



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION  
(Deemed to be University)  
NEW DELHI

F.No. V/2021/2025-MCI

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

**NOTIFICATION No.3/2025-MCI**

**Rules Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), 2025.**

As per the decision of 151<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting of the IIMC held on 09.05.2025 under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor, IIMC, "Rules Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), 2025" are hereby notified with effect from today.

2. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Dr. Nimish Rustagi)  
Registrar

Copy to :

1. Office of VC
2. Office of Registrar
3. Office of DR/AR (Admn./Accounts)
4. All Regional Directors
5. All Officers/Course Directors
6. All Deptts./Sections
7. Guard file

# **Rules Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) 2025**



**Indian Institute of Mass Communication  
(Deemed to be University)  
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067**

## **Contents**

1. Preamble
2. Short Title, Definition and Commencement
3. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme through Regular Mode
4. Eligibility Criteria for Admission of International Scholars in the Ph.D. Programme
5. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme through Part-Time Mode
6. Duration of the Programme
7. Procedure for Admission
8. Allocation of Research Supervisor and Change of Supervisor
9. Number of Ph.D. Students to be Allotted to Faculty
10. Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC)
11. Doctoral Programme Committee (DPC)
12. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
13. Research Ethics Committee (REC)
14. Course Work - Credit Requirement, Number, Duration, Syllabus, Minimum Standards for Completion, etc.
15. Cancellation of Ph.D. Registration
16. Re-registration of Ph.D.
17. Leave/Break of Study
18. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, Minimum Standards/Credits for Award of Ph.D. Degree, etc.
19. Issuing a Provisional Certificate
20. Award of Ph.D. Degree before Notification of these Rules
21. Depository with INFLIBNET/Institutional Electronic Archive
22. Dispute Resolution
23. Removal Difficulty

# **RULES GOVERNING THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)**

## **1. Preamble**

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Deemed to be University) offers the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Mass Communication and Journalism, covering its major investigation areas and allied disciplines. With an interdisciplinary approach, the Doctoral Programme shall create a community of exclusive researchers in communication and media education, management, policy and related fields such as journalism, public relations, advertising, films etc, to support the quality and governance of the media ecosystem. It will also consider the needs of the field's interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature, environment and science communication, political communication, cultural studies, and others.

The Centre for Media and Communication Research (CEMCOR) at Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Deemed to be University) will be accountable for conducting Ph.D. course leading to the award of the Ph.D. Degree. These rules governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) will come into effect from the date 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

## **2. Short Title, Definition and Commencement**

2.1 The Rules shall be titled the "Rules Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy" as conferred by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Deemed to be University) and will be applicable to those who will take admission in Ph.D. Programme in IIMC (Deemed to be University.)

2.2 The Rules shall complement and align with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Rules, 2022, and as amended from time to time, and shall not be in derogation to it.

2.3 The Rules are amendable, subject to the recommendations of the Doctoral Advisory Committee (hereafter DAC) and Academic Council, with final approval from the Executive Council. Such amendments shall come into effect from the date of their official notification by the University and shall be applicable to the relevant cohorts, including those presently enrolled in the Programme, as specified.

2.4 These rules shall be applicable to all Ph.D. candidates and students who have taken admission or applying to take admission after the enactment of these Rules i.e. Date of enactment.

## Definitions:

- i. **'AC'** means Academic Council that is the main academic body of IIMC (Deemed to be University), which is responsible for setting academic policies, approving courses, and maintaining academic standards.
- ii. **'BRS'** means Board of Research Studies that reviews and finalises the content, instructions and assessment procedures of the pre-Ph.D. course work.
- iii. **'DAC'** refers to the Doctoral Advisory Committee, a statutory body which will offer Ph.D. Programme and shall ensure the uniform implementation of the ordinance and provide advice on procedural and related matters.
- iv. **'Doctor of Philosophy Programme'** stands for an academic programme leading to conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
- v. **'Co-supervisor'** denotes an additional Research Supervisor who collaborates with the primary Research Supervisor in overseeing the candidate's doctoral research work.
- vi. **'Course Work'** encompasses courses mandated as part of the Ph.D. Programme, which the candidate must complete as a prerequisite.
- vii. **'DPC'** indicates the Doctoral Programme Committee, an organizational body which will follow the decisions of DAC to execute the admission process, monitor the research process and conduct examinations to award the Ph.D. Degree.
- viii. **'EC'** means the Executive Council, which is a governing body that has executive power and makes decisions for an organization.
- ix. **'External Examiner'** means an academician or researcher with published work who is not affiliated with the IIMC (Deemed to be University) where the Ph.D. candidate is registered, evaluates the candidate's thesis/research work and/or conducts viva-voce.
- x. **'Full-Time Scholar'** refers to a Research Scholar who dedicates his/her entire time on campus to Ph.D. Programme.
- xi. **'Part-Time Scholar'** refers to a Research Scholar who is admitted in part time mode of the Ph.D. Programme.
- xii. **'Grade Point'** is the numerical value assigned to each letter grade on a 10-point scale.
- xiii. **'Plagiarism'** refers to the act of presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own.
- xiv. **'Prospectus'** is the document, in print or otherwise, issued to provide clear and comprehensive information regarding IIMC (Deemed to be University) and its Programmes, intended for public dissemination, including prospective students, and published by the IIMC (Deemed to be University).
- xv. **'RAC'** refers to the Research Advisory Committee for each scholar to advise him/her after examining the research progress in a meeting held at interval of six months. It must exist within the Department.
- xvi. **'REC'** signifies the Research Ethics Committee constituted by the University in accordance with the UGC Rules in effect at that time.
- xvii. **'Research Proposal'** means a succinct document that outlines the proposed research
- xviii. **'Supervisor'** refers to a full-time regular faculty member of the IIMC (Deemed to be University) appointed to supervise the Ph.D. candidate's research work.
- xix. **'UGC'** denotes the University Grants Commission, established in 1956 by an Act of the Indian Parliament.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme through Regular Mode**

3.1.1 Candidates who have completed:

A one-year/two-semester Master's Degree Programme (after a four-year/eight-semester Bachelor's Degree) Programme in Journalism and Mass Communication and applied disciplines.

Or

A two-year/four-semester Master's Degree Programme in Mass Communication/Journalism and/or related field after a three-year Bachelor's Degree Programme in Social Sciences and allied disciplines

Or

Qualifications declared equivalent to the Master's Degree in Media and Communication and allied disciplines by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a 10-point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

Or

A M.Phil. Programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in Journalism and Mass Communication, and allied disciplines 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 its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

3.1.2 Candidates seeking admission after a four-year/eight-semester Bachelor's Degree Programme with research should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or a CGPA of 7.5 on a 10-point scale.

3.1.3 The candidates who belong to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories shall be given relaxation in qualifying marks/grade for admission to the programme as per the existing rules of the Government of India.

3.1.4 Candidates who are yet to clear their final examination at the Master's level shall also be eligible to apply for admission to the programme, provided they have passed the examination as per the eligibility conditions laid down in the rule of previous semesters and submit their proof at the time of final admission.

3.1.5 A candidate may be allowed to pursue research work for the Ph.D. Degree in allied subjects in the same or any other Department on the recommendation of the DAC as referred to by DPC for the above-stated purpose which needs to be approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

3.1.6 UGC's recent NET/JRF rules, as per the letter (No. F, 4-1(UGC-NET Review Committee)/2024(NET)/140648) issued on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 will be the base for admission to the Ph.D. Programme at IIMC (Deemed to be University), henceforth the Research scholar shall be UGC-NET qualified. In future, any succeeding changes in the admission rules for Ph.D. Programme made by UGC will be followed.

From June 2024 onwards therefore, the NET candidates will be declared eligible in three categories:

Category-1: Eligible for (i) admission to Ph.D. Programme with JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor.

Category-2: Eligible for (i) admission to Ph.D. Programme without JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor.

Category-3: Eligible for admission to Ph.D. Programme only and not for the award of JRF or appointment as Assistant Professor.

The determination of the eligibility of NET for different categories is summarized below:

Qualified for	Eligible for		
	JRF	Assistant Professor	Ph.D. Admission
Category 1: Award of JRF and appointment as Assistant Professor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Category 2: Appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.	No	Yes	Yes
Category 3: Admission to Ph.D. only	No	No	Yes

The result of NET will be declared in percentile along with the marks obtained by a candidate to utilize the marks for admission to Ph.D.

The JRF-qualified students will be admitted into the Ph.D. Programme based on an interview as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Rules 2022 and as amended from time to time.

For students who qualify in categories 2 and 3, 70% weightage will be given for test scores and 30% weightage for the interview for admission to Ph.D. Programme. The Ph.D. admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks and the marks obtained in the interview.

The marks obtained in the NET by the candidates in categories 2 and 3 will be valid for a period of one year for admission to the Ph.D. Programme.

#### **4. Eligibility Criteria for Admission of International Scholars in the Ph.D. Programme**

4.1 Considering under supernumerary category, foreign nationals fulfilling the stated eligibility criteria may be registered for Ph.D. Programme over and above the maximum admissible strength. However, at any given time, the total number of foreign students shall not exceed 10% of the total admissible strength of the IIMC (Deemed to be University) or shall be as per the guidelines/norms set in this regard by the IIMC (Deemed to be University) statutory/regulatory bodies concerned from time to time.

4.1.1 Qualification equivalent to the Master's Degree/M.Phil. Programme in Media and Communication and allied disciplines with at least 55% marks or equivalent grade points on 10 point scale from a foreign educational institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

4.1.2 a) Foreign nationals must provide evidence of English language competency suited to the respective department. They may be admitted based on their research proposal presentation and interview, subject to fulfilment of the minimum eligibility criteria for admission. The decision for their admission rests with the DPC, subject to its approval by the DAC.

4.1.2 b) Foreign nationals should bring the equivalency of degree from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi, at the time of their admission to the IIMC (Deemed to be University).

4.1.2 c) A duly verified letter of recommendation needs to be submitted by the foreign student from the concerned Embassy before his/her interview is conducted for an admission. Until the required documents are submitted, the admission shall remain provisional, subject to cancellation on non-compliance.

## **5. Eligibility Criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme through Part-Time Mode**

5.1 Ph.D. Programme through Part-Time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions for PhD (part-time) stipulated in UGC regulations (as amended from time to time) are fulfilled.

5.2 The eligibility criteria for admission to the Part-Time Ph.D. Programme shall be the same as those prescribed for the Full-Time Ph.D. Programme, as detailed in Rule 3 of these rules. Additionally, applicants to Part-Time Ph.D. Programme must be in regular/permanent employment and must have a minimum of three years' experience in regular mode (contractual/permanent) in media specific area.

5.3 Course work will be mandatory for Part-Time Ph.D. candidate, and he/she will also produce a "No Objection Certificate" for a Part-Time Ph.D. Programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where he/she is employed, clearly stating that:

- i. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a Part-Time basis.
- ii. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time to research.
- iii. He/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the coursework.

Note: As per the UGC Rule, the IIMC (Deemed to be University) does not offer the Ph.D. Programme through distance and/or online mode. The candidates in service shall be allowed to do a Ph.D. provided all the eligibility conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. rules are fulfilled.

5.4 All other provisions related to admission, coursework, duration, research supervision, evaluation, and award of the Ph.D. Degree shall apply equally to both Regular and Part-Time Ph.D. scholars.

5.5 Considering under supernumerary category, scholars fulfilling the stated eligibility criteria may be registered for Part-Time Ph.D. Programme over and above the maximum admissible strength. However, the total number of Part-Time Ph.D. students at any given time shall be determined by the competent authority in accordance with the guidelines/norms set by the IIMC (Deemed to be University) statutory/regulatory bodies from time to time.

## **6. Duration of the Programme**

6.1 The Ph.D. Programme for Full-time/Part-Time scholar 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. The date of admission to the Ph.D. Programme will be taken as the date of registration for the Ph.D.

6.2 A candidate may be granted an additional period of up to two years through re-registration, in compliance with the Ph.D. rules of IIMC (Deemed to be University). The Vice-Chancellor may authorize a candidate extension of one year if the candidate submits a formal request within three months prior to the conclusion of the initial six-year period. Should the Vice-Chancellor deny this extension, the candidate shall be removed from the registry of enrolled Ph.D. scholars upon expiration of the six-year term. However, the entire duration of the Ph.D. Programme must not surpass eight years from the admission date, which shall be considered the date of registration.

6.3 Female Ph.D. scholars and persons with disabilities (exceeding 40% disability) are eligible for an additional extension of two years. Nonetheless, the total duration for completing the Ph.D. Programme in such instances shall not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission.

6.4.1 The mandatory regular attendance for the Full-Time scholars will be for a minimum of three years, including course work.

6.4.2 Under exceptional circumstances, the Vice Chancellor may grant permission to shorten the mandatory regular attendance period of a Regular scholar. In such cases, the scholar must make a request before DAC and the DAC after satisfaction of the conditions cited may recommend such case to the Vice Chancellor for final decision.

## **7. Procedure for Admission**

Admissions shall be governed by the criteria established by the IIMC (Deemed to be University), aligned with the guidelines and norms prescribed by Clause 5 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2022 as amended from time to time.

## **8. Allocation of Research Supervisor and Change of Supervisor**

### **8.1 Eligibility criteria for Research Supervisor & Co-Supervisor**

8.1.1 Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor at IIMC (Deemed to be University) with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors at IIMC (Deemed to be University) with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals may be recognized as a Research Supervisor in the IIMC (Deemed to be University) where the faculty member is employed or in its regional centres. Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research 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 IIMC (Deemed to be University) or its regional centre would be in violation of these rules.

Co-Supervisors from within the same Department or other Departments of IIMC (Deemed to be University) or its regional center may be permitted with the approval of the competent authority. Adjunct Faculty members shall not act as Research Supervisors and can only act as Co-Supervisors.

8.1.2 In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/College/University may be appointed.

8.1.3 In the 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 rules 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 the research already undertaken.

8.1.4 Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a Co-Supervisor after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

8.1.5 Faculty members on 'lien' at IIMC (Deemed to be University) may serve as Supervisors, provided a teacher from the same Department is appointed as a Co-Supervisor. Both the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor must have at least six years of service remaining before superannuation. If the faculty member on the lien does not return immediately after the lien period is over, the roles of Supervisor and Co-Supervisor will be interchanged. Failure to make such provisions may result in the transfer of the research scholar to another faculty member. Faculty on deputation at IIMC (Deemed to be University) shall not be eligible to be Supervisors.

8.1.6 In the event of a Supervisor's transfer from the headquarter to a regional center or vice versa, the Supervisor will continue to guide the same scholars, with no change to their supervisory responsibilities.

## **8.2 Change of Supervisor**

8.2.1 Addition, deletion, or change of Research Supervisor shall be considered by the DAC upon recommendation, based on requests from the Research Scholar and/or Supervisor(s) under the following circumstances:

- In case the Supervisor leaves the service of the IIMC (Deemed to be University).
- Through mutual consent between the Supervisor and the Research Scholar.
- In situations of extreme hardship, where it becomes nearly impossible for a candidate to continue his/her research with the current Supervisor, or if either party requests a change of Supervisor on valid and genuine grounds, a request may be made to the DAC

Chairperson. The Chairperson shall present the matter to the Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) for a decision.

8.2.2 The transfer of Ph.D. scholars from one Research Supervisor to another may be permitted if mutual agreement is reached by both the original and proposed Supervisors for valid reasons. This transfer requires the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, based on the recommendations of the DAC. The former Supervisor shall provide a No Objection Certificate (NOC) stating no objection to the scholar continuing research on the same topic and waiving any future claims to rights or privileges over the work under the new Supervisor. The new Supervisor shall submit an NOC affirming supervision and ensuring due recognition to the former Supervisor based on their contribution. If the research topic changes, the proposed Supervisor may require an additional core course or certify its non-requirement if the prior coursework is deemed satisfactory, which shall be submitted to the university without affecting the scholar's prior coursework results. In both cases, re-registration with the new topic and Supervisor shall be completed.

8.2.3 Research Supervisors intending to take leave or go on deputation for a period exceeding six months, must nominate an interim Supervisor (I/c) in the relevant subject area, and notify the DAC accordingly. If no nomination is made, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint a Research Supervisor upon the recommendation of the DAC.

8.2.4 In case of resignation of Supervisor, he/she may be deputed as Co-Supervisor, or a new Supervisor shall be allocated on approval of the Vice Chancellor depending on the progress of the work of the scholar. Such Co-Supervisor may be deputed according to a buffer period if the last stage of Ph.D. work is going on the recommendation of the DAC.

## **9. Number of Ph.D. Students Allotted to Faculty**

9.1 An eligible Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can guide maximum eight (8) / six (6) / four (4) Ph.D. scholars, respectively, at any given time.

9.2 Each Research Supervisor is permitted to guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars allowed as per the rules.

9.3 The Research Supervisors are required to periodically report the number of registered Ph.D. scholars under their supervision to the IIMC (Deemed to be University). Supervisors are not allowed to exceed their allotted number of scholars by utilizing recognition from multiple universities or colleges.

9.4 Scholars can be allotted to the faculty members teaching in any of regional centers of IIMC (Deemed to be University). Scholars will submit an undertaking of acceptance of the seat with the given condition at the time of admission.

## **10. Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC)**

10.1 IIMC shall have a Doctoral Advisory Committee, a statutory body for offering a Ph.D. Programme. The DAC shall ensure the uniform implementation of the ordinance and provide advice on procedural and related matters. Each Department shall obtain approval from the DAC before registering the students. The DAC is responsible for maintaining the Ph.D. students' registration records and the status of their research.

10.2 The committee shall meet from time to time and take a view on the overall functioning of the Ph.D. Programme, including execution of admission process, constitution of BRS (which will be approved by Vice-Chancellor for preparation and upgrading of syllabus for Ph.D. coursework), conduct of coursework, examination, quality of teaching and research, student support and progression, standardized and rationalized assessment and outcome. The committee shall advise and recommend measures or actions to improve the programme. Overall, this committee shall be responsible for the successful running of the Doctoral Programme. The committee shall put up important agendas before the statutory body of the University i.e. Academic Council (AC) for final approval.

10.3 Centre for Media & Communication Research (CEMCOR) of the IIMC (Deemed to be University) shall conduct the Doctor of Philosophy Programme for the award of Ph.D. Degree. All policies shall be governed by the Delhi headquarter.

10.4 The DAC will be approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

### **Composition of DAC**

- All members of the DAC must be qualified to be Supervisors.
  - Chairperson (Head of the Centre for Media and Communication Research (CEMCOR))
  - Two Professors nominated by Vice-Chancellor
  - Two Associate Professors nominated by Vice-Chancellor
  - Two Assistant Professor nominated by Vice-Chancellor
  - Two External Experts nominated by Vice-Chancellor

## **11. Doctoral Programme Committee (DPC)**

11.1 A Doctoral Programme Committee (DPC) is an organizational body nominated by the Vice-Chancellor for Ph.D. Programme that shall conduct the admission process, monitor the research process, and conduct examinations to award the Ph.D. Degree. The DPC shall work in coordination with the departments and the Centre for Media & Communication Research. The DPC will execute the instructions of the DAC.

### **Composition of DPC**

- Head of the Departments Concerned
- Two faculty members nominated by VC
- Ph.D. Admission In charge
- Controller of Examination as ex-officio member
- Dean Student Welfare as ex-officio member

Chairperson will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor within the DPC.

## **12. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)**

12.1 Every research scholar will have a Research Advisory Committee that has been officially authorized by the DPC. The convener of this committee will be the supervisor of the research scholar.

12.2 The committee will consist of a minimum of three members, including Supervisor, one faculty member from the Department and one faculty member from another Department in the IIMC (Deemed to be University).

12.3 This committee will be responsible for evaluating the research proposal and selecting the final research topic. The committee will also help the scholars in the development of the research methodology and study design, as well as to choose which course or courses the researcher must take. The RAC will regularly evaluate and encourage the research scholar's efforts.

12.4 Once every six months, the research scholar will present the status of his or her work to the Research Advisory Committee for review and additional guidance. A copy of the six-monthly progress reports, which include the Research Advisory Committee's remarks, must be sent to both the DPC and the research scholar.

12.5 The Research Advisory Committee will document the reasons for any unsatisfactory progress made by the research scholar and recommend remedial actions. In case the researcher disregards suggested remedial actions, the Research Advisory Committee may suggest to the DPC—with particular justifications—that the registration of the research scholar be cancelled.

### **13. Research Ethics Committee (REC)**

13.1 There shall be a Research Ethics Committee (REC) at IIMC (Deemed to be University). It is envisaged that IIMC (Deemed to be University) will have a well-defined policy and establish a well-laid procedure for handling misconduct allegations in research.

13.2 It is to be emphasised that every breach of good research practice does not constitute misconduct, and the same needs to be distinguished. Only when there is a deliberate or grossly negligent infringement as defined in a set of rules, it should be considered scientific misconduct, including the unethical practice of taking responses from the respondents, fabrication or falsification of data, and plagiarism using other authors' work, using generative AI unethically, etc.

13.3 This set of rules primarily focuses on the academic aspects of admission, programme, progress, and graduation. However, research students at IIMC (Deemed to be University) must also adhere to additional university codes and regulations that impact their academic journey and overall experience, including:

- The Code of Good Academic Research Practices
- The Disciplinary Rules
- The Policy on Harassment Prevention

13.4 The registration to the Ph.D. Programme at the IIMC (Deemed to be University) signifies that the scholar has accepted the conditions and ethical guidelines set out in the research ethics policies and that she/he commits her/himself to respect all aspects of research throughout the programme on which she/he has registered.

13.5 To further inform researchers on aspects of research such as academic responsibility and integrity, the Research Ethics Committee shall frame the code of ethics/ethical guidelines/rules and draft a policy on 'Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism' from time to time.

13.6 The Research Ethics Committee shall be constituted by the Head, CEMCOR, through approval by the Vice-Chancellor, IIMC (Deemed to be University).

### **14. Course Work - Credit Requirements, Number, Duration, Syllabus, Minimum Standards for Completion, etc.**

14.1 The credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, which mandatorily includes a "Research and Publication Ethics" course and a research methodology course. (The DPC can also recommend UGC-recognized online/MOOC courses of 4 credits as

part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. Programme that may be added to the total credits to make it to a maximum of 16 credit coursework).

14.2 The duration of the course work will be six (6) months. All the scholars, i.e. Full-Time/Part-Time, will have to attend the course work. For Part-time scholars, the conditions mentioned in Clause 5.3 of Rule 5 in these rules will be applicable.

14.3 All Ph.D. scholars are required to be trained in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. course during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned four hours per week of teaching/research assistantship, conducting tutorial/practical work and evaluations.

14.4 The Department where the scholar pursues his/her research prescribes the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the DAC.

14.5 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. coursework conform to the credit hour instructional requirement and specify the content, instructional, and assessment methods. They are reviewed and finalised by the Board of Research Studies (BRS) and approved by the Academic Council.

14.6 A Ph.D. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale in the coursework to become eligible to continue in the programme and submit his or her thesis.

## **15. Cancellation of Ph.D. Registration**

15.1 The registration is liable for cancellation if,

- An act of plagiarism is identified in the publication/thesis submitted by the scholar (as per the University Policy on Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism)
- Any ethical violation until the time of submission of synopsis
- The scholar fails to obtain confirmation of provisional registration within 24 months after his/her provisional registration for the Ph.D. Programme
- On the recommendation of the RAC that the progress of research is not satisfactory in at least three consecutive six-monthly reports
- Scholar does not respond to any communication from the Research Supervisor/DPC beyond one year continuously at any stage
- Where a scholar has not submitted the thesis within the period prescribed or has also failed to do so within the extended period/ re-registration of the Ph.D.,
- Any violation of the rules of Ph.D. Programme.

15.2 In case of recommendation for cancellation of the registration by the Research Supervisor/DAC based on the reasons listed above, the matter shall be referred to the AC, which may recommend cancellation of registration depending on the merit of the case. The

scholar shall be intimated about the grounds on which the registration is being cancelled and allowed to seek redressal within 15 working days.

## **16. Re-registration of Ph.D.**

A scholar who fails to complete research work as specified in Rule 6 shall be eligible for an extension through re-registration in the Ph.D. Programme within the same area of research. The process and conditions for re-registration are as follows:

- The re-registration request must be duly forwarded by the DPC, accompanied by valid reasons and a roadmap for completing all the research work within the next two years.
- The scholar shall pay a one-time re-registration fee and continue paying the applicable semester fees in accordance with the University's policies.
- Upon re-registration, the scholar shall be enrolled for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years, as approved by the Academic Council on the recommendation of the DAC, forwarded by the DPC.
- The scholar must comply with all Ph.D. Programme rules before submitting the final thesis.

## **17. Leave/Break of Study**

17.1 Scholars are entitled to a maximum of 30 days' leave per calendar year, in addition to public holidays, as per UGC Rules. Leave exceeding this limit shall result in deduction of fellowship (if applicable) for the extended period.

17.2 In exceptional circumstances such as medical exigency, scholars may avail of up to 60 days of leave by upon submission of a medical certificate from CMO and subsequent fitness certificate.

17.3 Women scholars may be granted maternity or childcare leave for up to 240 days during the entire duration of the Ph.D. Programme.

17.4 The DAC, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, may permit a break of study for valid reasons, including medical grounds, upon submission of a medical certificate from CMO and subsequent fitness certificate.

17.5 Scholars taking up employment or fellowship abroad may request a break of study after completing registration, coursework, and examinations. Approval requires documentation, including a progress report, an appointment letter, and an undertaking to return and complete the remaining research work and/or take to public viva-voce, as the case may be, required to qualify for the degree.

17.6 Break of study shall not exceed one year in total and six months at a time, subject to the payment of applicable fees.

17.7 In special cases, Ph.D. scholars may be allowed leave without fellowship (in the case of JRF/SRF holders) for up to one academic year during the entire tenure for accepting teaching assignments temporarily, provided the assignments are in the same city/town. The period of leave without fellowship will be counted towards the total tenure.

## **18. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, Minimum Standards/ Credits for Award of the Degree, etc.**

18.1 Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in clause (14.6) of Rule 14 above, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft dissertation/thesis.

18.2 Before submitting the dissertation/thesis, the Ph.D. scholar shall make a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee of the IIMC (Deemed to be University), which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars/students.

18.3 IIMC (Deemed to be University) shall have a mechanism using well-developed 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.

18.4 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.

18.5 The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners who are experts in the field and not in employment of IIMC (Deemed to be University). Such examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. 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.

18.6 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 IIMC (Deemed to be 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. Degree.

18.7 Examination Department, IIMC (Deemed to be 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.

18.8 Ph.D. candidates must submit the thesis within 90 days of the Pre-submission Seminar. The candidate may be permitted to submit a thesis after 90 days in specific circumstances with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of DPC.

## **19. Issuing a Provisional Certificate**

Before award of the Ph.D. Degree, the IIMC (Deemed to be University) shall issue a provisional certificate to the effect that the Ph.D. Degree is being awarded as per the provisions of these rules.

## **20. Award of Ph.D. Degrees before Notification of the Rules**

20.1 Award of Degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. Programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of these rules, shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Rules, 2009 or the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) Rules, 2016 as the case may be. Further, the award of Degrees to candidates already registered and pursuing Ph.D. shall be governed by these rules or UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Rules, 2016. Nothing in these rules shall impact the M.Phil. Degree Programmes commencing before the enactment of these rules.

## **21. Depository with INFLIBNET and Institutional Electronic Archive**

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. Degree(s), the University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET for hosting the same to make it accessible to all the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions and also make the provision for its own Electronic Archive to make the researches available to the scholars and students of the IIMC (Deemed to be University).

## **22. Dispute Resolution**

Any legal proceedings or disputes arising out of or in connection with these regulations shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Delhi only.

### **23. Removal Difficulty**

If any challenges emerge in implementing the Rules or in accurately interpreting the Rules, the clarification provided by IIMC (Deemed to be University) shall be deemed conclusive.

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