

Academic Regulations

(Effective from Academic Session 2022-23)



**ABHILASHI UNIVERSITY,
CHAILCHOWK, TEHSIL CHACHYOT,
DISTRICT MANDI, H.P. 175045**

2022

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CHAPTER- 16

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

(Regulations for Ph.D. in Agriculture are given separately in this chapter)

All rules and regulations followed for related to award of Ph.D. degree are in conformity with UGC (Minimum Standard and Procedure for the award of Ph.D. degree) Regulation, 2016.

Eligibility criteria for admission to Ph.D. programme:

Candidates of the general category must score an aggregate of 55% and above in post- graduation in their respective subject. A relaxation of 5% in aggregate will be given to SC/ST candidates having domicile of Himachal Pradesh only.

The basis of selection is purely on merit, through the entrance exam conducted by the university. Students awaiting their results are also eligible to apply. They must submit the related documents at the time of counseling. Reservation to SC, ST, OBC & Physical handicapped will be as per HP Govt. / University rules.

Ph.D. programme shall not be conducted through distance education mode.

Procedure for admission:

Abhilashi University shall admit Ph.D. students through Abhilashi University Common Entrance Test conducted at the level of University. However, Entrance Test can be exempted for students who have qualified UGC - NET / UGC - CSIR NET (including JRF)/SLET/GATE/teacher fellowship or have passed M.Phil. programme.

An Entrance Test shall be qualifying with qualifying marks as 50%. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology

and 50% shall be subject specific.

The fee is to be remitted as a demand draft/ online transfer/ cash in favour of Finance Officer, Abhilashi University, Chail-Chowk (H.P.).

An interview/viva-voce to be organized by the faculty/ school/ department when the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted Department Committee.

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

1. The candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
2. The research work can be suitably undertaken at the Institution/College;
3. The proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

The University shall maintain the list of all the Ph.D. registered students on its website on year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration etc.

Duration of the Programme:

Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years. The candidate shall pursue his/her research in the university under the Supervisor/ Co- Supervisor on the approved subject. The candidate shall be permitted to submit his/ her thesis not earlier than 24 months and not later than three years from the date of registration. In case a candidate does not submit his/her thesis within three calendar years from the date of registration, he/she may apply for extension as decided in **47th** meeting of Academic Council. An extension will be given for one year duration and whole year fee will be charged for one extension from the batch of 2020-21. Similarly for any further extension annual fee will be charged. Extension in thesis submission will be allowed by Vice Chancellor on the recommendation of supervisor of the candidate and Dean of the Faculty.

The women candidates and persons with disability (more than 40% disability) 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.

Allocation of Research Supervisor:

A teacher of the University holding Ph.D. degree will only be eligible to be a supervisor (47th Academic Council meeting). The external supervisors are not allowed. However, Co- Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments of the same institute or from other related institutions with the approval of the Academic Council. The number of allotted students to a supervisor will be according to UGC guidelines. The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Standing Committee of the Department/ School depending on the number of Research scholars per Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview. The standing committee is constituted of:

1. Dean of Faculty – Chairman
2. Chairperson of the department
3. All professors in the department
4. One Associate Professor by seniority for two years.
5. One Assistant Professor by seniority for two years.

Standing committee will permit the enrollment of the candidate for Ph.D.

A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than three (03) M.Phil. and Eight (08) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of two (2) M.Phil. and six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of One (01) M.Phil. and four (04) Ph.D. scholars. A supervisor guiding two candidates as a co-supervisor shall be considered guiding one full fledged candidate in his/her quota of students.

The supervisors allotted to the selected candidates should not be in relation to the candidate. The term relation include: - Father, Mother, Wife, Husband, Daughter, Son, Grandson, Grad Daughter, Brother, Sister,

Nephew, Niece, Grand Nephew, Grand – Niece, Uncle, Aunt, Son-in-law, Daughter -in-law, Father-in law, Mother- in-law, Sister-in -law, First cousin-in-law, etc.

In case of relocation of a Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/ supervisor from any funding agency.

In case the supervisor leaves the university, then eligible supervisor/s of the same department/ school may be allotted as supervisor as per the availability of the number of vacant seats.

The candidate may be allowed to change the supervisor by Academic Council on recommendation of the committee constituted by Vice Chancellor for this purpose under special circumstances. No major change in the topic of research will be permitted due to change in Supervisor.

No research scholar shall join any other course study or appear at any other examination conducted by any university leading to a degree, except courses notified by UGC in year 2020 for dual degree programme.

Course Work: Credit Requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

The credit assigned to the Ph.D. course work shall be a minimum of 08 credits and a maximum of 16 credits as per UGC regulations. They may be subject to change as per regulations of various regulatory bodies for Ph.D programme.

The course work shall be treated as prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to each course. Of the **Four** papers: one will be of Research Methodology, 2nd paper about interdisciplinary topics of the subject concerned, 3rd paper will be Advances in the concerned specialization related to dissertation and the fourth dealing with research ethics and plagiarism. Pass marks will be 50% of end semester examination. For the end semester theory examination the paper

setter will be external and the evaluation will be done by internal/external examiner appointed by the Vice- Chancellor. 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. They shall be duly approved by the authorized academic bodies. The faculty/school/ department where the research scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee.

All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the school/faculty/ department during the initial one or two semesters. A candidate who fails to appear in course work during the initial one or two semesters or fails to secure the minimum prescribed marks even after availing both the chances 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. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work prescribed by the Department. However, 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. may be exempted by the Department/School from the Ph.D. course work. Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Research Degree Committee and the faculty/ school/ department.

A Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade/CGPA in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the proposed synopsis.

Preparation and submission of Synopsis

After qualifying the course work successfully, the candidate shall be eligible to submit a synopsis of his/her proposed research work along with the proposed title of thesis (seven copies) recommended by the supervisor and Head/Dean of the school/ faculty where the candidate is working.

The synopsis should be checked thoroughly for plagiarism and a

plagiarism certificate verified and signed by supervisor be attached showing clearly that similarity of text is equal to or less than ten percent (10%). The synopsis without certificate of plagiarism will be returned immediately and the students may be asked to resubmit. The candidate shall be required to make an oral presentation of the proposed work before the Research Degree Committee (RDC).

The committee shall recommend and approve the suitability of the topic and proposed research of the candidate. The title of the thesis with proposed research objectives shall be considered approved after the recommendation of RDC. If required, Research Degree Committee may ask the candidate to submit the revised synopsis with modifications or require another plan to be submitted.

A research scholar shall appear before the Research Degree Committee once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The approved six monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the RDC to the University. In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Degree Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Degree Committee may recommend with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

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

Upon satisfactory completion of course work, and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed, as the case may be, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft thesis within a reasonable time, as stipulated by the Institution concerned based on these Regulations.

The university shall obtain every six months a record of attendance, receipt of fees paid and a progress report of the work of the Research Scholar from his/her supervisor. The six monthly progress report of the research scholar should be submitted through supervisor and

Chairperson/Dean/ HOD of faculty/department which will be placed before RDC for evaluation and final approval. There will be presentation (ppt) of six month progress report at university. Approval of RDC is required for continued registration of the candidate for Ph. D. programme. If the progress is not found satisfactory in two successive reports or no reports are received for period of one year and the candidate fails to deposit fees, the Vice Chancellor may order the removal of the name of the scholar from the list of those registered for the Ph.D. degree.

Ph.D. scholars must publish at least two (2) research papers out of the thesis related research work in refereed journal (UGC CARE list) and make two paper presentations of his/her research work in conferences/seminars before the submission of the thesis for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints. The Academic Council of the University shall evolve a mechanism using well developed software and gadgets to detect plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. While submitting thesis for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor stating to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism (less than 10% if any) and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma in the same Institution where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution.

The candidate shall also remit the thesis evaluation and submission fee as issued and amended at the time of thesis submission.

Prior to the submission of thesis, the candidate shall make a pre-Ph.D. presentation in the department that may be open to all the faculty members and students.

A candidate is required to submit six copies of summary and four hard copies of the thesis along with the soft copy in CD/pendrive as PDF file to the examination branch (Thesis section). Thesis must accompany a certificate from Supervisor that research is original and worthy of consideration for the award of Ph.D. degree of Abhilashi University.

The thesis submitted by a candidate shall be evaluated by at least two examiners, out of which at least one shall be from an institution outside Himachal Pradesh. The panel of at least six examiners of Professor/ Associate Professor level is submitted by Research Degree Committee in consultation with the Supervisor of the candidate and the Vice Chancellor will appoint two examiners out of the panel submitted.

Each examiner shall separately evaluate the thesis and clearly recommend that either the thesis be **accepted** in its present form **or** candidate is required to re-submit his/her thesis in a **revised** and improved form **or** thesis be **rejected**.

The report of the examiner shall be placed before a committee consisting of Vice Chancellor, Chairperson of the department and Supervisor of the candidate. If it is found that both the examiners have recommended that the thesis be accepted for the award of Ph. D. degree, the candidate shall be called for an oral test (Public Viva Voce) by two examiners one of whom shall be the supervisor of the candidate and the other examiner appointed by the Vice Chancellor to defend the thesis. On satisfactory completion of Viva Voce the degree may be awarded.

If one of the examiners recommends for resubmission of thesis with necessary changes, then the candidate is asked to do the needful and on receiving the corrected thesis the same shall be submitted to the concerned examiner for evaluation.

If one of the examiners recommends that the thesis be rejected then the thesis shall be referred to the third examiner whose recommendation shall be final and further action be taken accordingly.

If both the examiners reject the thesis, candidate shall not be register again for the Ph.D. degree with the same research specialization. He/ She has to register again for the Ph.D. degree programme in a different specialization.

The report of the oral examination shall be placed before the Board of Management only when the thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D. degree. Controller of Examinations shall notify the result after the formal approval of the Board of Management.

The candidate can not publish his/her thesis, without permission of the

University, except in parts to be published in scholarly journals.

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), COE shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph. D. thesis to the INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges. Prior to the actual award of the degree, the degree-awarding Institution shall issue a provisional certificate to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of UGC Regulations, 2016.

REGULATIONS FOR PH.D. IN AGRICULTURE

Doctoral Programme

Abhilashi University has implemented the semester system of education as suggested by ICAR, New Delhi and being followed across the country both at M.Sc. and Ph.D. levels. Each semester will be of 110 day duration. Every enrolled student will be required to take a specified load of course work in the chosen subject of specialization (major, minor and supporting courses) and also complete a research project and present this in the form of a dissertation.

Grading System

Doctoral Programme

1. Scale: 10 point
2. Minimum passing grade in a course: 6.00
3. Minimum OGPA to continue and to obtain degree: 6.50

Duration of the Programme

Doctoral Programme

1. Minimum 6 semesters (3 academic years)
2. Maximum 12 semesters

Residential Requirements

Doctoral Programme 3 years

No M. Sc. or Ph.D. student should be allowed to discontinue the academic programme without completing comprehensive examination.

Eligibility for Admissions

Doctoral Programme

1. Master's degree in respective/related subjects.
2. OGPA of 6.5/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for general category candidates and 6.00/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for SC/ST/PH category candidates at Master's degree level. Those coming from 3- year Bachelor degree and 2-year Master degree streams should undergo one year remedial lessons before registering for the regular courses.

Mode of Admission and Reservation of Seats

Admission to Ph.D. programme will be through entrance examination or merit at Master's level or a combination of both. Entrance examination (80% weightage) and interview (20% weightage) for seats filled by the ICAR. Reservation of seats should be governed by the relevant rules/policy of the State government. Those candidates who have qualified ICAR's SRF examination, meet the university criteria for admission and are recommended by ICAR, may be admitted by the university with or without fellowship.

Constitution of the Student Advisory Committee for Ph. D.

Minimum 4 members of the faculty (2 from major subject, one each from minor and supporting subjects), to be constituted within three months of the 1st Semester.

Minimum Credit Requirements

1. Course work	Doctoral Programme
*Major subject	15
*Minor subject	08
*Supporting subject(s)	05
*Non-credit compulsory courses	-
**Seminar	02
Total	30
Comprehensive Exam.	Non-credit
Thesis	45

***Major subject:** The subject (Department/Discipline) in which a student takes admission.

*** Minor subject:** The subject closely related to a student's major subject.

***Supporting subject:** The subject not related to the major subject. It could be any subject considered relevant for student's research work or necessary for building his overall competence.

***Non-Credit Compulsory Courses:** Six courses (PGS 1-PGS 6) are of general nature and are compulsory for Master's programme. Ph. D. students may be exempted from these courses if already studied during Master's degree.

CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
PGS 501	LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES	0+1
PGS 502	TECHNICAL WRITING AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS	0+1
PGS 503	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ITS	1+0

(e-Course)	MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE	
PGS 504	BASIC CONCEPTS IN LABORATORY TECHNIQUES	0+1
PGS 505 (e-Course)	AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, RESEARCH ETHICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES	1+0
PGS 506 (e-Course)	DISASTER MANAGEMENT	1+0

** University may introduce one extra compulsory non-credit seminar at Masters and Ph.D. levels.

Maximum permissible course workload per semester

Doctoral Programme 18 credits

Attendance requirements

Minimum 75%, to be counted separately for theory and practical both at M. Sc. and Ph. D.levels

Course evaluation

Theory – Internal

Practical – Internal, to be conducted by the course teacher + one more teacher to be nominated by the HOD/Dean

Comprehensive Examination

Should be allowed after completion of 75% course work separately in major and minor subjects)

Major subject	Two papers
Minor subject	One paper
Paper setting	Internal
Evaluation	External
Qualifying marks	60%
Viva Voce	External
Grading	Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

Approval of synopsis

Should be accomplished in the first semester.

Submission of Synopsis:

The synopsis of thesis should be submitted before the date of registration for the second semester of enrolment of the student. If a student fails to submit the synopsis thesis before the start of next semester, he/she will be allowed to registered for the next semester only for submission of synopsis and not for any course/ research work.

Ph.D. Thesis

Submission

1. After thesis seminar
2. One research paper should have been accepted and second submitted or one patent filed out of thesis work.

Evaluation

External (Two examiners)

Viva Voce

By Advisory Committee and one external examiner

Assessment

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

The report of the oral examination shall be placed before the Board of Management only when the thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D. degree. Controller of Examinations shall notify the result after the formal approval of the Board of Management.

The candidate can not publish his/her thesis, without permission of the University, except in parts to be published in scholarly journals.

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

Degree awarded in addition to other information's should also include the title of Ph.D Thesis and specialization like. Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture (Plant Pathology).