this exemption, provided the results are published within six months of their admission to the Ph.D. programme. This exemption may be availed by the candidates who have already been admitted to the programme.
- b. However, the candidates, who are exempted from Part-I examinations, should mandatorily complete the specified period for their submission of their thesis.
- c. Candidates holding a double Master's Degree and one M.Phil., Degree, but in different disciplines shall not be exempted from appearing Research Methodology (Part-I, Course-1) examination and shall be instructed to complete the duration specified.
- d. The woman candidates and persons with disability (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates may be provided maternity leave/child care leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. for up to 240 days.

#### **5. Attendance Requirements**

- (a) Candidates admitted to full-time Ph. D., programme shall secure a minimum of 75% attendance every year, including short-term training programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc., attended by them outside the University on the recommendation of the supervisor and with the prior permission of the head of the university department/principal of the affiliated college. The attendance shall be calculated year-wise.

Attendance certificate to be submitted at the time of thesis submission.

- (b) A candidate registered on a part-time basis in a discipline not involving laboratory work shall attend at least 60 days during the course of research (i.e., for 3 years) at the institution where the supervisor is attached.

- (c) The candidates who have been permitted to register on a part-time basis in the discipline involving laboratory work in an institution other than where they are employed, shall be required to work for a minimum period of 120 days during the course of research (i.e., for 3 years) in the institution directly under the supervisor.
- (d) In any case the supervisor has to issue the attendance certificate to the above-said effect duly endorsed by the head of the department and the principal of the college concerned for submission to the Centre for Research and Evaluation, Bharathiar University.
- (e) In case the supervisor has been transferred/retired, the candidates are permitted to continue Ph.D., programme only in the institution where they have been selected/admitted. It is the responsibility of the concerned institution to maintain the records of the candidates such as admission, payment of fees, attendance, submission of thesis, progress report, etc. The Head of the Institution may appoint a new research guide (in case the registered guide is not available) to supervise the candidate. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to finish the research programme of his / her candidate.

## 6. Procedure for Admission

- (a) The University shall notify on its website and through advertisement in the national/regional/local newspapers calling applications towards admission into Ph.D. programme. The University shall admit candidates by a two-stage process through an entrance test, called Common Eligibility Test (CET), and an interview. CET shall normally be conducted by the University during the second weekend of May (saturday / sunday) every year. The test will be conducted at the following centres: Coimbatore, Erode, Tirupur, Ooty and Pollachi / Udumalpet. Second-year PG students in the final semester are eligible for CET.
- (b) Master's Degree holders satisfying the qualification criteria stipulated under supra 2 above shall be eligible to appear for CET. However, the candidates who qualify UGC-NET (including JRF) / UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF) / SLET / SET / GATE, awardees of DST-INSPIRE fellowship, scientists working in DRDO, Faculty of Air Force Administrative College, candidates possessing M.Phil., Degree, teacher fellowships (like FIP and FDP) holders and candidates of foreign origin possessing prescribed qualifications shall be exempted from appearing for CET.
- (c) Candidates who are scientists from DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, DBT and other accredited research institutions of national importance shall be exempted from appearing Common Entrance Test for research admission.
- (d) CET shall be of objective type with 50 multiple choice questions (MCQs) each with four options. Each question carries 1 mark. No negative marks for wrong answers. The maximum mark shall be 50 (50 x 1 = 50 marks). There shall be a passing minimum of 15 marks out of 50. The awarded marks in the common eligibility test shall be valid for one academic year and shall be used to register for the Ph. D. programme during July / December sessions.
- (e) Only the candidates who secured the passing minimum as mentioned above shall be called for an interview after the scrutiny of his / her application for admission into the Ph.D. programme. The interview shall be conducted at the university departments or affiliated colleges of the University or at the research institutions approved by the

University, where the candidate applies. The maximum marks for the interview shall be fixed as 10.

### **Criteria for Selection**

PG qualifying examination marks shall be converted to 50. A candidate who secures 25 marks out of 50 marks in the qualifying degree and secures an aggregate of 25 marks out of 50 marks comprising both CET and interview shall be declared qualified for admission into M. Phil., / Ph.D. programme. In other words, a candidate who secures 50 marks out of 100 marks as detailed below shall be eligible for admission into the Ph.D. programme.

Requirement of PG Qualifying Degree Examination Score: 25 out of 50 marks

Minimum Requirement of CET Score + Interview Score: 25 out of 50 marks

Eligibility Requirement for Admission: 50 out of 100 marks

However, the selection of the candidates shall be made subject to the availability of vacancies with the research supervisors in the university departments/research centers of the affiliated colleges. The selection committee shall be constituted at the university departments/research centres with the following as its members:

1. Dean of the concerned discipline / Principal of the college / Director of the research centre
2. Head of the Department / Division
3. Research Supervisors within the Department / Division

### **7. Doctoral Committee**

There shall be a doctoral committee for every candidate registered for the Ph.D. programme to monitor the progress of the candidate during the tenure of the programme. The doctoral committee shall be constituted with the following as its members:

1. Research Supervisor of the candidate (Convener).
2. Head of the Department (Member). If the Head of the Department does not hold Ph.D. degree, the next senior faculty in the department holding a Ph.D. degree will be the member. If the Head of the Department is the research supervisor of the candidate, the next senior faculty holding Ph.D. degree will be the member. In case of non-availability of faculty with Ph.D. degree in the department, the Principal shall nominate any one faculty from the institution related to the subject concerned as the member.
3. Subject expert within the territorial jurisdiction of the University or within Tamil Nadu having at least five years of teaching/research experience after the award of Ph.D. degree shall be nominated from the panel of three members (to be submitted by the research supervisor) by the Vice-Chancellor of Bharathiar University to act as a member of the doctoral committee.
4. The doctoral committee shall meet to review the research progress of the candidate at least twice during the tenure (at least 10 months in between) of the research programme.

The first meeting shall be conducted if the candidate has successfully completed Part I examinations and has made some progress in the research work or in the identification of the research problem.

The committee shall recommend for the confirmation of registration. In the case of candidates who have registered for a Ph.D., programme with M.Phil., qualification, the first meeting shall be conducted after completion of six months from the date of registration. In case the progress is not satisfactory, another meeting shall be conducted within six months from the date of conduct of the first meeting, by the committee consisting of the following members:

Doctoral committee members

Dean (Research)

Chairpersons of the PG Boards of Studies (UD and/or affiliated colleges) in the concerned subject (It is mandatory that they should possess Ph.D. degree and guide recognition, and are currently supervising the research candidates).

5. In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the doctoral committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. A research committee comprising the (i) members of the doctoral committee, (ii) Dean (Research / Science / Arts / Social Science / Commerce) and (iii) Chairpersons of PG Boards of Studies (both UD and affiliated colleges) in the concerned subject shall be held to assess the corrective measures addressed by the research scholar. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the research committee may recommend to the University for cancellation of registration of the research scholar mentioning the specific reasons.
6. A candidate shall be allowed to submit the synopsis and the thesis only on the recommendation of the doctoral committee after being satisfied with the research output of the candidate.
7. Every candidate registered for the Ph.D. programme shall pay a fee of Rs. 8,000/- towards Doctoral Committee. Each of the members of the doctoral committee shall be paid Rs.1000/- per meeting as an honorarium. Subject experts from institutions other than the host institution shall be paid TA/DA as per the norms of the University.
8. In the case of any candidate who has shifted from one research institution to another, the former institution shall reimburse the doctoral committee fee to the candidate.
9. **Independent Registration:** In the case of candidates who are registered for Ph.D., programme under the category of Independent Registration, the doctoral committee shall be constituted by the University. In such cases, the Chairperson of the PG Board of Studies (UD) in the concerned subject shall act as the convener of the doctoral committee.

## 8. Ethics and Grievance Redressal Committee

Any clarification or any dispute faced by the candidate shall be addressed to the Ethical and Grievance Redressal Committee (EGRC). The role of EGRC shall include scrutinizing the issues and recommending its decisions to the Vice-Chancellor of the University on the following:

1. Ethical issues relating to plagiarism, authorship of the research papers, etc.
2. Issues relating to problems between research supervisors and research scholars.
3. Issues relating to interdisciplinary research.
4. Change of independent registration to registration under the research supervisor.
5. Cases relating to the refusal of HOD in signing or forwarding the Ph. D. thesis.
6. Other issues relating to research.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall constitute EGRC with the following as its members:

1. Dean (Research) – Convener
2. Dean of the concerned Discipline
3. Chairpersons of the PG Boards of Studies (UD and/or affiliated colleges) in the concerned subject. (It is mandatory that they should possess Ph.D., degree and guide recognition, and are currently supervising the research candidates)
4. One subject expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. (Note: Subject expert shall have at least three years of teaching experience after the award of Ph. D. degree and shall be a recognized research supervisor in any University recognized by UGC)

A candidate shall have a maximum of two chances to appear before EGRC. Fee of Rs 1500/- and Rs. 3000/- shall be levied for the first and second meetings of EGRC, respectively, and shall be paid by the candidate before appearing at the meeting of EGRC.

## 9. Application for Provisional Registration

- a. A candidate applying for provisional registration shall furnish all the information *inter alia* in the prescribed form along with the required fee.
- b. Every applicant who satisfy all the conditions and norms prescribed shall be provisionally registered for Ph.D. programme after approval by the University.
- c. Candidates shall also be permitted to register for Ph.D. programme under interdisciplinary fields of research. For details, the candidate can refer to **Clause 21(e): 'Interdisciplinary Research'** in the present regulations.

## 10. Research Institutions

A candidate may be permitted to pursue research leading to the award of Ph.D. degree in any one of the following institutions subject to the fulfilment of the conditions such as eligibility, availability of supervisor, availability of vacancies and necessary facilities:

- a. Departments in colleges affiliated with the University and having necessary facilities for carrying out research programmes. Such departments should have been offering the undergraduate/postgraduate degree courses concerned for a minimum period of three years. (Full-time and part-time for both laboratory and non-laboratory subjects)



- b. Departments in an affiliated college shall be approved to offer Ph.D. programme in the subjects like Tamil, English, Hindi, Library Science and Physical Education even if the college does not offer undergraduate/postgraduate degree courses in such subjects.
- c. All India Research Institutions and Regional Research Institutions recognized by the University.
- d. Research and Development (R & D) Centres / Laboratories of public and private sector undertakings which are located in the territorial jurisdiction of the University and recognized by the University as having necessary facilities for carrying out research at an advanced level.

### **Grant of Recognition for Research Departments**

1. Research Department shall have at least one recognized Ph.D. guide for considering the grant of recognition to conduct Ph.D. programme.
2. The maximum intake of candidates for the full-time and part-time Ph.D. programme (both for laboratory and non-laboratory subjects) in each research department of the Institution will be fixed by the Inspection Commission duly constituted by the University based on the facilities and publications of research papers in the reputed research journals.

## **11. Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor**

- a. Every scholar registered for Ph.D. programme shall work under the continuous supervision of a recognized guide or supervisor.
- b. In situations such as the non-availability or absence of the research supervisor in the research centre/station for more than six months, research problems involving specializations other than that of the research supervisor and the interdisciplinary nature of the research problems, the research supervisor can nominate a co-guide with the approval of the University duly recommended by the Dean (Research).
- c. At the time of admission, a co-guide can be appointed if required.
- d. Faculty members who are recognized research supervisors in the University departments, in the departments of affiliated colleges and in the research centres approved by the University are eligible to supervise/guide the registered Ph.D. candidates.
- e. In the subjects like Yoga / Yoga for Human Excellence, only the faculty having M.Phil., / Ph.D. a degree in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence shall be recognized as research supervisors for M.Phil., /Ph.D. programmes in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence. Faculty having PG degree in Yoga and Ph.D. in subjects other than Yoga shall not be recognized as research supervisors in Yoga.
- f. The process of admitting M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme in Yoga or Yoga for Excellence shall be kept in abeyance if there are no research supervisors having M.Phil. / Ph.D. in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence.

- g. Faculty who has been recognized as research guides in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence, but do not possess M.Phil., / Ph.D., in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence shall not be allowed to register the candidates under their supervision.
- h. Candidates registered for M.Phil., / Ph.D., programme in Yoga under research supervisors who do not possess M.Phil., / Ph.D., degree in Yoga shall be permitted for conversion to independent research or they can opt for a change of recognized research supervisors who possess M.Phil., / Ph.D., degree in Yoga.
- i. Only for Ph.D. programme in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence, guide recognition shall be granted to persons who are in service and the recognized guides will be permitted to guide the candidates registered for Ph.D. programme in Yoga or Yoga for Human Excellence. In such cases, Ph.D. degree shall be awarded from the School of Education through Physical Education (Yoga).
- j. In accordance with the conditions stipulated under Clause 6 / Sub-clause 6.1 of UGC Regulations 2016, any regular Professor of the University / Institution deemed to be a university/college with at least five research publications in refereed journals may be recognized as a research Supervisor. Hence, a scientist or faculty possessing a research doctoral degree and working in DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, DBT and accredited research institutions of national importance approved by the Bharathiar University with at least five research publications in refereed / SCOPUS / SCI / SCIE / UGC – CARE List / other indexed journals may be recognized as Research Supervisor.

### **Co-Guide**

- Through proper channel to submit no objection certificate
- Maximum 2 Research Scholars
- Duration: 6 Months (maximum) – After 6 months renewal of co-guideship is a must depending on the necessity.
- Interdisciplinary Research Scholars- Supernumerary basis over and above are permitted.
- Co-guide within the Department - shall not exceed the number.

### **12. Qualification for Guide Recognition**

- a. A regular Professor of the University / the affiliated college with at least five research publications in refereed journals having first authorship or corresponding authorship and a regular Associate / Assistant Professor of the University / the affiliated college with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals having first authorship or corresponding authorship may be recognized as Research Supervisor. In the case of recognition of Associate / Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor, of the two research publications, one may be prior to the award of the Ph.D. degree and the other may be after the award of the Ph.D. degree or the two papers may be after the award of Ph.D. degree. The scientists possessing professional post-graduate degree qualifications and Ph.D. degree with two research publications in refereed journals are eligible for recognition as Research Supervisor only if they come from research institutions like DRDO, NIT, CSIR, ICMR, DBT and other accredited research institutions of national importance.
- b. The guide recognition/approval shall be given in a particular discipline in which the Ph.D., degree is awarded on verification of the conditions stipulated in Clause 12(a)

mentioned above by the Office of the Registrar. In case of any clarification that is required on the research publication of a teacher in a particular discipline or any ambiguity in any other related issues, the opinion of the Dean of the concerned faculty and the Head of the Department relating to the discipline of the teacher shall be sought for approving a teacher as Research Supervisor.

- c. In case any change in the discipline is required, the research supervisor may seek in writing the change in the guide approval in another discipline relevant to the appointed department only against cancellation of the earlier approval.
- d. Only a full-time regular teacher of the University / the affiliated college/research institute approved by the University can act as a supervisor. External supervisors are not allowed. However, co-supervisors can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments of the same institute or from other related institutions with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee / Research Board.
- e. In case of relocation of a woman Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University 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. However, the scholar shall give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of the research already done.
- f. An approved Research Supervisor working in an unapproved department in recognized Research Institution / Affiliated College cannot guide candidates for Ph.D. degree. However, full-time regular teachers of government colleges, librarians and directors of physical education are exempted from this condition.
- g. Teachers having at least one-year post-doctoral experience abroad with evidence of research publications in journals of repute during that period may be considered for granting guide recognition.
- h. One year of Teaching / Research Experience is mandatory for teachers after obtaining the Ph.D. degree with evidence of research publications (as per UGC guidelines) in reputed journals. They can guide both M.Phil. and Ph.D. candidates. However, the quality enrichment will be monitored by research committee.

Guide Recognition - Application processing fees Rs. 1000.

### **13. Age Limit for Research Supervisors**

- a. Upper age limit for research supervisors to register fresh candidates for pursuing any Ph.D. programme under their supervision is fixed as 59 years of age in respect of the teachers working in the affiliated colleges and in the University departments (i.e., one calendar year prior to their retirement).
- b. Upper age limit for research supervisors to register fresh candidates for pursuing any Ph.D., programme under their supervision is fixed as 61 / 64 years of age in respect of teachers / scientists working in any recognized academic research departments / institutes

/ organizations / laboratories / centres, where the retirement age is 62 / 65 years (i.e., one calendar year prior to their retirement).

- c. In the case of faculty / scientists to whom retirement age is not specified, the upper age limit for them to register fresh candidates for pursuing any Ph. D., programme under their supervision is fixed as 64 years of age.
- d. When a research supervisor retires before the candidate completes his / her Ph.D. he / she shall continue to supervise the candidate till the candidate completes the degree.
- e. University teachers after superannuation may continue as co-guides for research students with the consent of the concerned authorities. Retired Professors holding any official positions such as Professor Emeritus / Distinguished Professor / Scientist Emeritus may continue as supervisors till they continue in the official positions. Later, they may act as co-supervisors with the concurrence of the Research Committee and the new Research Supervisor.

#### **14. Number of Candidates under a Supervisor**

- a. A Research Supervisor / Co-supervisor who is a professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than three (3) M. Phil., and eight (8) Ph.D., scholars. An Associate professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of two (2) M.Phil., and six (6) Ph.D., scholars. An Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of one (1) M.Phil., and four (4) Ph.D., scholars.
- b. An Assistant professor who possesses guide recognition and at least 12 years of teaching experience shall be permitted to guide up to a maximum of two (2) M.Phil. and six (6) Ph.D. scholars.
- c. An Associate professor who possesses guide recognition and has completed 3 years of teaching experience as an associate professor shall be permitted to guide up to a maximum of three (3) M.Phil. and eight (8) Ph.D. scholars.
- d. For assessing the number of vacancies under a supervisor the actual date of submission of the thesis by the candidates registered shall be taken into account.
- e. The maximum intake of candidates for full-time and part-time laboratory programme in the departments in each affiliated college / division of R & D Institution shall be fixed by the inspection commission constituted by the University.
- f. The number of re-registered candidate per research guide shall be restricted to one at any point of time and the count of re-registration candidate is over and above the existing strength of the research guide.
- g. The total number of registered Ph.D. research scholars under a research supervisor in Bharathiar University / any other universities / any research centres with all research schemes / projects at any given point of time shall not exceed the number stipulated in Clause 15(a) above. In case, the total number of candidates registered under a research supervisor in all universities / research centres put together exceeds the number stipulated in Clause 15(a), the candidates registered under the research supervisor in Bharathiar University shall be cancelled without any notice. A self-declaration to this effect shall be given by the research supervisor in the prescribed format as shown below:

**DECLARATION BY THE RESEARCH SUPERVISOR**

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that the total number of candidates registered for Ph.D. research programme under my guidance does not exceed the maximum number as stipulated in the Ph.D. Regulations of Bharathiar University. I further furnish the following list of candidates pursuing the research programme under my guidance and declare that they have not submitted their dissertations for the award of Ph. D., as on date.

S. No.	Name of the Candidate	Full-time/ Part-time	University
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Total			

**Date:****Signature of the Research Supervisor**

## 15. Change of Supervisors and Transfer of Scholars

- a. Transfer of Ph.D. scholars from one supervisor to another supervisor can be permitted if mutual willingness is given by both the original and new supervisors by issuing a “No Objection Certificate (NOC)”. The processing fee of Rs. 500/- to this effect shall be paid by the candidate. In the case of research supervisors who have shifted from the jurisdiction of Bharathiar University, NOC is compulsory. In this regard, Head of the Institution should notify to the Registrar, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (Letter of information within 15 working days).
- b. In the case of a change of supervisor or transfer of candidates, if proposed, without the consent of any one of the parties concerned, the case shall be referred to the EGRC. The recommendation of EGRC shall be treated as final. The processing fee of Rs. 1,000/- to this effect shall be paid by the candidate.
- c. The supervisors who wish to avail leave / lien/deputation beyond a period of six months shall nominate co-guides in the concerned subject for the candidates registered under him/her and the same shall be intimated to the University in advance.

## 16. Change of Research Topic / Specialization

Change of topic of research by the candidate is permitted in exceptional cases. The processing fee of Rs. 1,000/- to this effect shall be paid by the candidate. The time limit fixed for the change of topic of research in the Ph.D. programme is as given below:

**Full-time:** Within eighteen months from the date of registration, in case of candidates registered with Master’s degree qualification and within twelve months from the date of registration, in case of candidates registered with M.Phil., qualification.

**Part-time:** Within twenty-four months from the date of registration, in case of candidates registered with Master’s Degree qualification and within eighteen months from the date of registration, in case of candidates registered with M.Phil., qualification.

In exceptional cases (i.e., correction in the topic/title), for the candidates who have crossed the time limit, consent may be obtained from the concerned HOD / Institution. However, the broad field of research cannot be changed.

## 17. Cancellation of Ph.D. Registration

- a. In case of candidates (Full Time/Part Time) who do not possess an M.Phil. degree and have not passed Part I of M. Phil. in the relevant subject within the minimum period, or have not cleared the examinations within five appearances, their registration shall be cancelled. Such candidates seeking fresh admission within 5 years from the date of initial registration, shall be exempted from appearing for Common Eligibility Test (CET) and exempted from appearing on the papers of Part I of M.Phil. in which they have secured a minimum of 50% and above marks.
- b. For cancellation of Ph.D. registration in the absence of a letter from the candidate, the supervisor may write a letter to the Registrar who in turn informs the same to the candidate. If no reply is received from the candidate within three months, the Ph.D. registration for the candidate shall be cancelled.

## 18. Examination and Evaluation

### 18.1 Part I: Course Work Examination, Pattern of Question Paper and Evaluation

#### Course Work Examination

- a. Full-time candidates should appear for the written examination under Part-I of the programme at the end of six months after joining the course and part-time candidates should appear for the written examination under Part-I of the programme at the end of one year after registration.
- b. The course work, i.e., Part I shall be the same as Part I of the M.Phil., programme and shall consist of the following three papers, in which the candidates are required to appear:
  - Course 1: Research Methodology (Research Methods in the relevant discipline)
  - Course 2: Advanced course in the concerned discipline
  - Course 3: Special Paper (pertaining to the area of specialization chosen by the candidate/research specialization of the supervisor)
- c. An M. Phil. or a Ph. D. scholar shall be required to secure a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade / CGPA in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the dissertation/thesis.
- d. In case of non-attainment of the minimum requirement in the course work, the candidates shall be allowed to re-appear for the examination in the subsequent schedule to improve the marks/grades. Additional chances for appearing in the examination at a later schedule may also be permissible.
- e. Candidates who register for pursuing Ph.D. with a post-graduate degree shall be issued the Ph.D. coursework certificate specifying the marks secured in each of the papers of the coursework and the aggregate percentage of marks.

#### Note

- a. The syllabi for courses 1, 2 and 3 shall be framed by the committee comprising all research supervisors and duly approved by the Board of Studies in Research and the Standing Committee on Academic Affairs (SCAA).
- b. A candidate who has completed an M. Phil. degree in a specified area of research shall be exempted from Part I of Ph.D. programme, provided he/she has registered for Ph.D. programme in the same area of research. Otherwise, the Doctoral Committee shall recommend the relevant paper in the area of research to be written by the candidate.
- c. In case of candidates admitted for a Ph.D. programme in which the field of specialization differs from the field of specialization in their M. Phil. programme, it must be ensured that such candidates shall take up an examination for one theory paper in the new specialization field. The syllabus of such a theory paper shall be framed by the research

- supervisor and the member (external) of the doctoral committee and the answer script shall be evaluated by both of them.
- d. In case of a Ph.D. programme in a related discipline (Interdisciplinary Research), the Chairperson of the Board of Studies in the Interdisciplinary Research in consultation with the Chairperson of the concerned discipline shall decide on the exemption from writing Part I examinations.
  - e. Candidates appearing for Part I examinations in different subjects (other than language subjects like Tamil, Telugu and Hindi) should answer only in English.
  - f. Part I written examinations shall be conducted twice in a calendar year in the months of May/June and December.
  - g. The duration of examination for each paper shall be 3 hours and the maximum marks for each course shall be 100 marks.
  - h. For the candidates who have studied their UG / PG degree courses in Tamil medium and registered for M.Phil., / Ph.D., programme in Yoga for Human Excellence, the medium of instructions may be Tamil; for other candidates in such a subject, the medium is English.

### **Scheme of Examination for Part I of M.Phil., Programme**

Part I: Theory comprising three papers

Maximum Marks: 100 for each theory paper

Part II: Dissertation and Viva-voce Examination

Maximum marks: 150 for the dissertation, which is to be awarded by the supervisor for a maximum of 75 marks and by the external examiner for a maximum of 75 marks. The public viva-voce examination is mandatory.

Maximum marks: 50 to viva-voce examination, which is to be awarded by the respective supervisor.

Total: 500 Marks

### **Pattern of Question Paper**

Part I examination shall be with the following pattern of question paper:

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 100

Part A – (5 x 8 = 40 marks)

Answer any five out of eight questions

All questions carry equal marks

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.



Part B – (5 x 12 = 60 marks)  
Answer any five out of eight questions  
All questions carry equal marks

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

### **Evaluation**

- a. A system of double valuation shall be followed inviting experts from institutions outside the jurisdiction of Bharathiar University for the first valuation and inviting experts from institutions within the jurisdiction of the University for the second valuation.
- b. There shall be one Board of Examiners for Part – I Theory Examinations comprising both University and College teachers. It shall be made mandatory that the research supervisors of the candidates are examiners for the specialization papers in which their candidates appear.
- c. The convener of the Board of Research Supervisors in each discipline shall provide the list of examiners in consultation with the research supervisors.
- d. There shall be a passing minimum of 50 marks out of 100 on each paper. Only the candidates who have secured the minimum of 50 marks out of 100 in all three papers with an aggregate of 55 percentage of marks shall be declared as passed in Part I Theory Examinations.
- e. A candidate who does not secure the passing minimum of 50 marks out of 100 in a paper shall reappear to that paper for the purpose of completing the Part I Examination. Candidates who have secured a minimum of 50 marks with an aggregate of 55 percentage of marks and above in the Part I Examination shall be exempted from reappearing for paper(s).
- f. Candidates who have secured a minimum of 50 marks in all the papers of the Part I Examination, but with an aggregate of below 55 percentage of marks shall reappear for one more paper for the purpose of attaining the aggregate of 55 percentage of marks.
- g. Any candidate who is declared as 'failed' in Part I of the examination must reappear in all the failed papers in which he/she has not been exempted and the marks obtained at the reappearance shall only be taken into account for declaring the result.
- h. The maximum number of attempts for the candidates to clear the papers of Part I Theory Examinations shall be fixed as five.

- i. Candidates who have not completed the duration of the programme or the candidates who have not cleared Part I Theory Examinations in five attempts shall re-register for the programme. In such cases, there shall be no requirement of recommendation of the EGRC for re-registration.
- j. A candidate who is seeking permission for re-registration shall write the paper only in the current syllabus if he/she has not completed the paper(s) on earlier occasions.
- k. Certificate for Ph.D. course work may be given to the candidates who have cleared all the papers prescribed in Part I course work if requests are received from the passed-out candidates. (Note: This decision is taken as many institutions seek the above certificate for employing the candidates who have completed the Ph.D. after completing the preliminary M.Phil., Part I course papers).
- l. In the case of M. Phil. programme consolidated statement of marks incorporating Part I (Theory Papers) and Part II (Dissertation and Viva-voce) shall be issued subject to payment of the prescribed fee. The completion of theory papers with a minimum of 50% marks in each of the papers with an aggregate of 55% marks shall be considered as the completion of coursework, which shall be specifically mentioned in the statement of marks.
- m. Only on Completion of Part – I, the candidate is eligible to submit M.Phil. dissertation.

## 18.2 Part II –Thesis

Each candidate shall be required to choose a research problem in his/her chosen area of research specialization (related to Paper III of Part I) and submit a thesis incorporating the results of his/her original investigation carried out under the supervision of a recognized supervisor.

### Submission of Synopsis (Under Part II)

- a. The candidates shall submit six copies of the synopsis of the thesis to the University, through his / her research supervisor along with the final Doctoral Committee report, evidence for the publication of research papers, the prescribed fee receipt and relevant certificates.
- b. The candidates may submit the synopsis three months before the minimum period of submission of the thesis enabling the University to get the consent of examiners for the evaluation of the thesis. The synopsis shall not exceed 6 to 10 (not beyond 10 pages) typewritten or printed pages (one side of A4 size papers in Times New Roman, font size 12).
- c. While forwarding the synopsis, the research supervisor shall submit to the University, in a sealed cover, the prescribed panel of examiners along with the brief curriculum - vitae containing the official e-mail ID (Institution e-mail ID) of each examiner for the evaluation of the thesis and for the conduct of the viva-voce examination. It is mandatory that the supervisors shall submit two separate panels of **4 to 6 examiners**, one panel containing examiners from abroad and the other from India. ([https://cdn.b-u.ac.in/forms/coe\\_research/panel\\_exam.pdf](https://cdn.b-u.ac.in/forms/coe_research/panel_exam.pdf)).

- d. While submitting the panel of examiners, the research supervisors shall provide the acceptance/consent letters of examiners along with their bio-data / curriculum vitae. (Mandatory)
- e. Submission of the panel of examiners shall be in a sealed cover. Engaging candidates to carry the panel in unsealed covers should be strictly avoided.
- f. The regulation that the research supervisors recognized by Bharathiar University (including Category B) cannot be the examiners for adjudicating the thesis shall be strictly adhered.
- g. The pre-synopsis viva-voce report as per the UGC norms may be submitted along with the synopsis after the modalities are framed by the University.
- h. The synopsis shall not be accepted by the Research Section of the Office of the Controller of Examinations if the research supervisors do not submit the panel of examiners for the adjudication of the thesis in a sealed cover at the time of submission of the synopsis.
- i. The Synopsis shall not be accepted by the Research Section of the Office of the Controller of Examinations if the Certificate of Genuineness of Research Publication (with the first page of the published paper) is not enclosed at the time of submission of the synopsis.
- j. In the case of candidates who have registered for Ph.D. in the category of Independent Registration, the Chairperson of the PG Board of Studies (UD) in the concerned discipline shall submit a panel of three competent academicians in the relevant research area within 30 days of receipt of communication from the University and one of them shall be appointed as the Convener by the Vice-Chancellor.

#### **Submission of Thesis (Under Part II)**

- a. Not later than six months after the submission of the synopsis and after the expiry of the minimum period of research prescribed, every candidate shall submit five copies of the thesis embodying the results of the original research carried out by him/ her along with the prescribed filled-in application form and fee. The hard copy must accompany a soft copy of the thesis.
- b. In order to promote Tamil in higher education and research, the candidates are generally encouraged to submit a copy of the synopsis of the thesis in Tamil which will be kept in the library for reference.
- c. In accordance with the conditions stipulated under Clause 9 / Sub-clause 9.4 of UGC Regulations 2016, M.Phil. scholars shall present at least one (1) research paper in a conference/seminar and Ph.D. scholars must publish at least one (1) research paper in refereed journal and make two paper presentations in conferences/seminars before the submission of the dissertation/thesis for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints. Publications in the proceedings of conferences/seminars shall not be considered. The candidates whose research papers have been accepted for publication in the journals may be allowed to submit the synopsis of the thesis.

Ph.D. candidates shall be encouraged to publish at least one research paper in Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) / Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) Journals / SCOPUS / UGC – CARE list of journals before submission of the thesis in arts, humanities and social sciences and languages, and at least one research paper in Science Citation Index (SCI) / Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) / SCOPUS / UGC-CARE list of journals in science subjects before submission of the thesis.

*Note:* For issuing the compliance certificate for Ph.D. awardees, it is mandatory that the candidates should have two research publications in the refereed journals and at least two research papers presentation in conferences / seminars.

- d. The doctoral committee should certify the quality of research and the quality of publications. Without such a certificate, the thesis shall not be accepted / processed by the Research Section of the Office of the Controller of Examinations
- e. Prior to submission of Ph.D. thesis, the candidate shall make pre-Ph.D. presentation in the department that shall be open to all faculty members and research students, for getting feedback and comments, which may suitably be incorporated into the draft of the thesis under the advice of the supervisor.
- f. The maximum length of the thesis should not exceed 250 to 275 pages (not beyond 275 pages) (A/4 size typed matter), excluding bibliography, tables and diagrams. If the candidate so desires, he/she may include published papers or manuscripts along with the thesis. Exemption from page restriction shall not be entertained under any circumstances.
- g. Every candidate shall submit a declaration and a certificate from the research supervisor under whom he/she worked in the prescribed format along with the application for Ph.D. degree and the thesis. An extra copy of each of the certificate and declaration shall be submitted along with the thesis.
- h. The title of the synopsis and title of the thesis shall be the same. The title page of the thesis, cover format, etc., shall be strictly in conformance with the format of the presentation as prescribed. The thesis should **not** be hard bound and it should have a thin and flexible cover.
- i. Ph.D. Thesis/Synopsis may generally be written in English (for subjects other than languages). However, the thesis may be written in Tamil provided a translated copy in English is also appended.
- j. For non-receipt of the panel of examiners from the supervisor within a month of submission of Ph.D. / M.Phil. thesis by the candidate, the Vice-Chancellor is empowered to appoint a panel of examiners.
- k. No tuition fee shall be collected by the Institution from the candidates after submission of the thesis.

### Certificate of Genuineness of Research Publication(s)

This is to certify that the Ph.D. candidate Mr. / Ms. . . . . . working under my supervision has published a research article in the standard refereed / SCI Journal named . . . . . with Vol.... No. . . . . Page Nos. . . . . and year of publication . . . . . published by . . . . . The contents of the publication incorporate part of the results presented in his / her thesis.

**Research Supervisor**

#### Countersigned

Head of the Department / Director  
(College / University / Institute)

#### Declaration

(to be submitted by the candidate)

I . . . . . hereby declare that the thesis, entitled “. . . . .” submitted to the Bharathiar University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in . . . . . is a record of original and independent research work done by me during . . . . . under the supervision and guidance of Dr. . . . . Department of . . . . . and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree / Diploma / Associate ship / Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate of any University.

**Signature of the Candidate**

#### Countersigned

(Research Supervisor)

**Note:** Candidates who are permitted to work without a guide shall also submit a declaration to the above effect.

#### Certificate

(to be submitted by the Research Supervisor)

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “. . . . .” submitted to the Bharathiar University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in . . . . . is a record of original research work done by Mr./Ms. . . . . during the period . . . . . of his/her study in the Department of . . . . . at . . . . . (College/Research Institute/Bharathiar University) under my supervision and guidance, and the thesis has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree / Diploma / Associateship / Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate of any University.

**Research Supervisor****Countersigned**

Head of the Department / Director  
(College / University / Research Institute)

**19. Maximum and Minimum period for Submission of Thesis**

- a. Candidates with PG qualification shall be permitted to submit their thesis, within a period of five years, but not earlier than three years from the date of registration in case of full-time research and within a period of six years but only after four years from the date of registration in case of part-time research.
- b. Candidates with M.Phil. qualification shall be permitted to submit their thesis, within a period of four years, but not earlier than two years from the date of registration in case of full-time research and within a period of five years, but not earlier than three years from the date of registration in the case of part-time research. Early submission of the thesis shall not be permitted under any circumstances.
- c. When a candidate gets his/her M. Phil. degree after registration to Ph.D. programme, the M.Phil. degree will be considered for his Minimum / Maximum periods of submission of Ph.D. thesis with the payment of 'Status Change Fee'.

Mode	For Candidates with PG Degree		For Candidates with M.Phil. Degree	
	Minimum Period	Maximum Period	Minimum Period	Maximum Period
Full Time	3 years	5 years	2 years	4 years
Part Time	4 years	6 years	3 years	5 years

- d. Extension of time for submission of Ph.D. thesis will be granted up to a maximum period of two years on payment of the fee prescribed as detailed below. Such extension will be granted for a duration of six months in the first instance and an additional three six-monthly extensions may be granted, making a total of two years in exceptional cases with the recommendation of the research supervisor. At a time, two extensions may be admissible after paying the necessary fee and penalty of Rs. 500. Special extension not exceeding six months shall be permissible only with the recommendation of EGRC.

**Fee Prescribed for Extension**

First Extension	Rs. 1000
Second Extension	Rs. 2000
Third Extension	Rs. 4000
Fourth Extension	Rs. 5000
Special Extension	Rs. 6000

- e. Ph. D. candidates who complete the maximum duration as stipulated above with initial registration and subsequent four extensions / one special extension shall be required to re-register for the programme. The duration of re-registration shall not exceed 2 years. Re-registration shall be permissible only with the recommendation of EGRC.

## **20. Adjudication of Ph.D. Thesis**

- a. For the adjudication of the Ph.D. theses (other than Tamil and Indian languages), the panel of examiners shall be submitted by the Research Supervisors in a sealed envelope at the time of submission of the synopsis. The panel shall consist of four examiners from abroad, preferably from scientifically advanced countries, avoiding persons working on a contractual basis abroad (foreign countries), and four examiners from India (preferably within Tamil Nadu, but outside the geographical area of Bharathiar University or from the states in South India, such as Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry). Research Supervisors of Bharathiar University are not eligible to act as external examiners to any of the candidates. The Indian examiner who adjudicated the thesis shall be the examiner for conducting the viva-voce examination. There shall be no separate panel of examiners for conducting the viva-voce examination.
- b. Full-time faculty who is a recognized Ph.D. research supervisor in any of the Universities and working in the cadre of Assistant Professor or an equivalent cadre / Scientist B in accredited research institutions with post-graduate teaching as well as research experience having at least two research publications in the standard National / International Refereed and Indexed Journals after the award of Ph.D. degree shall be considered for appointment as Indian or Foreign Examiner for adjudication of the Ph.D. thesis, and the research supervisors shall provide the panel of examiners along with the website details about the examiners for verification.
- c. Declaration on the accuracy and the correctness of the particulars about the examiners like designation, affiliation, email and contact address may be submitted along with the panel of examiners.
- d. In case of non-receipt of the panel of examiners from the research supervisor within one month from the date of submission of the Ph.D. thesis by the candidate, the Vice-Chancellor is empowered to appoint a new panel of examiners in consultation with the Chairman of the PG Board of Studies (UD).
- e. The thesis shall be sent in online mode for adjudication only to the examiners (one foreign examiner and one Indian examiner in the panel submitted by the research supervisor) who express their consent. The research supervisor shall also be one of the examiners for the evaluation of the thesis.
- f. As soon as the reports are received from the research supervisor and examiners (both foreign and Indian examiners), the reports shall be sent to the supervisor/convener to prepare a consolidated report with recommendations to conduct the viva-voce examination. The supervisor shall send his / her consolidated report with a recommendation within 15 working days from the date of receipt of the letter from the Centre for Research and Evaluation at the Office of the Controller of Examinations. If the consolidated report is not received within a period of one month, the Vice-Chancellor is empowered/authorized to constitute an expert panel for preparing the report and conducting the viva-voce examination.

- g. For adjudicating the Ph.D., thesis in Tamil, the panel shall consist of four examiners from outside Tamil Nadu (in lieu of foreign examiners due to the paucity of foreign examiners) and four examiners from Tamil Nadu but outside the geographical area and jurisdiction of Bharathiar University. An examiner within Tamil Nadu who adjudicated the thesis in the subject Tamil / thesis written in Tamil in the subjects of Linguistics and other Indian languages shall be the examiner for conducting the viva-voce examination.
- h. The examiners from India and abroad shall adjudicate the thesis and submit a detailed report (in the prescribed format) on the merits and demerits of the thesis and finally indicate whether the thesis is “Commended”, “Not Commended”, “Recommended for Revision and Resubmission”.
- i. No fresh offer for adjudicating the Ph.D. thesis shall be given to an examiner who has three adjudication assignments against his/her name at a time. The same examiner shall be considered for the adjudication assignment if the number of such assignments is less than three at a time.
- j. Hard copies of the evaluation reports duly signed by the examiners shall be considered for further processing. However, soft copies of the evaluation report of the foreign examiner can also be considered provided the adjudicators submit the adjudication reports in the format prescribed by the University (along with the affiliated official letterhead) duly signed by them through their institutional email ID (proper seal or stamping is optional).
- k. If the University does not receive the evaluation report from any examiner even after the second reminder (60 days from the date of receipt of the thesis), another examiner shall be appointed in his / her place.
- l. In case, both examiners from India and abroad have not commended the thesis, it shall be referred to Ethics and Grievance Redressal Committee for further instructions and action.
- m. In case one of the two examiners has not commended the thesis, the thesis shall be referred again to a third examiner, Indian or Foreigner as the case may be (i.e., if the thesis is not commended by a foreigner, the third examiner shall be a foreigner and if it is not commended by an Indian, the third examiner shall be an Indian). However, if the third examiner does not commend the thesis, again it shall be referred to Ethics Committee for further instructions and action.
- n. If the examiners insist upon corrections/revision / re-submission to be made, the same shall be made before appearing for the public viva-voce examination, along with a certificate from the research supervisor that the corrections have been satisfactorily carried out. A detailed report of such corrections, mentioning the corrected page numbers, must be made available.
- o. The candidate whose thesis has been approved shall submit himself/herself to a public viva-voce examination to be conducted by a Board of Examiners, consisting of the external Indian examiner and the research supervisor as the Convener, in the presence of the members of the Department and persons who are interested in the subject.
- p. Viva-voce examination shall be conducted for Ph.D. candidates strictly within 30 days of receipt of the consolidated report by the Centre for Research and Evaluation at the Office



of the Controller of Examinations. For full-time scholars, the viva-voce examination may be conducted either through offline mode.

- q. The research supervisor / convener shall notify the date and time of the viva-voce examination in consultation with the Indian external examiner and inform the same to the Research Coordinator / Office of the Controller of Examinations issuing a minimum of 7 days notification. After conducting the viva-voce examination, the supervisor / convener shall convey to the University, the result of the examination. A candidate who is successful in the public viva-voce examination shall be declared to have qualified for Ph.D. degree by the Syndicate.
- r. The medium of language for the public viva-voce examination will be English. However, the general public will be encouraged to ask questions in Tamil and clarifications shall be given to them in Tamil. In the case of language departments, the viva-voce examination shall be held in the respective languages.
- s. A candidate who is not successful at the public viva-voce examination may be permitted to undergo the examination a second time within a period of three months with another examiner / an Indian expert, Research Dean and Chairpersons of the PG Board of Studies (both UD and affiliated colleges), not before one month after the ill-fated first viva-voce examination.
- t. The time limit to resubmit the revised thesis, as per the suggestions for revision and resubmission of the thesis given by the examiner(s), shall not exceed twelve full months.
- u. A candidate shall not ordinarily be permitted to resubmit the thesis for the degree or to take the public viva-voce examination on more than two occasions.
- v. When a research supervisor is shifted from one institution to another within the Bharathiar University area, the viva - voce examination may be conducted at the place of registration or at the place where the supervisor is working or at the Bharathiar University campus. In other places, there shall be no permission to conduct the viva - voce examination.
- w. When a research supervisor moves to an institution outside the territorial jurisdiction of Bharathiar University, he/she shall be required to submit an application to get a guide continuation certificate from Bharathiar University to continue his/her guide recognition.

### **Publication of the Thesis**

- a. A thesis whether approved or not shall not be published in full without the permission of the Syndicate and the syndicate may grant permission for the publication under certain conditions as may be imposed.
- b. A candidate may, during the course of his / her research, publish papers in standard research journals as advised by his /her supervisor, but the thesis as a whole shall not be published without obtaining permission of the syndicate mentioned supra.
- c. The research supervisor / convener shall be required to furnish a certificate along with the report of the viva-voce examination, in connection with the suitability of the thesis for publication by the candidate, at a later date in the following format:

**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that in the thesis entitled ‘.....’  
submitted by ‘.....’ all the corrections /  
modifications suggested by the examiners have been incorporated and the thesis does not  
have any objectionable material. Hence, the thesis is fit for publication, if the candidate so  
desires.

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR / CONVENOR

## 21. Conferment of the Degree

- a. A candidate shall be eligible for the conferment of Ph.D. degree, if he / she has undergone the prescribed programme for a period of not less than two years (for those registered with M.Phil. qualification) or three years (for those registered with PG degree qualification) in the case of full-time programme, and not less than three years (for those registered with M.Phil. qualification) or four years (for those registered with PG degree qualification) in the case of part-time programme in an institution affiliated to the University / approved by the University and passed all the examinations, and fulfils such conditions as have been prescribed therein.
- b. After successful completion of the viva-voce examination, a provisional certificate shall be issued bearing the title of Ph.D. thesis.
- c. A candidate who qualifies for the Ph.D. degree shall be issued with the degree certificate specifying the title of the dissertation / thesis and the subject in which he / she acquired the post – graduate degree.
- d. Candidates who qualify for Ph.D. degree shall be awarded the degree in the discipline in which the candidate has been registered. Please refer to the following Clause e: **‘Interdisciplinary Research’**.

### e. **Interdisciplinary Research**

- i. Teachers employed in various Departments of the University or any affiliated colleges of the University may be permitted to serve as research supervisors, irrespective of their own discipline / area of research and must be enrolled as supervisor in the respective departments discipline only. (For example, a teacher with Zoology or Botany or Chemistry qualification, but appointed as a teacher in the Department of Environmental Science or Microbiology or Biochemistry or Biotechnology or Bio informatics be recognized as a research supervisor to guide / supervise the candidates in the relevant discipline / department in which teacher is appointed).

However, candidates holding post-graduate degree are permitted to register for research programmes (M.Phil. / Ph.D. programmes) in the interdisciplinary areas in various departments irrespective of the subjects of the study in their PG degree and the degrees be awarded in the field of research and interdisciplinary with the relevant core subjects obtained in the PG Degree course. For instance, for an M.Sc., Chemistry candidate who pursue the Ph.D., programme in Environmental Sciences, the degree may be awarded as Ph.D. mentioning the subject as Chemistry and the degree certificate shall also contain the title of the thesis.

- ii. The committee comprising the Dean (Research) and Chairpersons of the Board of Studies in PG (UD and/or affiliated colleges) of the concerned subjects should decide the eligibility of the candidate’s subject for admission to M.Phil. / Ph.D. in interdisciplinary programmes, if any disputes arise.
- iii. Co-guide shall be encouraged but not mandatory for interdisciplinary studies. On any account, the subject of co-guide shall not be considered for the award of the degree. Further, the department in which the co-guide belongs need not be a recognized

research department for that purpose. However, the co-guide shall form a part of the doctoral committee and shall sign in the thesis as well.

- iv. The candidates of DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, DBT and accredited research institutions of national importance possessing professional degrees shall be permitted to pursue Ph.D. programme in the Interdisciplinary areas of science and humanities / social sciences under the supervision of scientists from DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, DBT and accredited research institutions approved by the University and the registration of such candidates shall be considered case by case by the University based on the significance of and relevance of research proposal submitted by them. In such cases, the candidates shall be awarded with the degree only in the registered interdisciplinary fields on successful completion and fulfilment of all the conditions as specified in the Ph.D. regulations of Bharathiar University. There shall be the recognized research supervisors of Bharathiar University who will act as Coordinators of such Ph.D. programme.

**f. Collaborative Research**

There shall be a provision for registration of candidates for collaborative research leading to the award of Ph. D. degree under dual guidance with one faculty from the University Department and a faculty / scientist from the leading science laboratories of national importance approved by the University. This dual guidance programme is only for the cases in which the University is having a Memorandum of Understanding with DRDO / ICMR for collaborative research. Research supervisors under dual guidance shall have equal responsibilities for collaborative work and shall be recommended by the Selection Committee.

**22. Conversion from Full-Time to Part-Time & Vice-versa of Ph. D. Programme**

- a. Conversion from full-time to part-time and vice-versa of Ph.D. research programme shall be allowed only under special circumstances on payment of 'Status Change fee'.
- b. Conversion of full-time mode to part-time mode is considered only after the completion of a period of 18 months from the date of registration. The requests of candidates for conversion before the period of 18 months need not be considered and such candidates must seek admission with the submission of a fresh application. In case, a candidate gets employment in a government organization or in a recognised educational institution or in a recognised National Research laboratory (like DRDO, CSIR, DBT, ICMR, etc.), he /she can apply for special permission with the recommendation of the Dean (Research). In such cases the norms applicable for Ph. D. admission (Full-time / Part-time) shall be followed.
- c. If the candidate has been allowed by the employer to avail of any leave / leave on loss of pay for two years, he/she may be allowed for conversion from part-time to full-time (only after the completion of a period of 18 months).
- d. The following rule shall be adopted for conversion from full-time to part-time and vice-versa of Ph.D. programme:

d(i)The residual period that the candidate has to complete at the time of his / her application for conversion (from full-time to part-time or from part-time to full-time, as the case may

be) for fulfilling the requirement of the minimum duration for submitting the thesis under the existing category be taken note of and the equivalent of the corresponding period without exceeding the maximum duration shall be determined and intimated to the candidate.

### **23. Re-registration**

- a. Candidates who complete a total duration of 8 years with the initial registration and subsequent 4 extensions shall be required to re-register for the programme. The re-registration shall begin soon after the completion of the fourth extension period. The duration of re-registration shall not exceed 2 years. Re-registration shall be permissible only with the recommendation of the Ethical and Grievance Redressal Committee (EGRC).
- b. Candidates desirous of seeking re-registration for the Ph.D. programme shall be required to show evidence of the progress of the research work before the Ethics and Grievance Redressal Committee (EGRC). In such cases, it is mandatory that the research supervisors of the candidates shall be required to attend the meeting of EGRC.
- c. A re-registered candidate shall be permitted to submit her / his thesis / dissertation at any time within the maximum period of two years.
- d. A candidate may be permitted to re-register under the same research supervisor (if he/she retires) in the same institution or under a new research supervisor in the same or another institution (if he/she is willing) by submitting 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' from the concerned supervisors.
- e. For re-registered candidates who seek the change of research topic of the thesis, the required period would be similar to that of freshly registered candidates.
- f. A candidate who is seeking permission for re-registration shall be required to complete the course work in the existing current syllabus if he/she has not completed the coursework on earlier occasions.
- g. Elapsed period shall be taken into consideration while permitting the period of re-registration. That is, the elapsed time between the end of the fourth extension and the date of re-registration shall be included within the two-year period of re-registration.
- h. No extension shall be permissible for the candidates after the re-registration period of two years.
- i. Re-registration shall be done only in July / December session.

### **24. Depository of Registered Candidates**

The University shall maintain the list of candidates who have registered for the Ph.D. programme registered students on its website on a year-wise basis. The list shall include the names of the registered candidates, topics of their research, names of their supervisor/co-supervisor and dates of enrolment/registration.

### **25. Plagiarism** (Guidelines from BU Website) <https://b-u.ac.in/plagiarism-check>

### **26. Admission of International students in Ph.D., programme**

- Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars.

- The HEIs may decide their 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.
- At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the number.

### **27. Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

- The applicant should be an Indian citizen.
- The applicant must have obtained Ph. D. degree from a recognized University. Those who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis and are awaiting the award of the degree are also eligible to apply.
- The upper age limit for the fellowship is 35 years at the time of the submission of the application. Age will be calculated by taking the date of closure of the respective call.
- PDF can be availed only once by a candidate in his/her career.
- Mentor must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized institution in India. Mentor should hold Ph.D. degree in Science or Engineering.

### **28. Revision of Regulations and Curriculum**

The University may from time-to-time revise, amend or change the regulations, scheme of examinations, syllabus and also the fee structures, if necessary, and such amendments or changes shall come into effect from the date prescribed.

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