

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, BELAGAVI



**Regulations Governing the Degree of
Master of Science (Research) [M.S.(Research)] - 2020
[Part - Time]**

2020

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VTU Regulations Governing the Degree of
Master of Science (Research) [M.S. (Research)] - 2020

Preamble

These Regulations Governing the Degree of Master of Science (Research) - 2020 have been framed taking into account the experience of the University in conducting the Research programme for more than a decade and aim at ensuring a high standard for the M.S. (Research) [Formerly, M.Sc. (Engineering) by Research] award by the University.

M.S. (Research) is a research intensive programme in Engineering, essentially to prepare the Scholars to carry out research, and to develop adequate breadth in the research area. While the coursework is graded by assignments, projects and examinations, the research work is graded by the research paper/s presented in top conferences and published in journals of repute.

20MSR1.0 Short Title and Commencement

20MSR1.1 These Regulations shall be called Visvesvaraya Technological University Master of Science (Research) Regulations - 2020, abbreviated as M.S. (Research) Regulations - 2020.

20MSR1.2 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their notification by the University.

20MSR2.0 Definitions

In these Regulations unless the context requires otherwise or it is specifically so defined:

(01) 'University' means the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) with its Head - quarters at Belagavi, Karnataka.

(02) 'Vice Chancellor' means the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University.

(03) 'Registrar' and 'Registrar (Evaluation)' mean respectively the Registrar and Registrar (Evaluation) of the University.

(04) 'Academic Senate (AS)', 'Executive Council (EC)', mean the respective Authorities of the University.

Academic Senate is the Academic Body of the University.

Executive Council is the principal executive body of the University.

(05) 'GoI' means the Government of India.

(06) 'GoK' means the Government of Karnataka.

(07) 'Admissions Committee' means a committee constituted by the University to carry out the activities concerning the Scholars of M.S.(Research) programme starting from the admission to award of degree.

The Admission Committee is a Single entity of the University and is common for all the Research programmes namely, Ph.D., M.S. (Research) and Integrated Ph.D.

(08) 'Research Advisory Committee' means the Committee constituted by the University to review the research progress of Scholars of M.S.(Research) programme.

(09) Board of Examiners for final Viva –Voce examination means a Board of experts appointed by the Vice Chancellor to conduct the final viva-voce on the Dissertation submitted by a Scholar.

(10) 'UGC' means the University Grants Commission established at New Delhi by an Act of Parliament in 1956.

(11) 'AICTE' means the All India Council for Technical Education established at New Delhi by an Act of Parliament in 1987.

(12) 'NRI/FN/PIO' means Non-Resident Indian/Foreign National/ Person of Indian Origin in abbreviated form.

- (13) 'Programme' means a course of study for which Degree or Certificate is awarded.
- (14) 'Programme of study' means an approved curriculum to be followed by every individual Scholar.
- (15) 'Discipline' means an academic discipline or field of study and is a branch of knowledge that is taught and researched at the Institution.
- (16) 'Part-Time programme' is a programme wherein the Scholars devote part of their time towards the discharge of their official obligations and complete most of their research off-site. The programme also requires a minimum residency period so that Scholars can interact closely with Research Supervisor(s).
- (17) 'Constituent College' means a college maintained by the University.
- (18) 'University Department' means a department established and maintained by the University.
- (19) 'Affiliation' together with its grammatical variations, includes, in relation to a college, recognition of such college by, association of such college with, and admission of such college to the privileges of a University.
- (20) 'Research Center' means a College/ Institute/Department/ Research Laboratory and the like approved by the University for the Scholars to pursue M.S.(Research) in an approved discipline.
- (21) 'RC' means Research Center approved by the University.
- (22) 'Research Supervisor' means a qualified faculty member or a scientist/ Engineer approved by the University to supervise/guide the Scholars pursuing Research programmes.
- (23) 'Research Co-Supervisor' means a qualified faculty member or a scientist/ Engineer who along with the Research Supervisor, supervises/ guides the Scholars pursuing research programmes.
- (24) 'Coursework' means the courses prescribed as a part of the M.S.(Research) programme, which the Scholars shall successfully complete as a pre-requisite to the programme.
- (25) 'SCOPUS/SCI/WoS Indexed Journals /UGC-CARE Approved Journals' means reputed professional journals or literary journals or publications in which the research articles or papers are selected for publication by a panel of expert referees in the field.
- (26) 'SCOPUS/SCI/WoS Indexed Journals' refers to journals of higher scientific quality as compared to non-indexed journals. These are bibliographic databases containing abstracts and citations for academic journal articles.
- (27) 'UGC - CARE Approved Journals' means journals selected by UGC to match global standards of high-quality research in all academic disciplines under its purview and to ensure prevention of academic misconduct that includes plagiarism in academic writing among students, Research Scholars, and faculty. CARE stands for Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics
- (28) A 'DOI', means Digital Object Identifier, is a unique permanent alphanumeric string (e.g., DOI: [10.1109/ICCSRE.2019.8807726](https://doi.org/10.1109/ICCSRE.2019.8807726)) assigned by a publisher for identifying an article and to provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The DOI will be with the article itself, usually on the first page somewhere, or in the header or footer.
- (29) 'ORCID', means Open Researcher and Contributor ID, is used to identify a person particularly who is an academic author. The ORCID ID is a 16-digit number that is compatible with the ISO Standard (ISO 27729), e.g., <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-2345-6789>.
- (30) 'Google Scholar id' is an identifier of a person, in the Google Scholar academic search service. Google Scholar allows users to search a wide variety of materials including articles, books, conference proceedings on a vast number of topics. It also allows to know how many

times an article has been cited and by whom, and provides citations for articles in a number of styles.

(31)“Plagiarism” means the practice of taking someone else’s work or idea and passing them as one’s own.

(32)‘Website’ means website of the University at www.vtu.ac.in / <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>

20MSR3.0 Faculties and Specializations

The University offers M.S.(Research) Degree in the following Faculties and Specializations, including interdisciplinary nature Research.

The Degree shall be awarded in the Faculty and Specializations in which the Candidate registers for the M.S.(Research) Degree programme with the approval of Admissions Committee.

Faculty	Specialization
20MSR3.1 Faculty of Civil Engineering Sciences	(i)Civil Engineering (ii)Environmental Engineering
20MSR3.2 Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Sciences	(i)Mechanical Engineering (ii)Industrial and Production Engineering (iii)Automobile Engineering (iv)Industrial Engineering and Management (v)Manufacturing Science and Engineering
20MSR3.3 Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Sciences	(i)Electrical and Electronics Engineering. (ii)Electronics and Communication Engineering (iii)Telecommunication Engineering (iv)Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering
20MSR3.4 Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences	(i)Computer Science and Engineering (ii)Information Science and Engineering.
20MSR3.5 Faculty of Technology	(i)Chemical Engineering (ii)Polymer Science (iii)Silk/Textile Technology (iv)Biotechnology (v)Food Technology. (vi)Bio-Medical Engineering (vii)Medical Electronics Engineering (viii)Mining Engineering (ix)Marine Engineering (x)Mechatronics Engineering (xi)Aerospace Engineering (xii)Nanotechnology
<p>Note: The Admissions Committee shall recommend appropriate faculty for the award of M.S.(Research) Degree based on the profile of the Scholar, the Specialization of the Research Supervisor, Research topic, etc. In needy situations, this shall equally be applicable to cases belonging to other Faculties and Specializations.</p>	

20MSR4.0 Category of M.S.(Research)

Only Part – Time M.S.(Research) shall be offered by the University. The programme shall be offered at all the approved Engineering Research Centers of VTU.

20MSR5.0 Eligibility for M.S. (Research) Programme

(a)Candidates, who are employed and sponsored/deputed, are eligible to M.S. (Research) programme (Part – Time).

(b) The Candidates shall possess a Bachelor's Degree (B.E./B.Tech.) from the University or any other University recognized by it, with a minimum CGPA of 6.75 out of 10 or 60% of the marks in the aggregate.

A relaxation to the extent of 5 % shall be allowed for candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy layers)/Differently - abled category and any other category as notified by Government of Karnataka from time to time.

For conversion of CGPA to percentage marks, the University shall consider the following expression for all the Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes:

$$\% \text{ Marks} = (\text{CGPA} - 0.75) \times 10$$

(c) Candidates for the M.S. (Research) programmes may be

(i) Teaching Staff / Research Staff / Teaching Assistants, working in any Engineering College and Polytechnic Institutions recognised by AICTE either in the State of Karnataka or outside, who have put in a minimum of one year of teaching experience in Engineering Colleges / Research Organisations and sponsored by the respective Institutions / DTE in case of aided Institutions.

(ii) Employees of the State Government/Central Government/Quasi Government Organizations /Public Sector Industries/Reputed Private Industries, who have put in a minimum of one year of working experience and are sponsored by the concerned Organizations.

(iii) Awardees of research fellowship by nationally recognised bodies like CSIR etc., provided they have put in a minimum of one year of working experience.

(iv) NRI/FN/PIOs who have passed UG Engineering Degree Programme, with medium of instruction in English or qualified TOFEL/ELTS. Such candidates shall be able to communicate and to submit the synopsis of Dissertation work in English language only. Foreign candidates shall hold valid passport/visa, clearance from MHRD and other documents as mandated by the GoI throughout their studentship at the University.

(v) The candidates who are qualified in GATE/ equivalent National Level tests.

(vi) The candidates who are qualified in VTU – ETR and having validity score.

20MSR6.0 Committees and Boards

The University shall constitute the following Committees/Boards for monitoring the Research Programmes [Ph.D., M.S. (Research), M.Tech/M.Arch/M.S.(Research) integrated Ph.D.]:

(i) High power Committee (Common to all Research Programmes).

(ii) Admissions Committee (Common to all Research Programmes).

(iii) Board of Examiners for final Viva –Voce examination.

(v) Expert Committee and such other Committees/ Boards, as may be required.

The composition, duties and responsibilities of the Committees and Boards shall be as given below.

20MSR6.1 High power Committee

The High Power Committee shall be constituted by the Vice Chancellor. The scope of the Committee shall be to,

(i) Lay down the policy relating to Research Programmes from time to time.

(ii) Resolve issues raised by the Admission Committee, Research Advisory Committee, Registrar, Registrar (Evaluation), VTU, Belagavi.

(iii) Any other related matter.

The tenure of the Committee shall be three (03) years. The Committee may meet as often as required subject to a minimum of two (02) meetings in an academic year.

20MSR6.2 Admissions Committee

(a) The Admissions Committee to be constituted by the Vice Chancellor shall consist of:

- (i) Dean of the Faculty – **Chairperson**
- (ii) Nominee of the Executive Council – **Member**
- (iii) Nominee of the Academic Senate – **Member**
- (iv) Nominee of the Vice Chancellor – **Member**
- (v) Registrar – **Member Convener.**

In need, the Vice Chancellor shall nominate additional member/s.

(b) In case, the Dean is not appointed or preoccupied, nominee of the Vice Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Admissions Committee.

20MSR6.2.1 Role of Admissions Committee and its Tenure

- (a) The Admissions Committee shall be responsible for,
- (i) Identification and notification of intake to Research Programmes.
 - (ii) Scrutinizing of the application of the Candidates to determine their eligibility, including those who are eligible for exemption from the Visvesvaraya Technological University – Eligibility Test for Research (VTU - ETR).
 - (iii) Getting the eligibility test conducted for admission to Research Programmes.
 - (iv) Getting the answer scripts/OMR sheets evaluated.
 - (v) Preparation of the merit- list(s) of Candidates based on the VTU-ETR score in percent format.
 - (vi) Deciding on the number of Candidates from the merit list(s) to be called for pre-registration interview.
 - (vii) Conducting pre-registration interview for such short listed Candidates.
 - (viii) The implementation of Reservation Policy in the admission process.
 - (ix) Conducting such other tasks connected with the admission of the Candidates for the Research Programmes.
 - (x) To be an advisory and approving body for all the issues concerned with Research Programmes.
- (b) The tenure of the Admission Committee shall be three years. The Committee shall meet as often as required.

20MSR6.3 Research Advisory Committee

- (a) The Research Advisory Committee constituted for each Scholar shall have members having Ph.D. Degree in the relevant field.
- (b) However, the condition under (a) above, is not applicable for persons working as Head or in charge of Research Center located at State, Central, Private, Corporate Organizations/ Research laboratories, Research Organizations, Research Institutions and Industries.
- (c) Following shall be the composition of Research Advisory Committee:
- (1) Principal of the College under VTU/ Chairperson of the University Department/ Head or in charge Person of the Research Center located at State, Central, Private, Corporate Organizations/ Research laboratories/ Research Organizations/ Research Institutions. – **Chairperson**
 - (2) Head of the Department of the VTU affiliated College / Head or in charge Person of Research Centers located at State, Central, Private, Corporate Organizations/ Research laboratories, Research Organizations, Research Institutions and Industries/ Nominee of the Vice Chancellor for the University Department – **Member**
 - (3) Two experts in the same domain of the Research Scholar – **Members**

Both the experts shall be from the outside of the College/University Department/ Research Centers located at State, Central, Private, Corporate Organizations/ Research laboratories/ Research Organizations/ Research Institutions.

Out of the two domain experts, one of them shall be from VTU affiliated Colleges/University Departments and the other shall be from IISc, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, NITs, Universities belonging to State and Central Governments and reputed Research Organizations within the country, both being nominated by the Vice Chancellor.

(4) Research Supervisor – Member Convener

(5) Co-Supervisor (if any) – Joint Member

(d)The chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Research Supervisor (s), shall submit names of four domain experts to the Registrar for approval by Vice Chancellor. Out of the four domain experts, two of them shall be from VTU affiliated Colleges/University Departments and the other two shall be from IISc, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, NITs, Universities belonging to State and Central Governments and reputed Research Organizations within the country.

(e)Vice Chancellor,

(i) Shall choose two experts (one from VTU affiliated Colleges/University Departments and the other from IISc, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, NITs, Universities belonging to State and Central Governments and reputed Research Organizations within the country) to be nominated for the Research Advisory Committee from the proposed list of domain experts.

(ii) Can also set aside the proposed list of experts, to appoint alternate experts.

(f)In case,

(i)any person under serial number (1) and (2) of the Research Advisory Committee is a Research Supervisor /Co – Supervisor of the Scholar, and

(ii)any person under serial number (1) has a possibility of appearing under both serial number (1) and (2),

Vice Chancellor shall appoint an alternate Chairperson/Member for Research Advisory Committee by selecting one of the members from a panel [prepared in consultation with the Research Supervisor(s)] of four domain experts (external to the College) submitted, to the Registrar, by the authorised person under serial number (1).

(g)In case, the Head of the Department of a College /University Department is not satisfying 20MSR6.3 (a), the Vice Chancellor shall appoint an alternate Member for Research Advisory Committee by selecting one of the members from a panel of four domain experts (external to the College) submitted, to the Registrar, by the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee.

(h)The members shall serve the Research Advisory Committee, provided they have no close relative or spouse registered in that Research Center.

(i)The Vice Chancellor shall appoint alternate external domain expert(s) on the Research Advisory Committee after receiving the names of additional experts from the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee, in case the domain expert(s) is unable to attend the deliberations of the Committee for two consecutive half – yearly meetings.

(j)All the expenses related to the functioning of the Research Advisory Committee shall be met by the concerned Institution where the Research Center is located.

20MSR6.3.1 Role of Research Advisory Committee

(a) The Research Advisory Committee shall be responsible to guide, review and monitor the progress of the Scholars pursuing Research programme starting from commencement of the programme until submission of the Dissertation.

(b) The Research Advisory Committee shall meet as often as required, but at least once in every six months to oversee the progress of the Scholar for evaluation and further guidance. The half yearly progress reports shall be uploaded to <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in> by the Research Advisory Committee.

(c) The Research Advisory Committee shall assess the performance of the Scholar and declare the same to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

(d) In case the progress of the Research Scholar is not satisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research Scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Research Advisory Committee may recommend with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the Research Scholar.

(e) The Research Advisory Committee shall forward its recommendations to the Registrar, regarding the cancellation of the registration of the Research Scholar, the change of Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor, use of other Research Center, change in Research area and topic and other matters related with the Research Programme. [A copy of the same be marked to the Registrar (Evaluation)].

(f) The Registrar, shall arrange to place the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee before the Admissions Committee for its approval.

20MSR6.4 Board of Examiners for final Viva –Voce examination

(a) The Board of Examiners for final Viva –Voce examination shall be constituted by the Vice Chancellor for each Scholar soon after the receipt of favourable reports from all the adjudicators. It shall have the following composition:

(1)Principal of the college under VTU/Chairperson of University Department/Head of the Department – **Ex-officio Chairperson**

(2)Research Supervisor – **Member (Examiner)**

(3)Co- Supervisor (s), if any – **Member (Examiner)**

(4)Identified Adjudicator – **Member (Examiner)**

(b)The Board shall conduct the final viva-voce for the Scholar to defend his/her Research Dissertation.

(c)The board shall submit its detailed report in the prescribed format to the Registrar (Evaluation).

20MSR6.5 Other Committees and Boards

(a)The Vice Chancellor may constitute any other necessary Committees/ Boards in connection with other specific requirements in the conduct of the Research Programme.

(b) The duties/responsibilities and other details of these Committees/ Boards shall be notified by the University as and when they are constituted.

20MSR7.0 Eligibility and Recognition of Research Supervisor, Allotment of Candidates to Research Supervisors, Responsibilities of Research Supervisors

The content under this clause shall be the same as those under 20Ph.D.7.0 of Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – 2020.

20MSR8.0 Admission Procedure for M.S. (Research) programmes

20MSR8.1 University Notification for Admission to M.S.(Research) Programme

(a) The admission to M.S. (Research) programmes shall be made once in an academic year by the University.

The University shall call for Applications for Admissions along with the notification issued for Ph.D. Programmes.

20MSR8.2 Submission of Applications for VTU – ETR

Applications from the eligible Candidates shall be submitted as follows:

All eligible Candidates satisfying the requirements as in 20MSR5.0 (a) and (b) shall submit their applications via the web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in> for VTU – ETR.

20MSR8.3 Exemption from VTU-ETR

(a) The following categories of Candidates shall be exempted from appearing at VTU-ETR with the approval of Admissions Committee.

(i) NRI/FN/PIO Candidates.

(ii) The candidates who are qualified in GATE/ equivalent National Level tests and having qualifying percentile/percentage scores in their respective validity periods.

(iii) The candidates who are qualified in VTU – ETR and having validity score.

(b) All eligible Candidates not covered under 20MSR8.3 (a) shall appear for the VTU-ETR which shall be conducted to determine the Candidate's aptitude for research. The percent score obtained by the Candidates in the VTU-ETR shall form the basis for preparing the merit list of successful Candidates which shall be valid for two academic years only.

20MSR8.4 VTU – ETR

(a) The VTU – ETR question paper is common to M.S. (Research) programme and Ph.D. programme.

(b) VTU – ETR Question papers shall be set by the identified examiners appointed for this purpose by the Registrar (Evaluation) and approved by Admissions Committee.

(c) The question paper shall be set for 100 marks.

(d) The VTU – ETR question paper shall have multiple choice questions (MCQs).

(e) The question paper shall have 100 MCQs.

(f) BOE shall assist Registrar (Evaluation) in getting the VTU – ETR Question Papers set and scrutinized.

(g) VTU – ETR question paper setters and evaluators shall have Ph.D. Degree in the relevant field.

20MSR8.5 Conduct of VTU – ETR, Evaluation of OMRs and VTU – ETR Merit List

(a) VTU – ETR shall be conducted on scheduled date and at scheduled Centers for 100 marks.

(b) After the evaluation of OMRs for 100 marks, the marks secured by the Candidates shall be scaled down to a maximum of 70 marks.

(c) Eligibility of Candidates for Pre-Registration Interview shall be as per the qualifying marks based on the scaled down marks of 70.

(d) The qualifying marks of the VTU – ETR shall be 50 % of the 70 marks in the case of General category and 45 % of the 70 marks in the case of SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy layers)/Differently-abled category.

(e) Without disclosing the secured marks of the Candidates, the list of Candidates having a VTU-ETR score of ≥ 35 (50 % of the 70 marks) in the case of General category and ≥ 31 (45 % of the 70 marks) in the case of SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy layers)/Differently-abled category shall be announced on University Website.

20MSR8.5.1 Submission of Applications for M.S.(Research) programme

(a) All eligible Candidates covered under 20MSR8.3 (a) and those who have VTU – ETR qualified marks shall upload,

(i) the research proposal,

(ii) preferably three names of Research Supervisors and Research Co- Supervisors (if required),

(iii) the vacancy position available with each Research Supervisor and Research Co-Supervisor to accommodate fresh Scholars for guidance.

and other details to the University website using the web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

(b) Only those Candidates having a VTU-ETR score of ≥ 35 marks in case of General category and ≥ 31 marks in case of SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy layers)/Differently-abled category shall be in the list(s) of short listed Candidates for being called for the pre-registration interview.

20MSR9.0 Pre-Registration Interview

(a) The scope of Pre- Registration interview shall be to judge,

(i) The Candidate's knowledge and experience in the subject area concerned and his/her preparations to undertake the proposed research work.

(ii) Whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the Institution/College.

(iii) Whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.

(b) The Admissions Committee shall arrange for the conduct of pre-registration interview, Faculty wise, through Expert Committees.

(c) For this purpose, the VC shall constitute Expert Committee for each specialization of the faculty to which the Candidates are being considered for admission, based on the Admissions Committee recommendation.

(d) The Expert Committee meetings for pre-registration interview shall be held on date/time and at venue(s) as decided by the Admissions Committee.

The same shall be notified, by the Registrar, to the Expert Committee(s) and shall be published on University website for the attention of Candidates concerned.

(e) The Pre-Registration interview shall be conducted for a maximum of 30 marks.

20MSR9.1 Pre-Registration Interview performance

(a) Qualified Candidates who have applied for Fulltime/Part – Time M.S.(Research) programme and called for Pre-Registration Interview shall present the research proposal (as per the annexure-1) and face Viva – Voce.

(b) The Expert Committee shall award the Pre-Registration interview marks, for the parameters specified in the University prescribed format (Annexure – 2) prepared for the purpose, and upload the final marks of the Candidates to the University website via the web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

20MSR9.2 Merit Lists after Pre-Registration Interview

(a) The University shall prepare the merit list for the General Category and for all the Reserved Category Candidates, Faculty and specialization wise, Research Center wise (as per University format).

(b) The University shall prepare two merit lists, one corresponding to those who have attended only the Pre-Registration Interview and the other corresponding to those who have qualified VTU – ETR marks and attended the Pre-Registration Interview.

(c) Merit list based on the pre – Registration Interview marks shall be for

(i) NRI/FN/PIO Candidates.

(ii) The candidates who are qualified in GATE/ equivalent National Level tests and having qualifying percentile/percentage scores in their respective validity periods.

(d) The merit list corresponding to those who have qualified VTU – ETR marks (present and the previous) and attended the Pre-Registration Interview shall be decided by considering the sum of qualified VTU-ETR marks scaled down to 70 marks and the marks secured in the Pre-Registration Interview.

(e) For cases where Candidates have same qualified marks, the tie shall be resolved by applying the following criteria one after the other till the tie is resolved.

(i) First criterion: The Candidates with more marks in the VTU – ETR.

(ii) Third criterion: Percentage marks/ CGPA at Undergraduate Degree.

(iii) Fourth criterion: Date of Birth (elder shall be placed on the top).

In unforeseen situations, the decision of the Admissions Committee shall be considered as the final one.

(f) On approval of the merit lists by the Admissions Committee, the Registrar shall notify the same on VTU website.

20MSR10.0 University Policy for filling the vacancy positions

(a) Following the reservation policy and the order of merit, the University shall allot the Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor/ Research Center and decide the Faculty and the Specialization under which the M.S.(Research) Degree to be awarded.

(b) Filling of vacancy positions by allotment of Research Supervisor(s) shall be in the following order for Candidates who are exempted from VTU – ETR but appeared for Pre-Registration interview.

(i) NRI/FN/PIO Candidates.

(ii) The candidates who are qualified in GATE/ equivalent National Level tests and having qualifying percentile/percentage scores in their respective validity periods.

The allotment in the above two cases shall be in the order of merit based on the Pre-Registration interview marks.

(c) The allotment of Research Supervisor/s for Candidates who are qualified in VTU – ETR (present and the previous) shall be based on the sum of qualified VTU – ETR marks and Pre-Registration Interview marks.

20MSR10.1 List of Candidates to be admitted to the Research Programmes

(a) The Admissions Committee shall forward the list of Candidates to be admitted to M.S.(Research) programme along with the names of the Research Supervisor and Research Co - Supervisor (if any), Address of the Research Center, Faculty and Specialization (if any), to the Registrar.

(b) The Registrar shall communicate the list of selected Candidates to be admitted to the programme to each Research Center and publish the same on University website with an instruction that the Candidates to get admitted to M.S.(Research) programme within 15 days from the date (first last date) of publication of the list.

(c) Candidates not completing the process of admission, for any reason on or before the first last date prescribed by the University, shall be entitled for an extension period of seven days (second last date) subject to a penal fee of Rs.1000/- payable to University.

(d)(i) In case of any vacancy available after the last day of extended period of seven days (second last date) for admission to M.S.(Research) programme, the merit/waiting list shall be operated by the University and the admission shall be closed within 15 days (third last date) from the second last date with no further extension.

(ii) In case, the seats allotted for SC/ST/OBC (Non Creamy layer)/ specially abled categories remain unfilled, the University shall launch a special admission drive for the said category within one month from the last day of second last date for admission to M.S.(Research) programme.

The University shall adopt a further remission (reduction) of 5 % to the prescribed 45 % for SC/ST/OBC (Non Creamy layer)/ specially-abled categories to ensure that most of the vacancies under the above said categories are filled.

(e) Candidates having grievance/s regarding allotment of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor, Faculty under which the M.S.(Research) Degree shall be awarded may appeal with valid reasons to the Admissions Committee for consideration, through Registrar. The decision of the Admissions committee shall be final and binding by all.

(f) No change of approved Faculty (selected from 20MSR3.0) shall be permitted post Provisional Admission.

20MSR10.2 Post Provisional Admission Activities

(a) On reporting to the Department/Research Center and upon successful interaction with the allotted Research Supervisor(s), each Scholar shall submit provisional M.S.(Research) registration acceptance, Proposal/Outline in the University prescribed format and University fees paid receipt for the provisional M.S.(Research) registration to the Registrar through the Research Center concerned for the purpose of provisional registration to the M.S.(Research) programme. This shall be mandatory for all the Scholars.

(b) The provisional registration of all the Scholars shall commence from the same date which shall be the next working day of last date prescribed by the University for closing the admission to the Research Programme.

(c) Principal of the College under VTU/ Chairperson of the University Department/ Head or in charge Person of the Research Center located at State, Central, Private, Corporate Organizations/ Research laboratories/ Research Organizations/ Research Institutions shall submit to the Registrar the list of names, decided in consultation with the Research Supervisor(s), for constituting the Research Advisory Committee, as per 20MSR6.3 (c).

(d) Upon receiving the research proposal / outline, the panel of domain experts, proposed names of other members of the Research Advisory Committee and fees paid receipt for the University prescribed amount, the Vice Chancellor shall constitute the Research Advisory Committee as per 20MSR6.3 (c).

20MSR11.0 Schedule of events of M.S.(Research) Programme

(a) After provisional registration, the M.S.(Research) programme of the Scholar shall consist of four parts to be cleared in sequence, namely,

Part-I: Coursework

Part-II: Comprehensive Viva-Voce

Part-III: Open Seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers

Part IV: Pre-Submission Colloquium, and Submission of Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and Submission of Dissertation.

These shall be followed by Dissertation evaluation and its defense by the Scholar at the end.

(b) The Coursework shall be as prescribed under 20MSR8.0.

(c) All the M.S.(Research) registrations shall be provisional initially and they shall be confirmed only on successful completion of the coursework.

20MSR11.1 M.S.(Research) programme Coursework(Part – I)

(a) Each Scholar provisionally registered for the M.S. (Research) programme shall have to go through the prescribed coursework choosing six courses.

The Admissions Committee shall scrutinize and approve the courses proposed by the Research Supervisor with or without the necessary modifications.

(b) Out of the total prescribed courses, one course namely, Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) as per UGC [Under Group – 0] shall be compulsory for all Scholars. The remaining courses shall be pertaining to their Research area.

(c) Other than Research and Publication Ethics, the remaining relevant research area courses of advanced level shall be selected, by the Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) and with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee concerned, from the University notified groups, as approved by the concerned BoS, the AS and EC.

(d) To promote responsible conduct of research, the Scholars who have not studied the course Research Methodology and IPR/Research Methodology, have to complete same course as additional course. This course shall not be a part of Part – I. However, completion of the course through an examination conducted at the Research Center by the Research Supervisor, before pre-submission colloquium, is mandatory for the award of the M.S.(Research) degree. The Research Advisory Committee shall endorse the completion of the course while submitting the Synopsis to Registrar (Evaluation).

(e) The minimum marks for a pass in each course of the coursework shall be 50 marks for a maximum marks of 100.

(f) The coursework shall be treated as prerequisite for preparing the Scholars for M.S. (Research) degree.³

(g) Apart from the prescribed courses under coursework, the Research Supervisor can propose one or two optional audit courses that are essential to the Research work. The Scholar shall be evaluated in optional audit courses at the Research Supervisor level.

(h) Courses prescribed for the Coursework shall be selected from different groups in such a way that there shall be only one course selected from a group.

(i) The maximum number of courses that a Scholar can register at a time in an examination conducted at the end of semester shall be less than or equal to four.

(j) University shall conduct examinations for courses of the coursework twice during every academic year, normally along with the M.Tech. Examinations of VTU.

(k) All the courses of the coursework shall be completed before the submission of the Dissertation/dissertation.

(l) Based on the recommendations of the Research Supervisor [Addressed to Registrar], change of registered course/s for which the Scholar has not appeared for the University coursework examination, shall be permitted. No permission shall be accorded to those course/s for which the Scholar has already appeared but failed in the University coursework examination/s.

(m) The University shall have the freedom to revise and notify the approved courses in the group(s) from time to time.

20MSR11.2 Teaching- Learning Process for Coursework

(a) Each Research Center shall make arrangements to conduct offline/online/blended classes for the courses of the coursework. All courses prescribed for the M.S.(Research) coursework shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirement and assessment methods. For learning, the Research Scholars can also opt for the courses offered by VTU's e-Learning Center/SWAYAM/NPTEL, etc.

(b) The Registrar shall notify the calendar regarding the coursework classes to be conducted by the Research Centers.

(c) Each course of the prescribed coursework (Part – I) shall be evaluated through examination conducted by the University for a maximum marks of 100. The minimum marks for a pass in the University examination shall be 50 % of the maximum marks of the paper.

(d) For assigning the grades for the marks secured in a course by Research Scholars, the following letter grades shall be used (Table – 1).

Table - 1	
Letter Grades	Range of Marks Secured in a course of coursework examination conducted by the University
S	90 to 100
A	80 to 89
B	70 to 79
C	60 to 69
D	55 to 59
E	50 to 54
F	Less than 50

(e) The minimum attendance to be satisfied in a course shall be 75 %. This shall be certified by the Research Advisory Committee in its half yearly report.

(f) In case, the Scholar fails to satisfy the attendance requirement, the Scholar shall have the opportunity to repeat the teaching –learning process and complete the course/s.

(g) On completion of the M.S. (Research) degree successfully, the University shall have the provision to issue the consolidated Grade Card to the Scholars for the completion of the coursework.

(h) (i) The University shall arrange the approved course on Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) at one or more of its campuses as often as required and the provisionally registered Scholars shall mandatorily attend the course. The Scholars shall pay the prescribed University fees for undergoing the course.

(ii) The University examination in PRE shall be conducted along with the other coursework examinations.

(j) Scholars shall submit their applications in the prescribed format together with the relevant fees to appear for the University Coursework Examination as and when notified by the University.

20MSR11.3 Academic Performance in terms of Cumulative Grade Point Average

(a) The University shall adopt absolute grading system for the courses of the coursework wherein the marks secured in the University examinations are converted to grades. The final programme result shall be based on the performance in the courses of the coursework and shall be declared in terms of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

(b) The grading system with the letter grades and the assigned range of marks under absolute grading system are as given Table -2.

Table - 2							
Letter grades and Grade Points on 10 Point Scale							
Letter Grade	S	A	B	C	D	E	F
Grade Points	10	9	8	7	6	4	00
Percentage of Marks Scored in a Course	≥ 90	<90	< 80	< 70	< 60	< 55	< 50
	(90 -100)	≥80	≥70	≥60	≥ 55	≥50	(0 - 49)
	(90 -100)	(80 - 89)	(70 - 79)	(60 - 69)	(55 - 59)	(50- 54)	(0 - 49)

(c) A Scholar obtaining Grade F in a Course shall be considered fail and is required to reappear in subsequent University examination. Whatever the letter grade secured by the Scholar during his /her reappearance shall be retained. However the number of attempts taken to clear a Course shall be indicated in the grade cards/ transcripts.

(d) The credits assigned for different academic events shall be as indicated in Table - 3.

Table - 3								
Assigned credits to different academic events								
Events	Particulars	Prescribed credits		Total Credits	Evaluated by			
Part - I	Coursework	RPE Course	02	02 + 04 × 5 courses = 22	University examination			
		Course of the Coursework	04					
Part - II	Comprehensive Viva voce	Comprehensive Viva voce	08	08	Research Advisory Committee			
Part - III	Open Seminars and Publication of paper/s	Open Seminar - 1	04	04				
		Open Seminar - 2	04	04				
		Publication of paper/s	10	10				
Part - IV	Pre-Submission Colloquium	Pre-Submission Colloquium	05	05			Award of credits shall be based on the satisfactory completion of the events	
	Synopsis	Synopsis	05	05				
	Evaluation of Dissertation	Internal Adjudicator(s)	05	05				
		Adjudicator -1	05	05	Independent			
Adjudicator -2		05	05	Independent				
		Adjudicator(s)	15	15	University examination			
Total				88				

(d) **Cumulative Grade Point Average:**

The following formula shall be used to calculate the CGPA.

$$CGPA = \frac{\sum [Course Credits \times Grade Points] \text{ for all Courses}}{\sum [Course Credits] \text{ for all Courses}}$$

(e) **Illustration of CGPA Calculation for M.S.(Research) programme**

Let the grades secured in all the courses of the coursework be C (Grade point = 07).

$$CGPA = \frac{(2 \times 7) + (4 \times 7 \times 5)}{02 + 20} = 7.00$$

(f) **Grade Card:** Based on the secured letter grades, grade points and CGPA, a grade card shall be issued.

(g) **Conversions of Grades into Percentage and Class Equivalence**

Conversion formula for the conversion of CGPA into percentage is given below:

Percentage of marks secured, P = [CGPA Earned - 0.75] × 10

Illustration for a CGPA of 7.00:

$$P = [CGPA \text{ Earned } 7.00 - 0.75] \times 10 = 62.5 \%$$

(h) **Class Equivalence:**

After the conversion of final CGPA into percentage of marks (P), a graduating Scholar is reckoned to have passed in

- (i) First Class with Distinction (FCD) if P ≥ 70 %
- (ii) First Class (FC) if P ≥ 60 % but < 70 % and
- (iii) Second Class (SC) if P ≥ 50 % but < 60 % .

20MSR11.4 Setting up of Coursework Question Papers and Evaluation of Answer Scripts

- (a) Question papers shall be set by the identified examiners appointed for this purpose by the Registrar/ Registrar (Evaluation) with the assistance of Chairperson BOE.
- (b) Each question paper shall be set for maximum marks of 100 and it shall have similar format as prescribed for Master's degrees of VTU.
- (c) The question paper setters and answer paper valuers shall have Ph.D. Degree in the relevant field.
- (d) Coursework answer scripts of all the Scholars shall be evaluated independently by two valuers.
- (e) If the difference between the marks awarded by the two valuers is $\leq 14\%$, the marks awarded to the Scholar shall be the average of the two valuations.
- (f) If the difference between the marks awarded by the two examiners is $\geq 15\%$, a third examiner shall be appointed to evaluate the answer script(s) concerned. The average of the marks of the nearest two valuations shall be considered as the marks secured by the Scholar. However, if one of the three evaluations is exactly midway between the other two, then the higher two marks shall be taken for averaging and the resulting average shall be awarded to the Scholar.

20MSR12.0 Mandatory Residence Period for Part-Time Scholars

- (a) A Part-Time Research Scholar shall put in a minimum of fifteen days of residence period twice a year at his/ her Research Center before every review of the Research Advisory Committee till the submission of the final Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation. This residence requirement shall be utilized by the Scholar for the purpose of coursework preparation as well as research work.
- (b) With a copy to the Scholar, the Research Center shall upload to <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>, the Certificate issued by the Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor for completing the residence requirement.

20MSR13.0 Periodic Review by the Research Advisory Committee and Progress Reports

- (a) (i) The Research Advisory Committee shall review the research progress of the Scholar for every six months until the submission of the Dissertation.
- (ii) The Committee shall consider both the research progress and the residence period for the declaration of half yearly report to be satisfactory.
- (iii) The Committee shall also endorse the residence period certificate (with the starting and end dates mentioned) issued by the Research Supervisor and attach the same with half yearly report.
- (iv) In case, the Scholar has not satisfied the residence period, the half yearly report shall be marked 'not satisfactory'.
- (c) Each Scholar shall submit a research progress report in the University format to the Research Advisory Committee, two weeks prior to the schedule of the meeting. The half-yearly progress report shall cover the aspects such as, new data collected / obtained, techniques developed, progress in research, discussion of the work done during the review period, new findings and work plan for the future. Research papers prepared/published, if any, shall also be submitted.
- (d) The Scholar shall make oral presentation of the research progress before the Research Advisory Committee.
- (e) The Research Advisory Committee shall communicate the satisfactory research progress or otherwise of the Scholar to the Research Center for uploading the same to the website <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

20MSR13.1 Cancellation of Pre-Registration to M.S. (Research) programme

(a) The Research Advisory Committee shall be free to recommend the cancellation of Pre – Registration to M.S. (Research) programme of the Scholar if,

- (i) Two consecutive research progress reports not adjudged to be satisfactory, and/or
- (ii) Two consecutive research progress reports not submitted.

(b) Before recommending the cancellation of registration, the Research Advisory Committee shall issue a show-cause notice to the Scholar, seeking his/her explanation.

(c) If the decision of the Research Advisory Committee regarding the cancellation of registration on receipt of Scholar's explanation is not agreeable by the Scholar, he/she shall be free to appeal, through the Registrar, to the Vice Chancellor with valid reasons, seeking intervention. The decision of the Vice Chancellor in this regard shall be final.

(d) The above procedure shall also be applicable to all categories of Scholars registered for the M.S. (Research) programme.

20MSR14.0 Comprehensive Viva- Voce (Part – II)

20MSR14.1 Requirements to be satisfied for Comprehensive Viva-Voce

(a) The Scholars, shall appear for the comprehensive Viva-Voce after three months from the date of completion of all the courses of the coursework.

(b) For whatever reason(s), if the comprehensive Viva-Voce is not completed within three years from the date of provisional registration, the admission of the Scholars shall stand automatically cancelled.

20MSR14.2 Scheduling Comprehensive Viva-Voce

The Research Center, on receipt of the written request from the Scholar for the conduct of comprehensive Viva-Voce, shall write to the Registrar seeking permission for the conduct of comprehensive Viva-Voce.

The Research Center, in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee, shall schedule the date/time for the comprehensive Viva-Voce on receipt of the written permission from the Registrar.

20MSR14.3 Conduct of Comprehensive Viva-Voce

(a) The Research Advisory Committee shall conduct the comprehensive Viva-Voce in English language only.

(b) The comprehensive Viva-Voce shall be a closed-door oral examination consisting of the Research Advisory Committee members (as examiners), and the Scholar.

(c) The Research Advisory Committee shall be free to invite additional examiner(s) if required for assisting it in the Viva-Voce. The additional examiner (s) shall be chosen, by the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee, from a panel of two or more experts recommended by the Research Supervisor.

20MSR14.4 Content and Form of Comprehensive Viva-Voce

(a) The Comprehensive Viva-Voce shall consist of a presentation by the Scholar on his/her topic of research, including the work done till date and the proposed future work.

(b) The Research Advisory Committee and the additional examiner(s), if present, shall test the Scholar for fundamental concepts in the coursework and applied knowledge to carry out the proposed research work further.

20MSR14.5 Performance Standards at Comprehensive Viva-Voce

The Research Advisory Committee shall communicate the result of the Comprehensive Viva-Voce to the Registrar through the Research Center as:

(a) The Research Advisory Committee is satisfied at the successful completion of Comprehensive Viva-Voce and the Scholar shall continue the research work.

The Research Advisory Committee shall upload the proceedings of the Comprehensive Viva-Voce to web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

OR

(b) The Research Advisory Committee has indicated the deficiencies in specific areas in which the Scholar needs strengthening of knowledge and is suggesting a date preferably within the next one months for re-examination (Viva – Voce).

(c) The Research Advisory Committee suggests a change in Research area/ Topic/ Research title for consideration.(To be read with 20MSR35.0 and 20MSR36.0)

(d) If the Research Advisory Committee does not recommend the continuation of research work by the Scholar even after the second attempt of Comprehensive Viva-Voce the provisional registration of the Scholar shall stand cancelled automatically, without the issuance of a notice.

(e)The recommendation of cancellation of the provisional registration of the concerned scholar by the Research Advisory Committee shall be addressed to Registrar.

(f) On receiving the proceedings of the Research Advisory Committee regarding the recommendation of cancellation of the provisional registration of the concerned scholar, the Registrar shall place the same before the Admission Committee for its considerations and further action.

20MSR14.6 Confirmation of M.S. (Research) Registration and Notification

(a) After the successful completion of coursework (Part-I) and the Comprehensive Viva-Voce (Part-II), the Research Advisory Committee, along with all the relevant documents, shall recommend to the Registrar for issuance of notification to the Scholar on Confirmation of Registration.

(b) With the approval of the Admission Committee, the Registrar shall issue a notification.

(c)The Notification shall specify the date from which the Scholar's registration for the M.S.(Research) programme is confirmed.

20MSR15.0 Open Seminars, Mandatory Publication of paper/s and Pre – Submission Colloquium

20MSR15.1 Open Seminars

(a) Prior to the submission of the Dissertation (required under Part-IV), each Scholar shall give two pre- M.S.(Research) presentations, commonly known as open seminars before the Research Advisory Committee at the Research Center.

The first open seminar shall be held only after three months from the date of successful completion of Comprehensive Viva-Voce.

The second open seminar shall be held only after two months from the date of first open seminar.

(b) These Seminars shall be open to all the faculty members and research scholars and arranged with the object of getting feedback and comments/suggestions from them, for being suitably incorporated into the M.S.(Research) Dissertation, under the advice of the Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor.

(c) The Research Advisory Committee shall upload the proceedings of the each seminar to web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

20MSR15.2 Mandatory Publications requirement

(a) Each Scholar shall publish at least one research paper in Scopus Indexed Journals /UGC-CARE Approved Journals based on his/her research work for the M.S.(Research) degree, prior to the Pre-Submission colloquium, and produce evidence for the same, to the Research Advisory Committee, in the form of reprint or acceptance letter/s from the Publisher(s) of the Journal.

(b) The Scholars shall also furnish DOI/ORCID/Google Scholar id along with the reprint of published papers or acceptance letter/s from the Publisher(s) of the Journal.

20MSR15.3 Pre-Submission Colloquium

(a) The Scholar shall submit to the Research Advisory Committee a Synopsis in English language and conforming to the standard format prescribed by the University, at least two months prior to the submission of the Dissertation to the Registrar (Evaluation) and request for Pre-Submission Colloquium.

(b) On satisfactory performance at the Pre-Submission Colloquium, the Research Advisory Committee shall be free to permit the Scholar to submit the Synopsis of the Dissertation followed by M.S.(Research) Dissertation. The Synopsis shall be attached with the plagiarism report obtained at the Research Center.

(c) The Research Advisory Committee shall upload the proceedings of the Committee to web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.

(d) If the performance of the Scholar in the Pre-Submission Colloquium is not satisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee may point out the deficiencies, and instruct the Scholar to repeat the Colloquium within two months.

(e) In case, the performance of the Scholar at the second Pre-Submission Colloquium is not satisfactory, the Research Advisory Committee, within the Scholar's maximum period of the programme, shall be free to permit the Scholar to repeat the Colloquium for the third and last time within two months.

(f) In case, the performance of the Scholar at the third Pre-Submission Colloquium is not satisfactory, no further chance shall be given to the Scholar to pursue the programme and the registration of the Scholar shall stand cancelled automatically, without issuance of a notice.

20MSR16.0 Submission of Synopsis

(a) On satisfactory performance at the Pre-Submission Colloquium, the Research Advisory Committee shall first submit two hard copies and one soft copy (a CD containing the Synopsis in monolithic form as a PDF file) along with the plagiarism report obtained at the Research Center.

The synopsis also be accompanied with the documents specified in annexure - 3.

(b) Along with the Synopsis, the Research Center shall arrange to forward to the Registrar (Evaluation) a panel containing details of eight experts under two groups namely Group – A and Group – B, for adjudication of the Dissertation as approved by the Research Advisory Committee. Each group shall have four Adjudicators. The list of proposed Adjudicators shall not have the names of the domain experts serving the concerned Research Advisory Committee.

Group – A: The Adjudicators shall not be from the Visvesvaraya Technological University. The four Adjudicators shall be from IISc/IITs/IIMs/IITs/ NITs /State Government and Central Government Universities/reputed National Laboratories and National Research Organizations within the country.

Group – B: The four Adjudicators shall be from IISc/IITs/IIMs/IITs/ NITs in any proportion.

(e) While proposing the names of the Adjudicators for evaluation of Dissertation, the Research supervisor shall ensure that the Adjudicators belonging to both Group – A and Group – B are involved in active Research in the field of the Scholar, and belongs to the following cadre.

(i) Adjudicators from IISc/IITs/IIMs/IIITs/NITs /State Government and Central Government Universities: shall be of Professor or Associate Professor Cadre.

(ii) Adjudicators from National Laboratories and National Research Organizations within the country: Equivalent cadre of professors or Associate Professors. This shall be supported by a certified copy issued by the concerned authority.

(e) The proposal of Adjudicators, shall also include at least three papers (documented in peer reviewed journals of repute, indexed in Scopus and Web of Science) of each Adjudicator.

(f) The complete postal address, e-mail address, Telephone/mobile/ fax numbers and the broad area of specialization of each adjudicator along with Open Researcher and Contributor id (ORCID) /Google Scholar id shall be provided in the panel submitted.

(g) For payment of remuneration, the following details shall also be included.

Bank Account Number, name and address of the Bank, Branch, IFSC code, Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Photo copy of the front page of the Bank Passbook.

20MSR17.0 Submission of Dissertation

(a) On verification, that the Scholar has satisfied all the requirements of the M.S.(Research) programme and has produced all relevant documents and no due certificates, the Registrar (Evaluation) shall permit the Scholar to submit the Dissertation for Adjudication.

(b) The Scholar shall submit two hard copies and one soft copy (a CD containing the Dissertation in monolithic form as a PDF file,) of the M.S.(Research) Dissertation based on the research work conducted in the prescribed format to the Research Center within two months from the date of permission from the Registrar (Evaluation) for the submission of Dissertation. The Dissertation shall be accompanied with documents as per Annexure – 4.

(c) The Scholar shall also pay the prescribed Dissertation fees to the University.

(d) In case the Scholar is unable to submit the Dissertation within three months (if 3 months period is available within the validity period of the programme) from the date of approval letter from Registrar (Evaluation) for the submission of the Dissertation, he/she shall be free to seek extension of time from the VC [By addressing a request letter to the Registrar (Evaluation)] supported by the recommendations of the Research Supervisor(s) and the Research Advisory Committee forwarded through the Research Center.

(e) For each further extension, within the maximum period of the programme, the Scholar shall pay a penal fee of Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only). [To be read with 20MSR25.0]

(f) In case, the extension period sought is beyond the maximum duration of the M.S.(Research) programme, the Scholar shall seek extension of M.S.(Research) programme duration as per 20MSR25.0

20MSR17.1 Anti-Plagiarism Check of Dissertation

(a) The Dissertation submitted by the Scholar shall undergo plagiarism check as per UGC Regulations notified from time to time, before it is sent to adjudicators.

(b) Suitable fees shall be charged to the Scholar by the University for each Plagiarism check conducted.

20MSR18.0 Adjudication of M.S.(Research) Dissertation

(a) The intervening period available between the submission of Synopsis and the Dissertation by the Scholar shall be used by the Registrar (Evaluation) for deciding the adjudicators.

(b) The Vice Chancellor shall choose one Adjudicator each from Group – A and Group - B for adjudication of the Dissertation, and the Registrar (Evaluation) shall send invitation letters to them along with a copy of the Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation.

(c) Their acceptance shall be preferably obtained within fifteen days from the date of invitation, before taking any further steps on the subject.

20MSR18.1 Appointment of Adjudicators to Evaluate the Dissertation

(a) The adjudicators [Research Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, if any, and two more Adjudicators identified as per 20MSR18.0 (b) and (c) and approved by Vice Chancellor.] shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor to adjudicate the Dissertation submitted by the Scholar.

20MSR18.2 Dispatch of Copies of Dissertation to Adjudicators

(a) The University shall send softcopy (Hard copy on request) of the Dissertation to each adjudicator for evaluation, with a request to evaluate the Dissertation and send the evaluation report(s) preferably within a period of one month.

(b) If the Report is not received from the Adjudicator(s) within this period, a reminder once in fifteen days to that effect shall be sent to the Adjudicator(s) concerned.

(c) If any adjudicator does not send the report even after two reminders or does not reply to the communications from the University, the Vice Chancellor shall identify and appoint another adjudicator, selected from the appropriate Group - A or Group - B or from outside the Groups A and B under special circumstances.

20MSR18.3 Receipt of Dissertation Reports at the University

(a) All the adjudicators shall evaluate the Dissertation independently. However, it shall be possible to submit a Joint Report in the case of Research Supervisor and Co-Supervisor adjudicating a Dissertation.

(b) The Adjudicator shall also provide their reports (having at least 250 words in length) in the space provided in the Adjudicator's report sheet.

The Reports shall include:

(i) A critical analysis of the work of the Scholar as embodied in the Dissertation and an evaluation of the work in terms of its contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

(ii) List of questions to be asked or points to be clarified if any, by the Scholar at the final viva -voce.

(iii) A definite recommendation as to whether the Dissertation attains the standard for the award of M.S.(Research) degree or not.

(c) The Adjudicators shall make any one of the following recommendations that the:

(i) Dissertation is accepted in the present form and recommended for the award of M.S.(Research) degree.

OR

(ii) Dissertation needs minor clarifications indicated in the report which need to be clarified by the Scholar at final Viva-Voce and it is recommended for the award of M.S.(Research) degree.

OR

(iii) Dissertation needs minor corrections to be made by the Scholar as indicated in the report, which need to be incorporated in the Dissertation and clarified at the final Viva-Voce and it is recommended for the award of M.S.(Research) degree.

OR

(iv) Dissertation needs major corrections as indicated in the report and the revised Dissertation to be referred back to the adjudicator concerned for fresh evaluation.

OR

(v) Dissertation is rejected for the reasons specified in the report and not recommended for award of M.S.(Research) Degree.

20MSR18.4 Rejection of Dissertation, based on Negative Reports

(a) If both the external adjudicators [other than the Research Supervisor(s)] do not recommend the Scholar for the award of the M.S.(Research) degree, the Dissertation shall be rejected.

(b) On receiving the official intimation from the Registrar (Evaluation), regarding the rejection of Dissertation for the award of the M.S.(Research) degree and cancellation of the registration of the Scholar to M.S.(Research) programme, the Registrar shall place the same before the Admission Committee for its considerations.

(c) With the approval of the Admission Committee, the Registrar shall notify the cancellation of registration of the Scholar to M.S.(Research) programme on University website and intimate the same to Research Supervisor(s), Research Center and the Scholar.

20MSR18.5 Appointment of Additional Adjudicator, if necessary

(a) The Dissertation shall not be accepted for award of the degree if any one of the Adjudicators [other than the Research Supervisor(s)] finds that the research work is not up to the expected standard, as given in his/her report along with detailed reasons for the same.

(b) In such a case, with the approval of Vice Chancellor, another external Adjudicator from Group – B (the third external Adjudicator) shall be appointed by the Registrar (Evaluation). Based on this decision, the third external Adjudicator shall be invited for the evaluation process.

(c) If the third external Adjudicator, after evaluating the Dissertation gives a favorable Report, the Registrar (Evaluation) shall initiate further steps to conduct final Viva – Voce examination.

(d) If the third external Adjudicator also rejects the Dissertation, then the Dissertation shall not be accepted and the M.S.(Research) registration of the Scholar shall be cancelled.

With the cancellation intimation from the Registrar (Evaluation), the Registrar with the approval of the Admission Committee shall notify the rejection of Dissertation to all the concerned.

20MSR18.6 Consideration of Dissertation Reports

(a) On receiving the favourable recommendations from all the appointed adjudicators, the Registrar (Evaluation) shall arrange to send copies of the Reports received from the adjudicators to the Research Supervisor.

(b) The Registrar (Evaluation) shall permit the Research Supervisor(s) to conduct the final Viva-Voce of the Scholar.

20MSR19.0 Scheduling and conduct of Final Viva-Voce

(a) The composition of the Viva-Voce Board shall be as specified under 20MSR6.4.

(b) The Research Supervisor(s) shall fix the date, the time and the venue for the Final Viva-Voce in consultation with the members of the Board of Examiners for Final Viva – Voce Examination and the Scholar.

(c) The Research Supervisor(s) shall inform the Registrar (Evaluation) about the date, time and venue for the Viva-Voce.

(d) In case, the identified adjudicator informs in writing his / her inability to be present at the scheduled Viva-Voce, the Research Supervisor (s) shall intimate the same to the Registrar (Evaluation), who shall have another examiner from the Group – B Adjudicators appointed with the approval by the Vice Chancellor.

(e) The final Viva-Voce shall be conducted by the Board of Examiners for Final Viva – Voce Examination at a venue approved by the Registrar (Evaluation) , which shall, normally be the Research Center in which the research work was carried out or the Regional Center of VTU or the Institution where the Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor is based.

(f) The Research Supervisor(s) shall invite the members of the teaching staff and other Research Scholars to attend the Viva-Voce. The Scholar shall make a brief presentation of the research work carried out highlighting the important findings/conclusions.

(g) After the completion of the presentation, the Research Supervisor(s) shall give opportunity to the invitees to seek clarifications, if any, from the Scholar.

(h)(i) After this, the Board only shall examine the Scholar to test his/her understanding of the subject matter of the Dissertation and seek answers to the written queries by the adjudicators in the Dissertation Evaluation Reports, if any.

The Scholar shall be required to produce all the documents, data and analysis in support of the research work presented in the Dissertation.

(ii) The Board may ask questions beyond the subject matter of the Dissertation in order to satisfy themselves that the Scholar has adequate knowledge of the particular branch of the subject on which the Dissertation has been submitted.

(i) On completing the Viva-Voce, the Board shall submit a report to the Registrar (Evaluation) indicating clearly that,

(a) the minor clarifications sought, the indicated corrections, and the raised queries in the report of the adjudicator(s) (if any) has/have been addressed satisfactorily, and

(b) the performance of the Scholar was satisfactory and Board recommends the award of the M.S.(Research) degree to the Scholar.

(j) (i) In case, the performance of the Scholar is not satisfactory, the Board shall report accordingly, giving reasons for the same and recommending another Viva-Voce to be conducted after one month.

(k)(i) In case, the performance of the Scholar is not satisfactory, the Board shall report accordingly, giving reasons for the same and recommending another Viva-Voce to be conducted after three months.

(ii) The Registrar (Evaluation), with the approval of Vice Chancellor, shall permit another Viva-Voce as required, with the composition of the Board unchanged.

(l) In case, the Scholar fails to attend the second Final Viva –Voce or if the performance of the Scholar is not satisfactory, the admissions of the Scholar shall automatically get terminated.

(m) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for the conduct of each Final Viva – Voce examination.

20MSR20.0 Consolidated Final Viva - Voce Report

(a) After successful completion of the Viva-Voce, the Board of Examiners of the final Viva-Voce, shall prepare and forward the Consolidated Report along with duly corrected versions of both the hard and the soft copies of the Dissertation through the Research Center to the Registrar (Evaluation).

20MSR21.0 Award of M.S.(Research) Degree

20MSR21.1 Provisional Degree Certificate and award of Degree Certificate

(a) Students shall be declared successful at the end of the Programme for the award of Degree only on obtaining CGPA ≥ 5.00 , with none of the Courses remaining with F Grade and successful completion of all the requirements of Part-II, Part-III, and Part IV.

(b) The University, with the approval of its authorities, shall award the M.S.(Research) Degree certificate to the Scholar during the forthcoming Convocation.

(c) The M.S. (Research) degree shall be treated as equivalent to ME/M.Tech programmes provided the percentage marks secured is $\geq 60\%$ or the CGPA is ≥ 6.75 out of 10. Otherwise, the Degree shall be for the enhancement of knowledge and employment purposes only.

20MSR22.0 Maintenance of Registration during the validity period

During the period when the registration of the Scholar is in force, the Scholar shall pay the prescribed tuition and other fees to both University and Research Center at the notified time intervals.

20MSR23.0 Minimum Period for Submission of Dissertation by Scholars

The minimum duration for submission of the Dissertation for part-time M.S.(Research) programme Scholars shall be three years from the date of Provisional Registration to M.S.(Research) programme.

20MSR23.1 Maximum Period for Submission of Dissertation by Scholars

The maximum duration for submission of the Dissertation for part-time M.S.(Research) programme Scholars is five years from the date of Provisional Registration to M.S.(Research) programme.

20MSR24.0 Submission of Dissertation before the prescribed minimum Period of the M.S.(Research) programme

Scholars, who complete the research work much before the prescribed minimum period of M.S.(Research) programme (i.e., 03 years), can request the Registrar (Evaluation) for permission to submit the Dissertation provided the Scholar satisfies most of the following or any other valid issues raised by the High Power Committee.

- (i) The research work is original and significantly adding knowledge to the research field.
- (ii) The scholar has published four or more papers in IEEE Transactions/Scopus/SCI/WoS indexed journals/UGC CARE journals.
- (iii) The research has resulted in a real-time product.
- (iv) The research work has resulted in patents, awards, etc.

The permission shall be subject to the decision of High Power Expert Committee and is binding by all.

20MSR25.0 Extension of Maximum Period for Submission of Dissertation and other provisions

(a) The Vice Chancellor shall have the powers to extend the maximum period for submission of the M.S.(Research) degree Dissertation by such Scholars who are not ready to submit the Dissertation within the permissible maximum period of the M.S.(Research) programme.

The extension period shall be one year beyond the maximum period on specific recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee forwarded through the Research Center to the Registrar on receipt of a request for extension from the Scholar not less than two months prior to the completion of the maximum programme period.

(b) In case the request is not received by the Registrar before two months prior to the completion of the maximum programme period or received after the maximum programme period, the Registrar on approval of the VC, shall permit the Scholar to submit the Dissertation after paying a penal fee of Rs 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) and extending the maximum period of the programme by one year minus the period lost in submission of the written request before and after the maximum programme period.

The decision of the Vice Chancellor in this regard shall be final.

(c) In the case of failure of the Scholar to submit the Dissertation by the end of the extended period, the registration shall be cancelled. [to be read with 20MSR25.1]

20MSR25.1 Revocation of cancellation of registration to M.S.(Research) programme due to non-submission of the Dissertation within the extended period of M.S.(Research) programme

(a) The Scholars, whose M.S. (Research) registration has been cancelled in view of non-submission of Dissertation before the end of extended period of the M.S.(Research) programme, can request for revocation of the cancellation order within an year from the date of cancellation, by submitting the Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and the draft Dissertation which are conforming to plagiarism norms of the University. The request letter, forwarded by the Research Supervisor(s), shall be addressed to the Registrar.

(b) The Registrar shall revive the dissolved Research Advisory Committee, with an additional domain expert from IITs/IISc/IIMs/IITs, to offer its recommendations regarding the synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and the draft Dissertation for further processing.

(c) In case, the Research Advisory Committee recommends the synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and Dissertation for further processing, the Scholar shall submit the same as per 20MSR16.0 and 20MSR17.0 by paying prescribed University fees.

(d) In case the Dissertation plagiarism level is found acceptable, the University shall initiate the process for adjudication and final Viva –Voce.

(e) If the Dissertation plagiarism level is found unacceptable, the Scholar shall not be given any more chance to resubmit the Dissertation and the revocation stands automatically cancelled.

20MSR25.2 Special consideration to women and specially abled Research Scholars

(a) The University shall give special consideration to women and specially abled Research Scholars (> 40 % disability) and give further relaxation of up to one year if the Scholars request for the same with relevant document support.

(b) In addition, women Scholars shall avail of Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave of up to 240 days once during their M.S.(Research) programme.

20MSR26.0 Handling of Issues resulting due to Plagiarism

(a) The Vice Chancellor shall have the powers to constitute Expert Committees to investigate into plagiarism issues connected with any M.S.(Research) Dissertation submitted to the University, in the case of receipt of complaints either from the adjudicator(s), other individuals or any other sources before or after the award of degree.

(b) In the event of a Dissertation being proved to be copied, plagiarized or misrepresented academically, the University shall have the powers to rescind the degree. Such a Scholar shall not be eligible to register for any degree programme at the University in the future.

(c) In such cases, notice shall be served to the Research Supervisor(s) for necessary action as decided by the Authorities of the University.

20MSR27.0 Depository with UGC and the University

(a) Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and announcement of the award of M.S.(Research) degree, the Registrar (Evaluation) shall submit a final (corrected) soft copy of the M.S.(Research) Dissertation to the UGC within a period of thirty days for hosting the same on its Information and Library Network (abbreviated as INFLIBNET), accessible to all the Institutions / Universities.

(b) The University shall also maintain a repository of such M.S.(Research) Dissertation in its Library.

20MSR27.1 Copyright of the Dissertation

The University shall hold the Copyright of all the Dissertation after conferring the M.S. (Research) degree.

20MSR28.0 Prohibition of M.S.(Research) programme Scholars from Registering for any other Degree

No M.S.(Research) Scholar of the University shall be permitted to pursue any other degree programme within the University or at other Universities / Institutions, concurrently with his/her on-going registration as a Scholar for the M.S.(Research) degree.

20MSR29.0 Change of Research Supervisor / Research Co-Supervisor

(a) In unforeseen circumstances like, transfer/voluntary retirement/ resignation / indisposed situation/death of the Research Supervisor and/or Research Co-Supervisor/ legal actions on the Research Supervisor(s) by the administration, etc., the Scholar shall submit a request to the Registrar through Research Center with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee for a change of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor.

The request shall be with No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued from the current Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor (if, any)/ Research Center in feasible situations and from the proposed (new) Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor (if any)/Research Center.

(b)The change of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor shall be permitted provided,

(i)The field of specialization of new Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor is pertinent to the field and topic in which the Scholar is pursuing the M.S. (Research) programme.

(ii)The new Research Supervisor is working at a place where there is a VTU approved Research Center pertaining to the field in which the Scholar is pursuing the Research.

(iii)The Research Center at which, the new Research Supervisor is working, has requisite research facilities required for the Scholar's research field/topic.

(iv)The new Research Supervisor(s) has/have a Research experience of at least three years as Research Supervisor(s).

(c)Research Supervisor/s, working at a place where there is no VTU approved Research Center, can only function as Research Co-Supervisors, but not as Research Supervisors.

In such cases, the Scholar shall opt for a Research Supervisor who satisfy 20MSR29.0 (b) (ii).

(d)In case, the specialization field of new Research supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor is different from the Scholar's chosen field of research, there may be a change in research direction and may need a new research proposal and/or prescribing of new coursework to continue with the M.S. (Research) programme.

In such cases, the Registrar with the approval of the Admissions Committee, shall permit the change of Research supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor with new coursework/ additional course/s for completion as per University norms without changing the date of provisional registration to M.S. (Research) programme. In view of the foregoing, the Scholars may have to repeat any one or more of the following;

(i) Complete the new coursework/ additional course/s

(ii)Comprehensive Viva – Voce

(iii)Open Seminars

(iv)Publication of papers

(v)Pre-Submission Colloquium

(e)The change shall be considered, case by case, based on the stage at which the change is being sought;

(i)Change is before the completion of coursework.

With the change permitted, the Scholar shall work under the new Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor as per the University prescribed norms following Part -I to Part – IV.

(ii)Change is after the completion of the coursework and before the comprehensive Viva-Voce.

With the change permitted, the Scholar, retaining the same proposed Research field and topic, shall work under the new Research Supervisor(s) as per the University prescribed norms following Part -II to Part – IV.

(iii)Change is after the comprehensive Viva-Voce but before Pre - Submission Colloquium.

With the change permitted, the Scholar shall work under the new Research Supervisor(s) for at least one year within the permissible period of the programme (i.e., minimum, maximum or extension period of the programme), to become eligible to submit the Dissertation.

(iv)Change is after the Pre - Submission Colloquium.

With the change permitted, the Scholar shall work under the new Research Supervisor(s) for at least one year within the permissible period of the programme (i.e., minimum, maximum or extension period of the programme), to become eligible to submit the Dissertation.

(f) The Admissions Committee shall take suitable decisions case by case following or overruling the clause 20MSR29.0 (d) and (e) in unforeseen circumstances. In all such cases, the decision of the Admissions Committee shall be final and binding.

(g) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for the change of Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor.

(h) In all the above cases, the Research Scholars can carry the research data of research already done, but shall give due credit to the former Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor and the Institution with its use.

(i) Change of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor shall be permitted only once during the M.S.(Research) programme.

(j) With a change in Research Supervisor or the Research Co-Supervisor, the Research Advisory Committee shall be reconstituted.

20MSR30.0 Appointment of caretaker Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor

(a) In case the Research Supervisor or the Research Co-Supervisor goes on leave for more than 6 months because of various reasons (like sabbatical / internship/apprenticeship/ deputation / foreign assignment/ health/personal, etc.), the Research Advisory Committee shall propose, to the Registrar, for an appointment of a caretaker Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor on ad hoc basis. To salvage the academic programme of the Scholar, the appointment of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor as an ad hoc caretaker shall be beyond the maximum number of Scholars prescribed by the University for a Research Supervisor.

The Registrar, on approval by Vice Chancellor, shall communicate the Registrar (Evaluation), Research Center and the Scholar about the appointment of the caretaker Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor.

(b) In case the Research Supervisor or the Research Co-Supervisor extends the leave for more than 12 months, the Research Advisory Committee along with the ad hoc caretaker Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor shall request for a regular Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor subject to the fulfillment of 20MSR29.0.

(c) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University.

20MSR30.1 Co-Option of Research Co-Supervisor

(a) The Research Scholar shall have the option to co-opt a Research Co- Supervisor any time before the Pre – Submission Colloquium along with the existing Research Supervisor and Research Co- Supervisor (if any) in order to boost the quality of Research.

(b) The Scholar shall submit a request endorsed by the Research Advisory Committee to the Registrar.

(c) The decision taken by Admission Committee in this regard shall be final and binding by all.

(d) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for the co-option of Research Co-Supervisor.

20MSR31.0 Relocation of Scholars in crisis

(a) Relocation of a Research Scholars, due to inevitable personal reasons, shall be considered by the University provided the requirements of the M.S.(Research) programme are possible to be satisfied.

(b) The Scholar, supported by relevant documents, shall submit an application for relocation consideration to the Registrar.

(c) The Admissions Committee shall take a suitable decision, case by case and the same shall be conveyed to the Scholar. In all such cases, the decision of the Admissions Committee shall be final and binding.

(d) The clause 20MSR29.0 shall be applicable to the Scholars who seek relocation along with change of Research Supervisor/ Research Co- Supervisor.

(e) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University.

20MSR32.0 Relocation of Women Scholars for Extension of Special Facilities

(a) Relocation of a Women Scholars, because of various reasons, shall be considered by the University to extend special facilities to Women Scholars, provided the requirements of the M.S. (Research) programme are possible to be satisfied.

(b) The Scholar, supported by relevant documents, shall submit an application for relocation consideration to the Registrar.

(c) The Admissions Committee shall take a suitable decision case by case. In all such cases, the decision of the Admissions Committee shall be final and binding.

(d) The clause 20MSR29.0 shall be applicable to the Scholars who seek relocation.

(e) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University.

20MSR33.0 Handling of Conflict between the Scholar and the Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor/ Research Center

(a) If there is any request to Registrar, from any one of the concerned, about the conflict between the Scholar and the Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor/ Research Center, the Registrar shall refer the matter to Vice Chancellor. The decision of the Vice Chancellor shall be final in this regard.

(b) The clause 20MSR29.0 shall be applicable in case the decision results in change of Research Supervisor/Co- Supervisor.

(c) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University.

20MSR34.0 Utilization of facilities available at other Research Center/s

(a) Scholars can utilize the facilities available at other Research Center/s by seeking permission by the Registrar and the concerned Research Center. In such cases, Scholars shall submit a request to the Registrar through Research Center with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee for the same.

(b) All Research Centers shall extend cooperation to the Research activities by adhering to VTU Regulations Governing the Degree of M.S. (Research) - 2020.

(c) The Scholar shall execute an undertaking that he would adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the new Research Center/s.

(d) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University and to the new Research Center opted.

20MSR35.0 Change of Research Area/Topic

(a) Change of Research Area/Topic shall be allowed only once and any time during the M.S. (Research) programme, provided there is at least 3 years left before the completion of the maximum permissible period of the M.S. (Research) programme and allowable extension period. In such cases the date of provisional registration to M.S. (Research) programme shall not be changed.

(b) In case, a Scholar opts for a change of Research Area/Topic before the publication of papers, change shall be allowed, provided the coursework approved is supportive to the new research area/topic.

With the change allowed, the Scholar may have to undergo the Comprehensive Viva – Voce, Open seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers, Pre- submission Colloquium, and submission of Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and the Dissertation.

(c) In case, the approved coursework is not supportive to the new research area/topic, the Scholar shall have to undergo new set of coursework or additional course/s. Further, with

respect to the change, the Scholar has to undergo the Comprehensive Viva – Voce, Open seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers, Pre- submission Colloquium, and submission of Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and the Dissertation.

(d)Submission of Dissertation shall be permitted only after 2 years from the date of change of Research Area/Topic.

(e)In case, the field of specialization of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor also covers the new Research area/topic, the allotted Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor shall be continued.

(f)In case, the field of specialization of Research Supervisor/ Research Co-Supervisor does not cover the new Research area/topic, the Scholar shall request for new Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor. The allotment of Research Supervisor/s shall be by considering the relevant sub clauses of 20MSR29.0.

(g)In case, the Scholar opts for a change of Research Area/Topic after the publication of papers, change shall be allowed, provided;

(i)The Specialization of Research Supervisors covers the new Research Area/Topic sought by the Scholar.

(ii)The facilities of the Research Center cater the needs of new Research Area/Topic.

(iii)The coursework approved is supportive to the new research area/topic.

(iv)Completed Open Seminars are pertaining to the new Research Area/Topic.

(v)Published papers belongs to new Research Area/Topic.

(h)For the change of Research area/topic, the Scholar shall submit a request through the Research Center, to the Registrar along with the abstract and recommendations of Research Advisory Committee.

(i)The Admissions Committee shall take suitable decision and the decision shall be final and binding.

(j)Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for the change of Research area/topic.

20MSR36.0 Change of Dissertation Title

(a)Change in title of the Dissertation shall be allowed only once and any time before the publication of papers. No change in the title of the Dissertation shall be allowed after the pre - submission colloquium.

(b)For a change in title of the Dissertation, the Scholar shall submit a request through the Research Center, to the Registrar along with the recommendation of Research Advisory Committee.

(c)The Admissions Committee depending on the merit of the case, shall decide whether, the change in title demands,

(i)Additional or totally new coursework to be completed by the Scholar.

(ii)The steps to be undertaken/to be repeated, depending on the state at which the change is sought, such as Comprehensive Viva – Voce, Open seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers, Pre- submission Colloquium, and submission of Synopsis.

(d)The Admissions Committee shall take suitable decisions case by case and the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

(e)Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University.

20MSR37.0 Cancellation of Registration to M.S. (Research) programme at the request of the Registered Scholar

(a)In case, a registered Scholar is not desirous to continue with the M.S. (Research) programme, he/she may discontinue the programme at any time, only on getting the registration cancellation order from the Registrar.

(b) For cancellation of registration to M.S. (Research) programme, the Scholar shall submit to the Registrar the following:

(i) Acceptance letter from the Research Supervisor and Research Co-Supervisor, if any, for cancellation of Registration to M.S. (Research) programme.

(ii) No due certificate from (a) the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Committee regarding the payment of fees till the year of cancellation (including year of cancellation), (b) Research Center and Department, (c) main and Departmental libraries, hostel, etc.

(iii) No objection certificate from the Registrar (Evaluation), the Registrar, University Library, Central and Departmental Libraries, Hostel, etc as per the requirement.

(c) The Scholar's request for cancellation of registration to M.S. (Research) programme shall be placed before the Admissions Committee, by the Registrar, for its approval.

(d) In all such cases, the decision of the Admissions Committee shall be final and binding.

(e) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for cancellation of registration to M.S. (Research) programme.

20MSR38.0 Cancellation of Registration to M.S. (Research) programme by the University

(a) The Registrar shall issue notice, on receiving the report from the Research center or from any other sources, to the Scholar seeking explanation as to why his/her registration should not be cancelled under any of the following or any other valid reasons:

(i) Unauthorized absence for a period exceeding a month.

(ii) Nonpayment of fees to the College as well as to the University.

(iii) Research Supervisor expressing his/her inability to continue to supervise because of non-progress of the research work or the Scholar not interacting frequently with the supervisor or for any other valid reasons.

(iv) Scholar registering to pursue some other Fulltime/Part-Time programme of other University or Organization.

(v) Fulltime Scholars joining to Fulltime/Part-Time appointment.

(vi) Not applied for the extension of period after the completion of maximum prescribed period of the M.S. (Research) programme.

(vii) Involvement in ragging/major act of misconduct and/or indiscipline.

(b) The concerned Research Scholar shall reply within a month from the date of receiving the show cause notice, failing which his/her registration to M.S. (Research) programme shall be cancelled.

(c) The reply from the Scholar or the noncompliance report in case of no reply from the Scholar shall be placed before the Admissions Committee for its considerations. The decision of the Admissions Committee shall be final and binding.

20MSR39.0 Transfer of Scholars from other Universities to VTU

(a) Transfer of Scholars (Candidates) registered at any other University (other than VTU) shall be allowed to continue the M.S. (Research) programme, provided the Scholars are from defense Organizations/National Laboratories/ National Research Organizations/Public Sector Units/State and Central Government Organizations and officially transferred to any part of Karnataka State.

(b) While applying for transfer, the Candidates shall submit an application to the Registrar, VTU, as per the Annexure - 5.

(c) Transfer shall be considered only when the Candidate satisfies the VTU eligibility criteria prescribed for M.S. (Research) programme.

(d) Depending on the stage of Research work completed by the Candidate, the transfer shall be considered provided the Candidate has sufficient time to pursue the research work within the allowable maximum period of the programme. The minimum and maximum period of the programme shall be counted from the date of registration at the parent University.

(e) The Candidate shall be considered for the VTU M.S. (Research) programme by extending an exemption to VTU – ETR.

(f) In case the coursework of the parent University is not commensurate with the VTU coursework pattern, new course/s shall be prescribed with or without exempting the courses already studied in consultation with BOS Chairperson/Research Field Expert/s.

(g) In case, the procedure adopted by the parent University in respect of Comprehensive Viva – Voce, Open seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers, Pre- submission Colloquium, and submission of Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation is different from that of VTU, the BOS Chairperson/Research Field Expert/s shall propose the steps to be followed by the Candidate.

(h) The date of registration to M.S. (Research) programme at VTU shall be the date of registration at the parent University.

(i) The Scholar shall be permitted to submit the Dissertation only after two years from the date of reporting to VTU approved Research Center subject to minimum, maximum and extension period of the programme.

(j) With the condition that the Scholars can submit the Dissertation only after two years from the date of registration to VTU M.S. (Research) programme, BoS Chairperson/Research Field Expert/s shall also decide the course of action to be followed by the Scholars. The course of action shall indicate the issues to be covered starting from Coursework, Comprehensive Viva – Voce, Open seminars, Mandatory Publication of papers, Pre- submission Colloquium, and submission of Synopsis covering all the chapters of the Dissertation and submission of Dissertation.

(k) The Registrar shall inform the decision taken by the University to the Scholar, Research Center, Research Supervisor, Research Co-Supervisor (if any) and Registrar (Evaluation) before the enrollment to the M.S. (Research) programme.

(l) Prescribed fees shall be paid by the Scholar to the University for the change of University.

20MSR40.0 Repeal and Savings

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, the provisions of any guidelines, orders, rules or regulations in force at the University shall be inapplicable to the extent of their inconsistency with these Regulations.

(b) The University shall issue such orders/instructions, and prescribe such format / procedure, as it may deem fit to implement the provisions of these Regulations.

20MSR41.0 Interpretation

(a) Any question as to the interpretation of these Regulations shall be decided by the University, whose decision shall be final.

(b) The University shall have the powers to issue clarifications to remove any doubt, difficulty or anomaly which may arise during the implementation of the provisions of these Regulations.



Annexure - 1

(Corresponding to Research Proposal Presentation under 20MSR 9.1 Pre-Registration Interview)

General Instructions to Research Proposal Presentation at Pre-Registration Interview

- (a) The scope of Pre-Registration interview shall be to judge,
- (i) The Candidate's knowledge and experience in the subject area concerned and his/her preparations to take up the proposed research work.
 - (ii) Whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the Research Center/Institution/College.
 - (iii) Whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.
- (b) The Candidate appearing for the Pre-Registration Interview shall submit the details in consultation with the probable Research Supervisor/s, to the Registrar, regarding the
- (i) Faculty (e.g., Engineering, Applied Science, Management, etc.) in which he/she is desirous of registering.
 - (ii) Specialization for which the M.S.(Research) Degree to be awarded [Specialization to be selected from the list of faculties (refer to 20MSR3.0)].
 - (iii) Department in which he/she will be pursuing the research, research area and the topic/title. In case of multidisciplinary research, the main Department in which he/she wants to register to pursue the M.S.(Research) programme.
 - (iv) Preferably Three name(s) of the Research Supervisors from the VTU approved Research Center/s and the research facilities available at those research Center/s in support of the selected Research area and topic/title.
 - (v) In case a Co – Supervisor is required, preferably three names of Co – Supervisors.
 - (vi) Contribution of proposed research to new/additional knowledge. The work that is being proposed should not have been Researched and published.
- (c) The Candidates appearing for the Pre-Registration Interview shall have to demonstrate to the Committee, how well they are prepared for the research proposal and that they have required competence to pursue the Research. The presentation shall be limited to 10 power point slides. The Candidates shall carry 08 sets of handouts (printed copies) of the presentation to the interview.
- (d) A research proposal forms a concise summary of the research project. The Research Proposal shall have,
- (i) Title Slide: Shall contain proposed Research Topic and name of Candidate.
 - (ii) Literature Review: Highlights of two or three landmark paper.
 - (iii) Problem definition: Background of Research topic, with reference to literature survey, that is leading to the present topic of Research.
 - (iv) Research Methods: A brief description of methods for use to pursue Research.
 - (v) Bibliography and references.



Annexure – 2

(Corresponding to 20MSR9.1 Pre-Registration Interview)

Pre – Registration Interview Performance Marks Sheet – Page 1

Category: Part - Time M.S. (Research)

Faculty and Specialisation [For details please refer to the overleaf] for which the Candidates have applied	Faculty:
	Specialisation:
	Category of Candidates: VTU - ETR Exempted (Please tick the relevant)
	(i) (i) NRI/FN/PIO Candidates. <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The candidates who are qualified in GATE/ equivalent National Level tests and having qualifying percentile/percentage scores in their respective validity periods. <input type="checkbox"/>

Maximum Marks for Pre – Registration Interview: 30

Date of Interview

Sl No	Name of the Candidate	Registration ID	Academic Performance		Paper		International /National / State level Award (s) / Patent (granted or filed)	Participation in Winter school and summer schools (WS/SS)/ workshops(W/s)/ Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) / MOOCs(through proctored Examination/s)	NSS/NCC/Red Cross and other social services	Research Proposal		Total Marks
			UG	Publication in Journals	Presentation in conferences	Presentation				Viva-Voce		
											Maximum marks	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
			05	03	03	03	03	03	03	05	05	30
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	

Name and Signature
of the Expert Committee members:

Signature
Expert Committee Chairperson

Annexure – 2

(Corresponding to 20MSR9.1 Pre-Registration Interview)

Pre – Registration Interview Performance Marks Sheet – Page 1

Category: Part -Time M.S. (Research)

Faculty and Specialisation [For details please refer to the overleaf] for which the Candidates have applied			Faculty:								
			Specialisation:								
			Category of Candidates: VTU - ETR Qualified								
Maximum Marks for VTU – ETRPre – Registration Interview: 30						Date of Interview					
Sl No	Name of the Candidate	Registration ID	Academic Performance		Paper		Participation in Winter school and summer schools(Ws/SS)/workshops (W/s)/ Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) / MOOCs (through proctored Examination/s)	NSS/NCC/Red Cross and other social services	Research Proposal		Total Marks
			UG	Publication in Journals	Presentation in conferences	International /National /State level Award (s) / Patent (granted or filed)			Presentation	Viva-Voce	
			Maximum marks								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
			05	03	03	03	03	03	05	05	30
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L

Name and Signature
of the Expert Committee members:

Signature
Expert Committee Chairperson

Annexure – 2

(Corresponding to 20MSR9.1 Pre-Registration Interview)

Pre – Registration Interview Performance Marks Sheet – Page 2

(A) Faculty and Specializations

(1) Faculty of Civil Engineering Sciences:

(i) Civil Engineering (ii) Environmental Engineering.

(2) Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Sciences:

(i) Mechanical Engineering (ii) Industrial and Production Engineering (iii) Automobile Engineering (iv) Industrial Engineering and Management (v) Manufacturing Science and Engineering.

(3) Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Sciences:

(i) Electrical and Electronics Engineering. (ii) Electronics and Communication Engineering (iii) Telecommunication Engineering (iv) Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering.

(4) Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences:

(i) Computer Science and Engineering (ii) Information Science and Engineering.

(5) Faculty of Technology:

(i) Chemical Engineering (ii) Polymer Science (iii) Silk/Textile Technology (iv) Biotechnology (v) Food Technology (vi) Bio-Medical Engineering (vii) Medical Electronics Engineering (viii) Mining Engineering (ix) Marine Engineering (x) Mechatronics Engineering (xi) Aerospace Engineering (xii) Nanotechnology.

(B) Academic Performance (Note: UG: Undergraduate, PG: Postgraduate):

Conversion formula from CGPA to % of Marks = $(CGPA - 0.75) \times 10$.

(i) Marks for I Class Distinction [CGPA ≥ 7.75 or ≥ 70 % marks]: 05.

(ii) Marks for I Class [CGPA ≥ 6.75 but < 67.75 or ≥ 60 % but < 70 % marks]: 03.

(iii) Marks for II Class [CGPA < 6.75 or < 60 % marks]: 01.

(C) Publications, Award(s) and Knowledge Enhancing Activities:

(i) Publications in Journal/s: One paper: 01 Mark, More than one paper: 02 Marks.

(ii) Presentation in conference/s: One paper: 01 Mark, More than one paper: 02 Marks.

(iii) International/National /State level Award(s)/Patent (awarded or filed): For any: 02 Marks.

(iv) WS/SS/W/s/FDPs/MOOCs: Any one: 01 Mark, More than one: 02 Marks.

(D) Social Service Activities

Participation in any or all of NSS/NCC/Red Cross and other social services: 02 Mark

(E) Instructions to be followed by the Members of Pre-Registration Expert Committee

(1) A minimum of two marks shall be allotted to all Candidates who participate in presentation and Viva – Voce.

(2) Zero marks shall be awarded, in case the Candidates who have not fulfilled the requirements.

(3) In case of absentees, please mark AB against the total marks.

(4) After the interview, the Expert Committee shall upload the final marks of the Candidates to the University website via the web link <https://jnanashodha.vtu.ac.in>.



Annexure - 3

[Corresponding to 20MSR16.0 Submission of Synopsis and the M.S.(Research) Dissertation]

Documents to be uploaded along with the submission of Synopsis

On satisfactory performance at the Pre-Submission Colloquium, the Research Advisory Committee shall first submit two hard copies and one soft copy (a CD containing the Synopsis in monolithic form as a PDF file) along with the plagiarism report obtained at the Research Center.

The synopsis shall also be accompanied with the following documents.

- (1) Photocopy of the Office Order of M.S.(Research) Registration.
- (2) Photocopy of Coursework Completion Certificate.
- (3) Photocopy of the Comprehensive Viva - Voce Results issued from VTU.
- (4) Photocopy of Approval letter issued from VTU for Change of Title, Research Supervisor(s), Research Center, Inclusion and Omission of Co Guide. (If any)
- (5) Adjudicator format - 1 (available in the website of VTU).
- (6) No Dues Certificate from Research Center (issued by Principal in case of academic Institutions / Head or in charge Person at other Research Centers).
- (7) Certificate from Guide/ Co-Guide.
- (8) Letter of submission from the Guide/Co-Guide.
- (9) Evidential proof from HOD and Head of Research Center (Principal) for having been conducted open seminar- 1.
- (10) Evidential proof from HOD and Head of Research Center (Principal) for having been conducted open seminar- 2.
- (11) Pre submission colloquium report from guide through HOD and Head of Research Center (Principal).
- (12) Sealed cover containing the Panel of adjudicators.
- (13) On line Fee Payment Challan.
- (14) One hard Copy of the Synopsis.
- (15) One CD of the Synopsis.
- (16) Hard Copies of the two or more journal papers published.
- (17) Letter from research Center having checked all residence certificate for Part-Time, as well half yearly progressive reports for both Part-Time and full time scholars.
- (18) To be up loaded all the documents through on line portal before submitting hard copy Change of supervisor, topic extension period, etc.



Annexure -4

[Corresponding to 20MSR17.0 Submission of M.S.(Research) Dissertation]

Documents to be uploaded along with the submission of Dissertation

The Research Center shall forward two hard copies and one soft copy of the Dissertation copy (a CD containing the Dissertation in monolithic form as a PDF file) to the Registrar (Evaluation) for taking further steps on it.

The Dissertation shall be accompanied with the following documents.

- (1) Certificate from Research Supervisor(s) stating that there is prima facie case for Dissertation submission at this stage and that the Dissertation does not contain any work previously submitted for any award of the Degree anywhere.
- (2) Undertaking from the Scholar [certified by the Research Supervisor(s)] stating that,
 - (i) The Dissertation is based on the individual, original work and is previously unpublished research work.
 - (ii) The Dissertation is not containing any material infringing on the copyright of any individual/Organization and does not hurt the sentiments of any individual or religion.
 - (iii) The information such as text, tables, equations, diagrams, figures, charts, graphs, photographs taken from various sources has been cited appropriately in the Dissertation.
 - (iv) The opinions expressed or implied in the Dissertation is entirely of the Scholar and the Research Supervisor(s).
- (3) Certificate from the Research Center that there are no arrears/dues from the Scholar up to the date of submission of the Dissertation.



Annexure - 5

[Corresponding to 20MSR39.0 Transfer of Scholars from other Universities to VTU]

Transfer of Scholars from other Universities to VTU

While applying for transfer from other Universities to VTU, the Candidates shall submit an application to the Registrar, VTU, with the following details and attaching the relevant documents to support the claim.

(i) Name and address.

(ii) Contact numbers.

(iii) Email address.

(iv) Aadhar Card Number.

(v) Graduate and postgraduate level qualifications.

(vi) Research specialization field and topic.

(vii) Category of Research programme under which the Candidate has registered at the parent University: Fulltime or Part – Time.

(viii) Date of registration to M.S.(Research) programme at the parent University.

(ix) Courses of the M.S.(Research) coursework and their status; completed or yet to be completed.

(x) Detailed report on the progress achieved in the research work.

(xi) No objection certificates (NOCs) from the employer, parent University (allowing to continue the research work elsewhere), Research Center where the Candidate is keen to continue the research.

(xii) Acceptance letter/s from VTU Research Supervisor/s to guide the Candidate under consideration.

(xiii) Transfer letter issued by the employer.

(xiv) An undertaking from the Candidate stating that the Rules and Regulations of VTU shall be adhered strictly.

(xv) Original or attested Photo copy of parent University Regulations Governing the M.S.(Research) programme.

