



CHRIST
UNIVERSITY
BANGALORE, INDIA

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

Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

(August 2013)

**Centre for Research
Christ University
Bangalore 560 029
research@christuniversity.in
www.christuniversity.in**

1. Preamble

Christ University, formerly Christ College affiliated to Bangalore University was established in July 1969. It became the most preferred educational institution in the city of Bangalore within the first three decades. By the introduction of innovative curricula, insistence on academic discipline, imparting of 'holistic education' and with the help of the creative and dedicated staff, the institution has been continually rated among the top-10 educational institutions of the country. It has the rare distinction of being the first Institution in Karnataka to be accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for quality education. UGC conferred Autonomy to Christ College in the year 2004. In 2005, it became the first college in South India to be reaccredited with A+ by NAAC. UGC identified it as an Institution with Potential for Excellence in June 2006.

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

2. Designation and Format of the PhD Programme

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

3. Doctoral Committee

The Doctoral Committee is responsible for all decisions concerning the doctoral programmes. The doctoral committee consists of the following members:

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

4. Research Council

The function of the Research Council is to advice the Doctoral Committee in matters regarding the research strategies, institutional expansion of research network, quality improvement programmes as well as securing the necessary research resources. The Council consists of:

- Pro-Vice Chancellor—President
- Director/Additional Director of Centre for Research—Secretary
- Deans of Academic Faculties

- Research Coordinators
- Experts nominated by Doctoral Committee

5. Time of Admission and Duration of the Programme

The time taken from the admission till the submission of the thesis shall be considered as the duration of the doctoral programme. The minimum duration of the doctoral programme shall be three years. The maximum duration of the doctoral programme shall be five years. In exceptional cases extension beyond the maximum duration may be granted on the recommendation of the guide and with the approval of the Doctoral Committee, on the terms specified by the Committee.

Candidates will be selected based on their performance in the written test and personal Interview. The candidates are given a provisional admission into the doctoral programme. The final admission will be based on a satisfactory completion of the coursework, finalized research proposal and its defence in a pre-doctoral colloquium. After the provisional admission candidates may seek the assistance of subject experts/proposed guides on and off the campus to restructure and improve the quality of their research proposals.

6. Eligibility

The basic eligibility criteria for candidates intending to pursue a doctoral programme is a pass with a minimum of 55% in a postgraduate programme and MPhil or equivalent Grade Point Average. However, exemption from MPhil may be given to candidates in the disciplines of Law, Engineering and other specialized areas of study, as per the University norms. Candidates who have cleared JRF may also be exempted from MPhil.

7. Admission Process

Admission process will have two stages:

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

7.1 Registration

- Application Form of the University, along with the Research Proposal containing the details as per the prescribed format in about 5 pages or 1500 words, submitted in three sets of hard copy and one set of soft copy, together with a non-refundable registration fee of ₹ 1000/-
- Within 30 days of receipt of application, the candidate will be invited for an Entrance Test and Personal Interview.
- On receipt of the application the Centre for Research will send a copy of the proposal (without the cover note) to each member of the interview panel to enable their review.
- The interview will be conducted by the panel of experts (PhD Admission Committee) on the date notified by the University. Admission Committee will consist of the Subject Expert, Dean representing the domain, Research Coordinator and the Directors. Every member will independently assess the research proposal on a joint sitting based on the criteria, viz., the clarity of

thought, research aptitude, analytical and interpretational skill and the general subject knowledge of the candidate and make independent recommendation to the PhD Admission Committee. Based on the above assessment, the committee will decide either to accept or to reject or for resubmission of the proposal with suggested modifications.

- In case the candidate is asked to resubmit the proposal, such resubmission and re-review will be completed within a maximum period of 45 days after the first interview to decide on the final selection.

7.2 Admission Approval

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

8. Research Disciplines

Following academic disciplines have been identified for the doctoral research programme: Philosophy, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Media Studies, English Studies, Social Work, Law, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Tourism, Management, Commerce, and Engineering.

9. Coursework

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

9.1 Duration

Duration of the coursework shall be six months from the date the research scholar is assigned to the Guide and shall be counted within the overall normal duration of three years for the PhD programme. This date shall be the date of commencement of the PhD Programme.

9.2 Components of Coursework

The coursework for PhD programme of Christ University will have two parts: A and B.

Part A

- i. This constitutes six months coursework involving classroom and web-based coursework. This coursework is divided into three phases:
 - a. Basic coursework of one week at the campus;
 - b. Web-based coursework for a period of 14 weeks
 - c. Coursework on advanced and specific research methodology for a period of two months at the Campus.
- ii. Attendance for the classes are mandatory and research scholars with less than 85% attendance will be required to repeat the coursework.
- iii. During the coursework, assignments and tests will be given periodically. 55% marks is compulsory to qualify for the next part of the coursework.
- iv. The presentations will be assessed for their clarity of thought, logical sequence of their content and skill of expression.
- v. The presentation should be for a minimum duration of 20 minutes and maximum duration of 30 minutes.
- vi. The research scholar will also be required to appear for a test on each module at the end of the coursework.
- vii. The research scholar will be required to repeat **Part A** if the marks scored are less than 55% in aggregate.
- viii. This part of the coursework is independent of and in addition to the tests specified for research scholars who have been exempted from MPhil for enrolment.

Part B

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

- i. Literature Review–Review of related literature with reasonable amount of literature review covering different aspects of the field of research must be done within the duration of the coursework.

- ii. The candidate will be required to participate in at least two seminars of relevance or will present a paper in at least one seminar of relevance or a combination of both, within the duration of the coursework.
- iii. The research methodology to be employed for the research must be critically reviewed as to its strengths and weaknesses and has to be justified with reference to the scope of research.
- iv. The research scholar has to work in consultation with the Guide duly keeping record of the sessions with the Guide as per the prescribed format.
- v. The record along with a written report of the Part B of the coursework in about 20–30 pages must be submitted within 15 days of completion of the coursework or as specified by the Centre for Research.
- vi. The Doctoral Committee if satisfied with the report, within 30 days of its receipt, shall seek a presentation of about one hour duration to the Review Committee in the presence of the allotted Guide. The presentation must cover the Research Proposal as to its feasibility, its significance, scope, practical application, methodology and limitations. It must be a comprehensive and brief elucidation of the research proposal in its entirety duly explaining the preliminary study done during the coursework period.
- vii. The research scholar must score at least 55% of marks in aggregate in Part B of the coursework to be eligible to continue the PhD programme.
- viii. Failure to score the required marks for coursework evaluation will need the research scholar to submit additional assignments as may be directed by the Doctoral Committee.
- ix. The Guide and the research scholar have to jointly structure the coursework component with a set study plan including tentative schedule of personal meeting and other interacting mode between the guide and the research scholar.
- x. The finalized study plan, in the given format, signed by the research scholar and approved by the Guide must be sent to the Centre for Research, within 15 days from the start date (Assignment of the Guide).

10. Guideship

Guiding for the research programme may commence from the beginning of the coursework itself. Each candidate shall work under the supervision of a guide. Depending on the nature and extent of the research, such as interdisciplinary approach, a co-guide may be appointed with the approval of the Doctoral Committee.

10.1 Guide

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

10.2 Co-guide

The Co-Guide can be appointed from the research faculty or another faculty in related disciplines in case of interdisciplinary research or from an external faculty at a reputed university/research institute in India or abroad. The candidate may opt for a Co-guide with the approval of his/her Guide and the Doctoral Committee. Co-guide should be an empanelled guide.

10.3 Role and Responsibilities of Research Guide

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

The PhD Guide must attend to the following specific roles:

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

- Suggest modifications/changes, if any, in the scope of the research study warranted by the external factors to make the study meaningful and relevant.
- Provide a quarterly progress report to the Centre for Research in the prescribed format for its review and feedback.
- Consult, cooperate and collaborate with the Centre for Research in best possible manner to ensure quality compliance with reference to its objectives in general and the PhD study programme in particular.

11. Progress of the Research Programme

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

12. Presentation of Research Proposal

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

13. Doctoral Colloquia

Doctoral Colloquia are venues for scientific discourse where the researchers get the opportunity to present their doctoral research work—its conceptual framework and progression—in a discussion group consisting of scholars from various disciplines. The doctoral colloquia are coordinated by the guides with the consent of the Centre for Research and are open to both academics as well as students of all faculties. This is in view to maintain and promote the interdisciplinary approach to research among researchers and to enable the academics and students from the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to get acquainted with the research environment on campus. The doctoral candidates are expected to attend at least one colloquium in a research semester (six months) and give a presentation which should adequately demonstrate and discuss the progress of their doctoral thesis. The research guides are responsible for organizing at least two doctoral—a departmental and a general—colloquia every year. They may seek

advice and guidance from the Centre for Research in this regard. The presentations in doctoral colloquia have to be properly evaluated and documented. Prior to the submission of the thesis, the candidate shall make a pre presentation in the Department that may be open to all faculty members and research scholars, for getting feedback and comments.

14. Progress Report and Doctoral Colloquia

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

15. Review Committee Meeting

After receiving the three progress reports, there will be review committee meeting which will take place disciplinewise.

Structure of the review committee

- Research Guide
- One subject expert (Internal/External)
- Director/Additional Director
- HOD

16. Defence of Thesis Synopsis

PhD Scholar can defend the synopsis after fulfilling the following requirements:

- Submission of six progress reports
- Presenting papers in two national or international conferences
- Publishing an article in a indexed refereed journal
- Payment of fees
- Submitting the draft copy of the synopsis approved by the guide

The Centre schedules the date for the synopsis defence before a review committee. The structure of the Review Committee shall be the following:

- Director/Additional Director, Centre for Research—Chairperson and Observer
- Research Guide
- One expert from the panel of experts given by the guide or identified by the Centre for Research
- Vice Chancellor's nominee who is a subject expert
- Dean /HOD of the respective discipline or their nominee
- Registrar (Observer)

If the committee is not satisfied with the synopsis presentation, it can suggest for resubmission or resubmission and re-defence.

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

17. Thesis

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

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

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

18. Publication

PhD candidates shall publish at least one research paper in an indexed refereed journal before the submission of the Doctoral thesis/Thesis for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of acceptance letter or the reprint.

19. Submission of Thesis

No change of title is allowed at the time of thesis submission. However, minor change in the title of the thesis shall be allowed on proper justification and request by the guide and approval from the Centre for Research.

- i. The title page of the thesis, cover format, etc., should strictly conform to the format of presentation as prescribed. The thesis should carry a declaration by the candidate and certificate duly signed and issued by the guide. The thesis should be hard bound as per the specifications of the Centre for Research.
- ii. The research proposal, the synopsis and the PhD Thesis shall generally be written in English.
- iii. Extension of time for submission of PhD thesis will be granted up to a maximum period of one year at a time on the payment of the fees prescribed from time to time.
- iv. Candidates should have submitted two-half yearly reports per year till the submission of the PhD Thesis.
- v. The PhD Thesis will not be accepted for adjudication unless the candidate has paid annual fees for the total duration of the programme along with the fee for the valuation of the PhD Thesis as prescribed by the University.

- vi. Every candidate shall submit a declaration by himself/herself and a certificate from the guide in the prescribed formats, with his/her application for the PhD degree and the thesis as prescribed. An extra copy of each of the certificate and declaration has to be submitted along with the thesis.
- vii. On completion of the thesis work candidates shall submit six hard copies, two soft copies (PDF and DOC/TEX formats) of the PhD Thesis and eight copies of the Synopsis along with a soft copy to the Centre for Research.
- viii. Evaluation of the thesis will be done as per the UGC guidelines.
- ix. The Centre for Research shall schedule the date of Defence of Thesis. The expenses involved in the doctoral defence including the TA and remuneration of the experts are to be borne by the candidate.
- x. The thesis should generally be completed within a period of three years. However, this period can be extended up to five years with the consent of the Doctoral Committee.

20. Cancellation of PhD Registration

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

- i. Those who do not complete the coursework of the PhD in the relevant subject within ONE year of registration.
- ii. Those who fail to submit two six-month reports continuously.
- iii. Those who do not pay the annual fee within the stipulated time.
- iv. Those who fail to submit the thesis within five years of the registration.

Note: The Regulations are subject to change from time as per the directions of the respective statutory bodies and the Doctoral Committee