

3. Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Programme:

The following are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. programme:

(3.1) Candidates who have completed:

A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme in the same or allied subjects after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme, or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme in the same or allied subjects after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme, or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree in the same or allied subjects by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

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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 the respective country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time.

(3.2) Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme in the same or allied subject according to UGC regulations (Minimum Standard and procedure for award of M.Phil./PhD degree, 2016 and subsequent amendments) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.

Candidates possessing a Degree considered equivalent to the M.Phil. Degree of an Indian Institution, from a Foreign Educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established, recognized or incorporated by law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country empowered for assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme.

4. Duration of the Programme:

(4.1) Ph.D. Programme 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.

(4.2) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

Re-registration may be allowed on recommendation of RAC routed through relevant statutory bodies provided the candidate applies with the recommendation of RAC within one year from the date of expiry of their regular tenure of six (6) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme. A candidate can apply for re-registration only after 6 years from the date of admission.

Any extraordinary situation may be referred to the Chairperson, Board of Research Studies (BRS), through RAC and Departmental Research Committee (DRC), for decision which should later be recorded in the relevant statutory bodies.

Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total



period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme. This additional relaxation can only be applied for after expiry of eight (8) years from the date of admission,

(3) Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

5. Procedure for admission:

(5.1) Candidates will be admitted to Ph.D. programme through an Entrance Test/ CUET.

(5.2) Bonus marks in the following categories may be awarded:

i) A student having PG degree from Assam University will get 10% of their PG grade/percentage of marks as bonus over the entrance examination score.

ii) UGC-NET (LS)/ UGC-CSIR (LS)/ SLET/GATE/ CEED qualified candidates will get 10% of their PG marks as bonus and, UGC-NET JRF/ UGC-CSIR JRF/ ICMR-JRF qualified candidates will get 20% of their PG marks as bonus

iii) Research fellow in an externally funded research project of two or more years duration will get additional 10% of their PG marks as bonus.

iv) Candidates with M.Phil. degree as per UGC regulations (Minimum Standard and procedure for award of M.Phil./PhD degrees, 2016 and its subsequent amendments) will get 10% of their coursework grade/percentage of marks as bonus.

These will be included at the time of preparation of merit list.

A candidate may avail bonus marks from the above categories cumulatively up to a maximum ceiling of 30%.

(5.3) The University shall:

(5.3.1) Decide on an annual basis through the DRC, a predetermined and manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted depending on the number of available Research Supervisors and other academic and physical facilities available, keeping in mind the norms regarding the scholar-teacher ratio, laboratory, library and such other facilities. Each department shall declare its vacancy of Ph.D. seats in the PhD prospectus. A vacancy is created under a supervisor as and when a dissertation/ thesis is submitted by a student working under the supervision of the concerned faculty to the Department and certificate to this effect is issued by the COE.

(5.3.2) Issue admission notification on the University website and through advertisements at least two weeks in advance in at least three (3) newspapers, of which at least one shall be national and one in the regional language. The number of seats for admission, subject/ discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, procedure for admission, examination centre(s) where entrance test(s) will be conducted and all other relevant information will be provided on the University website at least two weeks in advance.

(5.3.3) Follow reservation policy of GOI.

(5.4) The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the University, keeping in view the guidelines/ norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned, and considering the reservation policy of the GOI from time to time.

(5.5) Candidates will be selected through a two-stage process that is:

(5.5.1) A Written Test conducted by the university to test the knowledge of research methodology (50%) and the relevant subject (50%). Qualifying marks for the test will be 50%. The test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance. Changes of Centres, if any, are also to be notified well in advance.

(5.5.2) An interview, to be organized by the concerned department where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted DRC.

(5.5.3) Provided that for the selection of candidates based on the entrance test conducted by the University, a weightage of 70 % for the entrance test and 30 % for the performance in the interview/viva- voce shall be given.

(5.6) The DRC during interview shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

(5.6.1) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;

(5.6.2) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the department concerned;

(5.6.3) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/ additional knowledge.

(5.6.4) a candidate may not be selected for admission unless the above-mentioned criteria are fulfilled.

(5.6.5) DRC will allocate the supervisor to the candidate and this will be published during the publication of the selection list.

(5.7) A scholar admitted to the Ph.D. program shall pay the fees as prescribed by the university from time to time.

(5.8) The University shall maintain the year-wise list of all the Ph.D. scholars on its website. The list shall include the name of the scholars, topic of research, name of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s), date of admission/ registration. A unique enrolment number will be assigned to each admitted candidate.

(5.9) A relaxation of 5 % marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time.

(5.10) The department may decide the number of eligible students to be called for personal interview based on seats available in a particular department.

