

## **PhD FAQs**

### **1. What is the minimum qualification for admission to a PhD Program in DUK?**

Minimum qualification for admission to a PhD program is Master's Degree in the relevant field. Kindly refer to the concerned PhD program on Website (Programs & their eligibility) for exact details on percentage requirement and relevant subject areas.

### **2. To apply for a PhD program at DUK, is it mandatory that I have with me a mark sheet of my master's program, till the final semester?**

No. It is not mandatory to have all P.G mark sheets to apply. At the time of submission, you should have at least 3 semesters of mark sheets from your Master's study. However, your final admission will be subject to producing all the mark sheets.

### **3. Can I apply to the PhD program by personally visiting the campus and submitting a hard copy?**

No, PhD Application forms can only be filled and submitted online through the website [www.duk.ac.in/doctoral-programmes/](http://www.duk.ac.in/doctoral-programmes/)

### **4. When can I apply to a PhD program at DUK?**

The Ph.D.. Application forms are accepted twice a year i.e.

For January Session - Between October to December

For July Session - Between April to June

### **5. Who all are expected to submit an NOC (No Objection Certificate)?**

If you are in a job, then it is mandatory for you to produce an NOC from your employer at the time of joining.

### **6. What is the admission procedure?**

After scrutiny of the applications in all respects and is accepted, you will be asked to appear for an DRAT exam (unless you are exempted due to GATE/NET/JRF or similar or any other national fellowship exams approved by UGC in relevant disciplines) followed by an Interview at the campus or by online means. The selected candidates will be intimated by email.

**7. In the PhD entrance test, what subject will I be tested in and what is the difficulty level?**

The syllabus for the DRAT examination is provided on the website. The examination aims to test the basic knowledge on the subject.

**8. On what basis is a candidate selected for a PhD program at DUK University?**

Following parameters are considered for shortlisting the applicants to a PhD Program at DUK:

- Score in the DRAT or GATE/NET or similar national test approved by UGC
- Proposed research idea and interest
- Academic record

The final selection is purely based on the performance in the final Interview.

**9. I have completed MPhil. Will I be exempted from the Ph.D. Entrance Test?**

Exemptions are given as per DUK University guidelines based on latest U.G.C regulations where applicable.

**10. I have a rich teaching /corporate work experience, Am I exempted from the Entrance Test?**

No, you must go through the entire selection procedure.

**11. Is PhD available in distance mode?**

No, DUK does not offer PhD Programs on distance mode. However, industry regular and part-time programs are available to perform research remotely.

**12. How is a research topic/ preliminary research idea decided?**

Research topic is conceptualized by the candidate. The candidates are encouraged to contact DUK faculty within the area of interest for help.

**13. Is the preliminary research idea uploaded at the time of applying, final?**

Not necessarily. You are allowed to modify/ improve upon your research idea with the help of your appointed Guide after registering for the PhD program.

#### **14. How do I write the preliminary research idea?**

Refer to the guidelines available on <https://duk.ac.in/doctoral-programmes/> under Application Procedure.

#### **15. Does the University provide any Hostel facility to a PhD scholar?**

Hostel facilities may be offered to full time research scholars subject to availability. There will be hostel fees that need to be paid by the student. The hostel facility for family is not currently provided.

#### **16. What is the pattern of classes for full time and part time candidates during the first-year coursework?**

For full time PhD candidates, classes are normally held during the weekdays between 8.30 am – 6.00 pm. Being a residential program, classes may be conducted any time of the day, upon the mutual agreement of faculty and students.

For part-time PhD students, classes may be conducted any time of the day, upon the mutual agreement of faculty and students.

#### **17. How is a Guide and Co-Guide decided?**

The Main Guide and Co-Guide are decided by the *Departmental Research Committee (DRC)* and *Faculty Research Committee (FRC)*. The Main Guide will have to be from DUK, who are full-time faculty members and recognized as guides. The Co-Guide, if required, is expected to be from outside DUK. A Co-Guide will be appointed only after his/her profile is approved by the university authorities

#### **18. Am I assigned a Guide by the university or I select one on my own and when?**

A candidate is assigned a Guide by the University after admission to the PhD program. Appointment of a Guide is based on availability of an eligible guide, candidate's area of research and candidate's preference as given by him/her in a form after having met all the eligible guides of the university after joining the program.

#### **19. How many Guides am I allowed to work with?**

You will have a doctoral research committee, consisting of a primary supervisor, co-supervisor, and experts. Your primary supervisor will be the main point of contact to determine the number of guides and collaborators you need to work to complete the PhD.

**20. Am I allowed to change my appointed Guide during the PhD program?**

There is a possibility to change the supervisor on a case-to-case basis. You will have to raise the request through the school research committee, who will coordinate the process.

**21. Is a transfer to/ from another University possible during a PhD program?**

No transfers are not possible at any stage.

**22. What are the criteria for Exemption from the Course work?**

There are no exemptions from the course work.

**23. I have rich teaching experience; can I get exemption from the course work?**

There are no exemptions from the course work.

**24. Can I complete course work at my workplace?**

No, there is no such arrangement/relaxations in rules.

**25. Is it mandatory to publish a research paper before submitting the thesis for award of PhD degree from DUK University?**

Yes, minimum two papers in reputed journals and two in conferences. However, the typical requirements for excellence can be higher than the minimum, which will be decided based on the mutual understanding between the doctoral committee and the student.

**26. Is the PhD degree conferred by DUK University recognized in India and abroad? And is it valid for Indian Government jobs?**

Yes. The PhD programs for state university is recognized in India. The rules for countries abroad may vary, however, in general the degrees awarded by state university in India is considered valid abroad. The degrees are valid for applying for Government jobs.

**27. Can PhD Scholars apply for DUK's fellowship program?**

Yes, only Full- Time PhD scholars are considered for fellowship after they get selected to the PhD program.

**28. Do all Ph.D. scholars get stipend/financial assistance for PhD program at DUK?**

All regular full-time students will get stipends. Full time scholars who are JRF/SRF holders of NET of UGC/CSIR/ICMR/ICAR/INSPIRE or any other fellowship and have joined the program within the validity period, get fellowship/grants from their respective funding organizations to pursue PhD at DUK. Additionally, DUK University offers opportunities to full time scholars to work in the ongoing projects on campus. You can contact the prospective supervisor on the availability of project positions. Beside this, teaching assistantships may be offered to full time Ph.D. scholars.

**29. As a full time Ph.D. student, can I work after classes to support myself financially?**

Yes, if you attend coursework classes regularly and maintain an attendance of 75 % which is mandatory, you may engage in part time work inside or outside the campus with the knowledge of your Guide. However, you will have to comply with regulations of the corresponding scholarships.

**30. What is the difference between the faculty of technology and faculty of engineering?**

The faculty of engineering awards only engineering degrees. The input requirement to the faculty of engineering degree is a M.Tech or MS(research) or equivalent in a relevant engineering field.

The faculty of technology awards broadly technology degrees. The input requirement to the faculty of technology degree is a M.Tech/MS(research) or MSc or MSc Tech or equivalent degree in a relevant science, engineering or technology field.

**31. What are the eligibility conditions for a mentor in case of Industry Integrated PhD ?**

The mentor should be a senior colleague or a reporting manager within the same organization. In case of startups, or senior management, the mentor can be someone outside his/her organization who have higher experience than the applicant.

**32. Can I apply for more than one schools at the same time and more than one type together.**

Yes. An applicant can apply for more than one school at the same time. and also, can apply more than one mode i. e. Part time and Regular PhD together by using same login credentials.

**33. What is meant by statement of purpose (SOP)? How many words are needed ?**

The SOP need to contain a truthful account of your interest and motivation in carrying out research work. Examples of experiences are welcome. Refer to the application on the word limits.

**34. Is there any age limit for applying for a PhD?**

There is no age limit for any mode and in any schools.

**35. Do candidates who have cleared CUSAT DAT and applied for PhD in IIITM-Kneed to take the DRAT?**

Those who have cleared CUSAT DAT and who have already applied for PhD in IIITM-K are exempted from the DRAT for the May 2021 PhD admission.