

## **Ph.D PROGRAMME 2017 +**

The amended Ph.D Ordinance makes continuous and more careful supervision of Ph.D research scholars a collective and compulsory responsibility of the department. In accordance with the Ordinance the following administrative steps have been proposed some of which require our collective response.

1. To streamline the Pre Ph.D seminars a calendar has been prepared proposing these activities fall on every second and fourth week of the working months on Tuesdays. The date of Ph.D vivas are more dependent upon the convenience of the external examiner but we will try to club events as far as possible.
2. A Ph.D Orientation program too has been mooted to familiarize students about the many administrative details introduced by the new Ordinance. Considerable emphasis has been placed upon completing requirements regularly: course work, two conference presentations, publication of one research paper, and regular six monthly progress reports. Supervisors now have to provide a certificate that students have received training in research methodology (citations etc) to curb plagiarism. The additional paper work means that research supervision has to have some documentary support. We have tried to make this into a useful, supportive exercise that enables quality research and not just a bureaucratic intervention.
3. For implementation of UGC Regulation the University has already sent us a template document for Research Methodology compliance (citations etc). For other documentary requirements we have tried to consolidate within the required six monthly progress reports. This should not be too burdensome. It will certainly allow for more precise monitoring of the progress of our PhD students. That will be useful to students, supervisors and the department.
4. The value of this documentation is apparent in the incredibly flimsy archival information available on our PhD students at present. We have tried to research and cohere data from multiple sources. But there are a lot of discrepancies in record keeping even at the BRS level. We have compiled as much information as possible over the last six years and this will be valuable to track the progress of our respective students. We will share this data with all faculty members – please

be sure to check the data on all your students and let us know about any discrepancy. This exercise is particularly important because the upper cap on the admission of research students in the Department is now calculated on the basis of the cap on enrolled students with each faculty member.

5. Excel sheets will plot the progress of all students over the last six years and an individual file maintained on every student admitted to our Ph.D programme in every session somewhat on the lines of BRS to avoid discrepancies and complications.
6. We have often remarked on the lack of engagement shown by PhD students in the academic events organized by the Department. If we use the PhD ordinance constructively we should accomplish three tasks: i) make it simpler for individual supervisors to follow the progress of their students; ii) create the sense of an academic cohort amongst each batch of admitted PhD students as they complete courses, publish papers, participate in seminars, write up their chapters and hold their pre-PhD presentations; iii) although cast as a largely bureaucratic exercise, the new regulations can actually cohere our hitherto loosely run PhD programme into a more valuable, carefully supervised academic venture. This will foreground the research profile of our department. At present we have about a hundred research students on our rolls but with little idea about their individual progress or accomplishment. Our intent is not just to implement the amended Ph.D Ordinance but also to streamline our Ph.D programme.