

Admission Policy

for the

Ph.D. Programme

Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota

Admission Procedure

Admission in PhD will be notified in advance on the institutional website and through advertisement in at least two national newspapers, of which at least one shall be in regional newspaper, the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution, and all other relevant information.

(A) Eligibility Criteria

A candidate shall be eligible for admission and pre-registration course work for Ph. D. programme provided he/she has:

1. Candidates for admission to the Ph.D. programme shall have a Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC-7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree 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 its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.
2. A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC(non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Master's degree prior to 19th September, 1991. The eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace mark procedures.
3. In accordance UGC public notice no. F.4-1(UGC-NET review Committee) 2024(NET)/140648 dated March 27, 2024 as given:

National Eligibility Test (NET) as an Entrance Test for Admission to Ph.D.

The University Grants Commission conducts the National Eligibility Test (NET) through the National Testing Agency (NTA). The NET is conducted twice a year. in June and December. Currently, the NET scores are used (a) to award Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and (b) as eligibility for appointment as Assistant Professor for those with a Master's degree.

Many universities conduct their entrance tests for admission to their Ph.D. programmes. requiring the students to write multiple Ph.D. entrance tests. To help the students with one national entrance test for Ph.D. admissions as a part of implementing the National Education

Policy 2020. the UGC constituted an expert committee to review the provisions of the National Eligibility Test (NET).

Based on the expert committee's recommendations, in its 578th Meeting held on 13 March 2024, the UGC has decided that from the academic session 2024-25, the NET score can be used for admission to Ph.D. programmes in place of entrance tests conducted by the different universities/HEIs.

From June 2024 onwards, therefore, the NET candidates will be declared eligible in three categories:

Professor. Category-1: Eligible for (i) admission to Ph.D. with JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant

Category-2: Eligible for (i) admission to Ph.D. without JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor.

Category-3: Eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme only and not for the award of JRF or appointment as Assistant Professor.

The determination of the eligibility of NET for different categories is summarized below:

Qualified for	Eligible fir		
	JRF	Assistant Professor	Ph.D. Admission
Category-1: Award of JRF and appointment as Assistant Professor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Category-2: Appointment as Assistant Professor and Admission to Ph.D.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Category-3: Admission to Ph.D. Only	Yes	Yes	Yes

The result of NET will be declared in percentile along with the marks obtained by a candidate to utilize the marks for admission to Ph.D.

The JRF-qualified students are admitted into the Ph.D. programme based on an interview as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

For students who qualify in Categories 2 and 3. 70% weightage will be given for test scores and 30% weightage for the interview for admission to Ph.D. programmes. The Ph.D. admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks and the marks obtained in the interview/viva voce.

The marks obtained in the NET by the candidates in Categories 2 and 3 will be valid for a period of one year for admission to Ph.D.

(B) Admission Procedure:-

- (1) The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the institution, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory/regulatory bodies concerned, and taking into account the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.

- (2) Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be made using the following methods:
- The University shall admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview. The merit (Qualifying Criteria) as given below.
 - The university shall decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D. seats available.

Qualifying Criteria

In case number of Applications (fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests) received are more than numbers of available vacancy for doctoral program in a particular the merit of students will be determined on the following basis:

S.No.	Particular	Criteria	Weightage
1.	Interview by the Department Research Committee (Max. 30)	Based on Performance in Domain Knowledge (Max. 15)	To be awarded by the DRC based on Interview (Max. 30)
		Based on Performance in Research Aptitude (Max. 10)	
		Based on General Performance in Interview (5)	
2.	Academics Performance (Max. 70)	Criteria	Weightage
2.(A)	Post Graduate Degree Performance in the Concerned Subject	80% and Above	25
		70% and Above but less than 80%	20
		60% and Above but less than 70%	15
		55% and Above but less than 60%	10
		Less than 55%	0
2.(B)	Graduate Degree Performance	80% and Above	20
		70% and Above but less than 80%	15
		60% and Above but less than 70%	10
		55% and Above but less than 60%	5
		Less than 55%	0
2.(C)	Higher Secondary Board Examination/Senior Secondary Examination Performance	80% and Above	15
		70% and Above but less than 80%	12
		60% and Above but less than 70%	8
		55% and Above but less than 60%	5

		Less than 55%	0
2.(D)	Secondary Examination Performance	80% and Above	10
		70% and Above but less than 80%	7
		60% and Above but less than 70%	5
		55% and Above but less than 60%	3
		Less than 55%	0

(C) Interview

The successful scholarships candidate(s) and NET qualified candidate(s) shall be called for interview on the basis of their academic merit. Additional weight-age shall be given to the successful candidates. The interview Board shall consist of the **Research Advisory Council**.

An interview/*viva-voce* will be organized where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation. The merit shall be prepared for final admission.

The interview/*viva voce* shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

- (i) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
- (ii) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the Institution/College;
- (iii) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

O.8.2.4. Duration of Ph.D. programme

1. Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work, from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme. All those who are offered fellowships by the University or any other agency registered with the University to pursue a research degree programme of the University on a full-time basis shall belong to the category of full-time students. The Research Board, on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee may allow registration of full-time/part time students who do not have fellowship. Candidates for full time research programme shall preferably be permitted having sponsorship / assistantship / fellowship/ any financial support from the University/state or national level agency, etc., however, candidates without any financial support as above, shall not be disqualified to take admission to full time Ph.D programme.

2. A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the Statute/Ordinance of the Higher Educational Institution concerned; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed six (6) 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 eight (08) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

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.

O.8.2.5 Course Work:

- (a) All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Research Department within one semester. The candidate(s) shall undertake the course work of 16 Credits which consists of:

S. No.	Programme Particulars	Module	Duration	Credits
1.	Research Methodology, Publication Ethics and Computer Application	Module-I	1 and a half Months	8
2.	Review of Literature ; Recent Trends & Techniques and Writing Skills	Module-II	1 and a half Months	
3.	Level Advance Subject knowledge	Module-III	3 Months	8

NOTE: 75% attendance in the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work both in Module 1&2 and Module III (subject specific) is compulsory to take Course work term end examination. Student will undergo common course work for 8 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 subject based course work for 8 credits (in the department concerned on the basis of recommendation of Research Advisory Committee.) The Research Advisory Committee can also recommend UGC recognized online courses as part of the credit requirements for the Ph.D. programme.

- (b) After six months the candidate(s) shall be examined through Continuous Assessment (CA). A PhD. scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit his or her thesis.
- (c) 75% attendance in the Pre-Ph.D. Course Work both in Module I&II and Module III (subject specific) will be the criteria to take Term End Course work examination.
- (d) Candidate(s) shall submit a synopsis and make a presentation before the Research Board.
- (e) The candidate(s) shall abide by the decision of the Research Board Committee and Research Advisory Committee.
- (f) All full time Research Scholars shall be eligible for 30 days leave in an academic year.