MURSHIDABAD MAHARAJA KRISHNANATH UNIVERSITY, BERHAMPORE

REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMMES LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) DEGREE

[In conformity with the UGC Regulations, 2022]

(w.e.f. from Academic Session 2026-27)

BERHAMPORE, MURSHIDABAD, PIN-742101

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Preamble

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Murshidabad University (Amendment) Act, 2026 (West Bengal Act VI of 2026, Part- III, Acts of the West Bengal Legislature, Law Department Legislative Notification), and following its publication in the Kolkata Gazette (Extraordinary) on April 1, 2026, the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore hereby makes the following Regulations, namely: **Regulations for Research Programmes leading to the Award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree.**

Short Title, Application and Commencement:

1. These regulations have been formulated as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 dated 7th November 2022.

2. These regulations may be called the **Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) of the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore, 2026.**

3. These regulations shall be applicable to all the Ph.D. Programs of the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore unless otherwise stated.

4. These rules shall come into force from the date of approval of the competent authority.

Definitions:

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions have been incorporated:

1 "University" means the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore as constituted under West Bengal Act VI of 2026.

2. "Act" means The Murshidabad University (Amendment) Act, 2026.

3. "Statutes" and "Ordinances" mean respectively the Statutes and Ordinances made under The Murshidabad University (Amendment) Act, 2026.

4. "Rules" mean the Rules subsequently framed by the Executive Council of the University under these Regulations.

5. "Executive Council" means the Executive Council of Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore.

6. “Faculty Councils” means the Faculty Councils for Postgraduate Studies in Science and Arts as per the statutes of Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore.

7. “Departmental Research Committee (DRC)” means the Research Committee at the Departmental Level of the University.

8. “Teacher” means a Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor of the University appointed on substantive basis.

9. “Date of entry in Ph.D. Programme” means Date of Enrollment in the Ph.D. Programme.

10. “Notification” means a Notification published by the University in their Official Website.

11. “Ph.D. Scholar” means any person who has enrolled and registered himself/herself for pursuing Ph.D. Programme in the University.

12. “Higher Educational Institution (HEI)” means every university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act, or a State Act; every college; and every institution deemed to be a University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

13. “Research Proposal” means a brief write-up giving an outline of the proposed research work which the Ph. D. Scholar shall submit with the application for registration under the Ph. D. Programme.

14. “Plagiarism” means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own.

15. ‘Ph. D.’ means the Doctor of Philosophy.

16. ‘Course Work’ means the courses prescribed as part of the Ph.D. programme which all the candidates must successfully complete as a pre-requisite for Ph.D. registration as per the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

17. ‘Research Supervisor or Guide’ means a duly qualified teacher who is recognized by the University as a Research Supervisor/Guide to guide the candidates for their Ph.D. Degree.

18. ‘Co-Supervisor’ means a Research Supervisor who can be allowed only in association with the supervisor of a department for guiding a research work.

19. ‘Board of Research Studies’ means the Committee constituted as per the clause (43) of the statutes of the University.

20. ‘RAC (for each PhD Candidate)’ means a committee comprised of the supervisor as convener, HOD and an External member in order to evaluate the research work of the concerned scholar within an interval of six months.

21. 'Pre-submission Seminar' means a seminar prior to submission of the thesis, to be arranged in the concerned academic department where a research scholar shall make total two presentations on his/her Ph.D. work, before the members of the Board of Research Studies including the Supervisor and the co- supervisor (if any) and other faculty members of the concerned Department.

22. 'Abstract' means one page research proposal of the proposed work.

23. 'Synopsis of Thesis' means the summary of the thesis within 12 pages in double space of the completed thesis which shall be submitted by the candidate to the University along with the thesis for adjudication by the examiners/ adjudicators for award of the Ph.D. Degree.

24. 'Refereed Journal/Peer-reviewed' means a professional or literary Journal or Publication in which articles or research papers are published after review by an external expert.

25. 'Interdisciplinary Research' means research conducted by a Ph.D. scholar in a domain with two or more overlapping disciplines.

26. 'Re-registration' means extending an earlier registration by paying the prescribed registration fees, following the rules for the duration of Ph.D. Programme.

General Guidelines:

1. Departments of a Faculty or a Centre of Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore can conduct research programmes for the award of Ph.D. degree.

2. The Board of Research Studies (BRS) of the respective Faculty Council or Centre shall regulate and monitor all activities related to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programmes under the overall supervision and policy direction of the Executive Council (E.C.) of the University.

3. The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) shall supervise all academic matters related to the Ph.D. degree.

4. Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore shall not conduct the Ph.D. programmes through distance education mode.

5. Part-time Ph.D. will be allowed provided all the conditions mentioned in the extant Ph.D. Regulations are met.

6. English will generally be the medium of instruction and thesis writing for Ph.D. programs. In language departments, the respective language will be used. For departments teaching classical languages like Sanskrit and Arabic, etc. permission may be granted to write the thesis in English or another non-classical language if the University can find an expert in the domain for evaluation. The BRS may grant such permission based on the recommendation of the concerned DRC.

A. Composition and functions of the Board of Research Studies, Departmental Research Committee and Research Advisory Committee

1. Board of Research Studies

Each Faculty Council that offers Ph.D. Programmes shall have a Board of Research Studies. The registration of students by each Department of the Faculty Council shall require ratification by the respective BRS. The records of registration and the progress of research work done by the Ph.D. students shall be maintained by the BRS.

All members of the BRS must be qualified to be Supervisors.
The composition of BRS in a Faculty having more than one Department shall be as follows:
a) Dean of the Faculty- Chairperson.
b) One Professor (a nominee of the Vice Chancellor from other university).
c) Heads of all Departments under the Faculty.
d) One Associate Professors from each faculty (nominated by the Vice Chancellor).
e) One Assistant Professors from each faculty (nominated by the Vice Chancellor).

The selection under category(c), (d), and(e), above shall be by rotation as per seniority upto 5 years.
The composition of the BRS for a single department-based faculty council shall be as follows:

a) Dean of the Faculty -Chairperson
b) One Professor (nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from an allied Department)
c) Three Professors
d) Two Associate Professors
e) Two Assistant Professors
The selection under categories (c), (d), and (e) above shall be by rotation as per seniority upto 5 years.

2. Departmental Research Committee

Each Department / Centre offering Ph.D. Programme shall have a Departmental Research Committee (DRC). All members of the DRC must be qualified to be Supervisors. The Dean of the respective faculty will approve the Committee.

The DRC of Department/Centre shall comprise the following:
a) Head of the Department - Chairperson (Dean of the faculty would be the chairperson if the head of the department does not have Ph.D.)
b) One Professor (nominee of the Vice-Chancellor from other university)
c) All substantive post holders must have a Ph.D.

3. Research Advisory Committee -

I. There shall be a Research Advisory Committee of the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore concerned for each Ph.D. scholar. All members of the RAC must be qualified to be Supervisors. The composition of RAC shall be as follows:

a) Head of the Department / Chairperson of DRC - Chairperson
b) The Research Supervisor of the Ph.D. scholar - Convener
c) One faculty member other than the Supervisor from the Department
d) One Professor /Associate Professor / Assistant Professor from another Department of the University
e) One Professor /Associate Professor / Assistant Professor from other University

This committee shall have the following responsibilities:

i. To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research.

ii. To guide the Ph.D. scholar in developing the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.

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

II. A Ph.D. scholar 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. The Research Advisory Committee shall submit its recommendations along with a copy of Ph.D. scholar's progress report to the Higher Educational Institution concerned. A copy of such recommendations shall also be provided to the Ph.D. scholar.

III. In case the progress of the Ph.D. scholar is unsatisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the Ph.D. scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend, with specific reasons, the cancellation of the registration of the Ph.D. scholar from the Ph.D. programme.

B. Procedure for Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. programme shall be made using the following procedures:

1. As per UGC Regulations 2022, the University will notify a prospectus well in advance on its website specifying the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, and all other relevant information for the candidates. Furthermore, the University will decide on an annual basis through the academic bodies, a predetermined manageable number of Ph.D. students to be

admitted depending on the number of available Research Supervisors. Other academic and physical facilities such as student-teacher ratio, laboratory, library and other facilities may be considered while deciding the number of seats.

2. The Departments shall, on an annual basis, decide through the DRC/BRS and communicate to the University Authority a predetermined and manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted. The number of available seats, subject/discipline-wise distribution, admission criteria, admission procedure, syllabus for the written test, interview selection criteria, and all other relevant information will be notified well in advance on the University website and the Admission Portal through appropriate advertisement for the benefit of the candidates.
3. The Head of the Department shall consult the faculty members who are recognized to be Supervisors, regarding the number of vacant seats available to each member in that academic year. Each department, in consultation with Competent Authority, will decide on the number of seats that he/she would like to fill in a particular year, within his/her maximum permissible strength and inform the Head of the Department / Chairperson of DRC accordingly.
4. No full-time research scholar registered for the Ph.D. programme shall be permitted to pursue any other full-time programme during the tenure of the Ph.D. programme.

C. Eligibility Criteria

As per UGC Regulations 2022, the following are eligibility criteria for admission to the Ph.D. programme:

1. Candidates who have completed:

i) A 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 bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks (in PG) 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 the educational institution.

ii) A relaxation of 5% marks, or an equivalent relaxation in grade, may be granted to candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and other categories as per the provisions of the UGC Regulations and the notifications issued by the Government of West Bengal from time to time.

iii) Subject to the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in clauses (i), or (ii) above, candidates who have qualified in the UGC-NET or UGC-CSIR NET under any of the prescribed categories (i.e., eligible for admission to Ph.D. with JRF and appointment as Assistant Professor; eligible for admission to Ph.D. without JRF and appointment as Assistant

Professor; or eligible for admission to Ph.D. only), as well as candidates who have qualified in SET/SLET/GATE/ICMR/CEED/DBT or similar national or state level tests shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. Programme based on an interview.

2. Candidates with a 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 bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body must qualify in an entrance test conducted by the University/National or State Level Entrance Test. The Committee for Facilitating Ph.D. Programme shall determine the number of candidates to be called for interview, depending on the number of vacancies available.

3. Candidates who have completed the M.Phil./ M.Tech. programme (of min 2 years duration) 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. programme.

4. A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree with honours programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

5. The Departments will decide the number of eligible students to be called for an interview based on the number of Ph.D. seats available in the Department.

6. Candidates holding Junior Research Fellowships or equivalent research positions in projects, satisfying the minimum eligibility conditions (subject to selection by the duly constituted committee as per the University norms for research projects) may also appear directly for an interview.

7. Scientists/professionals working at R&D institutes of the Government of India/State Government with whom the University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding have to sit for a written test (exemption only for those who have qualified national or state level entrance test for Ph.D.) for appearing interview subject to fulfilling minimum eligibility criteria.

8. The allied subjects for admission to Ph.D. Programme in a particular Department shall be decided by the DRC of the respective Department in consultation with faculty members who have advertised for vacancies, based on their specific requirements. The list of allied subjects duly approved by the DRC may be submitted to the respective BRS for approval, after which it may be displayed on the website of the Department.

9. Foreign nationals fulfilling the eligibility criteria may be registered for Ph.D. within the maximum admissible strength. Each supervisor can guide up to two international research scholars on a supernumerary basis within the permitted number of Ph.D. scholars as specified in Clause G.3 below. Foreign nationals must provide evidence of language competence suited to the Department they wish to join. Foreign nationals are exempted from entrance test and interview. They may be admitted based on their research proposal, subject to fulfilling the minimum eligibility criteria. The decision regarding the same rests with the DRC subject to approval from BRS for the Ph.D. Programme.

D. Entrance Test* and the Interview

1. As per UGC Regulations 2022, the Entrance Test for Ph.D. Programme shall be conducted once a year and the eligibility of shortlisted candidates shall remain valid till the next entrance test. The interviews may be held twice a year or more, subject to the availability of seats as determined by the DRC.

2. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% of research methodology, and 50% shall be subject-specific.

3. The entrance test will be a qualifying examination with 50% as the qualifying marks for candidates belonging to the unreserved category. Students who have secured 50 % marks in the entrance test are eligible to be called for the interview.

4. A relaxation of 5% of marks (from 50% to 45%) shall be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy layers)/ Differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission from time to time.

5. The Departments shall conduct interviews for Ph.D. admissions simultaneously for all the categories and ensure that the category of candidates is not revealed at the interview. Once the merit of the candidates is collated, the respective DRCs may allot the seats as per the reservation provisions of the Government of India/ West Bengal.

6. For the selection of candidates who qualify NET/SET/GATE or in the national level examination, a weightage of 70% to the NET/SET/GATE or in the national level examination and 30% to the performance in the interview/viva voce shall be given.

*The University may or may not conduct the Entrance Test for admission to the Ph.D. Programme, depending on the availability of seats in the respective departments.

7. At the time of the interview, if required, experts/prospective Supervisors from allied/specialized areas may be invited.

8. At the time of the interview, the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area before a duly constituted Committee. The interview shall also consider the following aspects:

a) the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research;
b) the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University
c) the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

9. The merit list of the selected candidates, duly approved by the Competent Authority, shall be displayed on the website after approval by the DRC. There will be a waiting list in order of merit.

10. The DRC reserves the right not to select candidates for all the vacancies advertised.

11. The DRC shall ensure that all University rules as well as reservation rules are followed in the admission process.

12. The registration of candidates in the Ph.D. programme may be confirmed by the BRS based on the recommendation of the DRC after the completion of coursework.

13. As per UGC Regulations 2022, the Departments shall maintain a list of Ph.D. supervisors (specifying the name of the supervisor, his or her designation, and the department), along with the details of Ph.D. scholars (specifying the name of the registered Ph.D. scholar, the topic of his/her research and the date of admission) admitted under them on the website of the university and update this list every academic year.

E. Coursework

1. The Credit requirement for the Ph.D. coursework is a minimum of 14 credits, including a "Research and Publication Ethics" (2 credits) course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1-1/2018 (Journal/CARE) in January 14, 2019 and a research methodology course. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to the course on Research Methodology, four credits for literature survey and four credits for the respective core subject. A sufficient number of the optional courses shall be offered by the Departments. Other courses shall be advanced-level courses preparing the students for Ph.D. degree. Ph.D. scholars shall also be permitted to take optional courses from allied departments.

2. All Ph.D. scholars, irrespective of discipline, shall be required to train in teaching /education /pedagogy/writing related to their chosen Ph.D. subject during their doctoral period. Ph.D.

scholars in the 3rd year & 4th year may also be assigned 4-6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship for conducting tutorial or laboratory work.

3. All courses prescribed for Ph.D. programme coursework shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods. These courses shall be duly approved by the DRC and the BRS.

4. The Department where the research scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to him/her based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee of the research scholar.

5. The Departments shall ensure that all research scholars admitted to Ph.D. programme, complete the coursework along with the declaration of the result within the first 2 years of enrollment.

6. Marks/Grades in the coursework shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Research Advisory Committee and the Department, and the final marks/grades shall be communicated to the BRS and University before the end of the first year. The Controller of Examinations shall be the signatory authority for all Grade Sheets/Mark Sheets.

7. The DRC shall satisfy itself that each research scholar has completed the requirement of coursework. The Head of the Department / Chairperson of DRC shall provide the student with a certificate of completion of coursework and names of courses opted by each student. If a research scholar fails to qualify the coursework, s/he may be allowed to complete the coursework within a maximum duration of 2 (two) years since the date of enrollment in the Ph.D. programme. If the result is still found unsatisfactory, the DRC may recommend cancellation of his/her registration. This may be reported to the Board of Research Studies in case of Ph.D. scholars. Under special circumstances (e.g. medical reasons), a final decision may be taken by BRS on the recommendation of the DRC for Ph.D. scholars.

8. The credits of the coursework shall be transferable between the Departments of the University and inter-university, subject to their acceptance by the DRC.

9. A full-time research scholars shall not be allowed to take up any assignment outside the University during the coursework.

10. 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.

11. Upon satisfactory completion of course work and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed as the case may be, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a

draft thesis within a reasonable time, as stipulated by the University based on UGC Regulations, 2022, and quoted here in clause K.

12. After admission to Ph.D. programme, the research scholar in consultation with the Supervisor may propose a tentative broad area/title for Ph.D. thesis within one year. However, the final title for the Ph.D. thesis must be decided at the time of the pre-Ph.D. presentation. The final title will be subject to approval of the DRC and the BRS.

13. A thesis title may be modified only once during the research tenure, without altering the core area of study. The request must be forwarded by the Supervisor and approved by the DRC and the BRS. Title changes are not permitted after the final (pre-submission) seminar. If the title is changed during the final seminar, the scholar must wait a minimum of three months before submitting the thesis.

F. Attendance

1. Research scholars must attend lectures (coursework) and participate in seminars, laboratory sessions, and contact sessions organized by the Department. They must maintain at least 75% attendance in each course during the coursework.

2. Full-time students must maintain 75% attendance throughout their academic tenure. Approved research-related outstation visits will count toward this requirement with prior approval from Supervisors and Heads of Departments/Centres. Additionally, students with fellowships or working on projects must follow the guidelines of their respective funding agencies.

3. All Heads of Departments/Centres and Supervisors must ensure that full-time and part-time Ph.D. students meet attendance requirements before permitting them to appear for Ph.D. coursework exams or submit their thesis.

G. Eligibility Criteria for Supervisor

1. Permanent faculty members of the Departments of the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University working as Professor/Associate Professor 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 Departments of the University with a Ph.D., and at least three research publications in Peer-reviewed or refereed journals shall be recognised as a PhD Supervisor. Such recognised PhD supervisors cannot supervise research scholars in other institutions, where they can only act as co-supervisors. Ph.D. awarded by a university under the supervision of a faculty member who is not an employee of the university would be in violation of these Regulations. Co-Supervisors from within the same department or other departments of Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University or other institutions/industries may be permitted with the

approval of the competent authority provided they fulfill all the eligibility requirements. Adjunct Faculty members and Scientists from industry shall not act as Ph.D. Research Supervisors and can only act as co-supervisors, after due approval from the Competent Authority.

2. In case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/School/Centre/ University may be appointed.

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.

4. 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 G.3 above.

5. At any point, the total number of PhD scholars under a faculty member, either as a supervisor or a co-supervisor, shall not exceed the number prescribed in Clause G.3 and G.4 above.

H. Allocation of Supervisor

1. The allocation of Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the DRC depending on the number of research scholars per Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and the research interests of the research scholar, as indicated by them at the time of interview.

2. In case of topics which are inter-disciplinary and where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department.

3. In a Department where teachers are retiring, leaving or are proceeding on long leave on deputation or where unforeseen circumstances have necessitated a change of Supervisor, the DRC shall appoint Supervisor(s)/Co-Supervisor(s) as a supernumerary allotment. This may be approved by the respective BRS.

4. 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 co-supervisors after superannuation but not after attaining the age of 70 years. Faculty members who get reemployed after superannuation (after 65 yr of age) in the department will remain Supervisors for their existing PhD scholars.

5. Faculty members on deputation/long leave for more than a year may not be included in the list of proposed Supervisors in a Department and in determining the number of vacant seats.

6. The DRC, on the recommendation of the Supervisor, may appoint scholars of eminence who may be residing in India or abroad, as Co-Supervisor(s).

7. The recommendation of the DRC regarding the appointment of Supervisor(s) shall be approved by the respective BRS.

8. Each Supervisor is entitled to take a fresh research scholar after submission of the thesis of his/her previously allotted research scholar, based on maximum permissible number for that faculty member.

I. Financial Assistance to Research Scholars

1. Research scholars who have cleared National Level examinations with JRF or equivalent shall get financial assistance from the concerned funding agency.

2. Research scholars who are working in projects as JRF and SRF shall get financial assistance from the designated projects.

3. Research scholars who do not receive any financial assistance from any source may avail themselves of Non-NET UGC fellowships, if eligible, however, no institutional scholarship shall be provided by the University.

4. Financial assistance shall not be provided where the research scholar is availing paid study leave.

5. Foreign research scholars must show proof of financial support for the duration of the Ph.D. enrolment.

6. The upgradation of financial assistance from JRF to SRF shall be based on the recommendation of the DRC as per the rules of the funding agency and UGC regulations.

J. Leave

1. Any leave exceeding thirty days taken by a full-time research scholar from research work shall require prior intimation to and approval from the DRC and the BRS. This period shall be counted towards the total duration of the Ph.D. programme for thesis submission.

2. On the recommendation of the Supervisor and the DRC, the BRS may permit the research scholar to be away from the Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore to pursue research related to Ph.D. work for not more than two semesters in the entire tenure after completion of the coursework.

3. Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave as per government's orders/rules from time to time in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme. This period shall not be counted in the total duration for submission of Ph.D. thesis.

4. The Supervisor must report an absence from research work by a research scholar due to illness, maternity leave or other circumstances to the DRC and BRS. Negligence of research work or any other acts of indiscipline must be recorded and reported to the DRC and the concerned BRS. On receipt of a complaint, the BRS may take appropriate action against the research scholar, including cancellation of his/her registration.

K. Duration of Ph.D. Programme

1. As per UGC Regulations 2022, the Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (03) years, including coursework and a maximum duration of six (06) years from the date of enrollment to the Ph.D. programme.

2. As per UGC Regulations, 2022, 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 eight (8) years from the date of enrollment in the Ph.D. programme.

3. Female Ph.D. scholars and differently abled scholars (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (02) 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 registration in the Ph.D. programme.

4. The maximum time span between admission and registration shall be two (02) years.

L. Evaluation and Assessment

Upon satisfactory completion of coursework and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in Clause E.10 above, the Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work. The steps are as follows:

1) Seminar Presentations:

A research scholar shall deliver two seminar presentations before the submission of the thesis. These presentations must be made before the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), which includes the supervisor and co-supervisor (if applicable). The seminars will be open to faculty members and fellow research scholars to receive feedback and suggestions for improvement, which should be incorporated into the thesis under the guidance of the supervisor.

a. First Seminar Presentation:

The Supervisor shall submit an application to the Dean requesting the arrangement of the first seminar presentation. This application must be accompanied by a progress report (1000-2000 words) signed by the research scholar. A research scholar may deliver the first seminar only after completing one year from the date of registration, as approved by the BRS. Upon satisfactory performance in the first seminar, the Convenor of the BRS shall issue a certificate stating the presentation was conducted successfully.

b. Final/Pre-Submission Seminar Presentation:

The Supervisor shall apply to the Dean similarly, accompanied by six copies of the synopsis (approx. 5000 words) signed by the research scholar. There must be a minimum of three months gap between the first and second presentations. The Dean will forward the application to the Convener of the BRS, who shall arrange the seminar within one month of receipt. The BRS Convener shall notify all members, including the external member and the scholar, at least seven days prior to the seminar date. During the seminar, BRS members may offer specific suggestions. The BRS may request a reappearance for seminar presentation within six months if needed. After the final presentation, the Convener will issue a certificate confirming that the scholar has successfully delivered two presentations, listing dates, title, and performance, and forward this to the Dean. This certificate is mandatory for thesis submission.

2) Change of Thesis Title

The thesis title may be modified only once during the research tenure, without altering the core area of the initially proposed study. The request must be forwarded by the Supervisor to the BRS for approval. Title changes are not permitted after the final (pre-submission) seminar.

3) Submission of Thesis

The thesis should be written in English, except in the case of language subjects. Prior approval from the Vice Chancellor is required for submission in other languages, with an English abstract included. The thesis must be submitted within six months of the pre-submission seminar.

A Ph.D. scholar should publish at least two research papers in peer-reviewed/refereed journals before submission of the thesis and produce evidence in the form of a letter or a reprint (The names of the peer-reviewed journals will be decided by the respective department). This has to be certified by the Supervisor and the Head of the Department. Scholars should present at least two papers related to their research area at national/ international conferences/symposiums/workshops/ seminars. Seminar proceedings with proper peer review may be considered as publications of equal value, as mentioned above.

In case of issues related to Intellectual Property Rights, necessary patents shall be filed before disclosure in the seminar. Extensions may be granted under exceptional circumstances with VC’s approval. Upon receiving permission, the scholar must submit five (or six if there is a

Co-Supervisor) hard copies and a soft copy of the thesis, along with supervisor's certificate of genuineness, declaration by the scholar, six copies of synopsis (max 5000 words), English abstract if the thesis is in a regional language and plagiarism detection using UGC-approved software is mandatory. If plagiarism exceeds the permissible limit (10%), the scholar must revise and resubmit. Required submission fee and documentation must be provided by the candidate at submission. Ph.D. scholars are encouraged to publish in UGC recognized peer-reviewed journals. The thesis must not be based on previously awarded degrees or diplomas. A declaration is required in this regard. The Ph.D. scholar and the supervisor must both submit plagiarism-free undertakings. All academic and administrative clearance from all relevant area must be obtained before the final submission.

4) Evaluation of Thesis:

At least three months before submission, the RAC shall prepare a confidential panel of examiners (3 from outside the state/abroad and 3 from within the state), which is approved by BRS and submitted to the Dean. The Vice Chancellor appoints a panel of four, including at least one external examiner from outside the state or abroad. The Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research scholar shall be evaluated by two external examiners who are experts in the field and not employed by the University. The Examination Branch may send all communication to the examiners viz. request for consent, sending of Ph.D. thesis for evaluation and receive report/s electronically through email/online portal. The thesis evaluation fee is Rs. 2500, with an additional Rs. 1000 for the viva voce. The Travel Allowance (TA) and Dearness Allowance (DA) will be provided in accordance with the university's finance rules.

5) Adjudication Report:

Each examiner must submit a confidential report with the following recommendation: (i) thesis is satisfactory and recommended for award in present form (subject to viva-voce), (ii) revision required but need not sent to the reviewer, (iii) revision required and sent to the reviewer (iv) thesis is rejected. Reports must include detailed chapter-wise evaluation, strengths/weaknesses, and viva-voce questions. The report should be submitted within 8 (eight) weeks from the date of receipt of the thesis by the examiners. If one examiner rejects while one recommends, a third examiner will be appointed from the approved panel by the Vice Chancellor. Their decision is final. If the third external examiner rejects, the thesis is considered rejected. If revisions are needed: For major revisions: revised thesis must be submitted within 6 months, following the original procedure. For minor revisions: an addendum (within 30 days) must be submitted and approved before viva-voce. The Supervisor's report shall also be included. The Dean shall forward the reports to the respective Research Supervisors, who in turn shall submit them to the Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

6) Viva-Voce Examination:

The Vice Chancellor shall appoint the supervisor and one of the external examiners as viva-voce examiners. If unavailable, the Vice Chancellor would choose from the existing approved panel of examiners. The Dean shall issue a notice for the viva-voce (minimum 10 days before), specifying date, time, and venue. Viva-voce shall be open to faculty, BRS members and

scholars. The scholar will answer questions raised during the session. A joint viva-voce report shall be submitted, stating whether the scholar qualifies for the Ph.D. Degree. If the scholar fails, they may appeal to reappear after three months. Upon satisfactory viva and adjudication reports, the Vice Chancellor shall recommend award of the Ph.D. Degree to the Executive Council. The award date will be the viva-voce date. A provisional certificate stating the title, date, and award of the degree shall be issued within 15 days. The final Ph.D. Degree Certificate will be awarded at the university convocation. One soft copy of the thesis shall be archived in the University Library.

M. Fees and other charges:

The following fees shall be payable at various stages of the Ph.D. Programme:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹)	Time of Payment
1.	Application Fee	The University shall notify the prescribed application fee for the Ph.D. programme through its official website.	At the time of submission of the online/offline application form
2.	Admission Fee	₹3,000/-	At the time of admission after selection
3.	Registration Fee	₹10,000/-	The fee may be paid in two installments of 50% each. (i) At the time of registration (ii) At the time of pre-submission
4.	Thesis Submission Fee	₹5,000/-	At the time of submission of the Ph.D. thesis
5.	Re-submission Fee (if applicable)	₹2,000/-	At the time of re-submission of revised thesis

N. Ph.D. through Part-time Mode:

1. Ph.D. programmes through part-time mode will be permitted, provided all the conditions stipulated in these Regulations are fulfilled.

2. The Departments shall obtain a "No Objection Certificate" through the candidate for a part-time Ph.D. programme from the appropriate authority in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that:

- The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.
- His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time to research.
- He/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other law, for the time being in force, Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore shall not conduct Ph.D. programmes through distance and/or online mode.

O. Depository with INFLIBNET:

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the Ph.D. degree(s), Murshidabad Maharaja Krishnanath University, Berhampore shall submit an electronic copy of the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET, for hosting the same to make it accessible to all the Higher Educational Institutions and research institutions, provided that the scholar has submitted the Student Approval Form (adopted from Shodhganga, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad).

P. Decisions on Unspecified Situations:

The University's Research Board(s) will decide on actions for situations not covered by this Regulation. In emergencies, the Vice Chancellor may take necessary steps, subject to later approval by the Research Board(s).