



PUNYASHLOK AHILYADEVI HOLKAR SOLAPUR UNIVERSITY, SOLAPUR

Final Rules for Ph.D. Programme

(In accordance with UGC Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degrees Regulations, 2022 as published in the Gazette of India dated, 07th Nov, 2022 and UGC notification of 14th Nov, 2022 and approved by the Academic Council in its meeting held on 13th May, 2024)

Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur offers the programme for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in respective subjects under the Faculties of Humanities, Commerce & Management, Science & Technology and Interdisciplinary Studies.

R. Ph.D. 1 - Date of Application:

A candidate desirous to seek admission to the Ph.D. degree should apply to the University on or before the date as notified by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. For details candidates should visit Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University's official website time to time.

R. Ph.D. 2 - Eligibility Criteria for admission to PhD Programme:

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

2.1 Candidates who have completed:

A one-year/two-semester master's degree program following completion of a four-year/eight-semester bachelor's degree program, or a two-year/four-semester master's degree program after a three-year bachelor's degree program. Alternatively, candidates who have finished their studies under the pre-NEP 2020 structure of 3+2 (UG+PG) or 4+2 (UG+PG), or hold qualifications deemed equivalent to a master's degree by the relevant statutory regulatory body, with a minimum aggregate of 55% marks or equivalent grade on a grading scale, where applicable.

Or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized 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.

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 University Grants Commission from time to time.

Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. 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 commission from time to time.

2.2 Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. Programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from 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 educational institutions, 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 Commission from time to time.

R. Ph.D. 3 - Duration of the Programme:

3.1 Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including coursework, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. Programme.

3.2 A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given as per the Statute/Ordinance of the University concerned; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (08) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. Programme. 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 Candidates as per Provisions mentioned in above clause 3.2 shall apply to the University before 3 months of the expiry of the maximum duration for extension of time.

R. Ph.D.4 - Procedure for Admission to Ph.D :

4.1 The Concerned Section of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University shall notify on an annual basis a predetermined and manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted depending on the vacancies available with Research Supervisors (as prescribed under UGC norms with respect to the Scholar–Research Supervisor ratio) and other academic and physical facilities available.

4.2 The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University shall release the Notification for admission to Ph.D. well in advance on its website and through advertisement in newspapers. The detailed information including 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) shall be conducted and all other relevant information for the benefit of the candidates shall be made available on University official website.

4.3 The admission to Ph.D. programme shall be based on the criteria notified by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the University Grants Commission and other statutory bodies concerned and considering the reservation policy of the Central/State Government prescribed from time to time.

4.4 All admissions for Ph.D. programmes shall be made through a Ph.D. Entrance Test (PET) and interview/interaction conducted by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University. However, candidates qualified with NET/SET/SLET/GATE/Inspire fellowship/GPAT/M.Phil. (degree awarded before the enactment of these regulations) and candidates of foreign nationality are exempted from appearing for the PET as per R4.5 and R4.6 below. The Merit list of Ph.D. admission shall be prepared as per the eligibility criteria of respective programmes. However, it is not mandatory for such a candidate to avail such exemption and he/she may appear for PET for admission.

4.5 The candidates qualified with NET/SET/SLET/GATE/Inspire fellowship/GPAT/ M.Phil. (degree awarded before the enactment of these regulations), in concerned subject need not appear for entrance test (but application online for PET examination is mandatory with requisite fees) and the marks obtained by such candidate in his/her qualifying P.G. degree in concerned subject will be considered for preparation of merit list. Only the valid scores of GATE / GPAT will be checked for the exemption from PET, disregarding the score validity date.

4.6 Candidates with foreign nationality shall be exempted from appearing PET. However, such candidates must satisfy necessary eligibility criteria and shall appear for interview/interaction in person or through video conferencing. It is not mandatory for such a candidate to avail such exemption and he/she may appear for PET for admission.

- 4.7 Candidates appearing for the post graduate final year examination can appear PET. However, he/she should submit the result of the post graduate final year examination at the time of Ph.D. admission, if fulfils required % of marks. Failure to which shall disqualify the concerned candidate from further process.
- 4.8 Employed candidates shall have to submit no objection certificate from the employer at the time of admission to remain available full time for the programme period.
- 4.9 The admission to the Ph. D. shall be a two-stage process:
- A. The Ph.D. Entrance Test (PET) examination will comprise 50% of the syllabus on Research Methodology and 50% on subject-specific content. Passing criteria stipulate a minimum of 20% marks of total marks (of the both papers) in the Research Methodology section and 50% of the total marks for General Category students. For reserved category students, the requirement is a minimum of 20% marks of total marks (of the both papers) in the Research Methodology section and 45% of the total marks. The PET score will remain valid for two years from the date of examination. If the PET score is valid on the date of advertisement, it will be considered valid. While the Ph.D. admission process may occur twice a year, the PET examination is conducted only once in a year. Students are eligible to appear for multiple subjects based on their respective postgraduate subject qualifications.
 - B. An interview/interaction conducted for all qualified candidates in the ratio of 1:3 for the first round by the Central Admission Committee (CAC) where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area. This interview shall also consider the following aspects:
 - I. Whether the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research
 - II. Whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the proposed research centre
 - III. Whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge, etc.
 - C. If all seats are not filled in the initial round, the Central Admission Committee (CAC) may convene a second round by inviting candidates from the merit list in a ratio of 1:3. During the compilation of the merit list of the candidates who have valid PET score and are eligible to get admission as per the existing Ph.D. Rules. For the second round, priority will be given to students who were not admitted earlier by following their respective merits.
 - d. The PET score will remain valid for two years. However the candidate should apply with his/her score card for each new event to be consider for inclusion in the merit list during the validity period of two years.
- 4.10 A common merit list will be prepared for all candidates including those who have appeared for PET and those who have been exempted from PET under R.4.5 and R.4.6 above. Provided;
- A. The candidates who have appeared for PET, the score obtained in the PET will only be considered for preparation of merit list. Final score for merit list is calculated considering the marks of the candidate in PET (70% weightage) and performance in interview/interaction (30% weightage).
 - B. The candidates who have been exempted from PET under R.4.5 and R.4.6 – Final score for merit list is calculated considering the marks of the candidates in Masters Degree last or two years (70% weightage) and performance in interview/ interaction (30% weightage). If a candidate's Master Degree marks are given in grade point scale, then that shall be converted into percentage using an appropriate conversion formula declared by the concerned University.
 - C. In case if the final score for the merit list of two or more candidates comes to the same, then the marks scored at Masters Degree shall be considered to prepare the order of merit. If a candidate's Master Degree marks are in grade point scale, then that shall be converted into percentage using an appropriate conversion formula declared by the concerned University.
- 4.11 The Merit List prepared as per R 4.10 above will be valid for the admission to Ph.D. programme for that academic year or till the next PET Programme is commenced. However, qualifying PET does not essentially imply the confirmation of Ph.D. admission.
- 4.12 The candidate shall appear for interview/interaction along with the complete preference document as given in Annexure-I.
- 4.13 All admissions to Ph. D. Programme shall be processed through the Central Admission Committee (CAC).

4.14 The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University will maintain the list of all Ph.D. registered students on its website year-wise. The list shall include the name of the registered student, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration, etc.

R. Ph.D. 5 - Entrance Test (PET):

5.1 The PET shall be conducted at the notified centre(s).

5.2 PET will be held online mode or as per university's notification.

5.3 There is no provision for supply of photocopy or re-valuation for PET answer papers. However, the Answer key will be published on the university website within eight days after PET.

5.4 70% of the Ph.D. admission seats are reserved for Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University (Home University) candidates and remaining 30% of the admission seats will be available to other University students.

The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University (Home University) candidate means –

Candidate who has completed his/her UG and/or PG programme from Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University/affiliated colleges/institutions

OR

Candidate who was admitted to UG or PG programme before academic year 2004-05 for first year and before academic year 2005-06 for lateral entry in any of the below institute located in Solapur District -

1. PG Centre of Shivaji University, Kolhapur
2. College / Institution affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur

OR

Candidate who is domicile (by the address proof of domicile certificate OR Aadhar card) of the region covered by the jurisdiction of PAH Solapur University, Solapur.

OR

Candidates working in the University or affiliated colleges under the jurisdiction of PAH Solapur University, Solapur (Proof: Letter of Head of Institute OR University Approval Letter OR Copy of Appointment Letter).

5.5 The reservations for category [SC/ST/VJNT/OBC/EWS (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled/any other] as per the decisions of University Grants Commissions and Government of Maharashtra from time to time will be applicable to Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University (Home University) Quota and Other University Quota separately. In the second round of admission, if the reserved seats remain unfilled even after giving preference to reserved seats, the seats will be filled with open merit to all the eligible candidates.

5.6 There can be exchange of seats between home and other universities, if seats remain vacant in respective categories to accommodate eligible students as per the merit after the first round.

R. Ph.D. 6 - Central Admission Committee (CAC):

Central Admission Committee will be formed for each subject:

6.1 Constitution of the committee shall be as given below:

- i. Chairperson – Director of the School/ Head of the Department / Professor nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor
- ii. Members - Three experts nominated by the Pro Vice Chancellor in consultation with the Dean of the concerned Faculty (Three experts necessarily shall be the research Guides/Supervisors having experience

of guiding minimum two research students. In case of non-availability of such Guides/Supervisors, the condition of two students may be relaxed.)

iii. Member Secretary- Chairman of Board of Studies concerned

(One of the CAC members including Chairman/Members and Member secretary shall be from reserved category and one may be a female member. It is the responsibility of the member from the reserved category to observe and ensure the execution of the reservation policy as per the rules of the Government of Maharashtra at the time of admission process.)

6.2 The Quorum for the CAC meeting will be three.

6.3 The tenure of the CAC will be till the completion of the entire process of admission of one event of the PhD programme.

R.Ph.D. 7 - Central Admission Committee (CAC), Work and Registration Procedure after the Interview/Interaction and submission of the Research Proposal:

7.1 The CAC shall prepare and submit a report based on the interview/interaction and allotment of research supervisor to each eligible candidate to the Ph.D. section for further process. CAC will also monitor the spiral bound research report.

7.2 The procedure for conducting the Central Admission related interviews for finalisation of names by the CAC is as follows:

7.2.1 As suggested by UGC norms CAC shall conduct an interview for a weightage of 30 % and sum it with the 70% marks from Entrance Tests/Based on National tests for finalising the candidate selection after applying all the norms given in 4.10 above.

7.2.2 After the interview, the final list should include the names of the candidates, allotted guides, research center and reservation category of the candidate.

7.2.3 The final list prepared by CAC will be sent to concerned candidates, research guides and research centers by the University for finalising research title and synopsis.

7.2.4 The candidates in consultation with research guides should finalise title and synopsis within one month and submit it to the University through the allotted research centre.

7.3 The concerned section of the university should then place the same before the Research and Recognition Committee (RRC) for final approval.

7.4 The admission/registration will be confirmed after the RRC approves the title and research proposal. The University shall convey the confirmation of admission to all concerned and the candidate shall remit the necessary fees within a period of one month of the receipt of the letter.

7.5 After final registration, the title of the topic and the details of the student, the name and address of the Research Guide/Research Supervisor and the research centre name will be displayed on the University website.

7.6 The registered Ph.D. candidate shall not be allowed to register simultaneously for any other degree course/ programme in regular mode.

7.6. A candidate shortlisted for the admission to the Ph.D. programme should submit the following documents in stipulated time:

i. A self-attested copy of the statement of marks/degree/passing certificate (Post Graduation degree, NET/SET/SLET/GATE/GPAT/ Inspire fellowship etc.).

ii. Migration and Transfer Certificate (whichever is necessary).

iii. The registration form duly filled in and signed along with registration fee as prescribed by the university.

iv. Authenticated copy of professional experience along with copies of the published research work in the proposed area, wherever necessary.

- v.Sponsorship letter from the Institution or Company, wherever necessary.
- vi.No objection certificate from the employer, if the candidate is employed.
- vii.The eligibility form along with requisite documents and fee shall be submitted to the concerned university section. The registration of Ph.D. candidates shall not be confirmed unless the final eligibility certificate is issued by the University.
- viii.Domicile related documents , wherever required.
- ix.Six copies of Ph.D. research proposal as per proforma given in Annexure II enduring all suggestions and guidance given by RAC during interaction within fifteen days of RAC meeting.

R. Ph.D. 8 - Research Advisory Committee (RAC) at each research centre and its Functions:

8.1 There shall be a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for every research centre for each Ph.D. scholar. The RAC shall consist of

- i.Chairperson -Principal/ Director/Head of the Department
- ii.Members - Two experts nominated by the Pro Vice Chancellor in consultation with the Dean of the concerned Faculty (Two experts necessarily shall be the research Guides/Supervisors having experience of successfully guiding minimum two research students. Incase of non-availability of such Guides/Supervisors, the condition of two students may be relaxed.).
- iii.Member - Guide/Supervisor of the research student

8.2 The RAC shall have the following responsibilities, namely:

- i.To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;
- ii.To guide the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do;
- iii.To periodically review and assist the research scholar in the progress of the research work.

8.3 A research scholar shall appear before the RAC once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The research scholar shall also submit a six-monthly progress report to the university which shall be signed by the RAC Member(s)/Expert. The guidelines for six-monthly presentation and format for six monthly progress reports are provided in Annexure VI (a) and VI (b) respectively.

8.4 In case, the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend the University with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

R. Ph.D. 9 - Change in Title:

9.1 If the candidate desires to modify the title and/or the proposed plan of the research, he/she shall submit his/her application duly recommended by the Research Guide/ Supervisor, through the concerned Head of the Department of University/Head of research centre to the RRC.

9.2 The RRC concerned may approve such changes on the recommendation of the research guide and centre head through RAC.

R. Ph.D. 10 - Research Supervisor/Guide:

10.1 The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the CAC, depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview. A candidate

will work under the said recognized research Guide/Supervisor of the University allotted by CAC if he/she is not relative (such as husband/wife/daughter/son/first brother/ first sister) of the Guide/Supervisor/Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor.

10.2 If the RAC believes that the proposed study or research work is of interdisciplinary nature or the research work needs to be supplemented with the expertise from outside, it may appoint a Co-Guide from outside the Department/Faculty/college/university/ institution, who has proven the expertise in the required field. Such Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor shall be allotted to the student with due consent of the Research Guide/ supervisor.

10.3 A Research Guide/Supervisor/Co-supervisor, who is a Professor, at any given point of time, shall guide up to a maximum eight Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor, as Research Supervisor shall guide up to a maximum six Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor, as Research Supervisor shall guide up to a maximum four Ph.D. scholars.

10.4 **Admission of International Students in Ph.D. Programme.**

(1) Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis over and above the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in clause 10.3 above.

(2) The selection procedure for Ph.D. admission of international students as per University Ordinance.

10.5 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.

10.6 A seat will be considered vacant for admission purposes after submission of final Thesis by the research scholar.

10.7 **New Research Guide/Research Supervisor/ Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor:**

a. In case of demise or ineligibility of the Guide/Supervisor on any ground, the Ph.D. section on recommendation of the RAC will allot the new Research Guide/ Supervisor to the affected candidate. This may be placed before the next meeting of RRC for information and necessary action.

b. If 50% or more work has been completed by the candidate under the deceased/previous Research Guide/Research Supervisor, the name of the deceased Guide/Supervisor be printed on the thesis along with the name of new Guide/Supervisor.

c. Based on the academic interest; RAC can allot a co-guide/co-supervisor to the student in consultation with the guide. This may be placed before the next meeting of RRC for information and necessary action.

10.8 **Transfer of Research Guide/ Research Supervisor:**

a. In case of Research Guide/Supervisor gets transferred or leave the institution/research centre where the research scholar is registered and if the research scholar has worked for minimum 3 semesters under this Research Guide/ Supervisor who has been transferred/ left the institute, the research scholar shall continue to work under the same Research Guide/Research Supervisor till the completion of Ph.D. programme.

b. A research scholar who has worked for less than 3 semesters with a Research Guide/ Supervisor who has been transferred/ left the institute, will be transferred to a new Research Guide/Research Supervisor on the recommendation of the RAC at the respective institution/research centre.

If the new research guide is not available for such research scholar, then the research scholar shall continue his/her research work under the same guide till the new guide is allotted or till completion of the research work, whichever is earlier.

10.9 **Change of the Research Guide/ Research Supervisor:**

A research scholar shall submit his/her application for change of research guide /supervisor through the existing Research Guide with his/her 'No Objection Certificate' and forwarded through the Director/Head of the Department/ Principal of the research centre/institution to Ph.D. Section. If the research guide and/or the Director/Head of the Department/ Principal deny forwarding the said application, the research scholar may submit his/her application directly to the Ph.D. section of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University.

The RAC/RRC, on hearing the Research Guide/supervisor shall take decision on such application. In case of dispute, the Hon. Vice-Chancellor's decision will be final.

10.10 In case of relocation of a woman research scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided all other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/supervisor from any funding agency. The research scholar will however give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already done.

10.11 The woman research scholar however needs to obtain the NOC from the new university authorities (through application) for relocation of her research place before shifting. The concerned RRC has to evaluate the request on a case to case basis and give the permission of transfer.

10.12 A woman candidate who is only relocated within the jurisdiction of PAHSU due to marriage or other considerable reason, must obtain the NOC from PAHSU authorities (through proper channel) to continue her research work under a suitable guide of PAHSU. The request application with all relevant documents will be placed before the RRC, where RRC will evaluate the quantum and degree of research work done prior to shifting, the consent of the previous supervisor, NOC of the previous university and availability of a suitable guide, research centre, etc. at PAHSU and then allocate the new research supervisor/co-supervisor as per the situation or refuse to allocate.

10.13 Redressal of Grievance:

10.13.1 In case of any dispute that may arise between a Research Scholar and his/her Research Guide/Supervisor, the Board of Deans shall examine the matter and report to the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur whose decision shall be final.

10.13.2 The report shall include, among other things, specific recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur.

R. Ph.D. 11 - Course Work:

Credit Requirements, number of papers, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc. for Ph.D. programme shall be as under:

11.1 The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics" course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1- 1/2018(Journal/CARE) in 2019 and a research methodology course. The BOS in concerned subject can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.

11.2 All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work and evaluations.

11.3 The examination for the course work will be at a specific Centre assigned by the university. The examination for the course work will be conducted once/twice in a year as required and decided by authorities. Separate passing for each paper is mandatory.

11.4 The course work shall be treated as a prerequisite for Ph.D. programme. All the recognized research centres must conduct classes and practicals for course work as per the syllabus and workload.

11.5 The University Department/recognized research centre of affiliated college or recognized institution/recognized research institution where the scholar pursues his/her research shall organise the course(s) to be completed based on the course work syllabus of the university.

11.6 All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete and pass the course work, as approved by the Academic Council of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur before submission of Final Thesis. However the candidates who have acquired M.Phil. degree prior to the enactment of these regulations will be exempted from course work. They should get such letter of exemption from the university to produce and submit at the time of final submission of the thesis.

11.7 Ph.D. scholars must obtain a minimum of 40% of marks or its equivalent grade in UGC 10- point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the thesis.

11.8 The syllabus and other details of course work shall be made available on the university website.

R. Ph.D. 12 - Evaluation and Assessment Methods, Minimum Standards/Credits for award of the degree, etc.:

12.1 Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed under these rules, the Ph.D. research scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft of thesis within a reasonable time, as per UGC guidelines and stipulated by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University.

12.2 Prior to the submission of the thesis, the research scholar shall submit the five copies of spirally bound thesis to Ph.D. section and make a presentation of his/her work before the CAC which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The suggestions in writing obtained from the CAC should be suitably incorporated into the final thesis. The Draft thesis must be checked for plagiarism from the University Knowledge Resource Centre and a certificate of plagiarism report must be submitted along with the thesis.

12.3 The RRC in the subject concerned shall suggest the names of six examiners/referees to the Hon. Vice Chancellor, out of which three shall be from the Maharashtra State (outside the jurisdiction of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University) and three shall be from India outside the Maharashtra State. Guide/Supervisor may suggest these names to RRC. However, the panel of examiners will be finalized by the RRC. The Guide/Supervisor shall be the internal referee.

12.4 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 employees of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. Such examiner(s) should be academics with a good record of scholarly publications in the field. Wherever possible, one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India. 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. Higher Educational Institutions may formulate appropriate rules/ordinances to effect the provisions of this Regulations.

12.5 The external referees shall communicate their willingness or otherwise to evaluate the Ph.D. thesis within one month of the receipt of University letter. The internal and external referees shall submit their evaluation reports within two/three months of the receipt of the thesis in a prescribed proforma along with a detailed report.

12.6 While submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research guide/Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University where the work was carried out or any other university/institution (Annexure-IV & V). It is mandatory for the research scholar to obtain and submit the report on plagiarism from the Knowledge Resource Centre of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur.

12.7 The Viva-Voce/Open Defence of the research scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the external examiner(s) on the thesis are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conduct of the viva-voce examination. If the evaluation report of an external examiner is unsatisfactory and does not recommend viva-voce, then Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University shall

send the thesis to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners. In such cases, the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the later examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the later examiner is also unsatisfactory, the thesis shall be rejected, and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree. The thesis rejected by both the external referees will not be considered for resubmission.

12.8 If revision of the thesis is suggested by one of the external referees, the thesis shall be revised by the candidate for resubmission as suggested by the referee. The revised thesis shall be sent to the same referee (who has suggested the revision) for evaluation.

12.9 If revision of the thesis is suggested by both the external referees, the thesis is considered for resubmission provided that the following conditions are fulfilled.

i. Half the tuition fee is to be paid by the candidate for resubmitting the thesis after revision along with examination fee.

ii. Laboratory and examination fees are to be paid fully by the candidate for conducting research in the University Departments/Research centre, if required.

iii. The revised thesis will have to be submitted by the candidate within the maximum period of two years.

iv. The revised thesis shall be sent to the same referees for evaluation along with both the previous reports.

If any situational change develops, then the university authorities will take necessary decisions to address the issue.

12.10 The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University shall develop appropriate method / procedure to complete the entire process of evaluation of Ph. D. thesis within a period of six months from the date of submission of the Thesis to university.

The schedule for evaluation of Ph.D. thesis and viva-voce from the date of submission of spiral copy is as follows:

i) Spiral thesis meeting – 4 weeks

ii) Spiral thesis revision and submission of final thesis – 4 weeks

iii) RRC meeting – As per University academic calendar

iv) Communication to external examiners through email/phone, obtaining acceptance through email and sending the thesis – 2 weeks

v) Receiving thesis evaluation reports from referee – 12 weeks

vi) Conduct of viva-voce and declaration of result

R. Ph.D. 13 - Size, Style & Binding of Thesis:

13.1 A candidate submitting Ph.D. Thesis for the award of Ph.D. Degree is required to follow the rules regarding the font, style and binding of thesis, except in special case in which the Guide/Supervisor or Head of the Department recommends that it will not be possible to comply with the requirements of these rules by giving reasons and with the approval of RAC.

13.2 The Thesis shall be written with following Specifications:

i. For Thesis writing, "Times New Roman" font size 12 shall be used. Size of the paper shall be A-4 size, except for drawings, graphs, photographs and maps on which no restriction is placed. A margin of 3.5 cms be maintained with a line spacing of 1.5. A thesis shall be bound in a standardized form and shall be printed on both sides. The thesis for all scripts other than English shall be printed using Unicode fonts (ISM).

ii. The title, degree, year, subject, faculty, name of the student and the Guide/Supervisor, research centre and month and year of submission shall be printed neatly and legibly on the front cover as indicated in Annexure-III

- iii. A thesis which consists of a collection of pamphlets or experts/published papers or a single pamphlet must be bound in a similar manner as said above.
- iv. The candidate shall submit five bound copies of Thesis along with twenty copies of the Abstract and six CDs containing soft copy in pdf format. A candidate may be permitted to submit the abstract and final thesis separately.
- v. The Ph.D. thesis shall contain:
- a. Results of the research stating whether the work is based on the discovery of new facts by the candidate or of new relations of facts observed by others and how the work contributes to the general advancement of knowledge.
 - b. The candidate shall indicate the sources from which his/her information has been derived and the extent to which his/her work is based on the work of others and shall indicate which portion or portions of his/her thesis he/she claims to be original.
 - c. The candidate's Declaration. (Annexure-IV)
 - d. The Guide/Supervisor's Certificate. (Annexure-V)
 - e. The language of Ph.D. thesis shall be English except for the thesis in modern European and Indian languages.
 - f. A candidate submitting his/her thesis in the subject relating to Social sciences, Education, Physical education, Arts & Fine arts may write his/her thesis in Marathi provided the same is recommended by the Guide/Supervisor submitted through Director/Head of Department and is approved by the RRC. However, a candidate must submit a synopsis copy of the thesis in English.
 - g. The language used in the thesis should be grammatically correct and of appropriate standard with no typographical mistakes.

R. Ph.D. 14 - Submission :

- 14.1 The candidate will not be allowed to submit his/her thesis unless he/she works for Three years (six terms) for Ph.D. programme from the date of effect of registration as mentioned in R. 27 below.
- 14.2 The candidate should submit five copies of the final thesis (Hard bound) to the University after the completion of the minimum prescribed period mentioned above and the passing certificate of course work.
- 14.3 The candidate should have fulfilled all other necessary requirements mentioned in R.12.2 above.
- 14.4 The final thesis shall be submitted to the university office through HOD/ Director/Principal.

R. Ph.D. 15 - Open Defence (O.D.):

There shall be a viva-voce with open defence. The open defence shall be conducted only after receiving the positive reports from all the referees. One of the external referees nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor and the internal referee shall conduct the open defence of the candidate within one month. The Director/Head of the Department or the Dean of the concerned faculty or the senior teacher in the subject nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor shall act as Chairperson for the open defence. The other external referees may send questions in writing to the referees attending the viva-voce to seek clarification on any point in the thesis. The queries raised by the external referees in their reports should be placed before the open defence committee. The open defence of the candidate shall be conducted as follows.

- 15.1 After the receipt of positive reports from external referees, the date and time for open defence shall be arranged in consultation with one external referee by the Chairperson, who is to conduct the open defence along with the internal referee (Research Guide/Research Supervisor).
- 15.2 The Chairperson, external referee and the Guide/Supervisor shall prepare a joint report of the open defence and forward it to the concerned section of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University. They shall

recommend either the award of the degree to the candidate or a fresh open defence within six months if the performance of the candidate is unsatisfactory.

15.3 If both the external referees communicate unwillingness to conduct the open defence, Hon. Vice-Chancellor will nominate the next referee from the list provided by the Research and Recognition Committee or any suitable Professor.

15.4 In case the official Ph.D. supervisor/Co-supervisor remains absent during viva voce/open defence, the Vice-Chancellor/ Pro Vice-Chancellor can accept the report after viva voce without the signature of the said supervisor.

R. Ph.D. 16 - Declaration of Result:

16.1 The Viva-Voce/Open Defence will be held only after fulfilment of all the essential requirements.

16.2 The date of Viva-Voce/Open Defence would be the date of declaration of result. The provisional declaration certificate can be given to the student on the same day after Viva-Voce/Open Defence as far as possible.

16.3 On the final approval of the Hon. Vice-Chancellor, the Director Board of Examinations and Evaluation shall declare the result after completing all formalities.

16.4 Along-with the declaration of result, the concerned section shall certify to the effect that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the UGC rules and regulations as published in the Gazette of India dated 7th Nov, 2022.

R. Ph.D. 17 - Cancellation of Ph.D. Registration:

17.1 A student can cancel his/her registration by applying through his/her Guide/ Supervisor and after paying the outstanding fees.

17.2 The university shall cancel the admission of a candidate if he/she fails to fulfil the necessary conditions/requirements prescribed by rules or the conditions mentioned in the allotment letter/provisional admission letter.

17.3 If the research supervisor gives in writing about the research student's inability and non-continuity of the research work as per proposed plan, the Ph.D. registration can be cancelled after explanation from the concerned student and approval of the RRC.

R. Ph.D. 18 - through Distance Mode/Part Time:

18.1 Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur does not offer Ph.D. programme through distance and / or online mode.

18.2 Part-time Ph. D. will be allowed, provided all the conditions mentioned in these rules and the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./ Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations 2022 are complied with.

18.3 The Higher Educational Institution concerned shall obtain a "No Objection Certificate" through the Candidate for a part-time Ph.D. programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate 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 for research.
- iii. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

R. Ph.D. 19 - Award of Ph.D. Degrees Prior to Notification of UGC Regulations 2022.

Award of Ph.D. degrees prior to Notification of these Regulations. - Award of degrees to candidates registered for the Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009, till the date of Notification of these Regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees)

Regulations, 2016 as the case may be. Further, the award of degrees to candidates already registered and pursuing Ph.D. shall be governed by these Regulations or UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016. Nothing in these Regulations shall impact the M.Phil. degree programmes commencing prior to the enactment of these Regulations.

R. Ph.D. 20 - Depository with INFLIBNET:

Following successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur shall send the CD of Ph.D. thesis to Knowledge Resource Centre of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, which will be submitted to the INFLIBNET for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all institutions/colleges/students.

R. Ph.D. 21 - Allocation of Research Supervisor:

(1) Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor of the Higher Educational Institution with a Ph.D., and at least five research publications in peer-reviewed or refereed journals and permanent faculty members working as Assistant Professors in Higher Educational Institutions 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 university where the faculty member is employed or in its affiliated Post-graduate Colleges/institutes. Such recognized research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by a university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the university or its affiliated Post-graduate Colleges/institutes would be in violation of these Regulations.

For Ph.D. scholars working in Central government/ State government research institutions whose degrees are given by Higher Educational Institutions, the scientists in such research institutions who are equivalent to Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor can be recognized as supervisors if they fulfill the above requirements.

Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no, or only a limited number of peer-reviewed or refereed journals, the Higher Educational Institution may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.

Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of the same institution or other institutions 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.

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

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

(4) In 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 Regulations are followed, and the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency. Such scholars shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

(5) 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.

R. Ph.D. 22 - Cessation of the Research Supervisorship:

Communication in any form with the Thesis examiners by the Supervisor/Joint Supervisor/Scholar after the submission of Synopsis/Thesis by the scholar in connection with the evaluation report shall lead to the withdrawal of the supervisorship for a period of five years and he/ she shall be debarred from guiding the existing scholars in the University till such period.

Any violation of Ph.D. regulations and involvement in any unethical activities by the Supervisor/Co-supervisor (if sufficiently proved) shall lead to the withdrawal of the supervisorship either permanently or for a maximum period of five years and they shall be debarred from guiding the existing scholars in the University till such period.

The University has the right to accept or reject the applications of individuals for recognition as a Research Supervisor.

R. Ph.D. 23 - Responsibilities of the Research Supervisor:

1. The research supervisor must value the inquisitiveness of the research student and answer/solve the queries with scientific approach and justification.
2. Research supervisor should ensure smooth conduct and proceeding of the research parameters as planned and hypothesized to logically reach to the conclusion(s).
3. It is the primary responsibility of the Research supervisor to verify the research students' progress in the proposed/ set activities, submissions, presentations, participations, publications and payments of fees, etc.
4. The research supervisor should meticulously check the research report adhering to standard formats and practices of the university and ensure quality in the research work outcome.
5. The time schedule given for completion of the proposed research work at the time of RRC presentation, must be stringently followed to enable the student for award of the Ph.D. degree in time.

R. Ph.D. 24 - Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements to be fulfilled by Colleges for getting recognition for offering Ph.D. programmes. -

1. Post-graduate Colleges offering 4-year Undergraduate Programmes and/or Post-graduate Programmes, may offer Ph.D. programmes, provided they satisfy the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure, and supporting administrative and research facilities as per these Regulations.
2. Colleges and research institutions established by the central government or a State government whose degrees are awarded by Higher Educational Institutions shall offer Ph.D. programmes provided they have:
 - i. At least two faculty members in a college or two Ph.D.-qualified scientists in the research institution.
 - ii. Adequate infrastructure, administrative support, research facilities and library resources as specified by the University.

R. Ph.D. 25 - Grant of M.Phil. Degree. -

Higher Educational Institutions shall not offer the M.Phil. (Master of Philosophy) programme.

R. Ph.D. 26 - Issuing a Provisional Certificate. -

Prior to the actual award of the Ph.D. degree, the degree-awarding Higher Educational Institution shall issue a Provisional Certificate to the effect that the Ph.D. is being awarded in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

R. Ph.D. 27 - Effect of Date of Registration -

During each academic year, the effect of registration shall be 1st January (for the meetings of CAC held from 1st Jan to 30th Jun) and 1st July (for the meetings of CAC held from 1st Jul to 31st Dec).

Important Note: - All rights will be reserved for above mentioned all items to the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi

Holkar Solapur University Solapur

ANNEXURE-I

Preference Document

(To be submitted by the candidate at the time of interview before CAC)

1. Name of the Candidate:
2. Faculty:
3. Subject:
4. Merit List Number:
5. Topic of interest in the order of preference with area of broad specialization
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
6. Name(s) of the Guide(s) (in order of preference) along with the area of broad specialization with whom the candidate is interested to undertake Research work, if selected.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.

(The CAC reserves the right to allot a Guide, other than the Guides' preference submitted by the candidate.)

I understand that the 'Preference Document' provided by me is indicative and is submitted to provide information and my research interest.

Date:

Signature of Candidate

(**Note:** Please bring this completed form along with original and photocopy of all essential documents related to educational qualifications and other requirements, failing which your interview will not be conducted.)

ANNEXURE - II

General Guidelines for Preparation of Ph.D. research proposal and time plan

Candidates shall note the given points and follow these while preparing the research/project proposal for Ph.D.

- A. The proposed proposal for research shall be self-contained and shall cover the rationale and motivation for carrying out research
- B. The research theme/topic shall be innovative and shall not replicate research work already done
- C. The plan proposal must be in printed form (including figures)
- D. The pages of the proposed research proposal shall contain the following:
 1. Title of the Research Work
 2. Choice of the topic with motivation and significance
 3. Statement of the problem/Hypotheses of research
 4. Review of the relevant literature (*Please include references of journals and avoid references of text books*)
 5. Objectives of the study
 6. Sub objectives and Scope of the research
 7. The methodology comprising:
 - a. Materials and Methods of Research
 - b. Sampling design and assumptions
 - c. Conceptual framework if any
 - d. Research design (details of how research will be conducted, and the tools used for the same)
 - e. Methods of data collection
 8. Benefits of the research to national and international scenario
 9. Time schedule/time frame for research
 10. Chapter scheme: (Objectives must be reflected in the scheme)
 11. Select Bibliography/Webliography

ANNEXURE - III

Format of the cover page of the Thesis

Title in Block letters

(No inverted coma and full stop)

A Thesis Submitted to

Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur

(No emblem of university is allowed on thesis)

For the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

in

(Subject)

Under the Faculty of (Faculty name)

By

(Name of the Research Scholar)

Under the Guidance of

(Name of the Guide / Supervisor with name of his / her Department /College / Institution)

(Name of the Co-Guide /Co-Supervisor with name of his /
her Department /College / Institution): (If any)

Name of Research Centre

(Month and Year)

ANNEXURE – IV

Declaration by the Research Scholar

I hereby declare that the Ph.D. thesis entitled

completed and written by me has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree or Diploma or other similar title of this or any other University or examining body. Further, I have not violated any of the provisions under the acts of Copyright / Piracy / Cyber / IPR etc. amended from time to time. The content of the report has been duly verified and certified of plagiarism rules.

Place:

Signature of Research Scholar

Date:

Name :

ANNEXURE – V

Research Guide's / Supervisor's Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled
.....
.....
..... and being submitted herewith for
the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in (Subject)Under the faculty of
..... of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar
Solapur University, Solapur is the result of the original research work completed by
Shri/Smt..... under my/our supervision
and guidance. To the best of my/our knowledge and belief, the work embodied in this Thesis has
not formed earlier the basis for the award of any Degree or similar title of PAHSU or any other
University /examining body.

Place:

Date:

Co-Guide/Co-Supervisor (if any)
(Signature with Name & Designation)

Research Guide/Supervisor
(Signature with Name & Designation)

Seal of the Research Centre

Forwarded by the Head of Research Centre

ANNEXURE – VI (a)

Ph.D. SIX MONTHLY PROGRESSES PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Every Ph.D. student must appear before RAC in January and July every year and shall make a presentation about progress of his/her research work as per the below points:

1. Original objectives, sub objectives and scope of the research
2. Original plan / time frame of the research
3. Goals set for the semester
4. Goals achieved during the semester
5. Details of the work completed in the semester
6. Results obtained (if any) in this semester
7. Significant contribution made in the semester
8. Reviews and reference done related to the broad domain and specific contents
9. Goals/plan set for the next semester

ANNEXURE – VI (b)

Ph.D. SIX MONTHLY PROGRESSES REPORT No. _____

Period of the Six monthly progress report from _____ To _____

Name of Faculty _____ Subject _____ University registration No. _____

1. Name of the Research Scholar: Shri./Smt. _____
2. Date of registration: _____ Status of Eligibility----- Applied/Eligible
3. Name of the research guide: Dr. _____
4. Name of research Centre: _____
5. Whether the candidate: Regular Student/JRF/SRF/DRF-UGC Teacher Fellow/ Teacher/ Employed person _____
6. Whether the Student appeared/Passed /Exempted from the Pre-Ph.D Course work Examination _____
7. Title of the Ph.D. work: _____

8. Details of the work done: *(This shall include original objectives, sub objectives, review of literature done, original plan / time frame of the research, goals set for the semester, goals achieved for the semester, significant contribution made in this semester, goals / plan set for the next semester)*
(Attach separate sheet with these headings and answers)

9. Attendance/participation in conference /seminar/workshop, etc.:
10. Research article(s) published/communicated – Give details

Signature of the Research Scholar

To

Date:

The Dean, Faculty of.....

Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University

The work of the student is Excellent/Very good/Good/Satisfactory / Not satisfactory for the above mentioned period. I recommend that, the admission of this Ph.D. student may be continued /cancelled.

Signature of the
Guide/Supervisor

Signature of the Co-Guide/
Co-Supervisor

Director/Head of the research
centre or Principal

Signature of RAC Member

Signature of RAC Member

Signature of RAC Chairman

Place:

Date:

[The Ph.D. research scholar shall submit the progress report in the month of January and July every year to the concerned research centre/Department/University School and the concerned research centre/Department/University school should forward the same immediately (within five days after received) to the university office. In case of Non receipt of six monthly Progress Report within stipulated time, a fine of Rs.1000/- will be charged per term/per progress report.]

ANNEXURE – VII

Table No. 01

Naming conventions used for each PDF file for Shodhganga CD / DVD Submission

01_Title.pdf	Title Page
02_Certificate.pdf	Certificate
03_Abstract.pdf	Abstract
04_Declaration.pdf	Declaration
05_Aknowledgement.pdf	Aknowledgement
06_Contents.pdf	Contents / Index Page
07_List_of_Tables.pdf	List of Tables
08_List_of_figures.pdf	List of Figures
09_Abbreviations.pdf	Abbreviations
10_Chapter1.pdf	First Chapter
11_Chapter2.pdf	Second Chapter
12_Chapter3.pdf	Third Chapter
13_Chapter4.pdf	Fourth Chapter
14_Chapter5.pdf	Fifth Chapter
15_Conclusion	Conclusion
16_Summary	Summary
17_Bibliography	Bibliography