



# MAHARAJA AGRASEN UNIVERSITY

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## Ph.D. REGULATIONS (2018)

**Approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Academic Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August,  
2018 vide agenda item No. 11**

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**Adopted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Board of Management held on 7<sup>th</sup>  
September, 2018 vide agenda item No.23.4**

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## **PROLOGUE**

Maharaja Agrasen University with its mission to contribute to society through imparting research of highest standards has initiated research programmes in various disciplines leading to Ph.D. Degree.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 37 of the Maharaja Agrasen University (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2012 (Act No. 15 of 2013), the Board of Management of the University frames the regulations for award of Ph.D. Degree to a candidate who has submitted thesis on the basis of the original research either in any particular discipline or involving more than one discipline that makes a distinctive contribution to the advancement of knowledge characterized either by discovery of new facts or re-interpretation of known facts or development of new techniques/methodologies/models in the respective field.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) of Maharaja Agrasen University, shall be governed by UGC (minimum standards and procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degrees) - 2016 and as per the regulations of the University.

The academic programme leading to the Ph.D. Degree is broad-based that involves successful completion of mandatory Pre-Ph.D. course work, research work presentations and research thesis

### **NOTIFICATION AND NUMBER OF SEATS**

- 2.1 The number of approved seats, date and place of the entrance examination and the procedure for admission to Ph.D. programme will be notified on website of the University. The advertisement for Ph.D entrance examination shall be given in one national and one regional newspaper.
- 2.2 Seats for Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, OBC and handicapped students shall be reserved as per the policy of the State Govt. At least 25% seats shall be reserved for students who are bonafide residents of Himachal Pradesh.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- 3.1. Candidates who have Master's Degree in the relevant or allied subject or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's 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 the UGC or other higher educational statutory bodies of India.
- 3.2. Candidates who have M. Phil. Degree from UGC approved University with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or an equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by the UGC or other higher educational statutory bodies of India.
- 3.3. A relaxation of 5% of marks from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and other categories of candidates as per the policy of the UGC/ HPPERC from time to time.

## PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION

- 4.1. First preference will be given to UGC-NET (including JRF)/UGC-CSIR /SLET/GATE with valid score/GPAT with valid score/M.Phil qualified candidates. Their merit list will be prepared on the basis of marks of personal interview and score in the above mentioned examination only. They will have to apply for admission in Ph.D. programme in the prescribed form (Annexure-1) along with prescribed fee and have to appear for personal interview before the Departmental Research Committee. They will be admitted to the Ph.D. programme, as per the merit list based on the Score obtained in the interview.  
However, they are supposed to attend the course work as per existing Ph.D regulations of the University.
- 4.2. If all seats of Ph.D. are not filled with the above mentioned categories of candidates, the remaining seats shall be filled through an entrance examination for concerned discipline followed by personal interview. The candidates desirous of getting admission in Ph.D programme are required to submit application along with the requisite documents and entrance examination fee in the prescribed form (**Annexure-1**).

5. The process of admission to Ph.D. shall be held once in a year i.e. in the beginning of the academic session in the month of July or after the permission from the HPPERC. However, in case, any seat remains vacant, the entrance examination and personal interview may be conducted once again during the session with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor. Such vacancies, if any, shall be notified on the website of the University.

6. The entrance examination conducted by the University will be on UGC pattern. It will comprise of two papers:

Paper I: General Awareness and Research Methodology

The duration of the Paper-I shall be one hour and it will carry 100 marks. The paper will contain 50 MCQs. Each question will have 4 alternate answers out of which the candidate has to choose the right answer. Each question will carry two marks.

Paper II: Subject Specific

The duration of the Paper II shall be one hour and thirty minutes and it will carry 100 marks. The paper will contain 50 MCQs. Each question will have 4 alternate answers out of which the candidate has to choose the right answer. Each question will carry two marks.

The syllabus for this paper shall be as per UGC-NET norms.

The minimum aggregate pass percentage in both the papers shall be:

General Category Students: 50%

Reserved Category Students: 45%

7. The personal interview of 100 marks for all candidates shall be mandatory and shall be conducted after the entrance examination.

8. The order of merit will be determined on the following basis:

8.1. First preference will be given to UGC-NET (including JRF)/UGC-CSIR /SLET/GATE /GPAT with valid score/M.Phil. Their merit list will be prepared on the basis of marks of personal interview and score in the above mentioned exam only.

- 8.2. The Merit list will be prepared on the basis of marks obtained in the entrance examination conducted by the University (in Paper I & Paper II) and personal interview.
- 8.3. The Final Result/Merit List of the candidates shall be notified after getting approval of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 8.4. Maharaja Agrasen University reserves the right to cancel the admission/enrollment/registration of any student, at any stage in future; if it is found that he/she is ineligible.

### **ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION FOR Ph.D PROGRAMME**

9. The candidate whose name appears in the Final Merit List shall submit the duly filled prescribed Enrollment Form (**Annexure-2**) along with the requisite self - attested photocopies of the certificates and NOC [from employer, if employed (**Annexure-2 A**)]. The prescribed fee for enrollment in the Ph.D programme is to be deposited within 10 days of the notification of the merit list. The date of enrollment shall be considered on the date of commencement of Pre-Ph.D course work classes. The candidate shall be registered (**Annexure-2B**) for Ph.D. on the date on which he / she successfully completed the Pre-Ph.D course work i.e. on the date of publication/notification/declaration of the result. The candidates who are exempted from Pre-Ph.D Course work, the date of registration will be the date on which the candidate enrolled in the University.
10. The candidate who is unable to submit all the requisite certificates/documents/fee may be enrolled provisionally in the Ph.D. Programme. The provisional enrollment shall be confirmed after the receipt of the deficient document(s) and requisite fee within 10 days of the notification of the merit list, failing which the seat will be offered to the next eligible candidate in the order of merit.
11. No candidate shall be eligible to enroll for the Ph.D. programme, if he/she is already enrolled for any full time programme of study in this or any other University/Institution.

### **DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND EXTENSION**

- 12.1. Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years. The duration of the Ph.D programme will be counted from the date of enrolment.

- 12.2. The women candidates and Persons with Disability (more than 40%) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. for up to 240 days.
- 12.3. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Vice Chancellor may grant a further extension of Two years for the submission of the thesis, to all categories of candidates for the submission of the thesis on genuine grounds, on the recommendation of Departmental Research Committee. The Vice Chancellor will take a decision in the matter on the basis of its merits. No further extension shall be given under any circumstances.

Explanation: After completion of three years, thereafter, every year, a candidate has to put up an application to DRC, till completion of 6th Year for continuation of the same with prescribed fee. After 6th year, a candidate may request to the DRC for Extension with prescribed fee under relevant clauses as stipulated in the Regulations 12.3 of Ph.D Regulation - 2018, subject to approval by the Vice Chancellor.

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEES**

13. The research process in the University will be monitored by:
- 13.1. Departmental Research Committee (DRC)
- 13.2. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
- 13.3. Research Degree Committee (RDC)

#### **Composition and functions of the Committees**

- 13.1 The DRC of the Department of the concerned school /or discipline shall comprise of the following:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Dean of the School	Chairperson
2	Director of the School	Member
3	All Professors of the Department	Member
4	Two Associate Professors, holding Ph.D Degree* (on rotation basis for a term of two years)	Member
5	One Assistant Professor holding Ph.D Degree	Member

	(on rotation basis for a term of two years)	
6	Head of the Department**	Member Secretary

\* In case no Associate Professor is available in the concerned discipline/department, Assistant Professor (s) may be nominated as member by the Vice-Chancellor.

\*\*In case there is no Ph.D holder faculty member in the department, who can work as Member Secretary, the same could be appointed from an inter-disciplinary department, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE DRC:**

a) At the commencement of each academic session, the DRC shall prepare a list of faculty members who are eligible to supervise the Ph.D research scholars. The list shall be approved by RAC.

b) The DRC of the concerned department shall recommend whether a subject in which a candidate wants to pursue Ph.D. is an allied subject. The Vice-Chancellor may nominate any external expert to be a member of the Committee for this purpose. In case, the research is in any interdisciplinary area, the DRC may recommend the appointment of co-supervisor to the RAC. The co-supervisor may be taken from other related academic institutions / universities. The recommendation of the DRC shall be approved by RAC of the concerned school.

c) The Research Supervisor to the Ph.D. scholar shall be allocated by the DRC of the concerned discipline.

d) The DRC shall evaluate and approve the topic of synopsis presented by each research scholar and also monitor the progress also.

e) It will evaluate the Pre - Ph.D. seminar presentation by the students and recommend the case to RAC.

f) In case the progress of the research scholar is found unsatisfactory, the DRC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to apply these corrective measures, the DRC may recommend his / her case to RAC for further necessary action for the cancellation of his / her registration because of non compliance of any one of the followings eventualities as mentioned below from (i) to (x) :-

i) Non submission of Academic credentials (Documents like DMC, Degree, Migration, NOC, etc.).

- ii) If the Research Scholar fails to pay semester fee within six month of its due date.
- iii) If the Research Scholar fails to pay continuation / Extension fee within one month of its due date.
- iv) The candidate does not complete the course work in the ongoing/immediately following semester (if admitted mid-semester) on his /her admission to Ph.D. without specifying any reason.
- v) The candidate fails to obtain the required CGPA / marks in course work as per rules.
- vi) Non submission of half yearly progress report.
- vii) If the candidate's Research Proposal and or Research proposal seminar are not approved by RAC even after the submission of revised proposal / presentation of the revised seminar by the candidate.
- viii) If the Research Scholar fails to submit the thesis within the maximum stipulated time period for submission of the thesis, as per regulations.
- ix) If the Research Scholar withdraws from Ph.D programme and his/her withdrawal is approved by the vice Chancellor on the recommendation of his/her Supervisor(s), DRC & RAC.
- x) If the Research Scholar is found involved in an act of misconduct or indiscipline or plagiarism or anti – University activities, the Vice – Chancellor may cancel the registration of a Ph.D scholar on the recommendation of DRC.

If the RAC is also convinced, it may recommend his/her case for cancellation of registration to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

13.2. The RAC of each concerned school shall comprise of the following persons:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Dean Academics	Chairperson
2	Dean Research	Member
3.	Dean of the School	Member
4.	Two senior Professors of the School (on rotation basis for a term of two years)	Member



5.	Two senior Associate Professors of the School holding Ph.D Degree (on rotation basis for a term of two years)	Member
6.	Director of the concerned School	Member Secretary

RAC shall

b) Scrutinize and accredit the names of Ph.D. supervisors recommended by various DRCs. It will notify the final list of research supervisors who will be eligible to supervise the research work of Ph.D. scholars.

b ) Check/substantiate/ approve the minutes of the DRC meetings.

c ) Review the six monthly progress reports of Ph.D. scholars forwarded by the DRC.

d ) Review the cases of cancellation of registration forwarded by DRC as per clause 13.1.(f) and thereafter, recommend it to Vice Chancellor for approval.

e) In case Examiner(s) asks for the revision of thesis, it will take further appropriate action.

f) Approve the list of examiners submitted by the supervisor.

13.3) The RDC of the University shall comprise of the following:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Vice-Chancellor	Chairperson
2	Dean Academics	Member
3	Dean Research	Member
4	Deans of all Schools	Member
5	Directors of all schools of the university	Member
6	Three senior Professors of the University (on rotation basis for a term of two years)	Member
7	Three senior Associate Professor of the University (on rotation basis for a term of two years)	Member
8	Three senior Assistant Professor (holding Ph.D. Degree) of the University (on rotation basis for a term of two years.)	Member
9	Two External Experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor	Member

10	Registrar	Member Secretary
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- a) The RDC shall be the highest decision making body of the University to monitor, modify, interpret any kind of doubts or dispute pertaining to Ph.D. regulations.
- b) RDC shall recommend the name of the candidates, who have been found, qualified for the award of Ph.D Degree. Thereafter, Controller of Examination will notify the same.
- c) RDC shall be competent to propose and issue amendments / addendum to these regulations as per the requirements or to comply with UGC guidelines, from time to time.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR RESEARCH SUPERVISOR AND CO-SUPERVISOR**

14.1. The Regular Professors of the University with at least five research publications in referred journals and the regular Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in the relevant discipline of the University, who possess a Ph.D. Degree and has at least two publications in referred journals shall be eligible for being appointed as a Research Supervisor.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of referred journals, the Vice Chancellor may relax the above conditions regarding publications for appointment of Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

14.2 Appointment of External Supervisors (Scientists with Ph.D / Faculties) from government funded research organizations of National importance or from Multi Specialty Medical College & Hospital, with which, Maharaja Agrasen University has signed specific Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in research and development activities may be approved as Ph.D. co-supervisor duly forwarded by the Director or equivalent of such institutions. Recognition of the scientists / faculties as Co-supervisors would be granted by DRC.

14.3 A Co-Supervisor may be appointed in interdisciplinary areas from other related academic institutions/universities with the approval of the DRC.

14.4 A certificate has to be submitted by the Supervisor/Co-supervisor that he/she is not being a relative/ or in blood relation/line, such as wife / husband, father / mother, son/daughter, sister/brother, wife's /husband's brother or sister, brother's / sister's son

and daughter, first cousins or such person as might be deemed to be a close relation of the Research Scholar to the DRC.

### **NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOTTED TO A SUPERVISOR**

15. A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than 8/6/4, Ph. D scholars, respectively as per UGC guidelines.

### **CHANGE OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR**

16. Normally a change of supervisor / co-supervisor shall not be permitted;
- 16.1 If a supervisor is allotted to a Ph.D. scholar and subsequently he/she leaves the services of Maharaja Agrasen University, he/she may be allowed to continue to act as co - supervisor but in that case a supervisor from the same department with similar specialization may be allotted.
- 16.2 The DRC may allow change of the Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor under the following circumstances:
- a) By the mutual consent of the Supervisor/ Co-Supervisor and the candidate.
  - b) The supervisor or co-supervisor is not in a position to guide the candidate due to his/her personal reasons.
  - c) Change/modification in the subject/area of research.
  - d) Incompatibility due to temperamental problems.
  - e) In the event of death, prolonged illness, inability to guide as expressed by the supervisor/ co-supervisor.
  - f) Any other reason.

The change of research supervisor / co- supervisor may be allowed by the DRC on the basis of an application submitted by the scholar, subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

## COURSE WORK

17.1. After enrollment for the Ph.D. programme, the student shall undertake the course work for a period of one semester commencing from July to December/or any other date notified by the University in the year of enrollment. But if the notification of the seats by HPPEREC comes at a later stage then the course work will start within one month of the date of notification. However, in case of late admission of a candidate to the Ph.D. programme, he/she will be allowed to complete the course work in Jan. to June semester, as a special case. The student shall have to attend minimum 75% of the total lectures delivered in the course work.

The course work shall be treated as pre – requisite for registration to Ph.D. degree.

17.2 Candidates already holding M. Phil. Degree and admitted to the Ph.D programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D in integrated course, may be exempted by the School from the Ph.D course work. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D programmes shall complete the Ph.D course work prescribed by the School.

a. The exemption will be subject to the submission of supporting documents that the candidate has already done the course work during M. Phil programme with Research Methodology as one of the subject. Letter of exemption as per **(Annexure 3)**.

b. The Pre-Ph.D course work done by a candidate from any UGC recognized/approved research centres, excluding through distance mode, be accepted irrespective of the facts when and where from it was done.

17.3 All candidates must complete the course work during that semester only in which they have been enrolled in Ph.D programme.

In exceptional circumstances, however, one additional chance to complete the course-work may be recommended by the DRC subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

18. The Course Work shall be treated as part of Pre Ph.D. preparation. Pre Ph.D. course work will be of 10 credits. The course work will comprise the following:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Papers(Title of the Paper)</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Max. Marks</b>
1	Paper I(Research Methodology)	4	100
2	Paper II(Advanced level course in the relevant discipline)	4	100

3	Paper III (Presentation in Workshop/Seminar in the relevant discipline )	2	50
	Total	10	250

The syllabus of above mentioned papers is to be covered in total 120 hrs and it is mandatory that 75% of the total hours must be attended by a Research Scholar as per the Ph.D Regulations.

The syllabus for Pre Ph.D. course work will be designed by the respective Board of Studies (BOS) of the concerned School and shall be approved by the highest academic body i.e. Academic Council of the University

19. A research scholar must obtain at least 50% in each subject and 55% of the aggregate marks or its equivalent grade in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in Ph.D. programme.
20. A candidate who fails to secure the minimum prescribed marks even after availing both the chances as provided in Regulation 17.3 shall have to clear it in the next semester after getting the prior permission of Vice-Chancellor of the University to complete the course work. Even then, if the candidate fails to secure the minimum prescribed marks, his//her admission shall stand cancelled. Although, if such a candidate is willing to pursue Ph.D programme, then again, he/she has to qualify the Ph.D entrance test.
21. After successful completion of the course work by a scholar, the Director of the School / Registrar of the University will intimate the same to the scholar (**Annexure-3-A & 3-B**). The candidate will submit his/her willingness to work under the guidance of a particular supervisor, mentioning the name, to the Director of the School. The Director will get the name of the faculty approved from the DRC in its next meeting. Once the name of the supervisor is approved by DRC, the candidate shall seek permission to submit the synopsis on the prescribed Performa (**Annexure-4**). The candidate shall submit six copies of the synopsis of the research proposal (as per guidelines in Annexure-5) duly signed by the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) to the DRC within three months.
22. The candidates who have been allowed exemption under Regulation 17.2 from appearing in the course work must submit six copies of the synopsis of the Ph.D. programme to the concerned DRC within three months from the date of appointment of supervisor by DRC (as per guidelines in **Annexure -5**).

23. After submission of the synopsis, if need, the synopsis may be sent to an external expert for evaluation. In such a case, he/ she has to submit his/her report in **Annexure-6**. The candidate shall make a presentation of the proposed research project before the DRC of the concerned department.
24. The DRC shall approve the name of the supervisor/co-Supervisor/ title of the research topic and/or the synopsis submitted by the candidate or suggest modifications (**Annexure-7**). Once the title of the research is approved by the DRC, a letter of approval shall be sent by the Registrar, to the candidate in the prescribed Performa (**Annexure - 8**). The candidate shall continue research on the title finalized by the DRC of the concerned department.
25. In case there is a need for modification in the title of research, the candidate shall submit an application to DRC of the concerned department through his/her research supervisor. The DRC may either accept/modify/reject or make any recommendations on the said application subject to the approval of the RAC.
26. For periodic review of research and guidance, the research scholar shall appear before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) once in six month to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. (**Annexure-9**). The recommendations of the DRC on the six monthly progress report of the candidate will be reviewed and approved by RAC of the school.
27. All candidates have to mandatorily attend One week Research Methodology workshop in addition to course work classes, at least once, prior to, submission of the final Ph. D thesis.

### **CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION**

28. Cancellation of registration may be done as per clause 8.4 and or 13.1 (f) by the Vice – Chancellor on the recommendations of DRC & RAC.

### **THESIS EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

29. The Thesis should be a piece of research work characterized either by discovery of new factors enunciation of new theory or by fresh interpretation of known facts of theories; in either case it should evince the candidate's capacity for critical examination and judgment. It should be satisfactory so far as its literary presentation is concerned.
30. The candidate may incorporate in his/her thesis the content of any work, which he /she may have published on the subject. He /she should inform the examiner about it, but

will not submit his / her thesis in which the degree has been conferred in this University or any other University. A candidate may, however, incorporate in his/her Ph.D thesis the work done by him / her for his / her M.Phil dissertation. In that case, he/she shall specify, the new dimension added to his/her earlier work and indicate, in what way his Ph.D thesis can contribute to the study of the subject of his/her research.

### **MANDATORY PUBLICATIONS**

31. Before the submission of thesis, candidate shall have to publish at least two research papers related to Ph.D. project in referred Journals as notified by UGC from time to time and shall produce proof for the same or the reprint of the papers before the DRC for adjudication at the time of Pre-Thesis presentation.

It is mandatory for the research scholar to mention his/her name as research scholar of Maharaja Agrasen University in the author detail during any kind of communication/publication related to the research.

### **PRE- Ph.D. THESIS PRESENTATION**

32. When the supervisor(s) is of the opinion that the thesis is in the final stage of completion, including mandatory publication requirement as in Clause 33 (i) & 34, the candidate shall apply on prescribed Performa (**Annexure-10**) for the Pre-Ph.D presentation on the research findings, at least three-months before the intended period of submission of thesis to the office of Director through supervisor, along with five copies of the final synopsis of the research work. The candidate shall be allowed to submit his/her thesis for the Ph.D degree only when the DRC of the school is satisfied about the research work.

### **PRE-Ph.D SEMINAR**

- 33.1. The Pre-Ph.D. presentation seminar shall be conducted in the department before DRC which shall be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The seminar presentation will examine the candidate's research contribution and accomplishment of proposed research objectives. In case, DRC makes certain comments / suggestions for improvement, the candidate needs to incorporate those suggestions in the thesis under the advice of the supervisor(s) (**Annexure-11**). (The publications required as per (clause 31, from the candidate shall be put before the DRC for scrutiny). If need be, Topic of the Thesis, can be fine-tuned and recorded formally within the broader perspective of the initially approved title and/or research proposal at this stage, with the approval of the RAC.

### 33.2. Unsatisfactory Pre Ph.D. Seminar

In case, DRC is not satisfied with the contributions made towards approved research objectives, the candidate will have to appear again for the pre- Ph.D. thesis seminar within a period of three months keeping in view of the maximum Ph.D. duration. If the DRC suggest certain modifications / alterations to be done in the final thesis submission, it shall be duly recorded in the report and the supervisor shall certify their incorporation before final thesis submission, with the approval of the RAC.

### **APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS**

34. In case of successful Pre- Ph D thesis seminar, the Supervisor shall recommend a panel of minimum six examiners to the DRC which will recommend the name to the RAC for evaluation of thesis. The recommendations of the RAC shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor may select any two examiners out of the proposed panel. (**Annexure-12**)

However, Vice Chancellor has the power to add the name(s) of any examiner(s), if needed.

### **SUBMISSION OF THESIS**

34. The Ph.D. thesis shall be submitted in the format as prescribed by the University. (**Annexure-12A**) While submitting the thesis for evaluation, an undertaking from the research scholar for the originality of work and a certificate from the research supervisor attesting to 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/diploma of Maharaja Agrasen University or any other institution/university (**Annexure – 13**) will be given.
35. The scholar shall submit five hard copies and one soft copy of the final Ph.D. thesis along with five copies of the executive summary for evaluation.

### **EVALUATION OF THESIS**

36. The thesis shall be referred to two examiners selected by the Vice – Chancellor from the panel of external examiners submitted by RAC of the concerned school. The examiners shall be requested to send their report on the thesis normally within two months of the receipt of the same by them.
37. The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by both the external examiners. Both the external examiners shall not be from the same state.



38. External examiners will examine the thesis individually with a view to judge the suitability of the thesis as a piece of research work worth awarding Ph.D. Degree (**Annexure-14**). Each examiner will send detailed comments on the research work to the office of the Registrar, along with clear recommendation on the prescribed Performa stating one of the following:
- i) The thesis be accepted.

or

  - ii) The thesis be accepted after clarification of certain points listed in the report, at the time of Viva-Voce examination.

or

  - iii) The thesis be accepted after minor modification/ revision as listed in the report. The thesis need not be referred to me again.

or

  - iv) The thesis is not acceptable in the present form. It requires major modification / revisions, as per suggestions given in the report. It is recommended that the modified thesis be referred back to me for final assessment.

or

  - v) The thesis be rejected.

### **DECISION ON EVALUATION REPORTS**

39. Reports received from both the examiners shall be opened simultaneously by the Registrar, and on the basis of the recommendations of the examiners, will take one of the following actions:
- (i) In case, examiners are unanimous in recommending the award of the degree on the basis of the thesis without any modification [as per clause 38 (i)], their recommendation shall be accepted and the process for oral defense shall be initiated as per clause 38.
  - (ii) In the event of any examiner making recommendation for the revision of the thesis as per clause 38(iii) then on the permission of RAC, research scholar shall be free to defend his/her point of view (in writing) duly forwarded by the supervisor, through RAC within one-month from the date of communication. The written defense arguments of the research scholar shall be forwarded by the RAC to the

concerned examiner. However, if the examiner is not satisfied with the research scholar's defense, the researcher shall be required to carry out necessary revisions as finally suggested by the examiner within one year from date of communication to the candidate.

a) In case, examiner suggesting revision also states that the revised thesis need not be sent again, the revised thesis will not be sent to the examiner. However, the supervisor(s) shall certify that the suggestions given by the examiner have been incorporated, before the viva-voce examination.

b ) In case, examiner suggesting revision states that the revised thesis be sent again, the re-submitted thesis shall be sent again, on payment of prescribed thesis re-submission fee.

c ) If one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner 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 thesis shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of chance of oral thesis defense / public viva-voce and will have to revise the thesis as per the comments given by the external examiner.

40. The public viva-voce of the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation reports of two external examiners are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conducting the viva-voce examination.
41. The candidate is required to appear in an open house viva-voce examination, which shall be compulsory for all the Ph.D research scholars. This will normally be conducted at Maharaja Agrasen University.

The public viva-voce examination shall be conducted by the research supervisor/co-supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners as appointed under Regulation 36, and shall be open to be attended by the members of the DRC, RAC, all faculty members, research scholars of the department and other scholars/ researchers.

In case both the examiners who evaluated the thesis are unable to conduct the viva – voce. The Vice-Chancellor shall appoint another examiner out of the panel to conduct the viva – voce. The viva – voce examination shall unless ordered otherwise by the Vice – Chancellor, be held at Maharaja Agrasen University.

42. After the public viva-voce examination, the external examiner, on being satisfied with the performance of the candidate, shall make a report certifying that the candidate has

performed satisfactorily. The report shall also be signed by the research supervisor and the Director of the School and forwarded to the RDC for onward transmission to Vice-Chancellor for approval. (**Annexure-15**).

The list of successful Ph.D. scholars shall be placed before the Academic Council of the University for its information/approval.

43. Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of Ph.D. degree (s), an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis shall be sent to the INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all institutions/colleges.

### **DEPOSITORY WITH UGC**

44. 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 University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M. Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016.

- Note: 1. Students are advised to go through (**Annexure-16**) in order to appraise themselves about the meaning of Plagiarism and anti-plagiarism policy of the University.
2. All these Rules are provisional and subject to change as per the guidelines of UGC/ any other competent authority.

### **UNFORSEEN ISSUES**

45. In the event of any unforeseen issue not covered by these regulations, the Vice-Chancellor is the final authority to take decisions upon the advice of RDC.

**Disclaimer: Maharaja Agrasen University reserves the right to cancel the admission of any student, at any stage in future; if it is found that he/she is ineligible.**