



**CHRIST**  
UNIVERSITY  
BANGALORE, INDIA

Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956

## **CENTRE FOR RESEARCH**

# **Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** (Revised 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013)

**Centre for Research  
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## 0. Preamble

Christ University, formerly Christ College affiliated to Bangalore University was established in July 1969. It became the most preferred educational institution in the city of Bangalore within the first three decades. By the introduction of innovative curricula, insistence on academic discipline, imparting of 'holistic education' and with the help of the creative and dedicated staff, Christ College has been continually rated among the top-10 educational institutions of the country. It has the rare distinction of being the first Institution in Karnataka to be accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for quality education. UGC conferred Autonomy to Christ College in the year 2004.

On 20, May 2005, it became the first college in South India to be reaccredited with A+ by NAAC. UGC identified it as an Institution with **Potential for Excellence** in June 2006.

On 22, July 2008, the Ministry of Human Resources Development of the Union Government of India, vide Notification No. F. 9-34/2007-U.3(A), declared Christ College (Autonomous), a Deemed to be University, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, in the name and style of **Christ University**.

### 1. Designation and Format of the PhD Programme

Christ University confers on the eligible candidates, the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on the basis of a coursework in research methodology and the particular domain/s, publications in refereed journals, participation and/or presentation in National/International seminars, a Dissertation, and its public defense. The degree certificate indicates the discipline under which the degree was pursued, the title of the Dissertation and the date of public defense.

### 2. Doctoral Commission (may also be referred as Doctoral Committee)

The Doctoral Commission is responsible for all decisions concerning doctoral programme. The doctoral commission will consists of the following members:

- Vice Chancellor - Chairman
- Pro Vice Chancellor - Deputy Chairman
- Deans of Academic Faculties
- Director of Centre for Research
- Additional Director of Centre for Research - Secretary
- Three members nominated by the Vice Chancellor from among the Research Coordinators and
- Expert Members nominated by Vice Chancellor

### 3. Research Council

The function of the research council is to advice the doctoral commission in matters regarding the research strategies, institutional expansion of research network, quality improvement programmes as well as securing the necessary research resources. The council consists of:

- Pro Vice Chancellor - President
- Director of Centre for Research - Secretary
- Additional Director of Centre for Research

- Deans of Academic Faculties
- Research Coordinators
- Experts nominated by Doctoral Commission

#### **4. Time of Admission and Duration of the Programme**

The time taken from the admission till the submission of the dissertation shall be considered as the duration of the doctoral programme. The minimum duration of the doctoral programme (M Phil + PhD) shall be three years. The maximum duration of the doctoral programme shall be five years. In case, the period of research is extended after three years, annual fee for each year has to be paid before the commencement of the extension.

Candidates are admitted to the doctoral programme in August every year. The Centre for Research will announce the doctoral programme at least two months in advance. The selection procedures (processing the application, conduct of entrance test and personal interview) are expected to be carried out in a time span of four weeks.

There are two main stages of admission process. Based on the minimum marks prescribed at the masters degree level, M Phil in the subject concerned, performance in the entrance test, interview and publications, the candidates are given a provisional admission into the doctoral programme. The final admission will be based on the satisfactory completion of the course work, *finalized* research proposal and its defense in a pre-doctoral colloquium. A time span of two to six months is anticipated between the provisional and final admission to the doctoral programme. After the provisional admission candidates may seek the assistance of subject experts/proposed guides on and off the campus to restructure and improve the quality of their research proposals.

#### **5. Eligibility**

The basic eligibility of candidates intending to pursue a doctoral programme is a pass with a minimum of 55% in a postgraduate programme and M Phil. Based on the academic performance of the candidate at the postgraduate level, she or he can be admitted to a PhD programme which includes a pre-doctoral course work for a minimum period of one semester. It comprises of Research Methodology which may include quantitative methods and computer applications. It may also involve reviewing of published research in the relevant field, specific research methodologies, bridging core subjects (for interdisciplinary research projects), electives etc.

Candidates residing/working anywhere in India or abroad working in educational or other institutions are eligible for registration.

#### **6. Admission Process**

Admission process will have two stages:

- a) Registration(Provisional admission)
- b) Admission approval(Confirmation of Registration)

##### **6.1 Registration**

- Application Form of the University, along with the Research Proposal containing the details as per the prescribed format (1500 words), submitted in three sets of hard copy and one set of soft copy, together with a non-refundable registration fee of Rs 1000/-

- Within 30 days of receipt of application, the candidate will be invited for an Entrance Test and Personal Interview.
- On receipt of the application the Centre for Research send copy of the proposal (without the cover note) to each member of the interview panel to enable their review.
- The interview will be conducted by the panel of experts (PhD Admission Committee) within 30 days of receipt of the application. Admission Committee will consist of the Subject Expert, Dean representing the domain, Research Coordinator and the Directors. Every member will independently assess the research proposal on a joint sitting based on the criteria, viz., the clarity of thought, research aptitude, analytical and interpretational skill and the general subject knowledge of the candidate and make independent recommendation to the PhD Admission Committee. Based on the above assessment, the committee will decide either to accept or to reject or for resubmission of the proposal with suggested modification.
- In case the candidate is asked to resubmit the proposal, such resubmission and re-review will be completed within a maximum period of 45 days after the first interview to decide on the final selection.

## **6.2 Admission approval**

- The PhD Admission Committee identifies the Guide to be assigned to the student from the empanelment made by the University, and recommends it to the Doctoral Commission (DC)
- After obtaining permission from the DC, the proposal (without cover note) shall be sent to the Guide for his/her concurrence and comments, if any. This process shall be completed within a period of 30 days after the completion of entrance test and interview.
- The candidate will be communicated of the acceptance of the proposal and approval of admission, and directed to remit the first year fee for the PhD programme. The fees should be paid within 10 days of the approval of the provisional admission.
- The Centre for Research will issue the student, a letter of introduction to the Guide, with a copy marked to the Guide, the Dean concerned, the Controller of Examinations and the Office of the Information Processing and Management.
- Along with the copy of the letter of introduction, the Guide shall also be sent a Contract Letter in duplicate, to be signed and returned by the Guide duly accepted. The Contract letter will specify the terms and conditions of the assignment, restating the job responsibilities and the reporting requirements.
- On successive completion of the Course Work specified under Clause 8, the admission to PhD degree programme will be confirmed. Eligible students whose registration (Admission) is confirmed will be permitted to continue further.

## **7. Research Disciplines**

Following academic disciplines have been identified for the doctoral research programme:

*Psychology, Physics, Education, Engineering, Sociology, Management, Commerce, Computer Science, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics, Media Studies, English Literature, Social Work, Tourism and Law*

## **8. Coursework**

The course work contemplated under the PhD Regulations of Christ University is as follows.

### **8.1 Duration**

Duration of the course work shall be 6 months from the date the student is assigned to the Guide and shall be counted within the overall normal duration of three years for the PhD programme. This date shall be the date of commencement of the PhD Programme.

### **8.2 Components of Course Work**

The course work for PhD programme of Christ University will have two parts - A and B.

#### **Part A**

1. This constitutes class works at the University Campus for a duration of 30 to 45 Hrs each on one **elective paper** (based on the faculty of research) and one general academic paper/Research methodology. (Students may be given an option to choose one paper out of two offered under each category).
2. The classes may be spread over 6 to 8 weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) or on one stretch of 7 to 10 days or in combination.
3. The papers shall have a specified syllabus divided into three to four modules.
4. Attendance for these classes is mandatory and students with less than **85% attendance** will be required to repeat **Part A** Course Work.
5. Students lacking in attendance will not be allowed to make presentation or to appear for test at the end of six months.
6. On Completion of this part of the Course Work the student will be required to submit the required assignments and make a presentation based on their comprehension and perspectives of the class work which may include sustainable independent points of view of the presenter.
7. The presentation will be assessed for its clarity of thought, logical sequence of its content and skill of expression.
8. The presentation should be for a minimum duration of 20 minutes and maximum duration of 30 minutes.
9. The Student will also be required to appear for a test on each paper at the end of the course work.
10. The student will be required to repeat **Part A** if the marks scored are less than 50% in aggregate.

11. This part of the course work is independent of and in addition to the tests specified for students who have been exempted from M Phil for enrollment.

### **Part B**

This part of the Course Work refers to the following research components specified in the PhD Regulation. This will be completed with the involvement of the Research Guide.

1. Literature Review–Review of related literature with reasonable amount of literature review covering different aspects of the field of research must be done within the duration of the course work.
2. The candidate will be required to participate in at least two seminars of relevance or will present a paper in at least one seminar of relevance or a combination of both, within the duration of the course work.
3. The research methodology to be employed for the research must be critically reviewed as to its strengths and weaknesses and has to be justified with reference to the scope of research.
4. The student has to work in consultation with the Guide duly keeping record of the sessions with the Guide as per the prescribed format.
5. The record along with a written report of the Part B of the course work in about 20–30 pages must be submitted within 15 days of completion of the course work.
6. The Doctoral Committee if satisfied with the report, within 30 days of its receipt, shall seek a presentation\* (of about one hour duration) to the committee in the presence of the allotted Guide.
7. The student must score at least 55% of marks in aggregate in Part B of the course work to be eligible to continue the PhD programme.
8. Failure to score the required marks for course work evaluation will need the student to submit additional assignments as may be directed by the Doctoral Committee.
9. The Guide and the student have to jointly structure the course work component with a set study plan including tentative schedule of personal meeting and other interacting mode between the guide and the student.
10. The finalized study plan, in the given format, signed by the student and approved by the Guide must be sent to the Research Centre, within 15 days from the start date (Assignment of the Guide).

**\* The presentation must cover the Research Proposal as to its feasibility, its significance, scope, practical application, methodology and limitations. It must be a comprehensive and brief elucidation of the research proposal in its entirety duly explaining the preliminary study done during the course work period.**

## **9. Guideship**

Guiding for the research programme may commence from the beginning of the coursework itself. Each candidate shall work under the supervision of a guide. Depending on the nature (e.g. interdisciplinary approach) and extent of the research a co-guide may be appointed with the approval of the Doctoral Commission.

### **9.1 Guide**

The minimum requirement for guideship is a PhD from a recognized university in India or abroad. A senior academician of the rank of a professor or an eminent expert in a particular discipline having research experience and publications in refereed journals is eligible for the guideship at the doctoral level. The guides are expected to have sufficient experience in postdoctoral research. The Doctoral Commission can appoint a guide based on his or her institutional background and research competence (as demonstrated preferably through publications in refereed journals) – irrespective of previous experience in guiding the doctoral research. As per UGC rules, the number of candidates a guide may have under his/her supervision is limited to six.

### **9.2 Co-Guide**

The Co-Guide can be appointed from the research faculty or another faculty in related disciplines (in case of interdisciplinary research) or from an external faculty at a reputed university/research institute in India or abroad. The candidate has the right to choose the Co-Guide with the approval of his/her Guide and the Doctoral Commission.

### **9.3 Role and responsibilities of research guide**

In general, the Research Guide has the primary academic responsibility for the organization and the implementation of the PhD study programme as specified by the Board of Studies of the Centre for Research and to ensure that the PhD scholar acquires the desired skill and competence for effective conclusion of the research embarked on them.

The PhD Guide must attend to the following specific roles:

- Provide research guidance and supervision in respect of all components of the specified PhD course of study, including (but not limited to) course work, research work and the dissertation.
- Design, formulate and prescribe course activity for six months duration, in consultation with the Centre for Research to equip sufficiently for relevant research preparation.
- Conduct and monitor the prescribed course activity and report its progress to the Centre for Research.
- Suggest and guide the research student for participation in conferences, seminars and other colloquium of relevance and for paper presentations.
- Regularly follow up and monitor the progress made on the research in consonance with the study plan and for the purpose call for periodic meetings / discussions with the student either in person or through net/media in such frequency as may be needed, but not less than one personal meeting at the University campus, in every six months. The research guides located outside India may have such personal meeting at least once a year, to provide block consultation of not less than one week's duration.

- Enable/connect the PhD student to active research groups or networks of relevance within the accessible contacts of the Research Guide for research enhancement.
- Suggest modifications/changes if any required in the scope of the research study warranted by the external factors to make the study meaningful and relevant.
- Provide a quarterly progress report to the Centre for Research in the prescribed format for its review and feedback.
- Consult, cooperate and collaborate with the Centre for Research in best possible manner to ensure quality compliance with reference to its objectives in general and the PhD study programme in particular.

## **10. Progress of the Research Programme**

1. After the enrolment, the candidate shall discuss the research proposal with the guide (approved by the Doctoral Commission). The title of the dissertation and the research design (including the specific research methodology, literature survey and the organization of the research) has to be finalized within a period of three to six months. Any change of the topic or major modification of the research design, methodology or organization shall have to be approved by the Doctoral Commission.
2. The candidate can carry out the literature survey along with the coursework in bridging core subjects/electives (which follows the coursework in research methodology). The structure of the coursework and the modes of presentation of the research output may vary according to the research disciplines.
3. Weight will be given for the publication in reputed journals and paper presentation in national/international conferences related to the area of research.

## **11. Presentation of Research Proposal**

Research Proposal Presentation of the PhD scholars is the protocol fulfillment of the PhD Course Work completion process. PhD Scholar has to discuss the proposal thoroughly with the guide and after getting the formal approval, the scholar is permitted to present the proposal in the presence of a committee consisting: Research Guide, Two Subject Experts (1 internal subject expert – HOD/Dean), Additional Director, and HOD. Research scholar, staff members of the Christ University can attend the research proposal presentation. The guide has to give a list of three experts (keeping the research domain) two weeks before the commencement of the presentation. The guide has to give a list 3 external experts (keeping research domain) two weeks before the commencement of the presentation of which one will be selected.

## **12. Doctoral Colloquia**

Doctoral Colloquia are venues for scientific discourse where the researchers get the opportunity to present their doctoral research work—its conceptual framework and progression—in a discussion group consisting of scholars from various disciplines. The doctoral colloquia are coordinated by the guides with the consent of the Centre for Research and are open to both academics as well as students of all faculties. This is in view to maintain and promote the interdisciplinary approach to research among researchers and to enable the academics and students from the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to get acquainted with the research environment on campus. The



doctoral candidates are expected to attend at least one colloquium in a research semester (6 months) and give a presentation which should adequately demonstrate and discuss the progress of their doctoral dissertation. The research guides are responsible for organizing at least two doctoral - a departmental and a general - colloquia every year; they may seek advice and guidance from the Centre for Research in this regard. The presentations in doctoral colloquia have to be properly evaluated and documented. Prior to the submission of the thesis, the candidate shall make a pre presentation in the Department that may be open to all faculty members and research students, for getting feedback and comments.

### **13. Progress Report and Doctoral Colloquia**

Doctoral candidates are expected to submit two hard copies of the progress report of their doctoral research every semester (i.e. every six months) duly signed by the Guide. The extent and the format of the progress report will be decided by the research guides with the consent of the Centre for Research. The progress report should cover the chapterwise progress of the doctoral dissertation, deviation (if any) from the original research proposal and its time plan as well as its justification and other research activities such as attending academic conferences, publications, paper presentations at national and international seminars.

#### **14. Review Committee Meeting**

After receiving the three progress report, there will be a review committee meeting which takes place discipline wise.

#### **Structure of the review committee:**

- i. Research Guide
- ii. One Subject Expert (Internal/External)
- iii. Additional Director
- iv. HOD

### **15. Defense of Synopsis of Dissertation**

PhD Scholar can make synopsis defense after fulfilling the following requirements:

- i. Submission of five progress reports
- ii. Presenting papers in two National or International conferences.
- iii. Publishing an article in a indexed/refereed journal
- iv. Payment of fees
- v. Submitting the draft copy of the synopsis approved by the guide, two weeks in advance

The Research Centre schedules the date for the defense of Synopsis before a review committee. The Structure of the Review Committee shall be the following:

- i. Research Guide
- ii. External Expert/s as Vice Chancellor's Nominee/s
- iii. Additional Director
- iv. Registrar (Observer)
- v. Dean /HOD- As a subject expert

If the committee is not satisfied with the synopsis presentation, it can suggest for resubmission and appear for the defence once again.

Recommendations synopsis defence review committee (SDRC) shall be presented in the Doctoral Committee for approval and for further action.

## **16. Dissertation**

The topic of the dissertation must be chosen from a subject area or areas represented by the faculties identified for the doctoral research at Christ University. The guide decides on the topic of the dissertation in agreement with the doctoral candidate. Before beginning work on the dissertation itself, the candidate develops a work schedule with the help of the guide. Each semester, the guide evaluates the progress of the research.

The guide is responsible to the extent of his or her possibilities for making sure that the materials necessary for carrying out scientific work are put at the disposal of the candidate. The guide evaluates the progress of the dissertation according to scientific criteria. The dissertation must meet scientific standards in form and content and present new findings. It should generally be completed within a period of three years. However, this period can be extended up to five years with the consent of the Doctoral Commission.

The candidate must receive the consent of his or her guide to publish portions of the dissertation before its completion. The dissertation must include a title page designed according to the sample title page provided by the Christ University.

## **17. Publication**

PhD candidates shall publish one research paper in an indexed/refereed journal before the submission of the Doctoral thesis/Dissertation for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of acceptance letter or the reprint. **(UGC Regulation, 2009)**

## **18. Submission of Dissertation**

The candidate must receive the consent of his or her guide to publish portions of the dissertation before its completion. The dissertation must include a title page designed according to the sample title page provided by the Christ University.

- a) The title page of the dissertation, cover format, etc., should strictly conform to the format of presentation as prescribed and the dissertation (all copies) should carry a declaration by the candidate and certificate duly signed and issued by the guide. The dissertation should be hard bound.
- b) The research proposal, the synopsis and the PhD Dissertation may generally be written in English (for subjects other than languages).
- c). Extension of time for submission of PhD dissertation will be granted up to a maximum period of one year at a time on the payment of the fees prescribed from time to time.
- d). Candidates should have submitted two-half yearly reports per year till the submission of the PhD Dissertation.
- e). The PhD Dissertation will not be accepted for adjudication unless the candidate has paid annual fees for the total duration of the program along with the fee for the valuation of the PhD Dissertation as prescribed by the University.
- f) Every candidate shall submit a declaration by himself / herself and a certificate from the guide in the prescribed formats, with his/her application for the PhD degree and the

dissertation as given below. An extra copy of each of the certificate and declaration has to be submitted along with the dissertation.

g) On completion of the dissertation work candidates shall submit six hard copies, two soft copies (PDF and DOC/TEX formats) of the PhD Dissertation and eight copies of the Synopsis of the dissertation to the Centre for Research.

h) Evaluation of the dissertation will be done as per the UGC guidelines.

i) The Centre for Research shall schedule the date of Defense of Dissertation. The expenses involved in the doctoral defense including the T. A and remuneration of the experts are to be borne by the candidate.

j) The dissertation should generally be completed within a period of three years. However, this period can be extended up to five years with the consent of the Doctoral Commission.

## **19. Cancellation of the PhD Registration**

The registration of the PhD is cancelled under the following circumstances:

- (a) Those who do not complete the course work of the PhD in the relevant subject within ONE year of registration.
- (b) Those who fail to submit two 6-month reports continuously.
- (c) Those who do not pay the annual fee within the stipulated time.
- (d) Those who fail to submit the dissertation within five years of the registration.

### **DECLARATION**

I .....hereby declare that the dissertation, entitled .....submitted to Christ University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in ..... is a record of original and independent research work done by me during ..... under the supervision and guidance of Dr / Mr / Ms .....Department of .....and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree / Diploma / Associateship / Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate in any University.

Signature of the Candidate

### **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “ ..... ”, submitted to Christ University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in ..... is a record of original research work done by Mr/Ms ... during the period .....of his / her study in the Department of . . . . . at Christ University Bangalore, under my supervision and guidance and the dissertation has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree / Diploma / Associate ship / Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate of any University.

Countersigned

Signature of the Guide