SSSIHL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) PROGRAMMES

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SSSIHL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) PROGRAMMES

1. APPLICATION PROCESS

a) Admission Notification

The admission notification for the PhD programmes shall be made available on the SSSIHL official website based on available vacancies in various campuses and the faculty strength in different disciplines.

b) Residential Character

SSSIHL has a residential character where all students, doctoral research scholars and select teaching faculty reside together in the hostel, which enables the translation of lessons learned into practical skills through experiential learning. SSSIHL hosts students from across the country at its four campuses located in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India, and provides quality education free of cost for all programmes of study. Women candidates shall join the Anantapur Campus in Andhra Pradesh, while men candidates shall join one of the Men's campuses (Prasanthi Nilayam Campus/ Brindavan Campus/ Muddenahalli Campus), depending on their discipline.

c) Online Application

Candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria (see Reg-2) shall submit their application for the PhD programme to SSSIHL in the prescribed format. The online application form and the last date of submission shall be made available on the SSSIHL official website.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a) National-level Examinations

Candidates who have qualified in UGC-NET (Category-1 or 2 or 3) or JOINT CSIR-UGC NET (Category-1 or 2 or 3) or GATE or JEST are eligible to apply (see Reference-1).

OR

b) Master's Degree

Candidates who hold a **02-year/04-semester Master's Degree (after a 03-year Bachelor's Programme**) or a **01-year/02-semester Master's Degree (after a 04-year NEP Bachelor's (Hons. with Research) Programme)** from SSSIHL or any other recognized university, in a relevant discipline within the faculties of Science, Engineering, Management & Commerce, Humanities & Social Sciences (including subjects like Economics, Education, Languages & Literature) etc., with **not less than 55% aggregate marks** or its grade equivalent are eligible to apply.

OR

c) Bachelor's Degree (NEP-2020)

Candidates who hold a **04-year/08-semester NEP Bachelor's (Hons. with Research) degree** from SSSIHL or any other recognized university in the respective discipline, with a **minimum CGPA of 7.5/10** or its equivalent percentage of marks are eligible to apply.

d) Age

Candidates should be not more than 30 years old as of the date of application.

3. RELAXATION

a) Relaxation of Marks

Candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwD (Divyangjan)/ EWS shall be provided a **relaxation of 05% marks** as per prevalent UGC guidelines (see Reference-1).

b) Relaxation of Age

A **relaxation of up to 05-years** is provided for candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwD/EWS, and Women applicants.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

a) SSSIHL Admission Test

(i) Candidates who do not qualify in any of the National-level Examinations (see Reg-2.a) are required to write the 'SSSIHL Research Aptitude Assessment Test';

(ii) Details of the 'SSSIHL Research Aptitude Assessment Test' such as dates, syllabus, mode (online/offline), etc., shall be made available on the SSSIHL official website.

b) Interview

Candidates who have qualified in any of the National-level Examinations or in the SSSIHL Admission Test are required to go through the interview process for selection.

5. OVERVIEW OF PhD PROGRAMME AT SSSIHL

a) Registration and JRF

Upon successful completion of the interview, selected candidates shall be registered for the PhD programme and considered a Junior Research Fellow (JRF -see Reg-8.a). Each JRF shall be guided by a research supervisor (see Reg-6).

b) Overall Programme Duration

PhD programme shall have a **minimum duration of 03-years**, including the Pre-PhD coursework, and a **maximum duration of 06-years**. This duration corresponds to the time from the date of registration for the PhD programme (see Reg-5.a) until the submission of the thesis to the Controller of Examinations (CoE).

c) Pre-PhD Coursework

The registered candidates are required to undergo Pre-PhD coursework (see Reg-9) and must complete it before appearing for Comprehensive Examination (CE).

d) Comprehensive Examination

Research scholars after successful completion of the Pre-PhD coursework, must appear for the CE **within a maximum period of 02-years** from the date of registration for the PhD programme (see Reg-10).

e) SRF Promotion

Upon successfully clearing the CE and completion of 02-years, research scholars shall be promoted as Senior Research Fellow (SRF-see Reg-8.a).

f) Publications and Seminars

Research scholars shall have **minimum 02-publications** and shall deliver **02-seminars** (see Reg-11.a) during their research tenure prior to the colloquium.

g) PhD Colloquium

Research scholars shall make a colloquium presentation to the academic community on the work done during their tenure (see Reg-11).

h) Submission of Thesis

The research scholars shall submit the thesis for evaluation **within a maximum period of 03-months** from the completion of the colloquium (see Reg-12).

i) Thesis Defence

Upon successful evaluation of the thesis, it shall be approved for Defence (see Reg-13).

j) Award of Degree and Convocation Ceremony

After successful defence, Provisional Doctoral Degree certificates shall be issued to the candidates. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) shall be awarded to research scholars during the convocation ceremony (see Reg-14).

6. SUPERVISION FOR PhD CANDIDATES

a) Research Supervisor

Each PhD candidate at SSSIHL shall be guided by a research supervisor, a permanent faculty member of SSSIHL (Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor) with a PhD degree and adequate research publications.

b) Co-Supervisor

Co-supervisor shall be appointed if the research problem is interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary. The co-supervisor may be from within the Dept. or from any Dept. within SSSIHL, or an adjunct faculty member, or an experienced professional practitioner, or a faculty member from any other academic institution of repute with demonstrable research experience in the domain of interest.

c) Change of Supervisor:

Change of research supervisor may be permitted under exceptional circumstances including but not limited to death or disability on health grounds or transfer or resignation or retirement of the supervisor, or on the request of the research scholars/research supervisors, with the recommendations by the RAC (see Reg-7).

7. RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

a) Constitution of RAC

There shall be a RAC for each research scholar. This committee shall be constituted by the HoD in consultation with the concerned research supervisor. The research supervisor shall serve as the convener of this committee. It shall consist of 03-members from the faculty including the co-supervisor (if applicable). If required, an external expert in the research domain could also be considered.

b) RAC Responsibilities

RAC shall have the following responsibilities:

(i) To review the research proposal and finalize the research topic;

(ii) To guide research scholars in developing the study design and research methodology, and to identify any courses the research scholars may need to undertake;

(iii) To periodically review and assist with the progress of the research work.

c) RAC Evaluation

(i) Each semester, research scholars shall make a presentation on their progress and submit a brief report to the RAC for evaluation and further guidance;

(ii) The RAC shall then submit its recommendations, along with a copy of the research scholars' progress report, to the Registrar through proper channel. A copy of these recommendations shall also be provided to the research scholars;

(iii) If the progress of the research scholars is unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record the reasons and suggest corrective measures. If research scholars fail to implement these measures, the RAC may recommend, with specific reasons, the **cancellation of the scholar's registration in the PhD programme**.

8. FELLOWSHIP AND STIPEND/SCHOLARSHIP

a) Types of Fellowship

(i) Junior Research Fellow (JRF)

Research scholars shall be considered a JRF at SSSIHL for **02-years** from the date of registration for the PhD programme.

(ii) Senior Research Fellow (SRF)

JRF shall be promoted to SRF after successful completion of 02-years of tenure as JRF and completion of the CE whichever is later. In case research scholars complete 02-years of tenure as JRF but fail to complete CE, they shall be continued as JRF until they clear CE.

b) Duties of Research Fellows (JRF/SRF)

(i) Training

All research scholars, regardless of their discipline, are required to undergo training in research, teaching, education, pedagogy, or writing related to their chosen field of PhD work during their doctoral research period.

(ii) Assistantship

Research scholars may also be assigned 04 to 06-hours per week of teaching or research assistantship, which may include conducting tutorials, laboratory work, and evaluations.

(iii) Research Work

Research scholars shall be provided research facility within SSSIHL and may be permitted to visit other research institutions, libraries, industries, or laboratories for their research work.

(iv) Participation in Co-curricular Activities

In addition to their research work, scholars are expected to participate in co-curricular activities of SSSIHL and Hostel, which are integral to the Sri Sathya Sai System of Integral Education (SSSSIE). Research scholars may also be assigned other duties as and when required.

(v) Recognition

Certificates or letters from competent authorities can be provided to evidence the contributions of the research scholars to the institution.

c) Stipend/Scholarship Claim Procedure

(i) Monthly Work Done Report

All research scholars shall submit a monthly work done report, attested by the supervisor, in order to claim the stipend/scholarship and shall be paid as given below:

Stipend/Scholarships				
			Funded by SSSIHL*	
Type	UGC-NET Category-1	Other Fellowships or Projects	UGC-NET Category-3	Non-NET Category
JRF	As per UGC norms	As per guidelines	INR 20,000 pm	INR 15,000 pm
SRF	As per UGC norms	As per guidelines	INR 25,000 pm	INR 20,000 pm
** Research scholars are strongly encouraged to qualify UGC-NET Category-1 or any other Government /Private Fellowship.*				

(ii)Stipend/Scholarship Funded by UGC

Candidates qualified for UGC Fellowship shall follow the process to claim and shall be paid as per UGC norms.

(iii) Other Fellowships/Stipend/Scholarships/Projects

Research scholars are strongly encouraged to qualify for Government/Private-Fellowships/Stipend/Scholarships/Projects and shall be paid as per the guidelines.

(iv) Stipend/Scholarship Funded by SSSIHL

1. **Tenure**: Stipend/Scholarship funded by SSSIHL is **only for 05-years** from the date of registration for the PhD Programme (02-years of JRF and 03-years of SRF) and Stipend/Scholarship shall be **discontinued after 05-years** from the date of registration for the PhD Programme**;**
2. Research scholars not qualified in UGC-NET (Non-NET Category) but registered for PhD Programme are required to qualify 'UGC-NET Category-3' **within a maximum period of 01-year (02 consecutive attempts)** from the date of registration for the PhD Programme. Students are strongly encouraged to qualify UGC-NET Category-1.

9. Pre-PhD COURSEWORK

a) Coursework Partition

The Pre-PhD coursework is designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to undertake a PhD thesis. The coursework is divided into three parts (**Part A**, **Part B** and **Part C**).

(i) Part A (Essential Courses)

The first part of the Pre-PhD coursework is designed to equip the candidates with essential skills in Research Methodology and Statistics in their chosen discipline, Research and Publication Ethics, and English for Research Writing and Publication.

(ii)Part B (Core Courses)

The second part of the Pre-PhD coursework is designed to equip the candidates with the knowledge and skills required for conducting research in their chosen area and performing a high-quality investigation on the topic of interest. These courses should preferably be taught by the research supervisor, who may also seek assistance from other faculty members or external resources.

(iii) Part C (Awareness Courses)

Awareness courses at SSSIHL are designed to provide students with a holistic education that integrates academic learning with moral development. These courses aim to cultivate values, character, and a sense of social responsibility among students**.** However, Part C is only for candidates who have not done their previous/qualifying degree at SSSIHL.

b) In-house and Online/Self-paced Course

(i) In-house Courses

1. Courses in Part A shall be designed by the respective departments;
2. Courses in Part B shall be designed by the research supervisor;
3. Awareness courses administered at the PG/Professional level shall be offered by the respective course instructors.

(ii)Online/Self-paced Course

Any or all of the required courses in Part A & Part B may be suggested from SWAYAM, NPTEL, or any other UGC-recognized online platforms.

c) Credits Allocation and Online Credit Transfer

(i) Credit Allocation

The total credits for the Pre-PhD coursework shall be a minimum of 16 and shall not exceed 18.

1. Part A is allotted 06 to 08-credits. These courses may be assigned 02 or 03-credits each to meet the candidate's requirements;
2. Part B is allotted 08 to 10-credits, with individual courses assigned between 02 and 04-credits each to meet the candidate's requirements;

3. No credits allotted for the Awareness Courses in Part C. However, candidates who have joined the PhD programme and have not previously studied at SSSIHL shall be required to compulsorily audit 02-awareness courses administered at the Postgraduate (PG)/Professional level.

(ii) Online Credit Transfer

All research scholars must generate an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) ID and submit it to the Registrar and CoE through the HoD to ensure the credits for the courses offered online platforms transferred in accordance with SSSIHL Policy for Online Credit Transfer.

d) Syllabus Approval

The research supervisor shall submit the necessary information about the courses and seek approval from the RAC. After approval from the RAC, the Supervisor shall submit the syllabi for the courses in Part A and Part B to the Dean of Faculty through the HoD. The Dean shall review and approve the syllabi for the research scholars. For Part C (Awareness courses), research scholars' details shall be forwarded to the respective course instructors.

e) Evaluation of Courses

(i) In-house Courses

1. **Eligibility**
   - For all courses a **minimum attendance of 85%** is required to be eligible to attend the examination;
   - For all the in-houses courses in Part A, Part B & Part C, course instructor shall maintain the attendance record.

2. **Examinations**
   - Based on the eligibility, examinations shall be conducted by SSSIHL for the courses completed in-house in Part A & Part B;
   - For Part C (Awareness Courses) the course instructor may employ various methods to ensure learning outcomes, such as conducting formative assessments, Continuous Internal Evaluations (CIEs), summative tests, etc. The choice of methods is at the instructor's discretion.

(ii) Online/Self-paced Courses

Evaluation of the courses are as per guidelines issued by the respective UGC-recognized online platforms.

f) Pre-PhD Coursework Completion Requirements

(i) Minimum Pass Percentage

A **minimum of 55%** is required in each of the Pre-PhD in-house courses.

(ii) Course Completion Certificates (CCCs)

1. For the Online/Self-paced Courses in Part A & Part B, the **CCC issued by the respective UGC-recognized online platforms** shall be submitted to the HoD through the research supervisor;

2. For the Awareness Courses in Part C, the **CCC issued by the respective course instructor** shall be submitted to the HoD through the research supervisor.

g) VC's approval for Scheduling Examinations/Supplementary Examinations

(i) Approval for Scheduling Examinations in case of Leave of Absence

Research scholars for valid reasons may apply for leave of absence, which shall be forwarded to the VC for approval. Upon receiving the approval, examination(s) for the in-house/online courses shall be scheduled. Such cases shall not be considered supplementary examinations.

(ii) Approval to Attend Supplementary Exam

Research scholars who failed in an examination (in-house/online course) must apply for permission to take a supplementary examination, which shall be forwarded to the VC for approval.

(iii) Limitation on Supplementary Exams

Research scholars are allowed to take supplementary examination (in-house/online course) for the same course ONLY once. If the research scholar has failed in the supplementary examination (in-house/online course), they may be required to discontinue the PhD program.

(iv) Special Consideration

The VC may, based on the merit of each case, grant one additional opportunity for a supplementary examination (in-house/online course) in a single paper where the research scholar has failed.

10. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (CE)

a) Pre-requisites to Appear for CE

Research scholars must appear for the CE **within a maximum period of 02-years** from the date of registration for the PhD Programme, provided they have:

(i) successfully completed the Pre-PhD coursework;

(ii)submitted their research proposal and obtained clearance from the RAC.

b) Composition of the Comprehensive Examination Board (CEB)

(i) Dean of Faculty – Chairperson; *

(ii)Head of the Department – Member;

(iii) Research Supervisor – Convener;

(iv) Co-Supervisor (if any) – Member;

(v) One Observer from the Department – Member;

(vi) Two Experts – Members.

(These experts should be in the area of research and may come from different departments of SSSIHL. If the necessary expertise is not available within SSSIHL, experts may be invited from reputed institutions as suggested by the RAC and HoD, and forwarded by the Dean of Faculty to the Registrar.)

**In the event of the Chairperson's non-availability, the Dean of Faculty shall nominate a senior faculty member to act as Chairperson.*

c) CEB Evaluation

The CEB shall evaluate:

(i) The ability and suitability of the research scholar to pursue research on the topic chosen and assigned by the research supervisor;

(ii)The adequacy and quality of the literature review conducted by the research scholar, including the identification of gaps in existing literature, clarity of the study objectives, appropriateness of the research methodology, and the progress made thus far.

d) CEB Resolution Report

(i) Performance Assessment

The CEB shall prepare a resolution assessing the performance of the research scholars in the CE as **Poor, Satisfactory, Good, or Excellent**. This resolution shall be drafted by the research supervisor and signed by all CEB members.

(ii)Supplementary CE

1. If the research scholars are deemed not proficient or if the work is found inadequate, the CEB may recommend the research scholars to appear again for the CE **within a maximum period of 03-months** from the date of CE conducted;
2. If the research scholars' performance remains unsatisfactory in the second attempt, their **registration for the PhD programme shall be cancelled**. This decision shall be communicated to the Registrar and CoE by the CEB chairperson.

11. PhD - COLLOQUIUM

a) Pre-requisites for PhD Colloquium

(i) Seminars

Subsequent to the successful completion of the CE, the research scholar, in consultation with the research supervisor, is encouraged to deliver **minimum 02 seminars** during the research tenure prior to the colloquium. These seminars should be attended by the RAC and shall be evaluated based on (1) Understanding of the research problem; (2) Approach taken to solve the problem; and (3) Outcomes achieved.

(ii)Publications

1. Research scholars should have a **minimum 02 publications** in UGC-CARE Journals, Web of Science (WoS), Scopus Indexed, or any other reputed journal with an impact factor approved by RAC;
2. Additionally, research scholars are encouraged to **publish book chapters and make oral presentations** at reputed international conferences recommended by the RAC. The publications should be accepted or published before the colloquium.

b) Conduct of Colloquium for Research Scholars

(i) PhD colloquium shall be arranged by research supervisor in consultation with HoD;

(ii)Research scholars shall make colloquium presentation to the academic community on the work done during their tenure as scholars at SSSIHL;

(iii) Members of the RAC (concerned department), all faculty members, all research scholars, and all PG students of the department shall attend the colloquium;

(iv) Faculty members, research scholars, and PG students from other departments are welcome to attend the colloquium.

c) Critical Review Report

(i) Performance Assessment

If the HoD and the RAC, in agreement with the research supervisor, are not satisfied with the research work and the performance of the research scholars in the colloquium, the HoD shall issue a 'critical review and recommendation' to the research scholars, with a copy to the Dean of Faculty.

(ii)Supplementary Colloquium

1. Research scholars shall be required to comply with the recommendations **within a maximum period of 03-months** and appear for another colloquium. Research scholars are expected to present in a supplementary colloquium if substantial content and new findings/conclusions are added to the thesis based on the recommendations of the RAC from the proceedings of the colloquium;
2. If the research scholars' performance remains unsatisfactory even in the second attempt, their **registration for the PhD programme shall be cancelled**. This decision shall be communicated to the Registrar and CoE by the HoD.

d) Submission of Thesis Synopsis

Upon successful completion of the colloquium, research scholars shall submit a synopsis of the thesis, not exceeding 05-pages, to their research supervisor within a week.

12. SUBMISSION OF THESIS FOR EVALUATION

a) Pre-requisites for Thesis Submission

Research scholars shall obtain the following before submission of the thesis:

(i) Thesis Forwarding Note

A covering letter from the research supervisor.

(ii) Plagiarism Clearance Certificate

A plagiarism clearance certificate prepared by the research scholar under the inspection of the research supervisor, and the Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP).

(iii) Endorsement on Thesis Plagiarism

Proof of endorsement that the thesis is free of plagiarism, cleared by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP).

(iv) Thesis Format and Language Requirements

The thesis should be typewritten in English, except in the case of a thesis for a PhD degree in an Indian language, where it shall be typewritten in that language or in English, as per the prescribed format of SSSIHL.

b) Duration for Thesis Submission

Research scholars shall submit the true soft copy of the thesis along with one hard copy in the prescribed format to the research supervisor **within a maximum period of 03-months** from the completion of the colloquium along with documents (see Reg-12.a).

c) Re-registration for Thesis Submission

(i) Re-registration Duration for All

An extension of the PhD programme duration may be granted for up to an **additional 02-years for thesis submission**, based on the recommendations of the RAC and subsequent approval by the VC. However, the total period for completing the PhD programme in such cases **should not exceed 08-years** from the date of registration for the PhD programme.

(ii) Re-registration Duration for Women and PwD

Provided further that, Women research scholars and PwD (Divyangjan - having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an **additional relaxation of 02 more years**. However, the total period for completing the PhD programme in such cases **should not exceed 10-years** from the date of registration for the PhD programme.

(iii) Maternity Leave or Child-care Leave

Women research scholars may be provided maternity leave or child care leave for **up to 240-days** during the entire duration of the PhD programme.

d) Thesis Submission to CoE for Evaluation

The research supervisor shall forward, the thesis submitted by the research scholars, to the HoD. The HoD shall obtain the approval of the RAC and forward it to the CoE for evaluation through proper channel. Upon receiving the thesis, the CoE shall arrange for its evaluation.

e) **Results of Thesis, Patents and IPRs**

If the research results of the thesis constitute new possible outcomes for the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) or Patents, if any, shall be in the name of SSSIHL. The IPR Cell or the competent body of SSSIHL designated for the purpose shall conduct the procedure for legal and commercial protection of research results, in accordance with the relevant Regulations. The inventors for a particular patent shall be as per the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy of SSSIHL.

f) **Thesis Evaluation**

(i) Duration of the Evaluation

The entire process of evaluating a PhD thesis, including the declaration of the viva-voce result, should be completed **within a maximum period of 06-months** from the date of submission of the thesis.

(ii) Internal and External Examiners

The thesis shall be examined by the research supervisor and the co-supervisor (if any) as the internal examiners and two external examiners. Wherever possible, one of the external examiners should be chosen from outside India.

(iii) Report Submission

Each examiner shall provide a detailed report on the thesis to the CoE. However, both the research supervisor and the co-supervisor shall submit a single joint report. The report shall contain a clear verdict on whether the thesis is approved for the Thesis Defence; or requires revision and resubmission; or rejected.

(iv) Review of the Reports

Upon receipt of the evaluation reports from all the examiners, the CoE shall invite the Dean of Faculty to review the reports in preparation for the Thesis Defence. If the Dean of Faculty is also the research supervisor, the HoD of the concerned department shall review the reports for the Thesis Defence.

(v) If the Thesis is Rejected

If one of the external examiners rejected the thesis, it may, with the approval of the VC, be referred to a third external examiner. If the thesis is rejected also by the third external examiner, the **candidate's registration for the PhD program shall be cancelled.**

(vi) If the Thesis Requires Revision and Resubmission

If one or two external examiners recommends revision and resubmission, the research supervisor shall instruct the research scholars to carry out the required revisions under their guidance. The revised thesis must be resubmitted (as per Reg 11-d)), with approval from the HoD, **within a maximum period of 03-months**.

(vii) Evaluation of the Revised Thesis

The CoE shall arrange for the evaluation of the revised thesis by the concerned examiner who requested the revision or resubmission. If the thesis is rejected again after resubmission, it may, with the approval of the VC, be referred to a third external examiner. If the thesis is also rejected by the third external examiner, the **candidate's registration for the PhD program shall be cancelled**.

13. THESIS DEFENCE

a) Arrangement of Thesis Defence

If both the external examiners and the internal examiner(s) agree that the thesis is approved for the Thesis Defence, the Dean of Faculty shall request the CoE to arrange for the Thesis Defence.

b) Pre-requisites for Thesis Defence

Research scholars shall submit a total of **03-hardbound copies of the thesis** to the CoE through research supervisor.

c) Constitution of Thesis Defence Examination Board (TDEB)

The Research scholar shall then be invited to defend their thesis before the TDEB, which shall consist of:

(i) Dean of Faculty – Chairperson*;
(ii) Head of the Department;
(iii) Research Supervisor;
(iv) Co-Supervisor (if any); and
(v) the examiner from within India.

**If the Dean of Faculty is the research supervisor, the HoD shall chair the TDEB.*

d) Open House Thesis Defence

Upon initiation by the CoE, the open house Thesis Defence shall be arranged by the research supervisor in consultation with the HoD.

e) TDEB Recommendations

If the Board feels strongly that the research scholar's defence of the queries raised by the members is not up to their expectations, the Board shall collectively decide not to recommend the award of the PhD degree to the research scholar and to cancel the registration. This decision shall be communicated to the Registrar and CoE.

f) Minutes of the Thesis Defence

Research supervisor shall send the minutes of the Thesis Defence, duly signed by all members of the TDEB, to the CoE for approval by the VC.

14. AWARD OF DEGREE AND CONVOCATION CEREMONY

a) Pre-requisites for Award of Degree

(i) Submission of Final True Copy to CoE

Research scholars must submit the final true soft copy of the thesis to the CoE for uploading to the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) depository before receiving the provisional PhD degree certificate.

(ii)Depository with INFLIBNET

Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the PhD degree, the CoE office shall submit an electronic copy of the PhD thesis to the Librarian for hosting on INFLIBNET. This ensures that the thesis is accessible to all HEIs and Research Institutions.

b) Award of Degree

The Provisional Doctoral Degree certificate shall be issued to the research scholars within a week after the VC's approval of the minutes of the Thesis Defence.

c) Convocation

Candidates shall submit the application for admission to the convocation indicating "In Person" or "In Absentia" and follow the process accordingly. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) shall be awarded to the research scholars during the SSSIHL convocation ceremony.

15. EXIT FROM PhD PROGRAMME

a) Withdrawal

Research scholars may voluntarily request to withdraw from the PhD Programme.

b) Cancellation

(i) Cancellation of Registration

PhD Registration may be cancelled under certain conditions, such as:

1. Failed to complete Pre-PhD Coursework within stipulated timelines;
2. Failed to clear CE within stipulated timelines;
3. Failed to clear Colloquium within the stipulated timelines;
4. Failed to submit the thesis within the stipulated timelines;
5. The thesis is rejected in the evaluation process;
6. The Thesis Defence Examination Board recommends to cancel.

(ii) Cancellation in case of Violation of Code of Conduct

The registration may be cancelled in case of Breach of SSSIHL code of conduct or any form of academic dishonesty.

16. MISCELLANEOUS

a) Book Publication of Thesis

All or part of the thesis, subject to the award of the PhD, may be published as a book with the permission sought from the HoD, who shall forward the request through the proper channels for final approval from the VC.

b) Inclusion of Sustainability Aspect

All research conducted in the Institute must focus on sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. This focus must be included in the Research Proposal submitted by the candidate to RAC to obtain clearance (see Reg-10.a).

c) Removal of Difficulties

The VC may use discretion in interpreting and/or modifying any of the above regulations based on the merits of each case.

List of Abbreviations

- Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)
- Comprehensive Examination (CE)
- Comprehensive Examination Board (CEB)
- Consortium for Academic Research and Ethics (UGC-CARE)
- Continuous Internal Evaluation (CIE)
- Controller of Examinations (CoE)
- Course Completion Certificate (CCC)
- Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)
- Head of the Department (HoD)
- Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)
- Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)
- Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP)
- Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST)
- Junior Research Fellow (JRF)
- National Eligibility Test (NET)
- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)
- National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020
- Other Backward Classes (OBC)
- Persons with Disabilities (PwD/Divyangjan)
- Postgraduate (PG)
- Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
- Scheduled Castes (SC)
- Scheduled Tribes (ST)
- Senior Research Fellow (SRF)
- Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL)
- Sri Sathya Sai System of Integral Education (SSSSIE)
- Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Thesis Defence Examination Board (TDEB)
- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Vice-Chancellor (VC)
- Web of Science (WoS)

References

1. UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022 notified on 7th November, 2022 and the amendments thereafter;
2. UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 notified on 23rd July, 2018 and the amendments thereafter.

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