



Kerala Kalamandalam (Deemed to be University for Art & Culture)

Regulations for Registration of Research leading to the award of Ph.D. Degree – 2024

(Approved by the Academic Council and the Executive Board of Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed to be University for Art & Culture)

Preamble

In exercise of the powers conferred in Clause 19.10.0 of the Academic Council and in supersession all previous Rules and Regulations related to Award of Ph.D. Degrees and its amendments, the Executive Board makes the following Regulations, namely: -

1.0.0 Short title, Application, and Commencement

1.1.0 These Regulations may be called Regulations for Registration of Research leading to Award of Ph.D. Degree of Kerala Kalamandalam (Deemed to be University for Art & Culture) – 2024.

1.2.0 These shall come into effect from 1st October, 2024 onwards.

2.0.0 Definitions

2.1.0 In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- a. "Commission" means the University Grants Commission.
- b. "Course Work" means courses of study prescribed by Kerala Kalamandalam to be undertaken by a student registered for the Ph.D. Degree;
- c. "Course" means one of the specified units which go to comprise a program of study;
- d. "Credit" means the number of hours of instruction required per week over the duration of a semester.
- e. "Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)" means a measure of the overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places;
- f. "Degree" means a degree awarded by a Higher Educational Institution in accordance with the provisions of section 22 (3) of the UGC Act, 1956;
- g. "Doctoral/Research Committee" means the committee constituted under the provisions of these Regulations – 2024.
- h. "External examiner" means an academic/researcher with published research work who is not part of Kerala Kalamandalam;
- i. "Foreign Educational Institution" means–
 - i. an institution duly established or incorporated in its home country and offering educational programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate and higher levels in its home country and;
 - ii. an institution which offers program(s) of study leading to the award of a degree through conventional face-to-face mode, but excluding distance, online;
- j. "Grade Point" means a numerical weight allotted to each letter grade;

- k. "Guide/Research Supervisor" means an academic/researcher recognized by Kerala Kalamandalam to supervise the Ph.D. scholar for his/her research;
- l. "Interdisciplinary Research" means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in two or more academic disciplines;
- m. "Kerala Kalamandalam" means Kerala Kalamandalam (Deemed to be University for Art & Culture) declared as a deemed to be University by the MHRD, Govt. of India under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956.
- n. "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own;
- o. "Program" means a higher education program pursued for a degree specified by the University Grants Commission under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956;
- p. "Research Advisory Committee" means the committee constituted under the provisions of these Regulations – 2024.
- q. "Research Proposal" means a brief write-up giving an outline of the proposed research work which the Ph.D. scholar shall submit along with the application for registration for Ph.D. program;

2.2.0 Words and expressions used and not defined in these Regulations but defined in UGC Act, 1956 and not consistent with these Regulations shall have the meanings assigned to them in that Act.

3.0.0 **Eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. Program**

3.1.0 The following are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. program:

3.1.1 Candidates who have completed:

- a. A 1-year/2-semester Master's Degree program after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree program or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree program after a 3-year bachelor's degree program or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed; or
- b. equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by 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.

Provided: (1) A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.

(2) a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree program should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

3.1.2 Candidates who have completed:

the M.Phil. program with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or 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 educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. program. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

4.0.0 **Duration of the Program**

4.1.0 Ph.D. Program shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. program.

4.2.0 A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re-registration as per the Order of Kerala Kalamandalam in this regard;

4.2.1 Provided that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. program should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. program.

4.2.2 Provided that 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. program.

4.2.3 Provided 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. program in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. program.

5.0.0 **Procedure for admission**

5.1.0 The admission shall be based on these Regulations, 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.

5.2.0 A notification for applying to the Ph.D. program will be issued annually between August and October. The application form can be downloaded from the Kalamandalam website (www.kalamandalam.ac.in). Applicants shall submit the duly filled-in application form along with the fees prescribed to the Registrar of Kerala Kalamandalam either directly or via post.

5.3.0 **Entrance Examination:**

5.3.1 Ph.D. admission will be based on a written test and interview conducted by Kerala Kalamandalam.

5.3.2 Full-time and part-time applicants shall take the entrance examination, which will be for 100 marks.

5.3.3 The entrance examination will be based on research aptitude, research methodology, Kerala arts, Kerala culture, and the history of Kerala Kalamandalam. The syllabus shall consist of 50% research methodology, with the remaining 50% being subject-specific as mentioned above.

5.3.4 Only those who score at least 50% marks in the entrance examination will be considered for the interview.

5.3.5 SC/ST categories, persons with disabilities with more than 40% disability, and economically backward classes in the General category (EWS), 45% marks are sufficient.

5.3.6 Admissions for SC/ST/OBC categories will be in accordance with the policies approved by the State Government/UGC from time to time.

5.3.7 The reserved seats for SC/ST applicants will not be filled by other candidates in their absence.

5.4.0 **Exemption from Entrance Test**

5.4.1 Those who have qualified for UGC-JRF, UGC-CSIR-JRF, or have received fellowships for university research from Central/State Governments are exempted from the entrance examination.

5.4.2 Regular teachers from art study centers under the Universities in Kerala are exempted from the entrance examination.

5.4.3 Eligible foreign nationals for admission are exempted from the Entrance examination.

5.4.4 Individuals working on a research project under any research guide of the Kerala Kalamandalam deemed to be University and selected as full-time project fellows based on written exams and interviews are exempted from the Entrance Examination.

5.5.0 **Process for Registration**

5.5.1 Those who pass the entrance examination shall submit a preliminary research proposal (synopsis) along with the application for registration.

The following details should be included.

- a. Research area and topic.
- b. Temporary title.
- c. Research objectives.
- d. Importance and relevance of the study.
- e. Critical review of previous studies on the topic.
- f. Detailed research methodology.
- g. Comprehensive bibliography related to the study.
- h. Consent letter from the guide.

5.6.0 **Criteria for Interview**

The total marks for the interview is 30. Out of these 30 marks, 4 marks (total 20 marks) will be awarded to the candidate for each of the 5 parameters given below, when assessing the candidates.

5.6.1 **Research Proposal Quality:** Assess the clarity, originality, and feasibility of the candidate's proposed research. This includes the relevance of the research question, the soundness of the methodology, and the potential contribution to the field.

5.6.2 **Academic background and Domain knowledge:** Evaluate the candidate's foundational knowledge in their chosen field, including their understanding of key concepts, theories, and current research trends. This also includes the assessment of previous academic performance and any relevant coursework.

5.6.3 **Research Aptitude and Analytical Skills:** Examine the candidate's ability to think critically and analytically. This includes their problem-solving skills, ability to design studies, and proficiency in data analysis or theoretical modeling.

- 5.6.4 Motivation and Commitment: Assess the candidate's motivation for pursuing a Ph.D., including their career goals, passion for research, and commitment to completing the rigorous demands of a doctoral program.
- 5.6.5 Communication and Presentation Skills: Evaluate the candidate's ability to clearly and effectively communicate their research ideas, both in writing and orally. This includes the ability to present complex ideas to both experts and non-experts and their proficiency in academic writing and presentations.
- 5.6.6 10 Marks for the overall performance of the Candidate.
- 5.6.7 A candidate must secure at least two marks in each of the five assessment parameters during the interview process. Candidates who score below two marks in any three of these parameters will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for inclusion in the shortlist.
- 5.7.0 **Short-listing candidates for admission**
- 5.7.1 The marks secured in the written test out of 100 will be scaled down to 70 marks and combined with the 30 marks of the interview.
- 5.7.2 Candidates exempt from the Entrance examination will have their interview marks, originally out of 30, scaled to 100.
- 5.7.3 A weightage of 10% will be given to candidates who pursued postgraduate studies in the relevant subject of their research topic, but the total marks including weightage will be limited to 100. The candidates as per clause Regulation No: 5.7.2 may also be eligible for weightage, if applicable.
- 5.7.4 The scaled marks, out of 100 will be used for shortlisting candidates.
- 5.8.0 **Number of Seats**
- The number of students admitted to the Ph.D. program each year will be determined by the availability of guides. The university reserves the right not to conduct Ph.D. admissions in the absence of eligible applicants.
- 5.9.0 **Documents to be submitted**
- At the time of admission, students shall submit attested copies of the following documents along with the originals for verification. The originals will be returned after the verification process is completed.
- SSLC/AHSLC certificate.
 - Original/provisional postgraduate degree certificate and mark list.
 - Caste/religion certificate for SC/ST/OBC/OEC applicants.
 - Income certificate for economically backward classes in the General category.
 - Disability certificate for persons with disabilities.
 - No-objection certificate from the employer for working applicants.
 - Conduct certificate and Transfer certificate.
 - Students from other Universities shall submit a migration certificate within one month of admission.
 - Non-submission of required documents in the prescribed time will lead to cancellation of admission.
- 5.10.0 **Fees:**
- 5.10.1 Every Research Scholar, both Full-time and Part-time, shall be required to pay, in time, the fees prescribed by the University every semester. The Registration of the Research scholar will be cancelled, if he/she fails to pay the fee in the stipulated time.

Kerala Kalamandalam shall fix the fees to be paid by the student for applying for various permissions and relaxations provided for in these Regulations, such as condonation of attendance shortage, conversion of Registration from Full-time to Part-Time or vice-versa, or any other matter. Any modifications in this regard will be binding on all research scholars on the rolls at that time.

- 5.10.2 Every research scholar is required to pay the fees prescribed by the University at the beginning of each semester. Failure to pay the fees within 30 days of the due date will result in the researcher's name being removed from the university rolls.
- 5.10.3 If a student's name is removed from the rolls due to non-payment, they may apply for re-admission within 30 days of removal. The application must be made to the Campus Director duly recommended by the Research Guide, and accompanied by the payment of all outstanding fees, a re-admission fee, and any fines prescribed by the University.
- 5.10.4 If the default in payment exceeds 30 days, and the student fails to apply for re-admission within the next 30 days, they may still apply for re-admission within a total of 180 days from the original due date. Such an application will be placed before the Research Committee for consideration. If the Research Committee is satisfied with the genuineness of the reasons for the delay, it may take an appropriate decision regarding re-admission.
- 5.10.5 If a Research Scholar remains in default of fees for more than 180 days from the due date, their registration will be automatically cancelled.
- 5.10.6 Before paying the fees for the next semester, every research student must submit a progress report of their research, along with an attendance certificate, both countersigned by the Research Guide and the Campus Director.

6.0.0 **Full-time and Part-time Researchers**

- 6.1.0 Research can be conducted on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time researchers can apply to switch to part-time mode only after completing one year after Registration. Fees has to be paid for this.
- 6.2.0 **Part-Time Ph.D.:** Ph.D. programs through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled. Part-time researchers shall be working in recognized art institutions. They shall submit a "No Objection Certificate" head of the Institution where the researcher is employed, clearly stating that:
 - 6.2.1 The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.
 - 6.2.2 His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.
 - 6.2.3 If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

7.0.0 **Research Guide and Co-guides**

- 7.1.0 Research guides and Co-Guides should be selected from the panel approved by the Kerala Kalamandalam (Deemed to be University for Art & Culture). The guide/co-guide should not be a close relative of the researcher. For practice-based research, it is preferable that the guide possesses a practice-based background in the relevant field. When such supervisors are unavailable, the researcher may have co-guides from Kalamandalam or similar institutions. The co-guide is not bound by the limitations on the number of research students. The main guide, however, shall carry out all the responsibilities of the guide.
- 7.2.0 Professors can guide up to 8 students, Associate Professors up to 6, and Assistant Professors up to 4. Additionally, a guide can take up to 2 foreign researchers as supernumerary, outside the permissible number of research students.

7.3.0 **Change of Guide:** Changing the guide during the research period is not permitted. However, changes may be allowed under special circumstances. If an application is submitted with clear reason, the research committee may grant permission to change the guide after considering the guide's opinion and assessing the eligibility for the change. The newly appointed guide shall submit a certificate confirming their ability to guide the researcher in the specified subject. A fee shall be paid for changing the guide.

8.0.0 **Subject Change and Title Change**

8.1.0 The researcher can change the subject and thesis title, if necessary, within one year of starting the research. However, changes in the research area are not permitted. An application shall be submitted with the guide's approval. The advisory committee can recommend changes in the subject and title to the research committee after a discussion with the researcher if deemed appropriate. Required fee has to be paid.

9.0.0 **Course Work**

9.1.0 All full-time researchers and part-time researchers shall complete six months of course work. The Credit requirement for Ph.D. Course work is minimum of 12 Credits. The course work will include subjects like research methodology, research ethics, and aesthetics of arts.

Those conducting research in practical subjects can receive training under a designated teacher if needed. Only those who pass the course work examination can continue their studies. Those who fail shall retake and pass the exam in the following year. 55% of marks or its equivalent grade shall be obtained within a maximum of two years. Otherwise, the registration will be cancelled.

9.2.0 All Ph.D. scholars shall be required to train in teaching/pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D. scholars will also be assigned for teaching/research assistantship as per the norms fixed by Kerala Kalamandalam.

9.3.0 A Ph.D. scholar shall obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the course work to be eligible to continue in the program and submit his/her thesis.

9.4.0 At the final stage of course work, the researcher shall submit a dissertation of about 30 pages based on the research area. The Research Advisory Committee of the scholar will evaluate the dissertation and provide necessary suggestions after a discussion. 75% of the marks will be for the written examination, and 25% will be for the dissertation. Those who do not pass the course work within two years will lose their registration.

9.5.0 **Synopsis Submission:** After successfully completing the course work, the researcher shall submit a synopsis of about 3000 words, including the research area, subject, methodology, significance, relevance, and outline of the study. While changes in the subject and title are allowed, changes in the research area previously given in the outline are not permitted.

9.5.1 The researcher shall submit the final title after the completion of the course work.

9.6.0 **Course work for Foreign Researchers:** Foreign researchers shall complete a special six-month course work focusing on Kerala culture, Kerala arts, and aesthetics of arts.

10.0.0 **Attendance and Leave**

10.1.1 Full-time researchers shall have 75% attendance. Attendance shall be recorded in the campus register. At the end of each month, the campus director shall submit the attendance status to the Registrar.

The attendance status shall be displayed on the notice board by the 10th of every month. Researchers with low attendance will not receive a stipend/financial assistance. Researchers with low attendance can apply to the Registrar in a prescribed form with the recommendations of the guide and campus director for condonation of attendance. The Registrar will decide on the application, and the deficiency can be rectified by paying a fine. Those with unsatisfactory attendance will not be allowed to submit the annual progress report or continue the research.

10.1.2 Part-time researchers shall have at least 30 days of attendance per year. Attendance shall be recorded in a special register on the campus. At the end of the year, the register shall be submitted to the Registrar. The attendance status shall be displayed on the notice board at the end of every academic year.

10.2.0 **Leave:**

Researchers are entitled to 15 days of leave per calendar year. The application for leave shall be submitted to the Campus Director. Researchers with practical work involving presentations and related activities shall be granted special leave for presentations. The application shall be submitted with the recommendation of the guide or Head of the Department. Special leave exceeding 30 days per year is not permitted. If necessary, an application can be submitted for additional leave, and the Vice-Chancellor shall make a final decision. Those going for data collection related to research shall apply in the department with the recommendation of the guide. Relevant documents about visited persons and places shall be submitted after returning from leave. Researchers traveling abroad for data collection or receiving funds from foreign universities or committees shall submit an application with relevant documents to the Vice-Chancellor for long-term leave. For medical leave, researchers shall obtain the approval of Head of the Department while applying. Upon returning from leave, a certificate from a registered surgeon or physician shall be submitted. Medical leave exceeding 30 days per year is not permitted. In exceptional circumstances, if the researcher needs more leave, the Vice-Chancellor can grant it based on a justified application. During the research period, leave up to two months can be granted. Women and those with at least 40% disability can be granted up to two years of leave by the Vice-Chancellor for reasonable causes. Women are entitled to 240 days of maternity leave and childcare leave.

11.0.0 **Seminar and Annual Report**

11.1.0 **Seminar** All researchers shall attend the seminars that are organized on the campus each year for researchers. Attending eight (8) Seminar is mandatory. Each Researcher shall present at least three papers a year. The Dean/Campus Director or a designated teacher will be the moderator. Those unable to attend the seminar shall apply for leave with clear reasons with the guide's approval letter.

11.2.0 **Annual Report** Each year, the Researcher shall submit an annual report detailing the discussion with the guide and the research progress. Those who do not meet the deadline will not be allowed to continue their studies. For those who submit a justified application with the guide's recommendation, the Research Committee will consider and recommend to the Vice-Chancellor for a favorable decision to continue their studies. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor will be final in this matter. If the researcher is on leave due to health or other reasons, the report shall be submitted upon returning from leave.

12.0.0 **Research Advisory Committee**

12.1.0 There shall be a Research Advisory Committee for each Ph.D. scholar. The Committee shall consist of the Research scholar's guide as the convener and two members from the Doctoral/Research Committee, one of whom shall be an expert from outside the university.

12.2.0 **The duties and responsibilities of the Research Advisory Committee**

12.2.1 To review the Research proposal and finalize the topic of Research.

12.2.2 To guide the Ph.D. scholar in developing the study design and methodology of research and identify the courses that he/she may have to do.

12.2.3 To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the Ph.D. scholar.

13.0.0 **Doctoral/Research Committee**

13.1.0 There shall be Doctoral/Research Committee consisting of five members, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, with research expertise and experience. The Dean and Campus Director will be members of the Committee.

13.2.0 **Responsibilities of the Doctoral/Research Committee**

13.2.1 The Research Committee shall be responsible for overseeing all research programs conducted at Kerala Kalamandalam. This includes the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of research policies, ensuring that research activities align with the academic objectives of Kerala Kalamandalam. maintaining the quality and integrity of research, and providing guidance and support to researchers throughout their projects. The Committee shall also facilitate collaboration, allocate resources, and ensure compliance with relevant regulations and ethical standards.

13.2.1 Conduct Entrance Examination and interviews for Ph.D. Registration

13.2.2 Evaluate the research topic and suggest necessary changes.

13.2.3 Recommend the registration of the research scholar.

13.2.4 Advise the Vice-Chancellor on matters related to Research when such matters are forwarded to the Committee.

14.0.0 **Publication/Presentation of Research Papers**

14.1.0 During the research period, the student shall publish at least two research papers related to their research area in recognized journals. Participation and presentation of papers in at least two seminars organized by Academies or educational institutions is required. Those conducting research in practical subjects shall present two papers/demonstrations in seminars organized by government-level academies or other recognized organizations/institutions or make two presentations before an expert audience, proposing logical changes or additions to existing theoretical or practical positions. Records of these shall be submitted with the pre-submission application.

15.0.0 **Pre-Submission**

15.1.0 The pre-submission application shall be submitted six months before the completion of the research period. The application shall include an outline of the conclusions and methodology of the thesis. The draft of the thesis, which incorporates the necessary changes after the pre-submission presentation before the advisory committee, shall be submitted.

The guide shall consult with the dean, department head, and campus director to determine the date and time for pre-submission. The researcher shall present a detailed description of the thesis before a committee comprising the guide, a subject expert from outside appointed by the research committee, and the department head, within 20 minutes. Teachers and researchers can participate and share their opinions and suggestions. The thesis shall be submitted with the necessary changes based on the committee's suggestions and feedback.

16.0.0 Thesis Submission and other requirements

16.1.0 Within three months of pre-submission or one month before the research period ends, the researcher shall submit an application for thesis submission with the required documents.

16.2.0 Documents to be submitted along with the application:

16.2.1 An outline (detailed synopsis) indicating the methodology and other details of the thesis, along with an abstract of the thesis.

16.2.2 A certificate from the researcher stating that the thesis or subject has not been used as part of any work before or as part of a diploma, degree, fellowship, or other recognitions.

16.2.3 A certificate from the guide stating that the thesis is an original document of the research conducted by the student under their supervision.

16.2.4 Documents indicating successful completion of the course work.

16.2.5 Copies of research papers published in recognized journals and records of papers presented in seminars.

16.2.6 Details of the pre-submission presentation.

16.2.7 Complete application in the prescribed format.

16.2.8 Original receipt of the fee paid as recommended by the university.

16.2.9 No dues certificate from the hostel, library, and other sections.

16.2.10 Records of participation in at least eight seminars organized for researchers and presentation of three papers.

16.2.11 The thesis, written in either English or Malayalam, should be submitted in five copies to the Campus Director. The submission shall include certificates from both the researcher and the guide, attesting to the originality of the thesis and confirming that it has not been previously submitted elsewhere. Along with the thesis, relevant parts of practical subjects shall be submitted in a CD/DVD if necessary. The researcher shall obtain permission letters from relevant videographers for presenting such parts. The responsibility for presenting such parts lies with the researcher.

16.2.12 The Campus Director shall promptly submit the thesis and related documents to the Registrar/Controller of Examinations.

16.2.13 Soft copy of the Thesis.

16.3.0 Evaluation of Thesis

For the evaluation of the Thesis, the guide shall directly send a panel suggestion to the Registrar, which includes 10 qualified experts from academic research centers, including at least one from a university outside Kerala. The panel shall include the names, addresses, positions, phone numbers, email IDs, areas of expertise, and service duration of the suggested members. The Vice-Chancellor will select one chairman and two subject experts from the suggested panel, obtain their consent, and send the thesis for evaluation.

16.4.0 **Evaluation and Open Defense**

- 16.4.1 The examination Section shall complete the evaluation procedures, within six months of thesis submission.
- 16.4.2 The research student shall face a Ph.D. viva voce/open defense before recognized scholars, educational experts, and researchers.
- 16.4.3 The committee for viva voce/open defense shall include the chairman from the examiners, the department head, a research team/advisory committee member, and the guide.
- 16.4.4 According to the final decision of the examination committee, the details shall be communicated to the chairman, who, with the approval of the campus director and guide, will fix a suitable date for the open viva.
- 16.4.5 The Dean of the University/research advisory committee member will act as the moderator for the open defense, with the guide as the chairman of the meeting.
- 16.4.6 The research guide shall invite interested researchers/scholars from other universities, colleges, etc., to participate in the open defense. Along with the invitation letter, an abstract of the dissertation shall be provided to the invitees. The dissertation copies should be made available in the library and the contents displayed on the notice board for open discussion. Details of those reading the dissertation for research purposes shall be recorded in the library attendance book. Opinions on the dissertation can be written and handed over to the librarian, who will forward them to the Registrar. The Registrar will then hand them over to the examination team at least 15 days before the open viva. The chairman has the power to accept or reject these opinions.
- 16.4.7 At the start of the open defense, the guide, who presides over the meeting, shall welcome the guests and the audience.
- 16.4.8 The researcher should present a brief description of the dissertation within 30 minutes. After the researcher's presentation, the chairman/chairperson of the examiners will raise questions based on the reports and explain the dissertation to the audience. The moderator can intervene if participants ask irrelevant questions or deviate from the topic. The researcher should have the opportunity to explain and clarify their opinions. The chairman should not allow any other type of meeting procedures. The seriousness and discipline of the examination should be maintained in the open defense.
- 16.4.9 The chairman will evaluate the researcher's performance. The chairman will then prepare a report with the final recommendations on the open defense and submit it to the Vice-Chancellor through the Registrar along with the minutes. If the report recommends the researcher for the Ph.D. degree, the Vice-Chancellor should present it before the Executive Board for awarding the Ph.D. Degree.
- 16.4.10 The Examination Section shall complete the evaluation procedures, within six months of dissertation submission.
- 16.5.0 **Modification of Research Thesis:** If the examiners suggest any corrections, changes, or amendments for the approval of the Ph.D. degree, the Researcher should be informed. The amended dissertation shall be submitted by the student within six months. If any one of the examiners disagrees with awarding the degree after evaluation, the dissertation shall be sent for evaluation to a fourth examiner from the suggested panel with the Vice-Chancellor's approval. If the fourth examiner also opposes awarding the Ph.D. degree, the dissertation will be considered rejected. If two or more examiners oppose awarding the Ph.D. degree to any researcher, the dissertation will be rejected. Accepted or rejected dissertations can only be published with university approval.

16.6.0 **Award of Ph.D. Degree**

Based on the report from the examiners' team, the Executive Board will decide on awarding the Ph.D. degree.

16.7.0 **Publication of the Thesis**

16.7.1 Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before announcement of award of the Ph.D. degree to the candidate, the Ph.D. thesis shall be uploaded to the National Repository INFLIBNET for hosting the same, so as to make it accessible to all institutions.

16.7.2 A candidate awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is free to publish their thesis with proper acknowledgment to the University. However, if the adjudicators have asked to revise the thesis before publication, the candidate shall submit a declaration to the University confirming that the necessary changes have been made. A copy of the thesis so published shall be given by the candidate to the University Library.

17.1.0 **Cancellation of Ph.D. Registration:** The institution reserves the right to cancel the Ph.D. registration of a research scholar under the following circumstances:

17.1.1 Non-compliance with the academic requirements or failure to meet the stipulated progress benchmarks within the prescribed timeline.

17.1.2 Violation of the Kerala Kalamandalam's policies of academic integrity, including but not limited to plagiarism, falsification of research data, or unethical research practices.

17.1.3 Failure to pay the prescribed fees or meet other financial obligations.

17.1.4 Any other reason deemed sufficient by the Research Advisory Committee or the Doctoral/Research Committee, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

17.1.5 In all cases, the decision to cancel shall be communicated in writing to the research scholar, along with the reasons for the decision.

17.1.6 The scholar may appeal the decision within 30 days from the receipt of the communication to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision shall be final.

17.2.0 **De-Registration:** A Ph.D. scholar may be de-registered from the program under the following conditions:

17.2.1 Voluntary withdrawal from the program by the scholar, upon submission of a formal request to the Research Advisory Committee and approval by the Vice-Chancellor.

17.2.2 Prolonged absence from the program without prior approval from Kerala Kalamandalam, leading to the scholar's inability to fulfil academic responsibilities.

17.2.3 Involvement in activities that bring disrepute to Kerala Kalamandalam or negatively impact the scholar's ability to conduct research effectively.

17.3.0 **Penalty for false information:** Any candidate who is found to have willfully or otherwise given any particulars which are false or has suppressed material information or does not satisfy the requisite qualification for admission shall be disqualified. They shall not be allowed to continue on the rolls of the University, if it is detected at any stage of his/her studentship in the University. In case the candidate has already passed out of the University, the degree awarded by the University will be withdrawn.

18.0.0 **Removal of difficulties**

If any difficulties arise in implementing the above conditions and provisions, the Vice-Chancellor has full authority to issue orders to resolve such difficulties.
