

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.), 2024 (AMENDED)

[In supersession of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Ph.D. Regulations 2022]

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section- 6(1) &Section - 6(7) of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Act 2016, the St. Xavier's University, Kolkata hereby makes the following Regulations, namely: -

1. SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION & COMMENCEMENT:

These **Regulations** hereafter will also be known as **St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) Ph.D. Regulations, 2024.**

The provisions of these Regulations shall apply to every candidate for admission, registration, conduct, Ph.D. Course Work, and evaluation leading to the conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) hereinafter referred to as degree of Ph.D.

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other Rule or Regulation for the time being in force, all admissions, registrations, Ph.D. Course Work and all other matters leading to the conferment of Degree of Ph.D. shall be guided by these **Regulations**.

2. GENERAL:

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) will ordinarily award the degree of Ph.D. in the subjects for which the University is having departments/schools offering undergraduate/postgraduate degree courses and with necessary approval by the Governing Board of the University.

The **degree** of Ph.D. shall be awarded to a candidate on the basis of original research work of merit incorporated in a thesis, recommended by the Examiners and successfully defended by the candidate during a viva voce. The thesis shall demonstrate that the candidate has technical mastery of the chosen field of investigation and is capable of producing scholarly work.

The thesis is to be written in English, except the research work in languages other than English.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO Ph.D. PROGRAMME:

Subject to the conditions stipulated in these Regulations, the following candidates are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. programme:

- 3.1 Candidates who have completed 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme after a 3-year/ 6-semester bachelor's degree programme from a UGC recognized University or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) or appropriate statutory authority, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.
or
- 3.2 Candidates who have completed 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme (Hons. with Research) with at least 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.
or
- 3.3 Candidates who have equivalent qualification 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 to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution. However, in all such cases equivalence from Association of Indian Universities (AIU) or appropriate statutory authority will be required.

or

- 3.4 Candidates who have completed M.Phil. (before 2024) in relevant discipline with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or 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 to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. However, for the degrees obtained from foreign Universities, Association of Indian Universities (AIU) or appropriate statutory authority equivalence will be required.
- 3.5 A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade in Master's degree / M.Phil. programme may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/ Differently Abled (Divyangjan) categories.

4. DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME:

- 4.1 Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.
- 4.2 A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the Statute/Ordinance/Regulations/Rules of the University; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of enrolment to the Ph.D. programme.
- Provided further that, female Ph.D. students and the students who are the 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 enrolment in the Ph.D. programme.
- 4.3 Female Ph.D. students may be provided Maternity Leave/Childcare Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme.

5. PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION:

- 5.1 The number of seats for the Ph.D. programme in an Academic Year shall be decided by the University for each department or Schools of the University based on the availability of teachers, laboratory, library and such other facilities.
- 5.2 The university shall notify on its website the number of available seats for admission, subject/ discipline- wise distribution of available seats, eligibility criteria for admission, procedure for admission and all other relevant information.
- 5.3 Candidate employed in any organisation is required to submit a no-objection certificate (NOC) from appropriate authority where the candidate is employed clearly stating that:
- The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis (part-time mode).
 - His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.
 - If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.
- 5.4 Foreign students will be required to produce clearance from the Government of India and / or other appropriate authorities, if any, for admission to the Ph.D. programme. Admission to the Ph.D. programme may be allowed to only such foreign nationals who have obtained and are holding research visa after fulfilment of other admission criteria.
- 5.5 The University shall admit candidates through St. Xavier's University Research Entrance Test (XURET) conducted in two stages - Written Test and an Interview.
- 5.6 Eligible candidates who have qualified for fellowship / scholarship in UGC-NET/ UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED shall be exempted from the XU-RET but will have to appear in the Interview. The selection will be based on the Interview, only for such candidates.
- 5.7 The candidates must obtain 50% and above marks in the XU-RET to be eligible to be called for the Interview. The syllabus of the XU-RET shall consist of Research Methodology and subject specific questions proportionately as decided by the

respective Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

- 5.8 The XU-RET shall be followed by the Interview to be conducted by the DRC of the concerned Department of the University. At the time of Interview, candidates seeking admission to the Ph.D. programme will be expected to discuss their research interest / area through a presentation. The Interview shall also consider the following aspects but not limited to viz. whether the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research; the research work can be suitably undertaken; the proposed area of research can contribute to new / additional knowledge.
- 5.9 Selection of the candidates will be based on 70% weightage of the XU-RET marks and 30% weightage of the Interview score. Candidates qualified for fellowship / scholarship in UGC- NET/ UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National Level tests will be given 100% weightage for the Interview score.
- 5.10 Candidates selected for the Ph.D. programme shall be required to enrol as a Ph.D. student on completion of admission formalities.
 - i. The date of enrolment shall be deemed to be the date of admission.
 - ii. A candidate selected for enrolment for Ph.D. programme shall be issued an Enrolment Certificate by the Registrar and will be considered as a probationary Ph.D. student.
 - iii. A probationary Ph.D. student will be required to complete his / her Ph.D. registration within two years from the date of his/her Enrolment, failing which his/her admission to the Ph.D. programme shall automatically stand cancelled, However, extension of enrolment as a probationary Ph.D. student may be specially approved by the Vice-Chancellor on recommendation of DRC for an additional period of one (01) year (except maternity and child care leave).
 - iv. For a female Ph.D. student availing maternity/childcare leave, extension of enrolment may be allowed subject to a maximum period of one year.

6. ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR:

Eligibility criteria to be a Research Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, Number of Ph.D. scholars permissible per supervisor, etc.

- 6.1 Permanent faculty members working as Professor/Associate Professor of the University 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 the University 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. Such recognised research supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors.

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.
- 6.2 In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/University may be appointed.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be recommended by the concerned Departmental Research Committee 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.
- 6.5 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 scholar shall, however, give due credit to the parent institution and the supervisor for the part of research already undertaken.

In case of continuous non-availability of the Supervisor(s) or his/her inability to guide the student, the student will approach the Vice-Chancellor for the change of supervisor(s) and the Vice-Chancellor will issue the necessary directives to the Departmental Research Committee for suitable replacement(s).

- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 In the event of the death of a Supervisor, the Departmental Research Committee shall recommend to the Vice-Chancellor another recognised Supervisor for supervision of the research work for approval.
- 6.8 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 6.3 above.
- 6.9 At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the number prescribed in clause 6.3 and clause 6.8.

7. COURSE WORK: Credit Requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

- 7.1 The credit assigned for the Ph.D. course work shall be of 14 credits including the "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.
- 7.2 The course work shall be treated as prerequisite for Ph.D. preparation. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications and other relevant areas, as the case may be. Other courses will include research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, other discipline specific courses/ electives of advanced level preparing the students for Ph.D. degree.

The course structure for the 2 semesters of the course work is given below:

Semester I	
Subject	Credits
Research Methodology	04
Elective 1	02
Elective 2	02
Total Credits (Sem I)	08
Semester II	
Subject	Credits
Elective 3	02
Term Paper	02
Research and Publication Ethics	02
Total Credits (Sem II)	06
Total Credits (Sem I + Sem II)	14

- 7.3 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour

instructional requirement and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods. They shall be duly approved by the Departmental Research Committee.

- 7.4 All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial two semesters with 75% aggregate attendance in each semester.
- 7.5 All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, may 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, based on the recommendation of DRC and approval of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 7.6 Examination of the course work will be conducted by the Controller of Examinations as per the Ph.D. course work examinations rules and regulations of the University.
- 7.7 A Ph.D. 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.
- 7.8 The Research Advisory Committee can recommend UGC recognised online courses to the respective scholar.
- 7.9 Only upon the satisfactory completion of course work, the Controller of Examinations will provide a marksheet / grade card and a completion certificate of the Course work to the Ph.D. student.

8. REGISTRATION:

- 8.1 An enrolled PhD student on successful completion of the Course work shall apply for the registration seminar to the Ph.D. programme Coordinator through the Convener of the respective Departmental Research Committee (vide section 5.10. iii.)
- 8.2 Every application for registration seminar shall be submitted in a prescribed form. The application shall be supported by six (06) physical copies (hard copies) along with electronic copy (soft copy) of the synopsis of the proposed research, which shall ordinarily not exceed 2000 words, and shall include a title, short introduction, a brief review of literature pertaining to the work, Research objectives, Research methodology and the plan of work, duly countersigned by the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor, if any.
- 8.3 Application for registration will be considered by the relevant Departmental Research Committee at its meeting in the presence of the Supervisor and the Co-supervisor, if any, who will share the responsibility equally with the Supervisor for guiding the research work. The Ph.D. student is required to present his / her synopsis before the Departmental Research Committee. On the recommendations of the Departmental Research Committee concerned and with due approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the candidate will be allowed to be registered for the Ph.D. programme. The Registration Certificate will be provided to the student duly signed by the Registrar and shall include the name of the registered candidate, title of his / her research, name of his / her supervisor and Co-supervisor, if any, date of enrolment and registration.
- 8.4 If the Departmental Research Committee does not consider a Synopsis as fit for recommendation, it shall again be examined by the Departmental Research Committee, after proper revision by the candidate in the light of the suggestions made by the relevant Departmental Research Committee.
- 8.5 The University shall maintain the list of all the Ph.D. registered students on its website on year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered student, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor and Co-supervisor, if any, date of enrolment and registration.
- 8.6 In all cases, the date of registration will be deemed to be the date of approval by the Vice-Chancellor. The registration of a candidate will remain valid for a period of six years from the date of enrolment. In case of failure to submit the thesis within the stipulated time, a Ph.D. student shall have to apply for re-registration before expiry of

the tenure of the existing registration. The continuity of the research work will, however, be maintained and the candidate will be exempted from other procedural formalities, if completed earlier.

- 8.7 The validity of re-registration will be of two (2) years from the date of re- registration which will be deemed to be the next date of the date of expiry of the preceding Ph.D. registration, subject to approval of the Vice-Chancellor granting such re-registration under the provisions of clause (4) of these Regulations.
- 8.8 There may be minor modification/correction of the title of the thesis, if necessary, with the approval of the Departmental Research Committee. However, such modification will not be permitted after acceptance of the Pre-Submission Ph.D. seminar report by the Departmental Research Committee.
- 8.9 In case of major modification of research work or topic which calls change of title, the concerned Departmental Research Committee may recommend for fresh registration seminar and the necessary procedures thereof. However, the date of enrolment will remain unchanged.
- 8.10 In case of any modification as mentioned in clause 8.8 and 8.9, the concerned student, Supervisor and Co-supervisor (if any) would be communicated about the modification/s by the Registrar after the same is duly recommended by the DRC and approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

9. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BODIES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:

- 9.1 There will be a **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** for each Ph.D. student. The composition of the RAC shall be as follows:
 - i. Supervisor as Convener
 - ii. Co-supervisor as member (if any)
 - iii. Two subject experts of whom at least one must be from outside the University.
- 9.2 The RAC for each student will have the following responsibilities:
 - i. To review the research proposal and finalise the topic and title of research for recommendation of the Departmental Research Committee.
 - 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 undergo.
 - iii. To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research student.
 - iv. A Ph.D. student shall appear before the Research Advisory Committee to make a presentation and submit a brief report on the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance every six months. The supervisor shall submit a report of the recommendations of Research Advisory Committee to the Ph.D. Programme Coordinator.
 - v. In case, the progress of the Ph.D. student is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the student fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend to the Departmental Research Committee with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration and enrolment of the Ph.D. student.
- 9.3 The tenure of a Research Advisory Committee shall be valid till the submission of the Ph.D. thesis of the student unless otherwise decided by the Vice-Chancellor. Two regular members (Supervisor and at least one external subject expert) will constitute the quorum of the meeting.
- 9.4 The Vice-Chancellor will constitute **Departmental Research Committees (DRC)** in consultation with the Ph.D. Programme Coordinator, Deans of the Faculty/School and Heads of the Departments.

The composition of the DRC shall be as follows:

- i. Dean of the Faculty/School as Chairperson

- ii. Ph.D. Programme Coordinator
- iii. Two Faculty Members nominated (from among the approved supervisors) by Vice-Chancellor.
- iv. Two External Experts nominated by Vice-Chancellor from among the four names forwarded by the Head of the Department/Dean of the School.
- v. Head of the Department / Prof. in-Charge / one of the approved supervisors nominated by Vice-Chancellor as Convener.
- vi. The Head of a University Department, if such a head of Department is not a member of the Departmental Research Committee shall be a permanent invitee to all meetings of the Departmental Research Committee.

9.5 **Functions of Departmental Research Committee.**

- i. To examine for eligibility of applications for admissions and recommend for equivalence for related subjects and forward to the equivalence committee of the University, if necessary.
- ii. To formulate and recommend the Ph.D. Course Work framework, structure, curriculum, syllabi and credits.
- iii. To recommend Paper-setters, moderators, and Examiners for the coursework examinations and XU-RET.
- iv. To recommend subject experts for the RAC, supervisors/mentors for the scholars.
- v. To review the research proposal on recommendation of the RAC and approve the title and proposal of research for registration.
- vi. To periodically review the progress of the research work of the research scholars.
- vii. To recommend Examiners for the Ph.D. thesis and viva voce evaluation.
- viii. To review the recommendation of RAC for cancellation of registration/enrolment of the Ph.D. student if deemed appropriate and recommend to Board of Research for its concurrence and the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.
- ix. Any other matter as may be deemed appropriate.
- x. The tenure of a Departmental Research Committee shall be for a period of four years unless otherwise decided by the Vice-Chancellor. The Departmental Research Committee shall ordinarily meet once in a semester and resolutions of such meetings shall be maintained by the Convener.
- xi. More than half of the regular members including at least one external member shall constitute the quorum of the meeting. If two consecutive meetings fall through due to lack of quorum, the matter will be referred to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action.

9.6 The Doctoral programme shall be monitored by **Board of Research (BoR).**

The Board of Research (BoR) shall comprise the following members.

- i. The Vice-Chancellor as the Chairperson.
- ii. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor.
- iii. Deans of the concerned Faculty / School.
- iv. Professors and Associate Professors of the University as nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.
- v. Three external experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.
- vi. One of the Professors and Associate Professors from among the members appointed by the Vice-Chancellor as Member Secretary.
- vii. Registrar as Permanent Invitee.
- viii. Controller of Examinations as Permanent Invitee.

- ix. The Supervisors of ongoing Ph.D. research work may be present as 'Invitees' as and when required.
- 9.7 The Board of Research shall meet at least twice in an Academic session.
- 9.8 One-third of the total number of members rounded off to the next integer, including at least one External Expert shall form the quorum for the meeting of the Board of Research.
- 9.9 The term of each nominated member shall be of three years.
- 9.10 Functions of Board of Research:
 - i. To plan and recommend the activities for the university to conduct quality research.
 - ii. Approval of Ph.D. Programmes.
 - iii. To consider appeals for change of research topic and title of those scholars who have already been registered in the university's Ph.D. Programme as recommended by Departmental Research Committee.
 - iv. To examine the cases of differences of opinions, if any, between examiners of a Ph.D. thesis and recommend appropriate actions.
 - v. To consider the cancellation of Registration and Enrolment on recommendation of Departmental Research Committee.
- 9.11 The Doctoral Programmes shall be coordinated and overseen by the Ph.D. Programme Coordinator.

10. SUBMISISON AND EVALUATION:

- 10.1 Prior to submission of thesis, the candidate shall through the Supervisor submit to the Convener of the Departmental Research Committee seven (eight in case of co-supervisor) physical copies (hard copies) of the summary of work within 5000 words. The Convener of the Departmental Research Committee shall circulate the summary to the members of the DRC at least fifteen days before holding a pre- submission Ph.D. seminar. At the pre-submission Ph.D. seminar, the candidate shall report the research work in the presence of the supervisor and at least two-third of the total members with at least one external expert of the Departmental Research Committee. Members of the Research Advisory Committee of the concerned student, the head of the department and the Co-supervisor, if any, should be invited to the seminar. Notice of the seminar must be circulated at least seven days prior to the seminar amongst faculty members and other research scholars/ students.
- 10.2 During the seminar, any member of the Departmental Research Committee or any faculty member present may put forward specific suggestions, if any, to the candidate. The candidate will be required to work upon the suggestions given by the committee.
- 10.3 On the basis of the recommendations, the Departmental Research Committee may ask the student to reappear for pre-submission Ph.D. seminar not before three months from the date of previous pre-submission Ph.D. seminar.
- 10.4 If recommended for thesis submission, the student can submit the thesis only after two months from the date of pre-submission Ph.D. Seminar.
- 10.5 Ph.D. students shall at least publish one research paper in peer-reviewed or refereed journal before submission of the thesis for examination and produce evidence for the same in the form of acceptance letter or the print. Where refereed journals are not available, Department will submit the names of available journals in the related discipline to the Departmental Research Committee and the Board of Research for consideration in place of refereed journals. Ph.D. scholars, apart from journal publication, must present at least one paper in conference/seminar before the submission of the thesis for examination, and produce evidence for the same. The scholars also have to present a paper in the Doctoral Colloquium of the university before pre-submission Ph.D. seminar and produce evidence for the same.
- 10.6 The student shall submit five (six, in case there is a co-supervisor) type written or

printed copies, of the thesis along with electronic version (CD or pen drive in prescribed. pdf Format) within six (6) years but not ordinarily earlier than three (3) years from the date of enrolment in the Ph.D. programme.

In case a candidate fails to submit his/her thesis within six (6) years as stipulated, the clause of Re-registration (section 8.6 & section 8.7) will apply. A student can submit the thesis before three years from the date of enrolment on recommendation of the Departmental Research Committee and approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

- 10.7 While submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall have an undertaking from the Ph.D. student and a certificate from Supervisor as a testament to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism, along with the Duplication Report using the Plagiarism software of the university, and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/ diploma of the University or to any other Institution. The percentage of plagiarism will not exceed 10%. The student may also submit in support of the thesis the contents of any work which may have been done previously by him/her, but the student shall not submit any work for which a degree or distinction has been conferred on the student by this or by any other University. The student will not, however, be precluded from incorporating any such work in a thesis covering a wider field, provided a clear statement of the work so incorporated is given.
- 10.8 Departmental Research Committee shall meet to prepare a panel of six experts [of which at least four (4) from outside the State/country] along with their consent to be obtained by the supervisor for evaluation of the written part of the thesis and for the viva-voce.
- 10.9 The convener of the Departmental Research Committee shall send the recommended panel of examiners to the Ph.D. Programme Coordinator who will forward the panel to the Vice- Chancellor for selection of the thesis examiners and the Viva-voce examiner. Selected list of examiners along with three copies (four in case of co-supervisor) of the thesis of the student, and one copy of the abstract not exceeding 350 words (along with electronic copies) shall be sent to the Registrar for further evaluation process.
- 10.10 The Vice-Chancellor shall appoint a panel of three experts including the Supervisor (or four experts, if there is Co-Supervisor), out of which at least one shall be from outside the state or country, after considering the recommended list of six examiners, of which four should be outside the state or country, given by the relevant Departmental Research Committee for examination of the thesis. The examiners shall have to send the report in prescribed format.
- 10.11 The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a Ph.D. student shall be evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor, and Co-Supervisor, if any, and at least two external examiners, who are not in employment of the University, of whom one examiner should be from outside the state/country.
- 10.12 When a thesis is unanimously and unconditionally recommended for the Degree by all the examiners, the candidate will be eligible for appearing at the Viva-Voce.

If any examiner suggests modifications or corrections, the student will be asked to incorporate such modifications or corrections in his/her thesis before the viva- voce. The modified/ corrected thesis may be sent to the concerned examiner, if it is so desired by the examiner, for his//her final observation on the modified or corrected thesis.

If there is any ambiguity or conditionality in the reports of the examiners, the Vice-Chancellor may consider the appointment of a third external examiner from the approved panel of experts. In such cases the student must submit additional copies of thesis as required.
- 10.13 The viva-voce of the Ph.D. scholar to defend the thesis shall be conducted if both the external examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis after incorporating any corrections suggested by them. If one of the external examiners recommends rejection, the university, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, shall send the thesis to a third external examiner from the approved panel of examiners, and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the third examiner recommends acceptance of the

thesis. If the third examiner does not recommend acceptance of the thesis, the thesis shall be rejected, and the Ph.D. student shall be declared ineligible for the award of a Ph.D.

- 10.14 At the Viva-voce, the student shall be examined by the Supervisor, the Co- Supervisor (if there is any) and an expert to be appointed by the Vice- Chancellor from the two external examiners of the thesis. Copies of reports of the examiners on the written part of the thesis shall be sent to the examiners conducting the Viva-voce prior to the Viva-voce. Viva-voce may be conducted through video conferencing with the permission from the Vice-Chancellor. During Viva-voce, the candidate shall respond to the queries, if any, by the examiners. The viva-voce shall be open to the members of the Research Advisory Committee, faculty members, research scholars, and students.
- 10.15 The examiners of the Viva-voce shall jointly submit a report to the Registrar on the performance of the student at the said examination, clearly indicating whether the student deserves to be admitted to the Ph.D. Degree. If the student fails to satisfy the examiners at the Viva-voce, the student shall be allowed by the Vice-Chancellor to appear again at a Viva-voce after a period of three months from the date of the first Viva-Voce.
- 10.16 The Vice-chancellor after considering the reports on the thesis and the viva- voce shall approve the student's admission to the Ph.D. degree and forward to the executive council for ratification.
- 10.17 The Registrar of the University shall issue a Provisional Certificate certifying to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Regulations of the University. The provisional certificate must mention the following information like name of the student, Registration Number, title of the thesis, name of the supervisor, name of the co-supervisor (if any), department/Faculty/School, date of award, where the date of award will be the date of viva-voce recommending for award of degree.
- 10.18 A degree certificate under the seal of the University and signed by the Vice-Chancellor will be given to each successful candidate at the next annual convocation of the University.
- 10.19 The University shall ordinarily complete the entire process of evaluating a Ph.D. thesis, including the declaration of the viva-voce result, within a period of six (6) months from the date of submission of the thesis.
- 10.20 A copy of the thesis accepted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with necessary corrections or modifications, if there be any, shall be retained in the University Library.

11. DEPOSITORY WITH INFLIBNET:

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process the University shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions.

The award of degrees to the students already registered and pursuing Ph.D. prior to notification of these regulations shall be governed by St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Ph.D. Regulations, 2022.

12. REMOVAL OF DIFFICULTY:

For any deficiency/discrepancy/in this Regulation or any problem arising out of interpretation, the matter shall be placed before the Vice-Chancellor and his decision will be final.
