

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
Ph.D. PROGRAMME REGULATIONS - 2024

*[Framed in conformity with University Grants Commission
(Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022]*



THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
GANDHIGRAM, DINDIGUL - 624 302
TAMIL NADU, INDIA

The Gandhigram Rural Institute Ph.D. Programme Regulations -2024 (w.e.f. Academic Year 2024-2025)

Preamble

The Ph.D. regulations have been framed to provide relevant information about the Ph.D. programmes offered at the Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University).

These regulations detail the admission requirements, provision for reservation, allocation of research supervisor, conduct of coursework and examinations, evaluation and other relevant provisions.

The Gandhigram Rural Institute has amended its Ph.D. regulations taking into account the developments in the higher education sector and the guidelines issued by University Grants Commission (UGC).

1. Short title, application and commencement

- 1.1. These regulations will be called The Gandhigram Rural Institute Ph.D. Regulations, 2024.
- 1.2. The regulations shall apply to candidates who are seeking admission to Ph.D. programmes offered by the Institute.
- 1.3. They shall come into force from the date of their approval by the competent authority of the Institute through an official notification.

2. Eligibility criteria

The following are the eligibility conditions to seek admission to the Ph.D. Programme:

- 2.1. Candidates who have completed 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 any qualification declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the competent statutory regulatory body with at least 55% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade 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 institution.

- 2.2. 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 Sections (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) taken from time to time.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year (8 semesters) 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. 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 Sections (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) taken from time to time.

- 2.3. Candidates with degrees in Agriculture and allied fields OR Engineering and allied fields should have completed a Bachelor's degree with a duration of four years in the relevant field along with a two years Master's degree with appropriate specialization as recognized by the statutory body concerned.
- 2.4. Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever the 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 seeking admission to the Ph.D. 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 Sections (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) taken from time to time.

- 2.5. In addition to the above criteria, those clearing UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR test or such other National examinations recognized by the UGC as equivalent for pursuing Doctoral Research as mentioned hereunder are eligible:
- (a) JRF-qualified candidates will be admitted to the Ph.D. programme based on an interview as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D.) Regulations, 2022.
 - (b) For those candidates without JRF, 70% weightage will be given to their NET score and 30% weightage to their performance in the personal interview. Admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks and the marks obtained in the interview.
 - (c) In the case of candidates with Master's degree in Engineering/Technology, admission to Ph.D. programme will be based on an entrance test and an interview conducted by the Institute.
 - (d) Teachers working in colleges/universities and scientists from national laboratories with two years of service shall be admitted to Ph.D. programme on a part-time basis.
 - (e) Employees working in Universities/Colleges/Government sector /Public Sector Undertakings/National and International NGOs/ Industries with five years of service shall be admitted to Ph.D. programme on a part-time basis.
 - (f) The rules determining the eligibility for admission on a part-time basis shall be the same as those for full-time students.

- (g) If full-time research scholars of the Institute are appointed as faculty either within the Institute or elsewhere, they may convert their registration from full-time to part-time.

3. Reservation

The Gandhigram Rural Institute is a Deemed to be a University funded by Ministry of Education through UGC and follows all the norms and regulations of the Government of India with respect to reservation of seats for SC/ST, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Differently-abled candidates in Ph.D. admission.

4. Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Research

Admission to Ph.D. programme will be considered only in those disciplines that are offered by the Institute.

- 4.1. Candidates will be permitted to join Ph.D. programme in Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary areas on the recommendation of the Department/School/Centre concerned.
- 4.2. For interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research programmes, A co-supervisor shall be appointed from GRI or from other Institutions, provided the co-supervisor has already been recognized to guide Ph.D. candidates in his/her institution.

5. Procedure for applying

- 5.1. Inviting applications for admissions will be done online throughout the year subject to the availability of vacancies.
- 5.2. Admission of foreign nationals/NRI candidates on a part-time basis will be done through an online entrance test (MCQ-CBT) and an interview subject to other terms and conditions as stipulated by the UGC/Government of India.
- 5.3. Foreign nationals/NRI candidates should have five years of work experience before seeking admission to Ph.D. programme at GRI.

6. Allocation of Research Supervisor

- 6.1. Permanent faculty members working as Senior Professor/Professor/Associate Professor of the Institute with a Ph.D. and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals shall be recognized as Research Supervisors.

- 6.2. Permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professor of the Institute with a Ph.D. and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals shall be recognized as Research Supervisors.
- 6.3. Recognized Research Supervisors of GRI can act only as co-supervisors in other institutions.
- 6.4. An eligible Senior Professor/Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor shall guide up to eight (8)/six (6)/four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time.
- 6.5. Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be permitted to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who has already registered with them until superannuation and act as co-supervisors after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70.

7. Admission of International students

- 7.1. Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of scholars as specified in these regulations.
- 7.2. International research scholars shall be admitted through an Entrance Test and an online Interview.
- 7.3. 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 prescribed in these Regulations.

8. Research Advisory Committee

- 8.1. There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for every Ph.D. scholar.
- 8.2. The composition of the Research Advisory Committee shall be as mentioned hereunder.

(a) Research Supervisor	- Convener & Chairperson
(b) The Dean/Head concerned	- Member
(c) External Subject Expert	- Member

- 8.3. The meeting of RAC shall be convened by the Research Supervisor under intimation to the authorities concerned and the quorum for RAC meeting shall be two out of three members but the external subject expert should be present.
- 8.4. The Research Advisory Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
- (a) *To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research.*
 - (b) *To guide the Ph.D. scholar in developing the study design and research methodology and identify the courses(s) that he/she may have to do.*
 - (c) *To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the Ph.D. scholar.*
- 8.5. A Ph.D. scholar shall appear before the RAC once in six months to make presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance.
- 8.6. The External Expert in the RAC shall attend the first and the last RAC meetings in person and may attend other meetings online, if required.
- 8.7. The RAC shall submit its recommendations in the prescribed format along with a copy of the Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the Institute. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Ph.D. scholar as well.
- 8.8. In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures.
- 8.9. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement the corrective measures, the RAC may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar.

9. Course Work and Examinations

- 9.1. The credit requirement for Ph.D. coursework is 16 credits and the candidate has to complete the following courses.

Sl. No.	Course Name	Credit
1	Basic Concept and Theory in the domain area	5
2	Area of Specialization	5
3	Research Methodology	4
4	Research and Publication Ethics	2

- 9.2. The RAC can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.
- 9.3. All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of their disciplines, shall be trained in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their Ph.D. subject during their research programme. They may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.
- 9.4. 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 examination to be eligible to continue his/her research programme and submit his/her thesis.
- 9.5. The coursework shall be undertaken within one year from the date of admission and a maximum of three attempts will be permitted for the completion of the coursework.
- 9.6. The syllabus for coursework examinations (other than Research and Publication Ethics) and credit distribution shall be prescribed by the RAC.

10. Duration of the Ph.D. Programme

- 10.1. All Ph.D. programmes shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including coursework, and a maximum duration of six years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- 10.2. A maximum of an additional two years can be given through a process of re-registration provided the total period for the completion of a Ph.D. programme shall not exceed eight years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- 10.3. Women Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (with more than 40% disability) will be allowed an additional relaxation of two years; however, the total period for the completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.

11. Conversion of Full-time Research into Part-time Research

- 11.1. Full-time research scholars may convert their registration from full-time to part-time, on valid grounds by producing evidence for the same.

- 11.2. Despite conversion, the maximum duration of research will remain the same as per these regulations.
- 11.3. Part-time research scholars shall present the progress of the work to the RAC periodically.

12. Evaluation and Assessment

- 12.1. Upon satisfactory completion of the coursework, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft thesis.
- 12.2. Before submitting his/her thesis, he/she shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee, which shall be open to all faculty members and other research scholars/students.
- 12.3. The Institute shall have a mechanism to detect plagiarism and all Ph.D. theses shall go for a plagiarism check and only after due clearance the candidates shall be allowed to submit their Ph.D. theses. Research integrity shall be a key aspect of all research activities leading to the award of the Ph.D. degree.
- 12.4. The research scholar shall submit three copies of his/her synopsis duly approved by Research Advisory Committee three months prior to the submission of his/her Ph.D. thesis.
- 12.5. The synopsis should include the objectives, methodology and findings and should not exceed ten pages.
- 12.6. The synopsis shall be submitted along with the following:
 - (a) Copy of the minutes of RAC
 - (b) Panel of adjudicators (Five from within India and five from outside the country with their concurrence for adjudicating the thesis)
 - (c) Soft copy of the synopsis
 - (d) Filled-in proforma for synopsis submission
 - (e) Two research publications published in the UGC CARE list / peer-reviewed or refereed journals.
- 12.7. With regard to research publications, the research scholar will be the primary author and the Research Supervisor(s) will be the co-author/corresponding author.
- 12.8. A Ph.D. scholar shall submit three copies of his/her thesis in the prescribed format for evaluation, along with (a) an undertaking that no part of the thesis has been plagiarized and (b) a certificate

from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the thesis with the declaration that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution.

12.9. The final title of the thesis shall be the one approved by RAC in its meeting held before the submission of the synopsis.

12.10. The Ph.D. Thesis submitted shall be evaluated by the Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners who are experts in the field. One of the external examiners should be from outside India.

12.11. Theses in Indian languages namely, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam shall be referred to examiners within India for adjudication. These departments shall submit a panel of ten external examiners from within India.

12.12. Adjudicators of Ph.D. thesis shall be asked to indicate clearly whether:

(a) *The thesis is accepted for the award of the Ph.D. degree in its present form.*

(b) *The thesis is accepted for the award of the Ph.D. degree after minor corrections/revisions.*

(c) *The thesis can be passed after obtaining necessary clarifications during the Viva-Voce.*

(d) *The thesis should be revised and resubmitted to the examiner for re-evaluation.*

(e) *The thesis should be revised as suggested in the examiner's report and the revised thesis may be referred to the Research Supervisor to verify if the candidate has carried out the corrections suggested by the examiner.*

(f) *The thesis is rejected.*

12.14. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be awarded only if:

(a) The thesis is unanimously recommended for the award of the degree by all the three adjudicators, and

(b) The candidate performs satisfactorily at the public viva voce.

- 12.15. The viva voce shall be conducted by a Board of Examiners which shall consist of the Indian External Examiner and the Research Supervisor.
- 12.16. The viva voce shall be held in public with a notice of two weeks in advance. The reports of the adjudicators will be given to the scholar before the viva voce without disclosing the names/identify of the adjudicators.
- 12.17. The viva voce shall be conducted online or in-person mode. The mode shall be decided by the viva voce board under intimation to the Controller of Examinations.
- 12.18. The viva voce shall take place only:
- (a) If all the three examiners have recommend the acceptance of the thesis after the incorporation of corrections/revisions, if any.
 - (b) If one of the external examiners rejects the thesis, the Institute shall send the thesis to a second external examiner in the same category namely, Indian/Foreign examiner, from the approved panel of examiners and the viva voce shall be held only after the second examiner recommends acceptance of the thesis.
 - (c) If the second examiner too does not recommend the acceptance of the thesis, it shall be rejected and the Ph.D. scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of a Ph.D. degree.
- 12.19. The entire process of evaluating a Ph.D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva voce result, shall be completed within six months from the date of the submission of the thesis.

13. Relocation of Women Ph.D. Scholars and Transfer of Data

In case of relocation of women Ph.D. scholars due to marriage or any other reason, research data gathered by them shall be transferred on request from GRI to other institutions where the scholar intends to relocate, provided the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent institution/supervisor by any funding agency. In any case there should not be any violation of Intellectual Property Rights.

14. Change of Research Supervisors and Transfer of Scholars

Transfer of Ph.D. Scholars from one supervisor to another supervisor within the same department or in related departments may be considered on valid grounds with mutual consent given by both the present and proposed supervisor. Research Supervisors who wish to avail long leave/lien/deputation/foreign service beyond a period of six months shall nominate a co-supervisor subject with the recommendation of RAC.

15. Leave Provisions

- 15.1. There is no vacation as such for research scholars.
- 15.2. A full-time Ph.D. scholar is entitled to 30 day's personal/medical leave every year. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during the leave period are counted as leave, except for prefixed or suffixed holidays. No leave shall be carried over to the following year.
- 15.3. Women Ph.D. scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme with full fellowship/scholarship.
- 15.4. Men Ph.D. scholars with less than two children shall be eligible for 15 days of paternity leave once in the entire period of their research.
- 15.5. Duty Leave may be granted for a maximum of two months every academic year or as recommended by RAC for field work after the completion of the coursework. The scholar shall submit the details of the proposed fieldwork along with the application for duty leave. A report signed by the supervisor shall be submitted to the Head of the Department concerned on completion of fieldwork.
- 15.6. Research Scholars are eligible for academic leave up to a maximum of 15 days per academic year to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops organized by outside agencies. Applications for academic leave have to be recommended by the Supervisor.
- 15.7. Academic leave granted to research scholars for visiting foreign countries to participate in international conferences, seminars and workshops will be over and above the academic leave granted to attend such programmes within the country.

16. Issuing a Provisional Certificate

Prior to the actual award of the Ph.D. degree, the Institute shall issue a provisional certificate to the effect that the degree is being awarded in accordance with the provisions of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations 2022.

17. Submission to INFLIBNET

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree, the Institute shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET, for hosting it in its website and make it accessible to higher educational and research institutions.

18. Publication of Thesis

After the award of the Ph.D. degree, the thesis may be published in reputed journals or in the form of book under intimation to the Institute by the scholar through his/her Research Supervisor.

19. Power to remove any difficulty

(a) In case of disputes/difficulties in the conduct of the Ph.D. programme, they may be resolved by the School Dean in consultation with the Scholar, Research Supervisor, HoD and RAC members.

(b) If necessary, the Dean may constitute a committee to resolve disputes/difficulties and the recommendations may be forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor for his/her arbitration.

(c) The Vice-Chancellor/Academic Council has the powers to deal with any impediments regarding the Ph.D. programme, notwithstanding the provisions contained in these guidelines.

Important Note:

- 1. The Institute reserves the right to make changes in these Regulations from time to time.*
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in these Regulations, the Institute has the right to decide on any issue concerning the Ph.D. programme as per its rules and regulations.*