KERALA UNIVERSITY OF DIGITAL SCIENCES, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

REGULATIONS
FOR
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

1.1 These Regulations Shall be called Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Regulations, 2021 governing programmes.

1.2 These Regulations shall come into force from the year 2021

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 'Digital University Doctoral Committee' (DUDC) is a committee constituted under these Regulations by the Vice-Chancellor

2.2 DRAT is the Digital University Research Aptitude Test conducted by the University and its schools for selection of candidates to the Program

2.3 'Graduate Admission Committee 'is a committee comprising of the Faculty members of the University constituted by the Vice-Chancellor

2.4 'Knowledge Centre' is the centre established by the University and for the time being, it shall be the University Library

2.5 'School Research Committee 'means a committee constituted by the Vice-chancellor to supervise Research activities in a School

2.6 'University' means Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.

3. PhD PROGRAMMES OFFERED ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

a. A candidate who wishes to pursue a PhD programme of study and research leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology will be required to seek registration to any one of the programmes under these Regulations. The various modes of PhD Programmes and eligibility to seek registration are detailed below:

Program Code & Name	Description
PhD (R1) Regular PhD	This is a full-time program where the candidate is expected to undertake PhD Program in a full time mode in the University.
PhD (R2) Industry Regular PhD	This is a full-time program suitable for industry applicants. The candidate is expected to work full-time in University or in an Industry Research Lab approved by the University.
PhD (R 3) Part-time PhD	This is a part-time program where the candidate is expected to work with a faculty member remotely while in full-time employment.
PhD (R 4) Integrated PhD	This is a full-time program meant for candidates to undertake PhD directly after a 4-year undergraduate degree. Upon successful completion, students in this program will be awarded a Master's degree followed by a PhD degree.

b. Minimum Eligibility Criteria

For all PhD programmes, except PhD(R4), students having Masters or equivalent qualification with a minimum of 60% is required.   Appropriate relaxations in cut-off shall be applicable for OBC/SC/ST candidates.

A minimum of 6 years (4 years bachelors + 2 years Masters) of study is required for a PhD in Engineering disciplines under the Faculty of Engineering. For non-engineering disciplines (Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Technology), a minimum of 5 years of study including bachelors and masters are required. The candidates who have completed 6 years of study including a bachelor and Masters are eligible to be considered in any faculty, provided they meet the school-specific admission requirements.   The Digital University

Research Aptitude Test (DRAT) or valid NET/JRF or other national fellowship exams approved by University is also a mandate for regular admissions.

3.1 PhD(R1) REGULAR PhD PROGRAMME

Admission requirement

3.1.1 This is a full-time program for students having Masters or equivalent degrees. A total of 6 years of study consisting of 4 years bachelors and 2 years of masters are required to be eligible for a PhD in Engineering disciplines (Faculty of Engineering). While for non-engineering disciplines (Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Technology) a minimum of 5 years of study including bachelors and masters are required. The candidates who have completed 6 years of study including a bachelor and Masters are eligible to be considered in any faculty, provided they meet the school specific admission requirements.

3.1.2 The applicants are shortlisted based on the DRAT or valid GATE score Those who have qualified NET/JRF or any other national fellowship exams approved by UGC in relevant disciplines shall be exempted from DRAT exam. The minimum percentile required in the DRAT/GATE examinations will be fixed by the Graduate Admission Committee every year. Appropriate relaxations in cut-off shall be applicable for OBC/SC/ST candidates. For the admissions for year 2021-22, applicants having a valid Departmental Admission Test (DAT) of Cochin University of Science and Technology from the relevant department will also be considered
3.1.3 Composite score of 80% for DRAT or equivalent, and 20% for educational qualification is used for shortlisting the applicants. Final selection of the shortlisted candidates to the program is done through an interview with the graduate admission committees within the individual schools and must be approved by the academic council.

Program requirements

3.1.4 The minimum total duration of the program is 36 months, with a maximum of 72 months.

3.1.5 In this mode of study, the student shall conduct full-time research work in the university research labs. However, if the work is carried out with the collaboration of any partner organization or collaborative lab in India or abroad, 25% of full time study is allowed to spend there.

3.1.6 Foreign students are allowed only full-time study and research, where the degree is accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency, 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, accrediting or assure quality and standards of educational institutions. For such candidates a valid GRE score is mandatory

3.1.7 Program structure

Year	Remarks
Year 1, Semester 1	Semester 1 will have coursework having 10-15 Credits and research work counting to 0-10 credits.
Year 1, Semester 2	Semester 2 will have coursework having 0-15 Credits and research work counting to 10-30 credits.
Year 2, Semester 1	Semester 1 will have coursework having 0-10 Credits and research work counting to 20-30 credits. A maximum of 16 credits of coursework is allowed across all semesters.
Year 2, Semester 2	Semester 2 will have research work counting to 30 credits.
Year 2, Semester 2	Research work counting to 30 credits. There will be a comprehensive examination having 20 Credits. A pass in comprehensive examination is essential to proceed to the dissertation
Year 3	Year 3 and above will focus purely on doctoral work. Every semester the student will complete 30 credits of research work. The dissertation will account for 100 credits

3.2 PhD(R2) INDUSTRY REGULAR PhD PROGRAMME

Admission requirement

3.2.1   This is a full-time program with students having Masters or equivalent degrees. A total of 6 years of study consisting of 4 years bachelors and 2 years of masters are required to be eligible for a PhD in Engineering disciplines (Faculty of Engineering). While for non-engineering disciplines (Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Technology) a minimum of 5 years of study including bachelors and masters are required. The candidates who have completed 6 years of study including a Bachelor and Master's degree are eligible to be considered in any faculty, provided they meet the school-specific admission requirements.

3.2.2   The applicants are shortlisted based on a composite score calculated based on performance in DRAT/GATE or NET/JRF or any other national fellowship exams approved by UGC in various disciplines, as well as their educational qualifications, work experience and statement of purpose. The DRAT score will be considered valid only if the candidate scores above 60 percentiles. Only the valid GATE score of 80 percentile or above is considered valid for computing the composite score. For candidates who score below the minimum or who do not possess any such scores in the above exams, the admission test score component of the composite score will be treated as zero.

3.2.3 The applicant is required to have at least 5 years of relevant full-time work experience after graduation at an Administrative / Executive level.

3.2.4 The applicant shall be a full-time regular employee of the industry at the time of admission

3.2.5 Composite score of 30% for work experience, 20% for DRAT or equivalent, 20% for statement of purpose, 10% for recommendation letters and 20% for educational qualification is used for shortlisting the applicants. Final selection of the shortlisted candidates to the program is done through an interview with the graduate admission committees within the individual schools, and must be approved by the academic council.

Program requirements

3.2.6 The minimum total duration of the program is 36 months for post-graduates, with a maximum of 72 months.

3.2.7 The students in the first year are required to undergo an in campus residential full time research Internship Program of 45 days.

3.2.8 Every year there is an option for the student to complete a mandatory 15 days of full-time residential program. In subsequent years, the residential component is not mandatory. However, a minimum of 25% of research work will be done at the University

3.2.9 Program structure

Year	remarks
Year 1, Semester 1	Semester 1 will have coursework having 10-15 Credits and research work counting to 0-10 credits.
Year 1, Semester 2	Semester 2 will have coursework having 0-15 Credits and research work counting to 10-30 credits.
Year 2, Semester 1	Semester 1 will have coursework having 0-10 Credits and research work counting to 20-30 credits. A maximum of 16 credits of coursework is allowed across all semesters.
Year 2, Semester 2	Semester 2 will have research work counting to 30 credits.
Year 2, Semester 2	There will be a comprehensive examination having 20 Credits. A pass in comprehensive examination is essential to proceed to the dissertation
Year 3	Year 3 and above will focus purely on doctoral work. Every semester the student will complete 30 credits of research work. The dissertation will account for 100 credits

3.2.10 The minimum total research program credits required to complete is 150 credits.

The course selection and program plan will be decided by the student in consultation with the supervisor.

3.3. PhD(R3) PART-TIME PhD PROGRAMME

Admission requirement

3.3.1 This is a Part-time program with students having Masters or equivalent degrees. A total of 6 years of study consisting of 4 years bachelors and 2 years of masters are required to be eligible for a PhD in Engineering disciplines (Faculty of Engineering). While for non-engineering disciplines (Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Technology) a minimum of 5 years of study including bachelors and masters are required. The candidates who have completed a 6 years of study including a bachelor and Masters are eligible to be considered in any faculty, provided they meet the school specific admission requirements.

3.3.2 The applicant is required to have at least 5 years of relevant full-time work experience after graduation at an Administrative / Executive/ Teaching level.

3.3.3 The applicants are shortlisted based on a composite score calculated based on performance in DRAT/GATE or NET/JRF or any other national fellowship exams approved by UGC in various disciplines, as well as their educational qualifications, work experience and research proposal. The DRAT score will be considered valid only if the candidate scores 60 percentile or above. Only the GATE of 80 percentile or above is considered valid for computing the composite score. For candidates who score below the minimum or who do not possess any such scores in the above exams, the admission test score component of the composite score will be treated as zero.

3.3.4 Composite score of 30% for work experience, 20% for DRAT or equivalent, 20% for the statement of purpose, 10% for recommendation letters and 20% for educational qualification is used for shortlisting the applicants. The final selection of the shortlisted candidates to the program is done through an interview with the graduate admission committees within the individual schools, and must be approved by the academic council.

Program requirements

3.3.5 The minimum total duration of the program is 48 months, with a maximum of 72 months.

3-3-6 The students are required to undergo an on-campus residential full-time research Internship Program of a minimum of 45 normal working days.

3.3.7 Every year the student completes mandatory 15 days of a full-time residential program.

3.3.8 Program Structure

Year	remarks
Year 1-2	The course selection and program plan will be decided by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The part-time students are required to complete 16 credits of coursework A maximum of 16 credits of coursework is allowed across all semesters.
Year 1-2	They are required to pass a comprehensive examination within the first 2 years of their study. The comprehensive examination accounts for 20 credits.
Year 3 and above	The total research program credits required to complete is 150 credits. The dissertation will cover 100 Credits.

3.4. PhD (R4) INTEGRATED PhD PROGRAMME

Admission requirement

3.4.1 This program is meant as a direct admission scheme for people with a 4-year graduation degree in Science, Engineering or any other stream relevant to the School.

3.4.2 The applicants are shortlisted based on the DRAT score (with minimum cut off of 60 percentile) or valid GATE score (with minimum cut off of 80% percentile) . Those who have qualified NET/JRF or any other National fellowship exams approved by UGC in relevant disciplines shall be exempted from DRAT exam. Appropriate relaxations in cut-off shall be applicable for OBC/SC/ST candidates. The minimum percentile required in the DRAT/GATE examinations will be fixed by the Graduate Admission Committee every year.

3.4.3 Composite score of 80% for DRAT or equivalent and 20% of educational qualification is used for shortlisting the applicants. The final selection of the shortlisted candidates to the program will be done through an interview and additional screening exams conducted by the school.

Program requirements

3.4.4   The minimum total duration of the program is 50 months, with a maximum of 72 months.

3.4.5   In this mode of study, the student shall spend more than 60% of full-time study in the university research labs for conducting the research. If the work is carried out with the collaboration of any partner organization or collaborative lab in India or abroad, a maximum of 40% of full-time study in the collaborative lab is allowed

3.4.6   Foreign students are allowed only full time, where the qualifying degree is accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency, 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, accrediting or assure quality and standards of educational institutions. For such candidates a valid GRE score is mandatory

3.4.7   Program structure

Year	structure
Year 1	Semester 1 and Semester 2 will be having the same program requirements as the MTech/Master's program in the relevant disciplines. There will be a mandatory research internship during the summer term. (See PG Regulations)
Year 2	Semester 3 will be having the same program requirements as the MTech/Master's program. (See PG Regulations) In semester 4, the students will be admitted to PhD Program (based on research internship performance). In case, the research internship performance is not satisfactory the students will graduate with a Master's degree.
Year 2	If admitted to a PhD program, then Semester 4 will be research-level coursework (equivalent to Semester 1 of the Regular PhD program).
Year 3	Year 3 and above will focus purely on doctoral work with a full fellowship from the university

4. COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

4.1 All PhD students will have the following mandatory PhD level courses to be completed within the first 2 years of their study:

a. Research Methods and Ethics (3 credits)
b. Technical Writing (1 credit)
c. Pedagogy Design (3 credits)
d. Design Thinking and Translational Research (3 credits)

4.2 Part-time PhD students can complete up to 15 credits during their mandatory on-campus visits.

5. GRADUATE ADMISSION COMMITTEE

5.1 The graduate admission committee shall consist of:

a. Head of the School
b. Two faculty members from the school
c. One faculty member from another school nominated by the Dean Academics

6. DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

6.1   Composition of Doctoral Research Committee (DUDC)
6.2   The DUDC consists of the following members.
    (a)   Research Supervisor(s) (and co-supervisor if any)
    (b)   Two nominees of School Research committee who are subject experts within the University or Outside
6.3   The research supervisor should be a primary or secondary member of the school in which the student is enrolled. The doctoral committee may recommend additional co-supervisors based on the requirements of the project for approval by Dean academic.
6.4   The DUDC meets every 6 months to evaluate the student progress.
6.5   The DUDC is responsible for guiding the scholar in selecting the right courses and topics for the comprehensive examination.
6.6   The DUDC in consultation with the school research committee decides on the eligibility and readiness level of the PhD scholar's thesis to be considered for evaluation.
6.7.   The DUDC is responsible to submit a panel of ten external reviewers of International standing for assessing the PhD thesis

7. SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

7.1   In each School of the University, academic matters related to the PhD programme shall be supervised by a School Research Committee consisting of the following:
7.2   Head of the School: Chairman (ex-officio)

7.3 All the Professors of the School: (ex-officio)

7.4 Associate Professors in the School, subject to a maximum of two, by rotation according to seniority;

7.5 Two Assistant Professors in the Department qualified to be Research (PhD) Supervisor(s), by rotation according to seniority; and

7.6 One nominee of the University Research Office

7.7 One external expert to be called by the Head of School out of the panel drawn by the BoS.

7.8 Where a school has a strength of fewer than ten teachers, all faculty members eligible to be Research (PhD) Supervisors and shall be members of the School Research Committee. The term of the members of the School Research Committee, except the ex-officio members, shall be for two years.

7.9 At least, 50% of the members shall be required to be present in the meeting to form the quorum, with the presence of the Chairman or his/her representative as mandatory.

8. Allotment of Supervisor

8.1 Once the selection process is completed and on approval by the   University,   the selected candidates will be admitted to the PhD programme of the respective schools after payment of fees and verification of all records

8.2 The students should join the institute within a month from the date of publishing of the rank list or within the last date given by the University/School, failing which his/ her admission will be cancelled automatically and need to re-apply in the next turn.

8.3 Allotment of research scholars to the Research Supervisor will be based on the preference indicated by the student, and the availability of the supervisors. The allocation is confirmed by the School Research Committee, and approved by the Head of School, and notified to the Dean (Academic).

8.4 Depending on the nature of the research to be carried out and the preferences of the Research Supervisor and the research scholar or considering the interdisciplinary nature, a co-supervisor may have opted. If the supervisor is about to retire (within three years), the appointment of a Co-supervisor shall be mandatory. Recommendation for a Co-supervisor shall be made with valid reasons and justification.   Co-supervisor may be taken from other schools for interdisciplinary topics. Co-supervisor shall be appointed by the academic head of the schools and notified to the Dean(Academic) of the University. In any case, there shall not be more than two co-supervisors for a research scholar.

8.5 An industry mentor is mandatory to be allocated for Industry regular programs. They can be part of the DUDC of the student concerned provided they meet the qualifications of co-supervisor.

9. Qualifications of Research Supervisor

9.1 The research supervisor must have a PhD and should have published at least two papers, after the submission of the thesis. A full-time Professor of the University can be a supervisor only if he/she is having at least five research publications in refereed journals

9.2 The research supervisor must be a full-time faculty member of the university.

9.3 The co-supervisor shall have a PhD and can be nominated by the research supervisor to DUDC for approval by the school research committee. In the case of Industry Regular PhD, Co-Supervisor can be a person with proven research credentials like patents, publications etc.

10. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE (CEEC)

10.1 The Comprehensive Examination is evaluated by the CEEC consisting of the following members:
   a. Research Supervisors(s)
   b. One nominee of the School Research committee
   c. One nominee of Controller of Examinations from within the University
   d. External member nominated by COE

10.2 The objective of the Comprehensive Examination is to test the general competence of the research scholar and the breadth of his/her knowledge in his/her discipline and areas related to his/her field of research. The comprehensive exam shall usually consist of a written test and an oral examination, viva and/or any of these as per the decision by the school research committee.

10.3 If the performance of a research scholar in the Comprehensive Examination in the first attempt is not satisfactory, he/she will be given one more opportunity to appear for the comprehensive examination within six months of the first attempt. If a candidate fails to clear the comprehensive exam in two attempts, his/her registration shall be cancelled. The Comprehensive Examination Committee shall intimate to the research scholar sufficiently in advance the scope of the Comprehensive Examination, to enable the scholar to adequately prepare for it.

10.4 The PhD research scholars are normally expected to complete the Comprehensive Examination successfully within the first 2 years of his/her registration for the programme. For both written and oral components for the comprehensive examination, the DUDC shall decide the modalities.

11. THESIS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (TEC)

11.1 The thesis evaluation committee is responsible for the assessment of the final thesis. The committee consists of the following members:
   a. Chair from another School nominated by the Controller of Examinations
   b. Research Supervisor (convener)
   c. Three external examiners, of which at least one from an Institution outside India and one from an institution outside the University.
   d. At least one of the external examiners' work must be referred to by the scholar in the thesis.

11.2 Open defence and in-camera viva voce will be conducted by TEC with examiners joining on physical or virtual mode

11.2 The panel of examiners will be approved by the School Research Committee, Dean Academic, Controller of Examinations and Vice-Chancellor.

11.3 A 10-member panellist will be submitted by the supervisor, approved by Dean Academics and will be submitted to the Controller of Examinations. Out of 10 members, four will be outside India, six will be outside the University, of which four will be outside Kerala.

11.4 This list of panel members will be normally in the academic rank of Professors/Associate Professors, having outstanding research records as judged by their past research publications, working in the concerned or related topics of the thesis. The external examiner should have had previous experience with the supervision and examination of doctoral students. The works of at least one of the external examiners should have been cited in the PhD thesis.

11.5 A person is ineligible to serve as an external examiner if, concerning the Candidate or any member of the Candidate's Supervisory Committee, there are any conflicts of interests. Examples of conflicts of interest for external examiner with student or student's Supervisory Committee includes but not limited to being:
   a blood relative; or
   a research collaborator and/or co-author within the past 6 years; or
   an institutional colleague within the past 6 years; or
   a former supervisor (for the Candidate, Supervisor or Co-Supervisor only); or
   a person who has offered future employment or mentorship to the Candidate; or
   a former student; or
   involved in a dispute; or
   involved in a business or personal partnership with the candidate

11.6 It is the responsibility of the external examiner, supervisory committee members and students to declare any such conflicts of interest.

12. THESIS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

12.1 An open pre-submission seminar will be conducted before the DUDC and an observer nominated by the Dean-Academics. A sufficient number of participants will

be ensured for the presentation. All corrections shall be made by the scholar before submitting the final synopsis.

12.2   The research scholar in discussion and approval of the research supervisor(s) initiates the process of thesis submission by submitting a synopsis of the thesis for approval by DUDC. The scholar is required to submit the thesis within 3 months from the date of submission of the synopsis. All thesis reports are subjected to plagiarism checks through the Knowledge Centre.

12.3   If a scholar anticipates a delay in submitting his/her thesis within three months from the date of synopsis submission, he/she can request a three-month extension for thesis submission to DUDC with sound justifications. However, it is the responsibility of the scholar to ensure that his/her registration remains valid for the time claimed. Any request made to DUDC for approval of 3 months extension shall be made at least 4 weeks before the deadline, and DUDC reserves the right to allow or deny such requests. The DUDC shall inform its decision to the Dean Academic and Controller of Examinations. They shall review the findings and make the final approval of deadline extension and grant extension for three months. The PhD scholar can get an extension of the thesis at most two times, and their registration will stand terminated if the thesis is not submitted within the stipulated time frame. The scholars are not allowed to use academic leave to extend the thesis submission date.

12.4   The DUDC evaluates the readiness of the thesis to be considered for submission, and if found suitable, will be recommended for evaluation to the school research committee. On the DUDC recommendation of submission of a thesis, the research supervisor(s) prepares and submits the panel of Ten external examiners to the school research committee.

12.5   The school research committee reviews the school-wide quality requirements, examines the panel of examiners and notifies the Dean Academic on the need for evaluation of the thesis.

12.6   The Dean Academic reviews the recommendation of the school research committee, verifies the compliance of university vide norms and recommends the Controller of Examinations to initiate the evaluation process.

12.7   The Controller of Examination constitutes the thesis evaluation committee in discussion with Research Supervisor(s).

12.8   The review reports from three external reviewers are collected by the office of the Controller of Examination. The evaluation reports are required to be collected within three months from the date of submission of the thesis.

12.9   The CoE intimates the research supervisor on the revisions if any to be performed by the student based on review reports. Where the thesis is rejected by any of the reviewers, the thesis will stand rejected and be informed to the TEC chair Deans, and Vice-Chancellor.

12.10   The research supervisor verifies the revisions made, and if satisfactory, submits the revised thesis to the CoE with the approval of the TEC chair.

12.11   CoE validates the revised thesis report and informs the Dean Academics to conduct the open defence in discussion TEC chair and research supervisor.

12.10   The TEC can recommend revising, approve or reject the thesis at any stage of the thesis evaluation process. The Vice-Chancellor will be the final approving authority of the award of a PhD degree. The Vice-Chancellor may consult with the Deans and Chair of the TEC before making the final approval.

13.CRITERIA FOR AWARD

13.1   In the PhD program, it is required to complete the course work with a minimum CGPA of 6.

13.2   In the Comprehensive examination, it is expected that the student achieves a GP of a minimum of 6 (grade of C or above)

13.3   For the research work undertaken as part of the PhD program, it is expected that the scholar published 2 journal papers and 2 conference papers of high standing as defined by the school. The school research committee shall decide on the quality of the journals and conference papers that counts towards the requirement of the PhD program.

13.4   The pass in the dissertation is decided by the positive referee reports and performance in the final defence. There will be an open defence for the general public and will be aimed at popular media. The final defence will be closed in the presence of TEC.`

13.5   The decision of TEC will be informed to the research scholar soon after or during the final defence. The Vice-Chancellor will be the final approving authority of the award of a PhD degree.

14. FEES AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Tuition Fee

14.1   There will be a tuition fee of Rs 50,000 per year for the minimum duration for all the programs starting in 2021. The tuition fee can be updated yearly.

14.2   Beyond the minimum duration of the program, there will be a fee increase of 25% in subsequent years of study.

14.3   The schools can set additional lab fees on top of tuition fees based on the requirements of the program. This shall be outlined in the School's program documents and have to be approved by the board of studies and academic council.

Other Fees

14.4   The additional fees such as lab fees, registration fees, library fees, admission fees, examination fees etc vary from year to year and will be announced annually along with the admission call.

14.5   University Scholarship

(I)   Integrated PhD Program

Year	Remarks	Degree
Year 1	Full fee with no fee concession and scholarship.	M.Tech/MSc
Year 2	50% fee concession with no scholarship.	M.Tech/MSc
Year 3	100% fee concession and a scholarship amount of Rs 20,000 per month after clearing the comprehensive exam.	PhD
Year 4	100% fee concession and a scholarship amount of Rs 30,000 per month	PhD
Year 5	50% fee concession with no scholarship support.	PhD
Year 6	50% fees are required and no scholarship support is offered.	PhD
Year 7 or above	Re-registration with the full fee is required from Year 7 onwards	PhD

(II)Regular PhD Program

Year	Remarks

Year 1	100% fee concession and after clearing the comprehensive exam a scholarship of Rs 20,000 per month is provided. A comprehensive exam can be at the earliest taken by the end of the first semester.
Year 2	100% fee concession and Rs 25,000 per month
Year 3-4	100% fee concession and Rs 30,000 per month
Year 5-6	50% fee concession and no scholarship.
Year 7 or above	Re-registration with the full fee is required from Year 7 onwards

(III) Part-Time and Industry Regular PhD

14.5 No fee concessions or scholarships are offered by the University towards their study.

14.6 Part-Time and Industry regular participants also will have a special fee of Rs 50,000 from year 2 onwards in addition to the tuition fee

Additional benefits

14.7 For all the programs, Rs 25,000 per year as a contingency after clearing comprehensive examination towards research expenses, conferences etc.for a maximum period of 3 years subject to satisfactory research performance (the amount can be accumulated).

14.8 The schools may offer additional scholarships for integrated PhD and PhD candidates depending on the external funding support obtained. The students may also opt for research assistance or teaching assistance support offered by the supervisor or university.

15. DIGITAL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH APTITUDE TEST

15.1 Digital University Research Aptitude Test (DRAT): Online Applications are twice a year from eligible candidates for the DRAT for determining eligibility for admission to PhD Programme. The validity of the DRAT is for two years and the short-listed candidates, who cleared the test will be published on the website.

15.2 The DRAT exam will consist of English (for 30 marks), Maths (30), One subject-specific to the school (40). The school can offer multiple subject specific tests related to areas of specialization, and the students have the option to select up to a maximum of two subject tests in which they desire to apply. The subject tests need to be taken in the school that the applicant intends to seek admission to.

15.3   The final selection shall be through school-wise written tests and/or personal interview and/ or presentations as decided by the School from time to time. The selection of the candidate is the responsibility of the schools, subject to the instructions or amendments of the University from time to time. The selection of the candidate will be provisional until the final approval by the University.

15.4   Applications submitted for seeking admission in a particular school cannot be transferred to any other school. If a candidate wishes to apply for admission in more than one school, he/she shall submit separate applications.

Admission

15.5   Once the selection process is completed and on approval by the University, the selected candidates will be admitted to the Ph D programme of the University and allotted to respective schools after payment of fees and verification of all records.

15.6   The students shall join the institute within a month or the last date given by the University/School from the date of publishing of the rank list. Otherwise, his/ her admission will cancel automatically and need to re-apply in the next turn.

15.6.1 Allotment of research scholars to the Research Supervisor will be made by the academic head of the schools, subject to approval by the Dean Academic of the University, depending on the availability of vacancy of the supervisors and preferences of the Research Supervisor and the research scholar.

15.6.2 For Industry and R&D External research, there should be an external mentor in the parent organization having a PhD in the respective field.

Registration

15.7   The Doctoral Committee shall approve the proposed research topic, the date of registration for the PhD programme, considering the recommendation of the Research Supervisor, and co-supervisor. Then the registration order will be issued to the student by the university academic office with the approval of Dean Academic.

16. MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION

16.1   The minimum period of study and research for full-time research scholars required from the date of registration to the date of submission of the thesis and the   maximum duration is as follows:

Mode	Faculty	Qualifying Degree	Minimum	Maximum
Full-time	Engineering	M Tech	36 months	72 months

	Engineering	MSc	50 months	90 months
	Engineering	B Tech	50 months	90 months
Full-time	Science, Social Science, Technology	MSc	36 months	72 months
	Science, Social Science	MA	36 months	72 months
Part-time	Science, Social Science, Technology,	MSc	48 months	72 months
	Engineering	M Tech	48 months	72 months

17. RELIEF FROM PhD PROGRAMME TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT

17.1 Scholars who have a job offer can obtain relief from the program upon recommendation by the DUDC if they have completed the minimum residential requirement, the course work, the comprehensive examination and the research proposal seminar

17.2 The scholar should keep the registration alive by payment of the requisite fees every semester. Renewal of the registration for every semester will be considered only if the DUDC finds the scholar's progress to be satisfactory and recommends continuance of registration. Whether the scholar retains scholarship during this period will depend on the rules, conditions and regulations of the specific scholarship they receive.

18. TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

18.1 A scholar may be permitted by the Dean Academic to withdraw from the program for a period not longer than a semester for health reasons or any other valid grounds if recommended by the DUDC. The maximum time permitted for temporary withdrawal from the program is for one year, which may be taken continuously with the reapproval by the DUDC.

19. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

19.1.1 If the research progress of a scholar is found to be unsatisfactory over a long time the DUDC may recommend cancellation of registration after a periodic review of the progress.

19.1.2 The registration is liable to be cancelled if the scholar does not enrol every semester.

19.2 The registration of a research scholar, who has not submitted his/ her thesis before the end of the maximum permissible period, will be cancelled.

20. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

20.1 Research supervisor (s) - The research supervisor will be primary contact for PhD students, and will be responsible for providing mentorship and guidance throughout the duration of PhD studies.

20.2 Academic Council - All matters relating to PhD regulations shall be approved by the Academic Council and placed for information to the senate. Dean Academic and Associate Dean Academic shall regularly update the on the overall status of the doctoral programs to the Academic Council and Senate.

20.3 School committee - The research committee within the school shall monitor the progress of the PhD program from time to time. The chair of the school shall be the representative of all the school committees, who shall liaise with the Dean and Associate Dean Academic on all matters about the quality assurance and monitoring of the PhD program.

20.4 Dean Academic - Dean Academic serves to monitor, allocate and approve various committees constituted for doctoral studies. Also, the dean academic is responsible to make decisions on the recommendations of the various doctoral committees.

20.5 Associate Dean Academic - Any program revisions, monitoring and quality enhancement of the PhD program shall be initiated with the approval/concurrence of Associate Dean Academic. Associate Dean Academic may from time to time take any roles assigned by the Dean Academic or Vice-Chancellor for ensuring the high quality and standards of the doctoral program.

20.6 Vice-Chancellor - The Vice-Chancellor is the final approving authority of the doctoral thesis. He/she shall act on behalf of the University Senate, as the chair of the Senate to deliberate or initiate any proceedings required for ensuring the high standing of the doctoral program in consultation with the Academic Council, from time to time.

21. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

21.1   Every scholar is required to observe disciplined and decorous behaviour both inside and outside the campus and should not indulge in any activity, which will bring down the prestige of DUK.

21.2   Any act of indiscipline of a scholar reported to the Dean of Academic will be referred to a Discipline and Welfare Committee nominated by the Senate. The committee will investigate and recommend suitable punishment if it finds the charges substantiated. The recommendation of the Committee will be considered by the Academic Council, which will authorize the Dean of Academic to take appropriate action. The Dean (Academic) will report the action taken at the next meeting of the Senate.

Appeal: *The scholar may appeal to the Chair, Senate whose decision will be final.*