SRI JAGADGURU MURUGHARAJENDRA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING REGULATIONS
Ph.D. Programme
2022-2023

SJM School of Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Programme

Regulations - 2022

This regulation is in accordance with the UGC Regulation, 2016, 2018
(Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of Ph.D. Degree)

1. Short title, Application and Commencement:

1.1 This is in accordance with Section 8 (xvi) (Chapter II) and 26 (Chapter IV) of SJM University Act 2020.

1.2 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of assent of the Chancellor

2. Eligibility criteria for admission to Ph.D. programme:

2.1 Candidates seeking admission to Ph.D. Programs shall have a Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, 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 Candidates who have cleared the M.Phil. course work and successfully completing the degree shall be eligible to seek admission to Ph.D. Degree in faculty of science / humanities in this University. The eligibility criteria of the candidates as per the decision of the University from time to time.

2.3 A person who has pursued M.Tech/M.S in this University and whose PG dissertation has been evaluated and completed the viva voce is eligible to apply for Ph.D. programme of this University.

2.4 Candidates possession a Degree considered equivalent to M.Tech/M.S of an Indian Institution (Declared as equivalent by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Please refer to the link http://www.aiu.ac.in/Evaluation/evaluation.asp for details on equivalence certificate) 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, shall be eligible for admission to Ph. D. programme.

3. Duration of the Programme:

3.1 Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years.

3.2 Extension beyond the above period will be governed by relevant clauses as stipulated in the Statutes of SJM University and upon recommendation from te Dean of concerned faculty with the approval of Vice-Chancellor.

4. Procedure for admission:

4.1 Ph.D. students are admitted through a Ph.D. Entrance Test conducted by the University.

4.2 Candidates who have qualified UGC-NET (including JRF)/UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF)/SLET/GATE/teacher fellowship or have passed similar examinations are exempted from this Ph.D. Entrance Test.

4.3 The University, shall:

    4.3.1 Decide on an annual basis through their academic bodies a predetermined and a manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted depending on the number of available Research Supervisors and other academic and physical facilities available, keeping in mind the norms regarding the scholar – teacher ratio, laboratory, library and such other facilities;

    4.3.2 Notify well in advance in the University website and through advertisement in national/local newspapers, of which at least one (1) 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) where entrance test(s) shall be conducted and all other relevant information for the benefit of the candidates.

    4.3.3 Adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable.

4.4 The 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 the reservation policy of the Central / State Government is considered time to time.

4.5 The University will admit candidates by a two stage process through:

    4.5.1 An Entrance Test with qualifying marks as 50%. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50 % shall be subject specific , 30% General Aptitude and 20% Mathematics. The Entrance Test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance (changes of Centers, if any, will be notified well in advance); and

    4.5.2 An interview/viva-voce organized by the University wherein the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted Research Advisory Committee.

4.6   The interview/viva voce shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

  4.6.1   The candidate's competence for the proposed research;

  4.6.2   The research work can be suitably undertaken at the University;

  4.6.3   The proposed area of research shall contribute to new/additional knowledge.

5. Allocation of Research Supervisor:

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

5.1 Any regular Professor of the University with at least five research publications and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of the university with a Ph.D. degree and at least three research publications may be recognized as Research Supervisor. Provided that in areas /disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the Institution may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded writing.

5.2   Only a full time regular faculty of the University can act as a supervisor. The external supervisors and Co-supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments of the same university or from other related Research institutions with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee.

5.3   The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the respective Research Dean /Head of the Department depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview / viva voce.

5.4   In case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary nature where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/Faculty/ Institution/University on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions/Universities.

5.5   A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars.

5.6   In case of relocation of a Ph.D. woman 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 the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the University/supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will however have to give due credit to the guide from SJM University for the part of research already done.

6. Course work:

Credit Requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion.

6.1 The credit assigned to the Ph.D. course work is 12 credits.

6.2 The course work is a prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. Four credits is assigned to one course on Research Methodology which covers areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, patent, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, field work, etc.

6.3 Other Two courses will be advanced level courses in the relevant subject area which prepares the students for Ph.D. degree. These courses will be for four credits each.

6.4 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods duly approved by the authorized academic bodies.

6.5 The Department where the scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee.

6.6 All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department, not exceeding 24 months from the date of registration.

6.7 Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Research Advisory Committee and the Department and the final grades shall be communicated to the University.

6.8 A Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 50% 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.

7. Research Advisory Committee and its functions:

7.1 There shall be a Research Advisory Committee, or an equivalent body for similar purpose as defined in the Statutes of the University, for each Ph.D. scholar. The Research Supervisor of the scholar shall be the Convener of this Committee. This Committee shall have the following responsibilities.

7.1.1 To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;

7.1.2 To guide the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.

7.1.3 To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.

7.2 A research scholar shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee once every six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the Research Advisory Committee to the University with a copy to the research scholar.

7.3 In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend to the University with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

8. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, minimum standard/credits for award of the degree, etc.;

8.1 Upon satisfactory completion of course work, and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in sub-clause 6.8 above, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft dissertation/thesis within a reasonable time, as stipulated by the University based on these Regulations.

8.2 Prior to the submission of the dissertation/thesis, the scholar shall make a presentation in the Department before the Research Advisory Committee and it shall be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft dissertation/thesis in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee.

8.3 Ph.D. scholars must publish at least Two (2) research papers in Scientific Citation Index (SCI by Thomas Reuter) refereed journal/UGC listed Journals and make one paper presentation 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.

8.4 While submitting for evaluation, the dissertation/thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research

Supervisor attesting the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree of the same University where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution.

It should also include a certificate of authenticity evaluated using the University Academic council approved plagiarism detection software.

8.5 The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and two external examiners, who are not in employment of this University, of whom one examiner shall be from outside the State/other university and another may be from outside the Country. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers.

8.6 The open viva-voce / Final Viva- voce of the research scholar to defend the dissertation / thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the external examiner(s) on the thesis is /are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation. If the evaluation report of the external examiner on Ph.D. thesis , is unsatisfactory and does not recommend viva-voce, the University shall send the thesis to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the latest examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory, the dissertation / thesis shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.

8.7 The entire process of evaluation of Ph.D. thesis by the University shall be completed within a period of six months from the date of submission of the thesis.

9. Academic, administrative and infrastructure requirement to be fulfilled by Departments for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes:

9.1 Departments may be considered eligible to offer Ph.D. programmes only if they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisor, required infrastructure and supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations.

9.2 Post-graduate Departments, Research laboratories of Government of India/State Government with at least two Ph.D. qualified teachers / scientists / other academic staff in the department concerned along with required infrastructure, supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per these Regulations, shall be considered eligible to offer Ph.D. programmes.

10. Ph.D. through Part-time:

10.1 Part-time Ph.D. will be allowed provided all the conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. Regulations are met.

10.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other Rule or Regulation, for the time being in force, rests with discretionary power of Vice-Chancellor.

11. Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations, or degrees awarded by foreign Universities:

11.1 Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. Programme on or till the date of Notification of these Regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and procedure for Awards of Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2016 & 2018.

11.2 If the Ph.D. degree is awarded by a Foreign University, the Indian institution considering such a degree shall refer the issue to a Standing Committee constituted by the University for the purpose of determining the equivalence of the degree awarded by the foreign University.

12. Depository with INFLIBNET:

12.1 Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), the University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to the INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all Universities/Institutions/Colleges.

12.2 Prior to the actual award of the degree, the University shall issue a provisional Certificate to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of these SJM Regulations.

13. Definitions

- "University" means the SJM University Chitradurga;

- "Degree" means the degree of Doctor of Philosophy -Ph.D.;

- "Department" means the Department of the University or the Recognized Research Center / Institution of the University where the candidate intends to work for the degree;

- "Head of the Department" means the Chairperson of the Department of the University or the Head of the Department of a Recognized Research Centre / Institution of the University where a candidate works for the degree;

- Candidate" means any person who satisfies the prescribed eligibility conditions as stated by SJM UNIVERSITY Regulations 2022 (Ph.D.) and who intends to register for the degree;

- "Foreign candidate" means any person who is a foreign national with a valid foreign Passport, satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions;

- "Board of Studies" means the Postgraduate Board of Studies in the subject concerned / Joint Boards of Studies in more than one subject / Interdisciplinary Board of Studies as constituted by the University;

- "Course work" means the compulsory preparatory study to be undertaken by a candidate as prescribed by Board of Studies;

- "Guide" means the recognized supervisor for the research work of a candidate satisfying eligibility as indicated in these regulations;

- "Co-guide" means the recognized supervisor(s) who supervises the Ph.D. work of a candidate jointly with the guide satisfying eligibility as indicated in these regulations;

- "Doctoral Committee" or **(Research Advisory Committee [RAC])** means the Committee constituted by the University to oversee the research work of a candidate;

- "Board of Examiners" means the panel of examiners constituted by the University for Adjudicating the Ph.D. thesis submitted by a candidate.

- Science Citation Index" (SCI) means international Citation Index as per "Thomson Reuters"

Registrar