

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Regulations for Award of M.Phil. Degrees, University of Kerala 2016

Regulations for Award of M.Phil. Degree, University of Kerala, 2016 are framed in supersession of the UGC(Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree)Regulation 2009 notified in The Gazette of India [No.28, Part III-Section 4] for the week July 11-July 17, 2009; and in accordance with the UGC(Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree)Regulations 2016 notified in The Gazette of India [No. 278, Part III-Section 4] Extra Ordinary on July 5th 2016 vide No.F.1-2/2009(EC/PS)V(I) Vol.II-in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section(1) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956).

1. Short title, Application and Commencement

- 1.1 These Regulations are titled as *The Regulations for Award of M.Phil. Degrees, University of Kerala 2016*.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall come into force with effect from 5th July 2016 and shall be made applicable to candidates seeking admission for M.Phil Degree from 2016 onwards.

2. Eligibility criteria for admission to M.Phil. programme

- 2.1 Candidates for admission to the M.Phil. programme shall have a Masters degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Masters degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, 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 for the

purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.

- 2.2 A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC(non-creamy layer)/Differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Masters degree prior to 19th September, 1991. The eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace mark procedures.
- 2.3 Academic Committee of the Credit and Semester System (CSS) of the University shall be empowered to manage and control the evaluation and declaration of results of M.Phil. programmes offered in the University Departments/Centres in lines with the P.G. programmes of University Departments.
- 2.4 Evaluation and declaration of results of M.Phil. programme offered in the affiliated colleges shall be managed and controlled by the Controller of Examinations in lines with the P.G. programmes of affiliated colleges.

3. Procedure for admission

- 3.1 Candidates for M.Phil. programme shall be granted admission through an entrance test conducted by the University. However, for those students who qualify UGC-NET/JRF, UGC-CSIR-NET/JRF, SLET, GATE and research fellowships of central and state Government departments/agencies as approved by the University, as the case may be, shall be eligible for exemption from the entrance test. Teacher fellowship holders shall also be granted exemption from the entrance test for admission to M.Phil.
- 3.2 The number of M.Phil. scholars, to be admitted to each subject of study at the University Departments/Centers and duly approved

research centers, shall be decided based on number of available research supervisors and other academic as well as physical facilities accessible, in accordance with the norms regarding the scholar-teacher ratio (as specified in clause 5.3 of these Regulations), laboratory, library and such other facilities.

- 3.3 The University shall notify every year in the website and through advertisement (in at least two national newspapers, of which at least one shall be in the regional language) the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, procedure for admission, examination centre(s) and date(s) of entrance test(s) and all other relevant information for the benefit of candidates.
- 3.4 Admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the University, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned, and taking into account the reservation policy of the State Government/University, applicable to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled and other categories of candidates, as decided by the State Government/University from time to time.
- 3.5 Candidates eligible for registration to M.Phil shall be decided by a two stage process – Entrance Test and Interview.
- 3.6 Entrance Test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) on the dates notified in advance and changes of centers/dates, if any, shall be notified sufficiently earlier. Syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of questions based on research methodology (50%) and the subject of study concerned (50%).
- 3.7 Interview shall be conducted by the Department Doctoral Committee(DDC) in such a way that the candidates would be required to discuss their research interest/area.
- 3.8 The University shall maintain the list of all M.Phil. scholars, granted admission for research on its website on annual basis with the details, such as the name of researcher, topic of research, name of supervisor/co-supervisor and date of enrolment.

4. Duration of the Programme

- 4.1 M.Phil. programme shall be for a minimum duration of two consecutive semesters/one year and the candidates admitted to the programme shall have to complete the programme within a maximum of four consecutive semesters/two years.
- 4.2 Women candidates and persons with disability (of more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of one year for M.Phil. in the maximum duration.
- 4.3 Women candidates may be provided maternity leave/child care leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil. for up to 240 days.

5. Allocation of Research Supervisor

- 5.1 Any regular Professor of the University/approved research centre with at least five research publications in refereed journals, approved by the UGC/ University and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of the University/approved research center with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals, approved by the UGC/ University, may be recognized as research supervisor. The scientists on regular employment referred to in clause 5.2 of these Regulations may also be recognized as research supervisors.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no/only a limited number of refereed journals available, the University may relax the above condition for recognition of a teacher/scientist as research supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

- 5.2 Scientists in the regular service in research laboratories of Central/State Government, located in the geographical jurisdiction of University, may also be approved as research supervisor/co-

supervisor and the scientist in Grade-D, scientist in Grade-E and scientist in Grade-F&G are equated with Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor respectively, exclusively for the purpose of research supervision, subject to fulfillment of other requirements stipulated in these Regulations.

- 5.3 A Professor as research supervisor/co-supervisor, at any given point of time, shall guide not more than **three** M.Phil. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor shall guide up to a maximum of **two** M.Phil. scholars and an Assistant Professor as research supervisor shall guide only **one** M.Phil scholar.
- 5.4 The DDC concerned, in case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary nature and where the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, may nominate a research supervisor from the Department itself as the research supervisor, and a research co-supervisor from outside the Department/ Faculty/College/or other Institution on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions/Colleges and duly approved by the University.
- 5.5 Teachers/scientists who have retired from the service of the University/ affiliated colleges/approved research institutions, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, technical staff, library staff, administrative staff, teachers serving outside the geographical jurisdiction of the University and teachers appointed on contract basis shall not be recognized as Research Supervisors under the provisions of these regulations.
- 5.6 Allocation of research supervisor for a selected M.Phil scholar shall be decided by the DDC concerned depending on the number of scholars per research supervisor, available specialization among the research supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview.
- 5.7 The DDC concerned shall prepare a list of eligible scholars in lines with clause 5.6 of these Regulations and allocate the scholars, in the list, to the research supervisors giving due consideration to research

interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview and willingness of the research supervisor in a meeting specifically convened for the purpose.

- 5.8 The research data, in case of relocation of the woman scholar for M.Phil. due to marriage or otherwise, 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. The scholar shall give due credit to the original research supervisor and the institution for the part of research already done.

6. Course Work:

- 6.1 The course work for M.Phil. shall be of a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 16 credits. The M.Phil. dissertation work shall be of 20 credits.
- 6.2 A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which shall cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, and field work and other areas found relevant to the discipline concerned. Other courses shall be advanced level areas in the subjects concerned for enabling the students to acquire deep knowledge in the preparation for M.Phil. programme.
- 6.3 All courses prescribed for M.Phil. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirements and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods duly approved by Academic Committee of CSS in the University.
- 6.4 The Department where the scholar pursues research shall prescribe the course(s), based on the recommendations of the DDC, as stipulated under clause 7.1 of these regulations.
- 6.5 Scholars admitted to the M.Phil. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the

initial one year from the date of admission for research, failing which the admission may be cancelled. The reappearance of the scholar for the courses, in which required credits are not secured, shall be permitted within the duration of one year specified.

- 6.6 Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses, shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the DDC and one external examiner, and the final grades shall be communicated to the Vice Chairman of CSS or Controller of Examinations, as the case may be.
- 6.7 M.Phil Scholar has to obtain a minimum of 'B' Grade in the UGC 7-point scale in the course work with a minimum of 55% marks in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the dissertation.

7. Evaluation of Dissertation

- 7.1 M.Phil. Scholar shall, upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the grade prescribed in sub-clause 6.7 above, be required to undertake the research work and produce a draft dissertation within a reasonable time, as stipulated by the University based on these Regulations.
- 7.2 M.Phil. scholars shall present at least one research paper in a conference/seminar, recognized by the Department Council concerned, before the submission of the dissertation for adjudication and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates.
- 7.3 Dissertation submitted for adjudication shall contain an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism using the software approved by the UGC/University and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the University or to any other Institution.
- 7.4 Dissertation for M.Phil submitted for adjudication shall be evaluated by the respective research supervisor and one external examiner, who is not in employment of the University.

7.5

The external examiner for evaluation of M.Phil. dissertation shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor from among the panel of five experts prepared and submitted by the supervising teacher and duly scrutinized by Head of the Department and countersigned by Dean of the Faculty concerned invariably with sufficient modifications, if required, giving due consideration to the topic of specialization.

8. Public Viva Voce

8.1 Public viva voce, based on the observations given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by a Board consisting of the external examiner, in the duly approved panel nominated by the Vice Chancellor, as Chairperson and the research supervisor concerned as member.

8.2 Public viva voce shall be open to all faculty members of the Department, research scholars and interested experts/researchers/students.

8.3 Public viva voce of the research scholar to defend the dissertation shall be conducted only if the recommendations in the evaluation report of the external examiner on the dissertation, submitted in the format specified by the University for the purpose, is satisfactory and specific recommendation for conduct of the public viva-voce is made.

8.4 The dissertation shall be sent to another external examiner, contained in the approved panel of examiners, in case the evaluation report of the external examiner is unsatisfactory and does not recommend for conduct of the public viva-voce.

8.5 Public viva-voce examination, in respect of scholars referred to in Clause 8.4 of these Regulations, shall be held only if the recommendation in the evaluation report of the second external examiner is satisfactory.

8.6 The dissertation shall be rejected, in case the recommendation in the report of the second External Examiner is unsatisfactory and the research scholar concerned shall be made ineligible for the award of the degree, based on the dissertation already submitted.

- 8.7 A scholar who fails in the public viva voce, in the first instance, conducted to ascertain the genuineness of the research shall be required to reappear once for public viva voce within six months but not before three months from the date of conduct of first public viva voce, by remitting the fee prescribed by the University. The recommendations of the Board in the second instance shall be approved by the University and no more chance for public viva voce shall be available to the scholar.
- 8.8 The University shall formulate appropriate methods, so as to complete the entire process of evaluation of the dissertation for M.Phil. in a time bound manner.

9. Academic, administrative and infrastructure requirement for offering M.Phil. programmes

- 9.1 Post-graduate Departments of affiliated Colleges and Research laboratories of Central/State Government with at least two Ph.D. qualified teachers/scientists in the Department concerned along with required infrastructure, supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations, stipulated under sub-clause 9.2, shall be considered eligible to offer M.Phil. programmes, provided the other conditions specified by the University are fulfilled.
- 9.2 Post-graduate Departments of Colleges and Research laboratories of Central/ State Government with adequate facilities for research as mentioned below alone shall be allowed to offer M.Phil. programmes:
- 9.2.1 In case of science and technology disciplines, exclusive research laboratories with sophisticated equipment as specified by the University with provision for adequate space per research scholar along with computer facilities and essential software, and uninterrupted power and water supply;
- 9.2.2 Earmarked library resources including latest books,

international journals, e-journals, extended working hours for all disciplines, adequate space for research scholars in the Department/Library for reading, writing and storing study and research materials;

- 9.2.3 Colleges may access the required facilities of the neighbouring Institutions/Colleges, or of those Institutions/Colleges/R&D laboratories/Organizations which have the required facilities.

10. Treatment of Part time M.Phil.

Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other Rule or Regulation, for the time being in force, the University shall not conduct M.Phil. Programmes through part-time/distance education mode.

11. Award of M.Phil. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations

- 11.1 Award of degrees to candidates admitted for research leading to M.Phil. on or after July 11, 2009 till 4th July 2016 shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC(Minimum Standards and procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree)Regulation 2009 and subsequent Regulations and guidelines thereof adopted by the University.
- 11.2 Recognition of M.Phil degree awarded by the Foreign University shall be decided based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Academic Council of the University.

12. Depository with INFLIBNET

- 12.1 The University shall submit an electronic copy of the M.Phil dissertation to the INFLIBNET, following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of M.Phil. degree, for hosting the same accessible to all.
- 12.2 The University shall issue a separate certificate to each scholar, prior to the actual award of the Degree, to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the UGC(Minimum Standards and procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations 2016.

13.**Rules and procedures**

The rules and procedures for conduct of coursework/pre-submission presentation/Inter-disciplinary programmes/evaluation of dissertation/public viva-voce within the configuration of these regulations shall be framed by the University.

14. Repeal and Saving

- 14.1 All directives and orders issued, before the commencement of these regulations, by the University under the then existing regulations and guidelines shall continue to apply for the period for which such orders/ directions were issued. All guidelines issued shall continue to have effect until such rules are rescinded or modified, as the case may be, and save, as otherwise provided in these regulations are hereby repealed.
- 14.2 In case of disputes, the Vice Chancellor, as the academic head of the University, shall examine the cases individually and take an appropriate decision.

Sd/-
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