



## ASSAM UNIVERSITY: SILCHAR

### NOTIFICATION

As per the resolution adopted in the 54<sup>th</sup> Emergent joint meeting of the Board of Research Studies, held on 10/04/2023; 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council, held on 11/04/2023 and 156<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council, held on 25/04/2023, the Ordinance on PhD Programme, 2023 is hereby notified for information of all concerned.

This is issued with the approval of the Vice Chancellor.

(Dr. Pradosh Kiran Nath)

Registrar

Date: 05/06/2023

No. AURW-13/02R/06/2013 (Part)

Copy for information & necessary action to:

1. Vice Chancellor, Assam University for kind information.
2. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, AUDC for kind information.
3. The Controller of Examinations, AUS for information.
4. All Dean of Schools, AUS for information.
5. All Heads of PG Depts, AUS/AUDC for information.
6. Director, Computer Centre, AUS for upload the notification in the AU website.
7. Guard File.

Registrar

**Assam University, Silchar**  
**Ordinance on Ph.D. Programme, 2023**

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 28 of the Assam University Act, 1989 (No. 23 of 1989) the University hereby makes following Ordinance, namely -

**1. Short title, Application, and Commencement:**

(1.1) This ordinance may be called the Assam University Ordinance on Ph.D. Programme, 2023.

(1.2) This shall come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 and shall apply to those students who are admitted to research programme on or after 01.07.2023. This will not have any retrospective effect.

**2. Definitions.:** In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,-

2.1) "Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)" means a measure of the overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places;

2.2) "Credit" means the number of hours of instruction required per week over the duration of a semester. One credit is equivalent to one hour of teaching or two hours of lab/field work;

2.3) "College" means an institution engaged in higher education and/or research, either established by a University as its constituent unit or affiliated with it;

2.4) "Course" means one of the specified units which go to comprise a programme of study;

2.5) "Course Work" means courses of study prescribed by the School/Department/ Centre to be undertaken by a scholar registered for the Ph.D. Degree;

2.6) "Degree" means a degree awarded by a Higher Educational Institution in accordance with the provisions of section 22 (3) of the UGC Act, 1956;

2.7) DRC means Departmental Research Committee and is specific for a department;

2.8) "External Examiner" means an academician/researcher with published research work and requisite qualifications who is not a part of Assam University;

2.9) "Foreign Educational Institution" means-(i) an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country and offering educational programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate and higher levels in its home country and (ii) which offers programme(s) of study leading to the award of a degree through conventional face-to-face mode, but excluding distance, online, ODL mode;



- 2.10) "Grade Point" means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade on a 10-point scale;
- 2.11) "Guide/Research Supervisor" means an academician/researcher recognized by Assam University to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for research;
- 2.12) "IPR" means Intellectual Property Right as per provisions of associated laws;
- 2.13) "Interdisciplinary/ Multidisciplinary Research" means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in two or more academic disciplines;
- 2.14) "Online Mode" shall have the same meaning as defined under the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations 2020;
- 2.15) "PI" means Principal Investigator of a funded research project;
- 2.16) "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own;
- 2.17) "Programme" means a higher education programme pursued for a degree specified by the Commission under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Act;
- 2.18) "Prospectus" means any document, whether in print or otherwise, issued for providing fair and transparent information relating to Assam University and its programmes to the general public (including to those seeking admission to the University) by the University;
- 2.19) "RAC" means Research Advisory Committee and is specific to a scholar;
- 2.20) "Research Proposal" means a brief write-up giving an outline of the proposed research work which the Ph.D. scholar shall submit along with the application for title registration for Ph.D. programme;
- 2.21) "The Department" means the concerned academic department;
- 2.22) "UGC" means University Grants Commission, India.
- 2.23) "The University" means Assam University, Silchar.

### **3. Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme:**

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

- (3.1) Candidates who have completed:

A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme in the same or allied subjects after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme, or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme in the same or allied subjects after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme, or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree in the same or allied subjects by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.



Or, equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in the respective country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time.

(3.2) Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme in the same or allied subject according to UGC regulations (Minimum Standard and procedure for award of M.Phil./PhD degree, 2016 and subsequent amendments) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed shall be eligible for 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 Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.

Candidates possessing a Degree considered equivalent to the M.Phil. Degree of an Indian Institution, from a Foreign Educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established, recognized or incorporated by law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country empowered for assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme.

#### **4. Duration of the Programme:**

(4.1) Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.

(4.2) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

Re-registration may be allowed on recommendation of RAC routed through relevant statutory bodies provided the candidate applies with the recommendation of RAC within one year from the date of expiry of their regular tenure of six (6) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme. A candidate can apply for re-registration only after 6 years from the date of admission.

Any extraordinary situation may be referred to the Chairperson, Board of Research Studies (BRS), through RAC and Departmental Research Committee (DRC), for decision which should later be recorded in the relevant statutory bodies.

Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total

period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme. This additional relaxation can only be applied for after expiry of eight (8) years from the date of admission,

(3) Female 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.

#### **5. Procedure for admission:**

(5.1) Candidates will be admitted to Ph.D. programme through an Entrance Test/ CUET.

(5.2) Bonus marks in the following categories may be awarded:

i) A student having PG degree from Assam University will get 10% of their PG grade/percentage of marks as bonus over the entrance examination score.

ii) UGC-NET (LS)/ UGC-CSIR (LS)/ SLET/GATE/ CEED qualified candidates will get 10% of their PG marks as bonus and, UGC-NET JRF/ UGC-CSIR JRF/ ICMR-JRF qualified candidates will get 20% of their PG marks as bonus

iii) Research fellow in an externally funded research project of two or more years duration will get additional 10% of their PG marks as bonus.

iv) Candidates with M.Phil. degree as per UGC regulations (Minimum Standard and procedure for award of M.Phil./PhD degrees, 2016 and its subsequent amendments) will get 10% of their coursework grade/percentage of marks as bonus.

These will be included at the time of preparation of merit list.

A candidate may avail bonus marks from the above categories cumulatively up to a maximum ceiling of 30%.

(5.3) The University shall:

(5.3.1) Decide on an annual basis through the DRC, a predetermined and 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. Each department shall declare its vacancy of Ph.D. seats in the PhD prospectus. A vacancy is created under a supervisor as and when a dissertation/ thesis is submitted by a student working under the supervision of the concerned faculty to the Department and certificate to this effect is issued by the COE.

(5.3.2) Issue admission notification on the University website and through advertisements at least two weeks in advance in at least three (3) newspapers, of which at least one shall be national and one 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) will be conducted and all other relevant information will be provided on the University website at least two weeks in advance.

(5.3.3) Follow reservation policy of GOI.

(5.4) 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 considering the reservation policy of the GOI from time to time.

(5.5) Candidates will be selected through a two-stage process that is:

(5.5.1) A Written Test conducted by the university to test the knowledge of research methodology (50%) and the relevant subject (50%). Qualifying marks for the test will be 50%. The test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance. Changes of Centres, if any, are also to be notified well in advance.

(5.5.2) An interview, to be organized by the concerned department where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted DRC.

(5.5.3) Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance test conducted by the University, a weightage of 70 % for the entrance test and 30 % for the performance in the interview/viva- voce shall be given.

(5.6) The DRC during interview shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

(5.6.1) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;

(5.6.2) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the department concerned;

(5.6.3) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/ additional knowledge.

(5.6.4) a candidate may not be selected for admission unless the above-mentioned criteria are fulfilled.

(5.6.5) DRC will allocate the supervisor to the candidate and this will be published during the publication of the selection list.

(5.7) A scholar admitted to the Ph.D. program shall pay the fees as prescribed by the university from time to time.

(5.8) The University shall maintain the year-wise list of all the Ph.D. scholars on its website. The list shall include the name of the scholars, topic of research, name of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s), date of admission/ registration. A unique enrolment number will be assigned to each admitted candidate.

(5.9) A relaxation of 5 % marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time.

(5.10) The department may decide the number of eligible students to be called for personal interview based on seats available in a particular department.

## 6. Allocation of Research Supervisor:

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

(6.1) Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor of the University with a Ph.D., and at least five (5) research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors in the University with a Ph.D., and at least three (3) research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor. Eligible permanent faculty members can guide Ph.D. scholars during their probation period also.

Recognized research supervisors of the university cannot supervise Ph.D. scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by the university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the university or in a Post-graduate department of its affiliated Colleges would be in violation of the UGC norms.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no, or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, the University may relax the above condition for recognition of a faculty member as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing and approved by the Academic Council.

Co-Supervisor from within the same department or other departments of the same institutions or other institutions may be allowed to a Ph.D. scholar with the recommendation of the RAC. Such proposals, based on the merit of the case, should be routed through relevant statutory bodies for approval of the BRS. Co-supervisor(s) can be opted till one year prior to Pre-submission seminar. For recognition of any external expert as a co-supervisor for a Ph.D. scholar, a person should be a regular faculty in a University/ College/ Institute (PG Teaching)/ Teachers from affiliated Colleges of AUS/ or a scholar/expert/ Scientist in a National/ Regional Research Institute/ a person from Industry/ with at least five (5) publications in refereed journals after obtaining Ph.D. degree and ten (10) years of teaching/ research experience, barring that spent for obtaining Ph.D. degree. In case of medical professionals with MD Degree working in a medical college, to be recognised as co-supervisor, Seven (7) research publications in SCOPUS /Web of Science Indexed Journals and five (05) years of teaching experience in a medical college after obtaining MD degree will be required. An adjunct faculty empanelled by the university as per UGC guidelines can be also inducted as co-supervisor. A no-objection certificate from parent institution declaring the number of registered PhD students working with the proposed co-supervisor is a must.

A superannuated individual from any of the above-mentioned categories can become a co-supervisor, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

(6.2) An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide (supervise/co-supervise) up to eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time or, as modified by UGC from time to time.

However, the PI of a PhD-leading externally funded research project may be allowed to admit up to a maximum of two (02) Research Fellow to the Ph.D. programme in addition to

those specified above, provided there is no vacancy under the concerned faculty, and the candidate can qualify through the selection procedure. These extra seats will be adjusted as and when vacancy arises under the concerned supervisor.

(6.3) In case of relocation of a female Ph.D. scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the Higher Educational Institution to which the scholar intends to relocate, provided all the other conditions in these Regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken, without violation of IPR.

(6.4) Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new Ph.D. scholars under their supervision.

(6.5) On superannuation, a faculty ceases to remain a supervisor but may continue as a co-supervisor till the Ph.D. programme is completed or the attainment of 70 years of age, whichever is earlier. In case of superannuation of supervisor RAC shall propose the name of a new officiating supervisor to DRC for approval from statutory bodies at least one year prior to due date of superannuation. Such a case may be super numeral to the provisions of the clause (6.2) if no vacancy exists with the proposed supervisor. But it will be adjusted as and when vacancy is created under the concerned faculty member who will get the due credit for supervising the student.

(6.6) If a supervisor proceeds on study leave/ sabbatical/ duty leave or any other approved leave for more than one year, DRC will appoint a co-supervisor within the department in consultation with the RAC concerned which may continue even after the original supervisor resumes duty. For less than one year leave, the supervisor will discharge the academic responsibilities online and the Departmental RAC member, other than the Head, will look after the administrative aspects.

(6.7) In case of lien, Co-supervisor shall be allocated by DRC (considering the suggestions of the supervisor). On resignation during or after expiry of the lien period of the supervisor, the DRC will appoint a new supervisor. Where a co-supervisor is appointed within the department, she/he would become supervisor. In such cases, provisions of point 6.2 will apply. The outgoing faculty will become a co-supervisor.

(6.8) If a Supervisor is put under disciplinary action (e.g. suspension or some similar case leading to prolonged absence), the DRC will appoint an officiating Supervisor who will be empowered to continue with the process of thesis submission with due permission from the competent authority.

(6.9) If a supervisor leaves a department to join another within the University, the already enrolled candidates will continue to be supervised by the same faculty till submission.

(6.10) On demise of the supervisor, the DRC will nominate a new supervisor in consultation with the RAC. In case, required expertise is not available in the department at that point of time, DRC may recommend appointing a co-supervisor (following (6.1)) from, an allied



discipline of the university or outside the institution, if necessary, who is an expert in the relevant field.

**7. Admission of International students in Ph.D. programme:**

(7.1) Each supervisor can guide up to two international Ph.D. scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in clause (6.2) above.

(7.2) The University may decide their own selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by statutory/regulatory bodies concerned from time to time.

8. 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 clause (6.2) and clause (7.1).

**9. Course Work: Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.**

(9.1) Successful completion of course work shall be treated as prerequisite for Ph.D. title registration.

(9.2) The Ph.D. course work shall be of 12 credits.

(9.3) All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to get trained in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations in the department per week by the departmental authority.

(9.4) Coursework syllabi will be designed by a department for its Ph.D. programme, except the Research and Publication Ethics Paper (RPE) of two (02) Credits which will be as per the syllabus suggested by UGC . A Research Methodology paper of two (02) Credits, common for a school of study, will be designed by the concerned School with necessary consultation. This Research Methodology paper will cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, and process of review of published research in the relevant field, training, fieldwork, PhD Ordinance of the University and associated regulations in vogue etc.

The two remaining courses will be dealt at the Departmental level. One course with four (04) credits will have two groups with two (02) credits each. The first group will contain subject specific advanced topics/ methodologies and the second group will contain research area specific advanced topics/ methodologies. There may be more than one option in these groups. The RAC will provide recommendations to a scholar about the choice of group options depending upon the proposed research topic.

The fourth paper of four (04) credits is a term paper where a scholar is expected to carry out preliminary investigations on the selected research topic under the guidance of the supervisor as preparation for title registration. The term paper shall be evaluated by RAC concerned.

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. These shall be duly approved by the relevant academic bodies and revised periodically, at least every three years.

A maximum of three (3) Coursework credits may be earned through courses on UGC approved online platforms with permission from RAC.

(9.5) Course work should be completed in the first semester of the programme. Arrear, if any, should be cleared within the next semester failing which the admission will stand cancelled. There shall be no re-evaluation/ betterment for coursework examination.

However, for female candidates availing maternity/child-care leave during the period of the course work, an extra 6 months period may be granted on the recommendation of the RAC to complete the coursework.

(9.6) Candidates already holding an M.Phil. Degree with minimum 55% marks in aggregate in the same subject as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees), 2016 and its subsequent amendments) with Research and Publication Ethics as a paper as mandated by UGC (RPE Regulation 2020) and admitted to the Ph.D. programme may be exempted from the Ph.D. course work on recommendation of RAC.

The Candidates who have got their M Phil degree without the RPE paper but in accordance with UGC 2016 regulations, may be granted exemption in all other Courses on the recommendation of RAC but will need to complete the RPE course before they proceed for PhD title registration.

All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work prescribed by the University.

(9.7) Grades/ marks in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the RAC and the Department.

(9.8) A Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% in aggregate and a minimum of 50% in each paper or its equivalent grade in prevalent Assam University scale in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the dissertation/ thesis.

#### **10. Research Advisory Committee and its Functions:**

(10.1) There shall be a five-member Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for each Ph.D. scholar. The committee shall be notified by the Head of the concerned department within 15 days after the admission of the scholar in the course in consultation with the supervisor.

(10.2) The RAC shall consist of the Head of the Department(as Chairperson), one teacher from the same department, one teacher from any other department of the university in addition to the Supervisor (Convener). The fifth member may be opted from within or outside the department. Co-supervisor, if any, will be part of the RAC. Where the Supervisor is the Head of the department, one of the senior teachers of the department should be included in the Committee who will discontinue when supervisor is no longer the Head of the



department. In departments where there are not sufficient numbers of teachers eligible to be supervisor, teachers from other departments may be included. Only eligible supervisors as per norms laid in clause (6) can be inducted as RAC members.

At any point of time, the committee will have five individual members.

In case of event of lien/ long leave/ demise/ resignation/ retirement of a RAC member, supervisor should propose the change to Head of the Department and modified notification should be issued.

(10.3) Meetings of the RAC will be notified by the Head of the Department in consultation with the concerned supervisor.

At least four members should remain present in an RAC meeting.

The first meeting should be conducted within one month from the date of admission to decide on:

(10.3.1) a broad topic of research,

(10.3.2) the courses to be opted by the candidate and

(10.3.3) course work and class attendance exemptions, if any.

(10.4) This Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

(10.4.1) To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;

(10.4.2) To guide the Ph.D. scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that she/he may have to undertake during course work or later;

(10.4.3) To decide on the assignment topics in lieu of class-exemptions, if any;

(10.4.4) To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the concerned scholar and keep a track of attendance and leave of the scholar;

(10.4.5) To monitor the regularity of the scholars exempted from attending course work classes in matter of assignment submissions;

(10.4.6) To evaluate the assignments, if any.

(10.4.7) To address any other issues related to the research not mentioned above.

(10.5) Every research scholar must appear before the RAC once in every six months to make a presentation of the progress of the research work for evaluation and further guidance. The six-monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the RAC to the Department with a copy to the research scholar. In case of failing to attend two consecutive RAC meetings without any proper leave, RAC may recommend for the cancellation of the candidature.

(10.6) In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to



implement these corrective measures, the RAC may recommend, with specific reasons, for cancellation of the title registration under the programme.

### **11. Departmental Research Committee and its Functions:**

(11.1) A Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall be constituted for each academic department offering Ph.D. programme. All teachers of the department eligible to supervise shall be members of the committee. One member shall be opted from another department of the same School of Studies and one member from an allied School of Studies as a Vice Chancellor's nominee. Head of the Department shall chair the proceedings of the DRC.

The external members should be freshly nominated every 3 years.

(11.2) The DRC shall look after the following research related matters-

(11.2.1) Conducting the personal interview during Ph.D. admission process.

(11.2.2) Assigning supervisor to a selected candidate.

(11.2.3) Maintaining records of the Ph.D. scholars in the department and scrutinising scholar's register.

(11.2.4) Setting eligibility criteria for part-time PhD scholars on departmental basis in addition to that stipulated in clause (14.3) by the University.

(11.2.5) Monitoring yearly attendance of scholars.

### **12. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, minimum standards/credits for award of the degree, etc.:**

(12.1) Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in clause (9) of this ordinance, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to proceed for dissertation/thesis title registration. This needs to be done within one year of qualifying the course work examination.

An open presentation on the proposal should be made before DRC and RAC. After RAC recommendation, the scholar shall submit a synopsis. Thereafter, the scholar shall submit an application (in prescribed format) to the Department along with the recommendation of RAC based on the presentation.

The application, complete in all respects, shall be forwarded to BRS through the relevant statutory bodies within twelve months of successful completion of coursework, barring which admission will stand cancelled.

(12.2) Any modification/ alteration in title of Ph.D. thesis within the scope of registered work can be done. Any such change shall have to be approved by the BRS before pre-submission. For this purpose, on receiving request from the scholar, the supervisor shall first propose the modification/ alteration to the RAC, on the recommendation of which it will be submitted to the DRC, which in turn will get it approved by BRS through the relevant statutory bodies.

(12.3) Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee concerned, which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars/students. This pre-submission seminar can be delivered after completion of at least two and half years from the date of admission.

(12.4) The University shall have a mechanism using UGC recommended software applications to detect Plagiarism in research work and the research integrity shall be an integral part of all the research activities leading to the award of a Ph.D. degree.

(12.5) A Ph.D. scholar shall submit the thesis for evaluation, along with (a) an undertaking from the Ph.D. scholar that there is no plagiarism and (b) a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the thesis and that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution. Thesis can be submitted only after completion of three (3) years from the date of admission.

(12.6) Thesis should clearly mention the name of Supervisor and co-supervisor, if any

(12.7) The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by the concerned Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners who are experts in the field and not in employment of the University or superannuated from the University. A faculty who has shifted to any other institution from Assam University cannot act as an external examiner for a student with whom s/he was associated as Supervisor/co-supervisor at any point of time. Such examiner(s) should have a good record of scholarly publications in the field and be at least of Associate Professor rank (or equivalent rank in Research Institutes). Wherever possible, one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India. The viva-voce board shall consist of the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners and may be conducted online. The viva-voce shall be open to the members of the Research Advisory Committee/faculty members/research scholars, and students.

In case the Supervisor is a close relative (as per Section 56(2)(VII) of the Income Tax Act, 1961) of the scholar, the supervisor will not evaluate the Thesis of the candidate and a third external examiner will be appointed in lieu of the supervisor.

(12.8) An expert panel containing names of at least six experts, excluding supervisor(s), on the relevant field must be submitted by the supervisor at least one year prior to pre-submission for approval of relevant statutory bodies. A submitted panel will remain valid for two and a half (2.5) years.

(12.9) The open viva-voce examination shall be conducted by a committee chaired by the Dean of concerned school, with at least one of the external examiners (in offline /online mode) and internal examiners, concerned Head of the Department and shall be open for attendance by members of the RAC, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and any other interested experts/ researchers.

The Dean of the concerned school shall notify the date of viva-voce in consultation with supervisor within a week of receiving papers from the COE office in this regard. This notification shall be done at least one week prior to the scheduled viva-voce. The RAC should be supplied with the evaluation reports (blind) and the same should be communicated

to the scholar along with the date of viva-voce. The viva-voce may be deferred or fixed on a later date by the Dean of the concerned school on written request of the candidate/supervisor.

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

(12.11) In case of demise of a Ph D scholar after the submission of the Thesis but before viva-voce, a posthumous degree may be awarded if both the external examiner reports are positive and viva-voce is recommended. Such a proposal should be raised by RAC for consideration of BRS.

(12.12) The University shall complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph. D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva-voce result, within a period of six (6) months from the date of submission of the thesis to the office of Controller of Examination of the University. A thesis submission certificate shall be issued by the examination branch on receipt of the thesis.

### **13. Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by Colleges for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes.-**

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

### **14. Treatment of Ph.D./ M.Phil. through Distance Mode/ Part-time Basis**

(14.1) Ph.D. programme of the University will not be offered through distance education mode.

(14.2) Part-time Ph.D. will be allowed provided all the conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. ordinance are met.

(14.3) A No Objection Certificate (NOC) from competent authority in the format prescribed by the authority needs to be submitted at the time of personal interview during admission by all employed candidates. In addition, an employed candidate needs to submit leave sanction order from competent authority for at least a period of six (6) month for attending course work.

In cases where the candidate joins a new service during the programme, the candidate will have to resubmit a fresh NOC from competent authority in prescribed format.



(14.4) Teachers/ Non-teaching staff of Assam University and its affiliated colleges would be exempted from attending regular classes during coursework. They will have to write an assignment in each paper and earn credit through seminars, fieldwork, etc. in lieu of class attendance as prescribed by the RAC concerned.

(14.5) Part time scholars have to be present in the campus for at least 30 days in a year and must appear before RAC once in every six months. Attendance records of such scholars will be maintained by the Supervisor and reported to RAC per academic year. RAC may take appropriate action to the extent of recommendation for cancellation of registration if a part time scholar does not have the required attendance.

(14.6) A candidate can change the mode of research between part-time and full-time only once during the entire course of the programme with valid reasons duly forwarded by the RAC.

**15. Grant of M.Phil. Degree:** The University shall not offer the M.Phil. (Master of Philosophy) programme from 2023 session onwards.

**16. Issuing a Provisional certificate/Date of Award:**

The date of award of the Ph.D. degree will be the date of successful defence of the Thesis in viva-voce. The university notification should clearly mention the date of award and the UGC regulation year in accordance to which the degree has been awarded.

A provisional certificate may be issued to the candidate on demand after the issue of University Notification in this regard.

**17. Depository with INFLIBNET:** Following the successful completion of the evaluation process including viva-voce, the Scholar shall submit an electronic copy of the final version of the Ph.D. thesis (incorporating corrections etc., if any, along with the similarity check report of the final version) through proper channel (supervisor, HOD and Dean) to the Librarian for uploading in **SHODHGANGA**. The degree will be notified only after completion of the process.

**18. Conduct and Discipline:**

Each scholar with respect to her/his work in the course as well as general conduct in the University shall remain under the control of respective School of Studies and shall be governed by the disciplinary code of the University.

(18.1) A full-time scholar shall not undertake any employment between the date of admission and date of submission of / thesis. S/he shall not join any other course of study other than those, which may be useful for her/his research programme.

(18.2) A full time scholar shall be entitled for 30 days leave in a year. Women candidates may be provided maternity leave/ Child Care Leave as prescribed in point 4.3.

**19. Award of M.Phil./ Ph.D. Degree Prior to Implementation of this Ordinance.**



Award of degrees to candidates admitted for the M.Phil./ Ph.D. programme on or after January 1 2017 till June 30, 2023 shall be governed by the provisions of 2017 ordinances of the Assam University on M.Phil. and Ph.D. Degrees. Scholars admitted to the Ph.D. programme on or after July 1, 2023 will be governed by this ordinance.

**20. Removal of Difficulties**

Notwithstanding anything contained in the above ordinance, the Vice-Chancellor may take such measures as may be necessary for removal of difficulties.

