

# Ph.D Program Regulations

**August 2022**

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**ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21**



Ananthasagar, Hasanparthy Warangal – 506 371

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## **ORDINANCES**

1. A candidate who has qualified the Degree of Master of Technology or Master of Science [M.Tech/M.S/M.Sc.] or Master of Arts from a recognized Institute or University in the discipline as prescribed in the rules and regulations is eligible to apply for Ph.D. programme of SR University, Warangal.
2. The award of the Ph.D. Degree shall be in accordance with the regulations set by the Academic Council of the University.
3. The award of the Ph.D. Degree shall be made by the University on the recommendation of the Academic Council and with the approval of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the University.
4. The Academic Council/BOG of the University has the power to modify any regulations stated from time to time.

## **SOME DEFINITIONS**

- A Full-Time Ph.D. student is the one who on deputation from another Institution and/or is being supported by himself/ herself with/without a fellowship/scholarship, pursues the research work only, leading to Ph.D. degree as a Full-Time research worker on Full-Time basis without performing any other job or assignment (other than stipulated by the UGC / AICTE norms).
- A Part-Time Ph.D. student is the one who is already employed in the same or in a different Institution/organization and pursues his/her research work leading to Ph.D. degree as a Part-Time research Scholar of SRU either in SRU or SRU Satellite campus (in Hyderabad/ established by SRU from time to time) or an institution/ organization recognized by the SRU (based on availability of a local supervisor and accessibility of requisite facilities as per SRU norms).

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## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **P1. Admission procedure, requirements and categories**

P1.1 The award of the Ph.D. degree is in recognition of high achievements, independent research and application of knowledge to the solution of engineering and scientific problems. The details of research programmes and faculty research interests may be found on the department websites.

SR University currently offers Ph.D. degree in:

- i) Humanities and Sciences (HS),
- ii) Computer Science and Engineering (CSE),
- iii) Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) and
- iv) Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- v) Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- vi) Civil Engineering (CE)
- vii) Management

P1.2 The Assistantship/Fellowship will be payable for a duration fixed by the granting agency or until the date of submission of thesis, whichever is earlier. The University admits Ph.D. candidates under the following categories:

- a) Full time research scholar on University fellowship (FT)
- b) Teaching Assistant (TA)
- c) Teaching Assistant through Project (TAP)
- d) Industry Fellowships (IF)
- e) Govt./Semi Govt. Fellowship Awardees (FA) (CSIR, UGC, DOE, DST, DBT, NBHM, ISEAP etc.)
- f) Sponsored candidates (SP)
- g) Self-Financed (Indian/Foreign) / Study Leave (SF)
- h) Indian Council for Cultural Relations Award (ICCR) (Foreign Nationals) The candidate should have qualified GATE/NET examination for scholarship.

### **P2. Admission schedule**

P2.1 Normally, advertisement for Ph.D. programmes is issued in the month of March (for July session) and October (for December/January session) each year in the University website as well as in leading newspapers. Admissions are carried out in the months of July and December/ January. Candidates seeking admission under this clause must fulfill the required academic qualification/experience at the time of interview. They must join within two weeks after the issue of admission offer unless specifically permitted to do so. Admission is subject to vacancy being available in the relevant specialization.

### P3. Eligibility criterion for admission to Ph.D. Programs

P3.1 Table1 defines the minimum qualification(s) required for admission and provisional registration to Ph.D. programmes at SR University for General/OBC (Non-creamy Layer)/SC/ST/PH category students.

P3.2 Table1 defines the minimum requirements of the University and Departments operating through their Department Research Committee (DRC). A higher short-listing criteria (possibly different for each department) may be set during scrutiny of applications, depending on the departmental requirements, number and merit of applicants.

P3.3 Qualifying degree performance is computed by aggregating performance over all the semesters/years of the qualifying degree.

Table 1: Eligibility Criterion for Admission to Ph.D. Programs

Qualifying Degree* (for relevant discipline)	General/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)	SC/ST/PH	Academic and other Qualifications
M.Tech./M.E./M.Phil./MBA/ or equivalent	60% marks or 6.50 CGPA (on a 10-point scale)	55% marks or 6.00 CGPA (on a 10-point scale)	A GATE / NET / SET Score and/or qualifying score in the relevant discipline*
M.Sc. (Science)/M.A or equivalent	60% marks or 6.50 CGPA (on a 10-point scale)	55% marks or 6.00 CGPA (on a 10-point scale)	CSIR/UGC/NET/ICAR/ICMR /DST INSPIRE fellowship

\*Cut-off criteria for eligibility and shortlisting may vary for each Department.

### P4. Selection to the Ph.D. Programmes

P4.1 A FIVE member Ph.D. Scrutiny Committee (PSC) is a standing committee of the university as below:

- The Vice-Chancellor – Chairman or his nominee
- The Dean R&D
- The Head of the Department concerned (Chair, Board of Studies & DRC)
- School Dean
- One subject expert (preferably external to SRU nominated by Dean R&D and approved by the VC)

At SRU level the PSC is responsible for the candidate's provisional selection, probable supervisors list. However, the preliminary scrutiny of Ph.D. aspirant applications will be held by the concern discipline specific heads (Department Research Committee Chairs) with the School Deans as the Chair of the Department level scrutiny team and the same is forwarded by HoDs for the perusal of the Dean R&D.

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- P4.2 Eligible and shortlisted candidates will be called by the University (represented by the Dean R&D, with the approval of the PSC) for the written test and/ or interview as per the UGC norms and SRU's stipulations (guided by the university vision, mission, research strategy and goals), from time to time
- P4.3 Research Guide (Supervisor): For a faculty to supervise a Ph.D. Scholar at SRU, the PSC's prior permission is mandatory which is determined based on his/her suitability in terms of parameters such as, but not limited to: area of expertise, experience in research & teaching, publications of repute, etc. The decision of PSC is final.
- P4.4 Allotment of research scholars to supervisor(s) will be made by the Chairperson, DSC, taking into consideration the preferences of the research scholars and supervisors. Consent of the Supervisor(s) and student is essential for the allotment. Normally, there shall not be more than two supervisors (one is the supervisor and other is the co-supervisor) for a research scholar. In the case of change of supervisor, the research scholar may submit a written request to the Department Research Committee (DRC) citing valid reasons. The DRC may recommend for change of supervisor if satisfied with the request. The change shall be subject to the approval from the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC).
- P4.5 Change of Guide may be allowed within a period of less than two years of receiving guidance with the permission of the earlier Guide, recommendation from the Ph.D. Scrutiny committee and approval from the University.

P5. Duration of the programmes

- P5.1 Minimum duration for doctoral research for a Ph.D student with M.Tech. or an equivalent qualification is 3 years. The maximum duration of Ph.D. Program for a Full-Time (Part-Time) Scholar will be 4 years (6 years) counted from the date of provisional registration to the date of submission of thesis; although, the duration extension is possible in deserving cases as below:

Extension: The maximum duration cited above is extendable for a maximum of two times (Maximum one year each time) depending on the evidence of satisfactory progress in research work, subject to scrutiny of the PSC. The decision of the PSC is final.

However, a Scholar (Full-Time/ Part-Time) requiring extension, of duration shall apply (in writing) at least 3 months in advance (of the scheduled completion of tenure), from the date of registration to the Dean R&D through proper channel.

P6. Academic requirements

- P6.1 In order to overcome any deficiency in the breadth of fundamental training or proper foundation for advanced work; special makeup or pre-doctoral courses are to be pursued by admitted candidates in each department. The candidate should approach the supervisor for the courses that he/she needs to pursue. These courses should be approved by the DRC. The course work may be completed on the basis of lectures/self-study, as suggested by the supervisor and approved by the DRC.

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Out of these courses NPTEL or such online courses, if prescribed, requires to be not more than ONE course and the course must be minimum a PG level course.

P7. Constitution of DRC and progress during Ph.D.

P7.1 Candidate will enroll for coursework, as self-study/lectures and complete 12 credits achieving a letter grade of at least 7.0 grade points in each course. The choice of coursework is based on decision of the candidate's supervisor and DRC and this is recommended to help the candidate with preparatory work for research.

In respect of NPTEL or such online courses, if any, the candidate shall score 70% for it to be SRU's 7.0 grade points' equivalent.

P7.2 Candidate's DRC will comprise of a Chairperson (Head of Dept. (HoD) or his/her nominee, usually of the rank of Professor) preferably from the same department, Internal Expert - Area expert from the Department, External Expert - Area expert from another department, and the Supervisor(s). The same should be informed to AAC. Reconstitution of DRC member(s) with internal/external expert is subjected to approval from AAC. In such a case the outgoing internal/external expert is not responsible for the candidates' further progress.

P7.3 Candidate will have to appear for a Comprehensive Examination, within two years of registration of Ph.D., based on the courses approved by DRC. He/she will have to demonstrate satisfactory progress/performance in both written examination and course viva voce and must fulfill the departmental norms in force for evaluation of course works from time to time.

As part of Comprehensive Examination, a viva voce shall be held (a) on all the courses of 12 prescribed credits as cited in P7.1 (b) to test candidate's ability in overcoming either the deficiency (in the breadth) or appropriateness of the foundation (for advanced work) as cited in P6.1.

NOTE:

[1] In respect of every scholar, Chairman DRC require to notify the SRU Examination Cell/Unit the List of DRC prescribed Courses (with Dept. BoS approved syllabus) for conducting all the examinations.

[2] Exam. Cell/Unit shall notify the candidate regarding the date of Comprehensive Examination in advance of about 10-days to 2-weeks.

P7.4 Candidate will present a research seminar as a part of the comprehensive examination to the DRC. In this presentation, he/she should identify his/her problem statement, thesis title and methodologies in the chosen problem area(s). He/she should have preferably published at least one paper in a reputed conference. The DRC may then approve and recommend him/her for "Confirmation of Registration" of Ph.D. along with confirming the area/title of his/her proposed work by a written communication to AAC. A maximum of two chances will be given for completion of comprehensive examination within the stipulated time. In case, the student is not able to clear Comprehensive

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Examination in the first attempt, one last chance will be given for completion, within the stipulated 2 years' time.

- P7.5 Candidate will give research progress seminar every semester before the DRC. His/her progress will be monitored with recommendations that must be effectively incorporated by him/her. Candidate will be evaluated for his/her research progress through the seminar conducted in each semester, which will further be graded as - "SA" for satisfactory and "US" for unsatisfactory. The DRC sends this report/comments to the AAC at the end of every semester. The DRC has to maintain adequate record of the candidate's progress and communicate the same to AAC at the end of every year.
- P7.6 If a candidate gets "US" for the first time, the DRC warns the candidate and allows him/her to proceed with the research work. In case the candidate gets "US" grade second time, his/her case may be recommended by the DRC for termination of Ph.D. registration. The recommendation should be forwarded in the form of report to the AAC.
- P7.7 Based on the candidate's performance in comprehensive exam and his/her research contributions; the DRC in consultation with AAC can recommend a candidate to submit his/her synopsis within three years from the date of registration of Ph.D.
- P7.8 Candidate may be allowed to present a pre-synopsis seminar and submit synopsis based on the recommendations of the DRC. A pre-synopsis seminar can be allowed if he/she has received reviews on at least one paper developed and communicated to a reputed peer reviewed journal (preferably, SCI journal). At least one journal paper should be accepted/published in peer reviewed journal (preferably, SCI journal) prior to synopsis seminar. A candidate may be allowed to repeat a pre-synopsis seminar based on the recommendations of the DRC. In case of approval of the research work presented in the synopsis, he/she must submit the thesis within three months of successfully presenting the pre-synopsis seminar.
- P7.9 DRC will identify a panel of minimum four examiners for the purpose of thesis evaluation and communicate the same to AAC. This panel will comprise of names of examiners from within and outside the country (four in each category). In each category, it is strongly recommended that the Examiners/Reviewers be chosen from reputed national and international institutions. Assignment of thesis examiners and the communication of reviews will be handled by the AAC.
- P7.10 The thesis defense will be decided based on the review reports received from the examiners. The review recommendations may fall into the following categories:
- i. If both the reports are positive, then the viva-voce examination can be conducted.
  - ii. If one is positive and another suggests minor revision, the candidate may be asked to revise and send to the same reviewer provided the reviewer has asked to send it to him/her. If the reviewer has asked to revise and present in the viva-voce then the revisions should be incorporated and presented during the viva-voce. If one reviewer reports recommendation for strongly acceptance and

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any other reviewer rejects, then Vice-Chancellor's decision is final in recommending for viva-voce.

- iii. If one of the reviewers gives acceptance and other reviewer suggest major revisions with the suggestion to send back to him/her, the candidate should incorporate the comments and the revised thesis should be communicated. In case, the revised thesis also receives negative comments then the thesis can be sent to the third reviewer. If the revised thesis receives further negative comments, then Vice-Chancellor's decision is final in recommending for viva-voce.
- iv. If all the reviews are negative, the candidate should work and modify the thesis and re-submit the revised thesis.

P7.11. Thesis defense and viva-voce examination of the Candidate will be open to all. The defense will be headed by Chairperson DRC and at least one external Examiner (preferably, one of the reviewers).

P7.12 Leave of absence: A Full-Time Ph.D. Scholar can avail a maximum of 30 days Casual Leave (not more than 3 working days at a time) in a calendar year subject to his/her leave application forwarded through proper channel, recommended by the HoD and approval by the Dean R&D.

P8. Fees and Payments (Semester wise)  
As per University policy.

P9. Financial Assistance

Financial Support will be provided to full time Ph.D. scholars in the form of Ph.D. Assistantship, as per university norms from time to time.

P10. Power to Modify

Notwithstanding all that has been stated above, the Chairperson, Academic Council has the right to modify any of the above regulations from time to time and it will be ratified in the sub-sequent academic council meeting.