



ज्ञान-वितान विष्कम्भे

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सचिव

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Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
University Grants Commission

(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

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**Subject: Conduct of M.Phil./ Ph.D. Viva Voce Examination**

Dear Madam,

Kindly refer to your letter no. PRC/102020/KH-2 dated 31<sup>st</sup> March regarding allowing universities to conduct Ph.D. Viva Voce on On-Line basis. I would like to draw your attention to the Clause 9.6 to 9.9 of University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D. Degrees) Regulations, which specifies as under:

- 9.6 *The M.Phil. dissertation submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least one external examiner who is not in the employment of the Institution/College. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by both of them together, and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/ researchers.*
- 9.7 *The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, who are not in employment of the Institution/College, of whom one examiner may be from outside the country. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners, and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers.*
- 9.8 *The public viva-voce of the research scholar to defend the dissertation/thesis shall be conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the external examiner(s) on the dissertation/thesis is/are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conducting the viva-voce examination. If the evaluation report of the external examiner in case of M.Phil. dissertation, or one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner in case of Ph.D. thesis, is unsatisfactory and does not recommend viva-voce, the Institution shall send the dissertation/ thesis*

*to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the latest examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory, the dissertation/ thesis shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.*

9.9 *The Institutions shall develop appropriate methods so as to complete the entire process of evaluation of M.Phil. dissertation/ Ph.D. thesis within a period of six months from the date of submission of the dissertation/thesis."*

Therefore, successful conduct of Viva Voce Examination is a prime requirement as per UGC Regulations - 2016 before award of M.Phil./ Ph.D. Degree. The said regulations do not specify the means and mechanism for conduct of it. It is therefore open for the University to conduct the Ph.D. and M.Phil. Viva Voce Examination through Video Conferencing using electronic means viz. Skype, Zoom, Google Classroom etc. subject to its approval by the concerned Statutory Authority of the University. While conducting the Viva Voce Examination through Video Conferencing using electronic means it may also be ensured that it shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers beside Research Supervisor and Expert Examiner(s) as applicable. It is imperative on the part of the University to maintain due record of the same including the signed report from the Expert Examiner(s) appointed for conduct of same.

This is for your information and necessary action please.

*With kind regards,*

Yours sincerely,



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