

No. 2-1/2025-HPU (Acad)
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5
Academic Branch

Dated - 8 DEC 2025

NOTIFICATION

The Academic Council in its meeting held on 05-12-2025 vide on spot item No. 5 has approved the recommendations of the the Deans Committee vide item No. 4 in its meeting held on 02-12-2025, regarding 'revision of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) regulation (which was notified on 09-06-2025) with effect from 2025 as per annexure-'A'.

Encls. As above.

Yours faithfully,

Registrar
HPU, Shimla-5.

Dated: - 8 DEC 2025

Endst. No. Even.

Copy for information and further necessary action to:-

1. The Dean of Studies, H.P.University, Shimla-5.
2. All the Deans of the Faculties, H.P.University, Shimla-5 with the request to kindly download the notification from the University website.
3. All the Chairman/Chairperson/Director of the Teaching Departments, H.P.U. Shimla-5 with the request to kindly download the notification from the University website.
4. The Controller of Examination, H.P.U. Shimla-5.
5. The D.R./A.R. Exam-II (PG)/Secrecy/Admn./Teaching, HPU, Shimla-5.
6. The Web-Admin, HPU, Shimla-5 with the direction to upload the notification alongwith its annexures on the University website.
7. The SPS to Vice-Chancellor/SPS to Pro-Vice-Chancellor/SPS to Registrar, HPU, Shimla-5.
8. Guard file.

Registrar

Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Regulations
with Effect from 2025 (Revised)

1. Ph.D. programme shall be offered by Departments under the Faculties of Languages, Performing & Visual Arts, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Commerce and Management Studies, Education, Law, Engineering & Technology and Environment Sustainability & Development Studies. No Chair established in any Department/Faculty shall offer any Ph.D. programme.

A person seeking admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programme, in the above-mentioned Faculties shall apply for admission on the prescribed form.

- (a) Registration fee – one time (Non-refundable)
- (i) For those who are already registered with this University: ₹8000/-
 - (ii) For those who have passed post graduate two years programme or four-year undergraduate programme from any other University and are not registered with this University: ₹10000/-
 - (iii) For those who are admitted against supernumerary seats ₹ 50,000/-
- (b) Monthly fee & Annual Development Fee:
- (i) Ph.D. scholars shall be charged a monthly research fee of ₹1000/- per month and an annual development fee of ₹700 effective immediately after registration.
 - (ii) Ph.D. scholars admitted against supernumerary seats shall be charged a monthly research fee of ₹ 5000/- and an annual development fee of ₹700/- effective immediately after registration.

(c) Fee once deposited other than (a) above shall be refundable as per UGC Refund Policy.

2. **Mode of Ph.D. – Regular/Full Time Mode**

a) **Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme**

The following are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. programme:

- (1) 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.
 - (ii) 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 adopted by H.P. University from time to time.
 - (iii) Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8- semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.
- (2) For Candidates having secured MPhil Degree:
- (i) Those who have completed the MPhil programme 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 educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme as per clause 5(2) ii, iii, below.

- (ii) A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/Differently-Abled, and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC adopted by H.P. University from time to time.

Reservation for OBC (non-creamy layer) and EWS (Economically Weaker Section) will be provided as per H.P. Govt. notification/roster issued and modified from time to time.

b). Admission of International Students to Ph.D. programme

- (1) Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars.
- (2) Himachal Pradesh University will 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.

3. Duration of the Ph D Programme

- (i) Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- (ii) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of extension as per HPU norm; provided, however, that 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.
Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for 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.
- (iii) Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided one-time Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to a maximum of 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.
- (iv) There shall be a minimum residency requirement of eighteen months over the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme to be certified by the Supervisor and the Chairperson. This shall be in addition to the six-month period of course work that is required for all candidates who have not done this course work at the M.Phil level see clause 7 (6) below.
- (v) The stipulations under point 3 shall apply to Ph.D. through full time/regular mode in the University or in colleges (for colleges see point 4 below).
- (vi) The thesis must be submitted within maximum stipulated time of the registration see 3 (i) & (ii) above, after which period, the registration shall stand cancelled.

4. Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by colleges for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes

1. Post-graduate Colleges offering 4-year Undergraduate Programmes and/or Post-graduate Programmes, may offer Ph.D. programmes, provided they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure, and supporting administrative and research facilities as per UGC Regulations.

State government whose degrees are awarded by their affiliating Higher Educational Institution shall offer Ph.D. programmes provided they have:

- (i) At least two faculty members holding Ph.D. degrees in the relevant subject in a college or two Ph.D. qualified scientists in Research Institutions.
- (ii) Adequate infrastructure, administrative support, research facilities and library resources as specified by UGC.

5. Procedure for Admission

1. Desirous candidates shall apply directly to HPU on the prescribed format.
2. The admission shall be based on the criteria of Ph.D. admission & reservation policy/ roster notified and modified from time to time. Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be made using the following methods:
 - (i) The candidates who have qualified category 1 (UGC-JRF/CSIR-JRF & similar national level fellowships meant for pursuing Ph.D.) and category 2 (appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph. D.) and category 3 (admission to Ph. D. only).
 - (ii) The candidates of category 1, category 2 and category 3 shall be admitted into the Ph.D. Programme based on the combined merit of NET score (70% weightage) and the marks obtained in the interview (30% weightage).
 - (iii) The maximum marks for the interview shall be 30 (thirty). The split-up of marks awarded in the interview shall be as follows:
 - (a) NET-JRF and other equivalent fellowships: Maximum 10 marks
 - (b) PG marks: Maximum 5 marks
 - (c) Research proposal: Maximum 5 marks
 - (d) Presentation of Research proposal: Maximum 5 marks
 - (e) Defence of the proposal: Maximum 5 marksAt the time of the interview, the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area before the interview panel (Department Council). The final minutes of the Department Council deliberations and the outcome of the interview shall be submitted to the Standing Committee. The following aspects shall be considered during the interview:
 - Candidate's competence for the proposed research
 - Whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University
 - Whether the proposal area of research can contribute new/additional knowledge.
3. No separate entrance test will be conducted at the University level.
4. Minimum qualification prescribed for admission to Ph.D. course in all faculties shall be as per HPU Ordinance, unless defined otherwise.
5. The admission of the candidates in Engineering shall be made based on the merit of GATE /NET Score (70% weightage) and interview [30% weightage as per 5(2)(ii) (iii) above].
6. Department Council will decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D. seats available.
7. Supernumerary seats offered for admission to Ph.D. programme shall be as follows:
 - a. Regular faculty of Himachal Pradesh University, provided the candidate produces a certificate clearly mentioning "UGC – NET qualified for Ph.D. Admission".
 - b. Regular faculty from colleges affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University, provided the candidate produces a certificate clearly mentioning "UGC – NET qualified for Ph. D Admission".
 - c. Wards of H.P. University employees, provided the candidate produces a certificate clearly mentioning "UGC – NET qualified for Ph.D. Admission".

d. Foreign Nationals.

Note: The supernumerary seats will be deemed vacant after three years from the date of a candidate's enrollment/registration by the Standing Committee.

8. University shall:
- Advertise well in advance on the Institution's website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, and all other relevant information for the candidates;
 - Adhere to the State-level reservation policy.
9. Himachal Pradesh 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 this list every academic year.
10. Scholars who are in service/employed shall be required to submit a 'No Objection Certificate' to the Standing Committee for approval of their registration to the Ph.D. programme upon the recommendation of the Department Council within one month.
11. The marks obtained in the UGC-CSIR (NET) by candidates in category 2 (appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph. D.) and category 3 (admission to Ph. D. only) shall be valid for a period of one year for admission to Ph.D.
6. **Registration of Admission**
- (1) Every application for registration shall be considered by a Standing Committee upon the recommendation of the Department Council. The Standing Committee shall consist of the following:
- Dean of Faculty-Chairman
 - Chairman of the Department
 - All Professors in the Department concerned
 - One Associate Prof./Asst. Professor to be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor for two years by rotation based on seniority.
- (2) If a teacher appointed on the Standing Committee goes on leave for a period of more than two months, the Vice-Chancellor may nominate the next eligible teacher concerned during the absence of leave period of the regular teacher/member as the case may be.
- (3) However, the meeting will be convened by the Chairman of the department concerned with the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty concerned who will chair the meeting.
- (4) The Standing Committee may permit registration or reject the application or may order the postponement of registration, as the circumstances of the case may warrant. If the registration is accepted, the Standing Committee shall appoint a Supervisor(s) to guide the candidate. The Standing Committee can change the Supervisor(s) under the following circumstances:
- If the application is made for the change within one year from the registration with consent of prospective supervisor. Department council shall decide such cases with a month with reason to be recorded in proceedings and shall recommend to Standing Committee.
 - The change may be allowed after one year of registration with mutual consent of both the present and proposed Supervisors and the candidate for reasons to be recorded in writing;
 - If the Supervisor expresses his inability to supervise the candidate for

- reasons to be recorded in writing;
- (iv) If the Supervisor leaves the University and the candidate is not able to seek guidance from him/her for any reason.
 - (v) No change of Supervisor(s) normally be allowed after three years from the date of registration. However, the Standing Committee can make the change of Supervisor(s) at any time under special circumstances for reasons to be recorded in writing.

7. Course Work

Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

1. The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics", 2 credit course which is common across all Faculties. Two courses of 5 credits each will include one course on research methodology relevant to the subject and one course shall pertain to the latest developments in the subject. The Department Council, on the approval of all competent academic bodies, can also recommend UGC recognized online courses such as SWAYAM and MOOCs etc. as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.
2. Candidate is required to complete course work during 1st and 2nd semester (1st two available chances) from date of registration, followed by a maximum two consecutive reappear chances to pass the course work.
3. Within a year of registering for Ph.D./ or completion of Ph.D. course work the candidate shall present the synopsis of the proposed research at an open seminar in the department, incorporate the suggestions and then submit it to the Research Degree Committee. The RDC may whether accept the synopsis or recommend further changes before submission.
4. Completion of course work is a mandatory condition for submitting synopsis to the RDC.
5. 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.
6. Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in 7 (1) above, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a thesis.
7. The candidates with M.Phil degree are required to pass Research and Publication Ethics course (RPE) of Ph.D. programme.

8. Research Supervisor

(a) Eligibility criteria to be a Research Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, Number of Ph.D. scholars permissible per supervisor, etc.

- (1) A regular faculty member in the H.P. University who has obtained a Ph.D. research degree.
- (i) Regular faculty members working as: a) Professor/Associate Professor with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and b) regular faculty members working as Assistant Professors in HP University with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor in the university where the faculty member is employed or in its affiliated Post-graduate Colleges/institutes. Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors.
- (ii) Any eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor joining service in Himachal Pradesh University from any other recognized university who opts to continue supervising candidates in his/her

- previous University, in such case these candidates will be counted against the maximum stipulated research scholars he/she can supervise.
- (2) Co-supervision:
- (i) Co-supervisor may be appointed at the time of registration with the consent of the Supervisor, consent recorded in writing.
 - (ii) A Co-supervisor can be from within or outside the University but must be a regular faculty with a Ph.D. degree.
 - (iii) In case of inter-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary research the candidate may work under the supervision of maximum two co supervisors. These co-supervisors may be from outside the Department/School/Centre/University.
 - (iv) A Supervisor can take up co-supervision in other institutions up to a maximum of two (2) candidates at a time, with due permission of the authority under intimation to Standing Committee. These two shall count as one candidate being supervised by the supervisor.
 - (v) At any point in time, out of the total number of candidates registered with a supervisor, only one (1) for Assistant Professors and two each (2) for Associate Professors & Professors, can have co-supervisors from within or outside this University.
 - (vi) Co-Supervisor from within the same department or other departments of this University will be permitted with the approval of the Standing Committee only if the supervisor proceeds on long leave (more than 2 years) or falls ill. In case of death of the supervisor, the Standing Committee shall appoint a new supervisor for the candidate.
- (3) If a candidate is working under the supervision of more than one Supervisor, the certificate of originality of work will have to be signed by both supervisors. However, if the Supervisor/Co-supervisor refuses to sign the certificate for reasons to be recorded in writing, then the signature of the remaining Supervisor/Co-supervisor will be sufficient subject to approval of the Standing Committee.
- (4) An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide up to a maximum of eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time. A Supervisor shall not have at any given point of time, more than the maximum prescribed number of Ph.D. scholars. The number of candidates to be supervised individually or jointly supervised with a co-supervisor shall also not exceed the aforesaid number.
- (5) Ph.D. supervised by a faculty member who is not an employee of the university or its affiliated Post-graduate Colleges/institutes would be in violation of these Regulations.
- (6) For Ph.D. scholars working in Central government/ State government research institutions whose degrees are given by Higher Educational Institutions, the scientists in such research institutions who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can be recognized as supervisors if they fulfill the above requirements.
- (7) Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no, or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, the Higher Educational Institution may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.
- (8) In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the Higher Educational Institution to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these Regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any

funding agency. Such scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

- (9) Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision (unless defined otherwise). 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.

(b) Allocation of Candidate to Supervisor

- (i) The allocation of the supervisor for selected student shall be decided by the department in a formal manner depending on the number of students per faculty member. The available specialization among the faculty supervisors, and the research interest of student as indicated during the interview by the students. The allotment/allocation of supervisor shall not be left to the individual student or teacher.

(c) Responsibility of Supervisor

- (i) The Supervisor during the period of enrolment will observe the research student closely to ascertain whether he/she is really capable of doing research. The Supervisor, however, will not decide the issue before 6 months from the date of registration/appointment of supervisor. The Supervisor will submit his/her views in writing to the Research Degree Committee for final decision.
- (ii) The Supervisor shall guide a student in the selection of a suitable research problem, and in all other matters, relating to the student's academic work. The synopsis should include the details of the programme of study, plan of the research project, indicating the work already done in the subject, bibliography and the methodology of research which is proposed to be employed.

(d) Responsibility of Research Scholar

- (i) The Ph.D. research scholar shall appear before the RDC once every six months to make a presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. Any changes or modifications or additions, suggested by the Research Degree Committee shall be incorporated by the candidate in the plan of course work and research.
- (ii) All Ph.D. research scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train 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. Schedule for above activities will be drawn by the Department Council under intimation to each Supervisor.
- (iii) Ph.D. research scholar shall:
- (a) Attend research methodology/pedagogy/writing workshops relevant to his/her thesis
- (b) Attend International/National/Regional Conference/Seminar and present paper out of his/her thesis
- (c) Publish at least two research papers out of his/her thesis in a referred journal, preferably Scopus/Web of Science before the submission of the thesis/monograph for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of acceptance letter or re-print.

9. Evaluation of Research Work

Evaluation of research work will be carried out by RDC as follows:

(1) Research Degree Committee (RDC) and its Functions

- (i) The RDC is a body of experts, including external/other university experts constituted/notified by the University. The meeting of the RDC is convened by the Department Chairman with due permission of the Dean of Faculty.

The Research Degree Committee for each subject shall consist of the following:

- a) Dean of Faculty – Chairperson
- b) Chairperson and Professors of the Department concerned including Professors of concerned subject form ICDEOL/CDOE, and
- c) Upto three experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, and
- d) Supervisor of the candidate

When a teacher appointed on the Research Degree Committee goes on leave for a period of more than two months, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint the next eligible teacher concerned during the absence of leave period of the regular teacher/member as the case may be.

- (ii) The Research Degree Committee shall meet as often as may be required by the Department concerned with the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty. However, the meeting will be convened by the Chairman of the department concerned at least once in six months with the prior approval of the Dean of Faculty concerned who will Chair the meeting.
- (iii) The RDC approves the synopsis confirming the: a) title of research work and b) research proposal. The Research Degree Committee shall consider the plan of research of the candidate and may either approve of it, with or without modifications or require another plan to be submitted. Provided, that a candidate, who has passed the MPhil or the LLM examination, as the case may be, permitted to continue with the Research Project/Dissertation of MPhil/LLM which was the basis of his thesis for that degree, with or without such modifications, the Research Degree Committee may approve.
- (iv) Any substantial modifications or change in the research project shall require the prior approval of the Research Degree Committee.
- (v) Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall make a presentation before a Sub-Committee of the RDC comprising of RDC members from HP University and the Department Council. This Sub-Committee shall be chaired by the Dean of concerned Faculty. This will be open to all faculty members and other research scholars/students. The Ph.D. Scholar and Supervisor must be present in-person. Online mode for this presentation is not permitted to either the Ph.D. scholar or to the Supervisor.
- (vi) The candidate must mandatorily submit the thesis for final evaluation after incorporating suggestions received in the Pre-submission seminar, duly confirmed by the supervisor and Chairperson concerned, no later than three months from the date of the Pre-submission seminar.
- (vii) In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the RDC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Degree Committee (RDC) may also recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar from the Ph.D. programme to the Standing Committee.

10. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, minimum standards/credits for award of the degree, etc. of Thesis

A thesis for the Ph.D. degree shall fulfil the following requirements:

- (1) It must be written using latest version of standardized stylesheets for thesis written in Hindi, English or any other language as approved by the RDC.
- (2) It must consist of the candidate's own account of the research work done by him.
- (3) The greater portion of the work submitted therein must have been done after the registration of the student as a candidate for the Ph.D. degree; and in the case of a candidate who has been allowed to continue with the research project/dissertation which was the basis of his dissertation for the MPhil or the LLM examination, after his registration for the MPhil or the LLM degree as the case may be.
- (4) It must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality shown by discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power.
- (5) A candidate may incorporate in his thesis contents of any work which he may have published on the subject;
- (6) Edited texts of calendars of unpublished manuscripts, critical-editions from original manuscripts of old text, records or documents, when accompanied by adequate introductions and critical apparatus, shall be given the same recognition as original dissertation on Arts or Science subjects and for the award of the Doctorate degree it shall be regarded as equally worthy of consideration;
- (7) A candidate may submit in support of his thesis any printed contribution for the advancement of his subject which may be published independently or conjointly. In the latter case, the candidate shall indicate specifically his personal contribution to the conjoint work, duly certified by the supervisor.
- (8) Prior to final submission of the thesis, the research scholar will be required to mandatorily go through the mechanism devised by Himachal Pradesh University to detect Plagiarism in research work and the research integrity shall be an integral part of all the research activities leading to the award of a Ph.D. degree. Plagiarism report will be issued by the HP University Library, duly stamped by the Librarian and countersigned by the supervisor.
- (9) A Ph.D. scholar shall submit the thesis for evaluation, along with:
 - (a) an undertaking from the Ph.D. scholar that there is no plagiarism and
 - (b) a certificate from the research Supervisor (and Co-supervisor in case of joint supervision) attesting to the originality of the thesis and that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution or elsewhere.
- (10) The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners who are experts in the field and not in employment of Himachal Pradesh University. Such examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. Wherever possible, one of the external examiners may be chosen from outside India. The two examiners will be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the panel of ten experts drawn by the RDC in the subject concerned. Each examiner shall separately evaluate the thesis and shall recommend one of the following three alternatives: either that (i) the thesis be accepted for the award of Ph.D. degree; or that (ii) the candidate be required to re-submit his/her thesis in a revised and improved form; or that (iii) the thesis be rejected.
- (11) On receipt of satisfactory evaluation reports, Ph.D. students shall undergo an open viva-voce examination which shall also be openly defended. The viva-voce board shall consist of the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners and may be conducted online when face to face examinations are utterly impossible. The viva-voce shall be open to the

members of the faculty members/Research Scholars, and Students.

The viva-voce of the Ph.D. scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted if both the external examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis as such or after incorporating any corrections suggested by them. If one of the external examiners recommends rejection, the University shall send the thesis to an alternate external examiner from the approved panel of examiners, and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the alternate examiner recommends acceptance of the thesis. If the alternate examiner does not recommend acceptance of the thesis, the thesis shall be rejected, and the Ph.D. scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of a Ph.D.

- (12) The University shall complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph.D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva-voce result, within a period of (6) six months from the date of submission of the thesis.
 - (13) The candidate shall submit four copies of the thesis either type-written or printed, accompanied by a certificate from his/her supervisor stating that the thesis represents original work of the candidate and is worthy of consideration for the award of Ph.D. degree along with the Plagiarism check report.
 - (14) The Controller of Examinations shall notify the result after the formal approval of the Executive Council.
 - (15) A candidate who is required to re-submit his thesis, can do so only once. He may do so not earlier than three months and not later than eighteen months of the intimation of the decision of the University to him.
 - (16) The re-submitted thesis shall be examined by the same examiners, who assessed the original thesis, unless all or any of them are unable or unwilling to do so.
 - (17) A candidate whose thesis is rejected, shall not be registered again for the Ph.D. degree with the same subject.
 - (18) A copy of every thesis approved for the award of Ph.D. degree shall be retained in the University Library and the Library of the concerned Department of Studies or the Research Institute where the candidate worked.
 - (19) Every candidate shall give an undertaking that he will not, without the permission of the University, publish his thesis except in parts to be published in scholarly journals. If permission is granted by the University to publish the thesis the candidate shall supply to the Controller of Examinations three copies of the published thesis, one copy of which will be placed in the University Department concerned and two copies in the University library.
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11. **Issuing a Provisional certificate**
Prior to the actual award of the Ph.D. degree, the degree-awarding Himachal Pradesh University shall issue a provisional certificate to the effect that the Ph.D. is being awarded in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
 12. **Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations**
Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of these Regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil/Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil/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 Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.
 13. **Depository with INFLIBNET**
Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), the Higher Educational Institution concerned shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET, for hosting

the same so as to make it accessible to all the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions.

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of HPU Ph.D. Regulations 2025, the Vice Chancellor may, by order, make such provisions not inconsistent with the Act, Statutes, or other Regulations, as appears to be necessary or expedient to remove the difficulty, however subject to ratification of such order by the Statutory bodies of the University.