

Policy
for
Grievance Redressal Mechanism
of
Scholars

Policy for Grievance Redressal Mechanism of Ph.D. Research Scholars

Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota

1. Preamble

Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota is committed to maintaining a fair, transparent, and robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism to address and resolve the concerns of Ph.D. research scholars in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 and relevant provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022. This policy ensures that the academic, administrative, and research-related grievances of Ph.D. scholars are handled in a structured, impartial, and time-bound manner, fostering an environment of academic excellence and research integrity.

2. Legal Framework and Applicability

This policy is enacted under the authority granted to the University under Section 26(1)(g) of the UGC Act, 1956, and is applicable to all enrolled Ph.D. research scholars, supervisors, and academic departments. It aligns with the principles of natural justice, due process, and academic fairness as mandated by the UGC, ensuring compliance with Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which safeguard the right to equality and personal liberty.

3. Objectives of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism aims to:

1. Provide a structured process for addressing academic and administrative grievances of Ph.D. scholars.
2. Ensure a time-bound resolution of complaints through a well-defined procedural framework.
3. Promote an academic ecosystem where scholars can pursue research without fear of bias, discrimination, or undue influence.
4. Enhance accountability, transparency, and responsiveness in the University's research governance.
5. Establish a Research Scholars' Grievance Redressal Committee (RSGRC). To oversee grievance resolution fairly and impartially.

4. Scope of Grievances:

Ph.D. scholars may seek redressal for grievances relating to:

1. Supervisory Issues: Delay in approvals, unethical conduct by research supervisors, denial of required guidance, etc.
2. Evaluation & Assessment: Issues related to research progress assessment, unfair examination processes, and dissertation evaluation.

3. Academic Infrastructure: Inadequate access to research facilities, libraries, laboratories, or computing resources.
4. Financial Matters: Non-disbursal of fellowships, scholarships, or financial support for research.
5. Administrative Delays: Issues concerning registration, thesis submission, plagiarism reports, and procedural delays.
6. Discrimination & Harassment: Allegations of unfair treatment based on caste, gender, religion, or other biases.
7. Research Misconduct & Plagiarism Allegations: Disputes regarding authorship, data falsification, or ethical breaches in research.