KAVERI UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. Program Academic Regulations

(For the Academic Year 2026-27)

As per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations 2022

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) shall be awarded by Kaveri University in the School of Engineering & Technology, in accordance with the provisions of these Rules and Regulations, in their current or amended form, and subject to the conditions laid down herein.



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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to present the Academic Regulations for the Ph.D. Programmes of the School of Engineering & Technology, Kaveri University, for the Academic Year 2026–27. These regulations reflect the University's commitment to academic excellence, research integrity, and the advancement of knowledge through original and meaningful scholarly inquiry.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree represents a sustained commitment to advanced learning, independent investigation, and original contributions to knowledge. At Kaveri University, doctoral education is envisioned as a journey of intellectual growth that cultivates critical thinking, creativity, methodological rigour, and ethical judgement. It seeks to prepare scholars to advance their disciplines and address complex technological and societal challenges.

These Academic Regulations provide a comprehensive framework for admission, coursework, research supervision, progress monitoring, thesis submission, evaluation, and the award of the Ph.D. degree. They are designed to uphold transparency, fairness, accountability, and consistent academic standards throughout the doctoral programme. The regulatory framework draws upon the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and applicable statutory and academic requirements, while encouraging innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research of contemporary relevance.

The University is committed to fostering an enabling environment for scholarly inquiry, academic interaction, and professional development. Through effective supervision and opportunities for collaborative research, we seek to support scholars in developing the depth of expertise and independence essential to doctoral scholarship.

Academic integrity is fundamental to this endeavour. Scholars are expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty, originality, responsible research practice, and ethical conduct. Supervisors and academic administrators share the responsibility of nurturing these values and ensuring the fair and consistent implementation of the regulations.

I am confident that these Academic Regulations will serve as a clear and dependable guide for scholars, supervisors, and administrators, strengthening the quality and relevance of doctoral research at Kaveri University. I extend my best wishes to all Ph.D. scholars for an intellectually enriching journey marked by discovery, perseverance, and meaningful contributions to knowledge and society.

Date: 2026

Dr. V. Praveen Rao

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1. GENERAL

1.1. Adherence to UGC Regulations

The University adheres to the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, for the research programme.

1.2. Mode of Study

The University does not offer a Ph.D. programme through distance education mode.

1.3. Categories of Admission

Candidates admitted into the Ph.D. programme of the University fall into the following categories:

a) Full-time (FT)

b) Part-time (PT)

1.3.1. Full-time

Candidates registered for full-time research shall work and conduct research on a full-time basis during the stipulated tenure of the programme at Kaveri University.

a) A full-time research scholar shall not accept any employment during the tenure of the course; however, an appointment under a research/consultancy scheme shall not be considered employment for this purpose.

b) These candidates should submit a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their parent institution/organization along with the application.

1.3.2. Part-time

a) Candidates who are eligible for Ph.D. admission and are not full-time research scholars shall be designated as part-time research scholars. Teachers holding a permanent position in universities/colleges, and candidates sponsored by R&D organizations, national laboratories, and industries with R&D facilities and the requisite minimum qualifications, may pursue a Ph.D. on a part-time basis.

b) Candidates seeking admission as part-time research scholars must submit a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer to pursue the Ph.D. programme at Kaveri University.

2. DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE (DRC)

2.1. Formation of DRC

The DRC in each Department shall be constituted by the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Kaveri University and shall comprise the following:

1. Director, Research and Development – Chairperson
2. Chairperson, Board of Studies (BoS) – Member
3. Head of the Department – Convener

4. Two faculty members possessing a Ph.D. in the Department, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor – Members

5. Dean of the concerned School – Member

2.2. Functions of DRC

The functions of the Departmental Research Committee are:

a) To assist the Director, Research and Development (R&D), in the admission process.

b) To assist the Director, R&D, in approving the Academic Calendar for Ph.D. programmes for the academic year.

c) To prepare the vacancy list of eligible supervisors in each research Department, to coordinate with the Director, R&D, for the planning and conduct of entrance tests and interviews, and to recommend the list of selected candidates to the Vice-Chancellor through the Director, R&D. The Director, R&D, shall monitor the activities of the DRC, provide guidance as needed, and report the same to the Vice-Chancellor.

d) To evaluate the progress of scholars' research work twice a year in Research Review Meetings (RRM), and whenever required.

e) To perform any other functions referred to it by the Director, R&D, or the Vice-Chancellor. The DRC shall also follow the guidelines prescribed by the University from time to time.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Minimum Qualification

3.1.1. Ph.D. in Engineering

Candidates with a minimum of 55% marks in a Master's degree in Engineering/Technology, or an M.Tech. by research, or an equivalent degree from a university recognized by Kaveri University.

3.1.2. Relaxation of Marks

A 5% relaxation shall apply for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled candidates, as per UGC norms, in all the above Ph.D. programmes (Engineering/Sciences/Management/Humanities/Pharmacy).

3.2. Interdisciplinary Research

Candidates interested in applying for interdisciplinary research work should hold a UG/PG degree in the allied areas.

4. DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years for full-time scholars and four years for part-time scholars, inclusive of course work. The

maximum duration of the programme shall be six years. Any extension beyond this period shall be subject to the approval of the University.

4.1. Leave / Break of Study

a) Full-time scholars may avail a maximum of 20 days of leave in a calendar year.

b) Women candidates and persons with disability (more than 40% disability) shall be granted an additional two years within the maximum duration for the Ph.D. In addition, women candidates may be granted Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave of up to 240 days over the entire duration of the Ph.D.

c) Full-time scholars may avail academic leave to collect literature and to carry out experimental and other investigations, with the prior permission of the Chairperson, DRC.

5. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

a) Applications shall be invited through open advertisement in leading newspapers, local announcements, and the University website, along with a prescribed fee.

b) Candidates who have qualified through a national-level test conducted by organizations such as UGC/CSIR/ICAR/ICMR/DBT/UGC-NET/CSIR-NET/SET (TS/AP)/JEST/GATE/GPAT, or through a national-level fellowship (such as DST-INSPIRE), Teacher Fellowship applicants, or Scientists working in Government organizations and research laboratories with five years' experience, subject to clearance by the Director, R&D, may apply directly for the Ph.D. programme and are exempted from the Kaveri University Ph.D. Eligibility Test.

c) For candidates other than those specified in clause (b) above, admission shall be based on the Ph.D. Eligibility Test conducted by Kaveri University, followed by an interview.

5.1. General Pattern of the Eligibility Test

a) Maximum marks for the eligibility test: 100.

b) Nature of the test: objective-type questions conducted in online/offline mode.

c) Syllabus for the entrance test: the syllabus of the concerned Department, as approved by the Board of Studies.

d) The qualifying marks for the Ph.D. eligibility test shall be 50%, provided that a relaxation of 5% (from 50% to 45%) shall be allowed for candidates belonging to the SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled category in the entrance examination conducted by the University.

6. PH.D. ADMISSIONS

6.1. Ph.D. Admissions for Research Fellowship Holders

a) Kaveri University shall issue a notification once or twice each academic year for candidates who have been awarded research fellowships. Alternatively, research fellowship candidates may apply for Ph.D. admission to the Director, R&D, online at any time; such candidates need only attend the interview.

b) The research fellowship holder shall submit a prescribed application form to the Director, R&D, along with a comprehensive research proposal.

c) Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme with research fellowships must work only as full-time research scholars.

6.2. Ph.D. Admissions for Non-Research Fellowship Holders

For such candidates, the admission procedure is as follows:

a) After the declaration of the Ph.D. Eligibility Test results, Kaveri University shall issue a notification instructing merit-listed candidates to appear for the Ph.D. admission interview.

b) Non-research fellowship holders admitted to the Ph.D. programme may work either as full-time or part-time research scholars. Admission after the interview is provisional.

6.3. Interview Process

a) The Vice-Chancellor shall constitute a committee to conduct interviews for provisional admission to the Ph.D. programme. The Interview Committee shall consist of the Director, R&D (Chairperson); the Dean of Admissions (Member); the Dean of the concerned faculty (Member); the Chairperson, Board of Studies (Member); the Head of the Department (Convener); one senior faculty member from the Department; and one external subject expert nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, or any other committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.

b) The weightage for arriving at the overall merit index shall be as follows:

i. Written Test/qualifying examination — 70%

ii. Interview — 30%

6.4. Ph.D. Admissions for Foreign Scholars and Professionals

Such candidates shall not be required to pass the NET/SET/GATE examination or the Kaveri University Ph.D. Eligibility Test.

a) Foreign Scholars: A foreign scholar wishing to enroll for a Ph.D. programme on a full-time or part-time basis should contact the Director, Research and Development, by email or letter, submitting a brief CV and an outline of the topic of interest. The application shall be forwarded to the concerned DRC for further action.

b) Corporate/Industry Professionals and Officials: To foster collaboration between government/corporate/industry bodies and Kaveri University, eligible candidates from the following categories shall be allotted to each Supervisor on a supernumerary basis:

i. Civil servants working in Government, not below the cadre of Joint Secretary.

ii. Scientists/researchers working in national-level scientific organizations, not below the rank of Scientist-G.

iii. National/State-level top public sector organizations, working not below the rank of General Manager.

iv. Defence personnel in service, not below the rank of Wing Commander/Captain (Navy)/Colonel.

v. Personnel in private organizations, in a position not below Vice-President.

Applicants in the above sub-category shall approach the Director, R&D, with the necessary proposals and documents, and admission shall be granted as per the rules.

7. RESEARCH SUPERVISOR / RESEARCH CO-SUPERVISOR

7.1. Qualifications for Research Supervisor / Research Co-Supervisor

Any faculty member of Kaveri University who satisfies the following requirements may apply, in the prescribed format, well in advance, to the Director, R&D, to be appointed as a Research Supervisor/Research Co-Supervisor.

a) They should hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D., D.Sc., or equivalent) from a recognized university/institute.

b) Any regular Professor of Kaveri University with a Ph.D. degree and at least three research papers, in the relevant area, published in refereed journals (not directly based on their own Ph.D. thesis), OR who has guided at least one research scholar to a Ph.D. at any university recognized by Kaveri University, shall be eligible.

c) Applications for recognition as Supervisor shall be scrutinized by the respective DRC and placed before the Director, R&D, who shall make suitable recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for approval. On such approval, the Research Supervisor shall be informed of their recognition as a Research Supervisor for Ph.D. research.

d) A research supervisor shall not undertake to offer guidance for Ph.D. work to any of their first-degree relatives.

e) A research supervisor who retires or leaves the University/Institution may be permitted to continue supervising candidates already registered with them,

subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor; in such cases, a Co-Supervisor from Kaveri University shall be appointed.

7.2. Number of Scholars per Supervisor

a) A Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor who is a Professor may guide up to eight (8) Ph.D. scholars at any given time. An Associate Professor, as Research Supervisor, may guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars, and an Assistant Professor, as Research Supervisor, may guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars.

b) In any one academic year, the DRC shall not allot more than 50% of candidates to a single research supervisor.

c) A vacancy with a Supervisor shall be deemed to have occurred only when a candidate working under them submits the thesis, or their registration is cancelled.

7.3. Co-Supervisor

a) Co-supervision is permitted in interdisciplinary research areas, provided the two supervisors are not from the same Department. In all such cases, both supervisors must give their written consent.

b) Collaborative Research: Candidates working in a national research laboratory (such as IICT, NIN, etc.), industries, or MNCs may have a supervisor/co-supervisor from these organizations; however, they must also have a co-supervisor/supervisor from Kaveri University. Eligible researchers from such organizations/labs/industries shall be recognized as supervisors/co-supervisors as per the Kaveri University norms specified above. All such organizations must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kaveri University.

7.4. Change of Supervisor / Change of Topic

The candidate must submit the prescribed application form for a Change of Supervisor/Change of Topic to the Director, R&D. The application shall be processed as per norms, and the student shall be informed of the outcome within two months.

8. COURSE WORK

On admission, each Ph.D. scholar must undertake course work for a minimum period of one semester. The course work shall be treated as pre-Ph.D. preparation and must include the courses specified below. The Ph.D. course work shall carry a minimum of 12 credits.

8.1. Pre-Ph.D. Course Work

Scholars admitted to the Ph.D. programme must appear for, and pass, the Pre-Ph.D. examination in the following courses:

i. Research Methodology (100 marks): common to all candidates admitted in a Department.

ii. The broad field of specialization: courses specified in the respective field of research.

a) The research scholar shall secure a minimum of 55% marks in the courses specified above to pass the Pre-Ph.D. examination. Two evaluations shall be conducted for every course; if the difference between the two evaluations exceeds 15%, the course shall be sent for a third evaluation, and the average of the nearest two evaluations shall be considered.

b) Full-time (FT) and part-time (PT) scholars may attempt the Pre-Ph.D. examination after completing six months from the date of registration. FT and PT scholars must qualify the Pre-Ph.D. examination within two years and two-and-a-half years, respectively, from the date of registration.

c) A scholar is permitted only three attempts to clear the Pre-Ph.D. examination.

d) A scholar is not permitted to submit the thesis within one year of completing the Pre-Ph.D. examination.

e) The Chairperson, Board of Studies (BoS), of the concerned Department shall obtain approval of the Pre-Ph.D. courses and syllabus from the respective BoS, covering all available research options.

Course Work Subjects with Credits

Sl. No.	Course Code	Course Title	Credits
1	26CS101MC	Research Methodology	4
		Core Elective Subjects	
2	26CS102CE	Advanced Machine Learning	4
3	26CS103CE	Deep Learning and Representation Learning	4
4	26CS104CE	Natural Language Processing and Large Language Models	4
5	26CS105CE	Generative AI and Foundation Models	4
6	26CS106CE	Agentic AI and Multi-Agent Systems	4
7	26CS107CE	Computer Vision and Multimodal AI	4
8	26CS108CE	Trustworthy, Responsible and Secure AI	4
9	26CS109CE	Cloud, Edge and Distributed AI	4
10	26CS110CE	AI for IoT and Autonomous Systems	4

Sl. No.	Course Code	Course Title	Credits
11	26CS111CE	Reinforcement Learning and Autonomous Decision-Making	4

9. SEMESTER REGISTRATION

i. A student enrolled in the Ph.D. programme shall be required to register every semester, along with an endorsement of satisfactory progress from the DRC (via the Ph.D. Semester Registration Form), and by paying tuition fees and other Institute dues.

ii. Semester registration is distinct from Ph.D. registration. A research scholar shall appear before the DRC at the end of each semester to present the progress of their work for evaluation and further guidance.

iii. The DRC shall submit the approved progress report, along with the registration form, to the Department's Academic Section.

iv. Failure to complete semester registration within the stipulated dates, as per the Academic Calendar, shall result in termination of studentship. In exceptional cases, this may be restored by the DRC, taking into account the circumstances, on payment of additional fines, and with an extension of the thesis submission date.

10. MONITORING RESEARCH PROGRESS

The research scholar's progress shall be monitored every six months in Research Review Meetings (RRM) conducted by the DRC of the Department. The DRC shall submit six-monthly progress reports to the Director, R&D. This committee shall have the following responsibilities:

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

ii. To guide the research scholar in developing the study design and research methodology, and to identify any additional course(s) the scholar may need to complete.

iii. To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research scholar's work.

10.1. Research Review Meeting (RRM)

a) The Supervisor and/or Co-Supervisor may be present for RRMs, along with the research scholar.

b) By the time the scholar submits the thesis, they should have given a minimum of three seminars in the RRMs with satisfactory performance.

c) Whenever a scholar publishes a research paper in a refereed journal related to their Ph.D. work, they shall submit the research paper and its plagiarism report, duly signed by the scholar, the Supervisor, and the Co-Supervisor, to

the DRC during the RRM, and obtain approval for the same. A soft copy and a hard copy shall also be submitted to the Director, R&D, at the time of the pre-submission seminar.

d) If a research scholar's progress is found unsatisfactory in an RRM, the DRC shall record the reasons, suggest corrective measures, and report the same to the Director, R&D.

e) If a scholar's progress in any RRM is unsatisfactory, that RRM shall not be counted toward the required minimum.

f) If a scholar fails to attend two consecutive RRMs without valid reasons, fails to submit progress reports, or has unsatisfactory progress in two consecutive RRMs, their admission shall be cancelled based on the DRC's recommendation. Where valid reasons exist, approval must be obtained from the Director, R&D.

g) Ph.D. Programme Timeline for Part-Time Ph.D. Scholars Admitted in the Academic Year 2026–2027 is given below

S.No	Description	Semester
1	Orientation Day	Sem I
2	PhD Course Work Registration	Sem I
3	Commencement of Course Work Classes	Sem I
4	Semester II Registration	Sem II
5	PhD Course Work Examinations (Regular)	Sem II
7	Semester III Registration	Sem III
6	Research Design Seminar	Sem III
8	Review on Research Design Seminar	Sem III
9	PhD Course Work Re-Examination	Sem III
10	Submission of Progress Report – I	Sem III
11	Department Research Committee Review Meeting – I	Sem III
12	Semester IV Registration	Sem IV
13	Submission of Progress Report – II	Sem IV
14	Department Research Committee Review Meeting – II	Sem IV
15	Semester V Registration	Sem V
16	Submission of Progress Report – III	Sem V

S.No	Description	Semester
17	Department Research Committee Review Meeting – III	Sem V
18	Semester VI Registration	Sem VI
19	Submission of Progress Report – IV	Sem VI
20	Department Research Committee Meeting – IV	Sem VI
21	Semester VII Registration	Sem VII
22	Submission of Progress Report – V	Sem VII
23	Department Research Committee Meeting – V	Sem VII
24	Semester VIII Registration	Sem VIII
25	Submission of Progress Report – VI	Sem VIII
26	Department Research Committee Meeting – VI	Sem VIII
27	Pre-Submission Seminar	Sem VIII
28	Submission of Thesis to R&D Cell (subject to PhD guidelines)	Sem VIII / beyond

11. CONVERSION OF FULL-TIME REGISTRATION INTO PART-TIME AND VICE VERSA

Notwithstanding anything prescribed in these Regulations, Kaveri University may permit the conversion of a scholar's registration from full-time to part-time research, and vice versa, for valid reasons and subject to the Regulations in force, after approval by the Vice-Chancellor. No scholarship shall be granted by Kaveri University if a scholar converts from part-time to full-time.

12. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

a) The registration of a research scholar whose progress is not found satisfactory by the DRC is liable to be cancelled.

b) The registration of a research scholar who has not submitted their thesis within the maximum permissible period shall be cancelled.

c) The University reserves the right to cancel a registration at any time if the scholar is found guilty of plagiarism, or for any other valid reason, on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the Director, R&D. Where the University cancels a scholar's registration for these or other reasons and the

scholar wishes to re-register, the University may permit re-registration based on the DRC's recommendation.

13. THESIS SUBMISSION

The thesis shall present, in an organized and scholarly manner, an account of the candidate's original research work leading to the discovery of new facts or techniques, or the correlation of facts already known (analytical, experimental, etc.), demonstrating a quality that makes a definite contribution to the advancement of knowledge. It shall also demonstrate the candidate's ability to undertake independent research and to present the findings appropriately, with the actual accomplishments of the work plainly stated and honestly appraised.

13.1. Pre-Submission Seminar

A scholar who has pursued the research work for the specified minimum period, carried out sufficient research, and completed the following criteria may apply for a pre-submission seminar to the Director, R&D, through their Supervisor, in the prescribed form:

i. The scholar should have passed the Pre-Ph.D. examination.

ii. The scholar should have completed three RRMs with satisfactory results.

iii. The scholar should have published at least three research papers, after the date of Ph.D. registration, in refereed, indexed journals (such as Scopus, SCI, ACM, IEEE, ASME), confined to their area of research, as prescribed and approved by the DRC in the RRMs.

iv. The scholar should have submitted the progress report.

v. The scholar should submit four hard copies of the synopsis to the Director, R&D, to arrange the pre-submission seminar.

vi. The Director, R&D, shall forward the application to the convener of the DRC to convene a pre-submission seminar in the Department.

vii. The convener of the DRC shall issue a circular regarding the conduct of the pre-submission seminar and organize it. The Supervisor and Co-Supervisors shall serve as additional members of the pre-submission seminar, alongside the DRC members. The scholar should present a rough draft of the thesis during the pre-submission seminar; otherwise, they must reappear for the seminar.

viii. The DRC shall forward its review and recommendation on the pre-submission seminar to the Director, R&D, for verification. The Director, R&D, shall inform the Supervisor regarding the continuation of the work.

After obtaining clearance from the DRC on the pre-submission seminar, the scholar is permitted to submit the thesis.

a) If the DRC has approved the pre-submission seminar, the scholar must submit the soft copy of the complete thesis for a plagiarism check to the Director, R&D, within three months.

b) The Director, R&D, shall issue a No-Objection Certificate and a Plagiarism Certificate on the originality of the submitted work, confirming that the similarity index is within UGC norms.

c) After successful completion of the plagiarism check, the scholar shall submit six hard copies of the thesis, two soft copies of the synopsis, and one soft copy of the thesis, within 30 days, to the Director, R&D. The submitted thesis contents must match those of the soft copy submitted for the plagiarism check.

d) When submitting for evaluation, the thesis shall include an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, confirming the absence of plagiarism, and confirming that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma at Kaveri University or at any other institution.

e) Each supervisor shall submit a certificate confirming that the work done by the researcher under their guidance is free of plagiarism.

f) The scholar must submit a No-Dues Certificate in the prescribed format.

14. PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS

14.1. Panel of Examiners / Adjudicators of the Thesis

The Research Supervisor shall submit the panel of adjudicators to the Director, R&D, in a sealed cover. The panel shall comprise nine adjudicators (at the rank of Professor/Associate Professor) well versed in the area of research, of whom three shall be from universities and six from IITs/IISc/Central Universities/NITs/IIITs/national research laboratories or other reputed institutions/universities, along with their complete postal address, present designation, area of specialization, cell number, and email ID, in a sealed cover. Of the nine adjudicators, a maximum of three may be from within the State of Telangana. The Director, R&D, shall forward the panel for the Vice-Chancellor's approval. The thesis shall be referred to three adjudicators appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

15. PH.D. THESIS EVALUATION

a) Evaluation/adjudication of the thesis shall be carried out by three independent examiners/referees appointed for the purpose by the Vice-Chancellor.

b) The Controller of Examinations, while communicating the examiner's appointment, shall send a copy of the thesis synopsis and seek the examiner's

willingness to adjudicate it, based on the synopsis submitted. After obtaining the examiner's consent, a copy of the thesis shall be sent with a request to submit a report in the prescribed format, comprising two parts:

Part 1: A detailed evaluation.

Part 2: A final recommendation. As a final recommendation, the examiner shall clearly and unequivocally state one of the following:

i. The thesis may be accepted for the award of the Ph.D. degree in its present form.

ii. The thesis is accepted subject to revisions/corrections, to be verified by the DRC and the Research Supervisor.

iii. The thesis is to be revised and resubmitted for re-evaluation by the same adjudicator.

iv. The thesis is rejected.

c) After all three reports are received, the Controller of Examinations shall forward them to the Director, R&D, who shall decide whether to conduct a viva-voce examination before the award of the Ph.D. degree, as per the following guidelines:

i. If the reports of all three examiners are favourable (i.e., accepting the thesis as it is), the candidate shall be permitted to take the Ph.D. viva-voce examination.

ii. If one or two examiners suggest revision, the thesis shall be revised accordingly and resubmitted for approval to the same examiner(s).

iii. If two or all three examiners reject the thesis, it shall be rejected for the award of the Ph.D. degree, and the candidate's registration shall stand cancelled.

iv. If one examiner rejects the thesis, it shall be sent to another examiner from the existing panel approved by the Vice-Chancellor. If this examiner also rejects the thesis, it shall be deemed rejected, and the candidate's registration shall stand cancelled.

d) If an adjudicator's report is not received even after three months from the date of submission, the thesis may be referred to a fourth examiner from the same panel for adjudication, after obtaining the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

e) Minor corrections suggested by the examiner(s) shall be communicated to the candidate's Research Supervisor by the Director, R&D, before the Ph.D. viva-voce examination. These corrections must be incorporated into the thesis, and an errata sheet must be enclosed with the thesis and shown to the Ph.D. viva-voce examiners.

16. PH.D. VIVA-VOCE EXAMINATION

16.1. Conduct of the Examination

The Ph.D. viva-voce examination of the candidate shall be conducted only after all three examiners recommend the award of the Ph.D. degree. The Director, R&D, shall instruct the Supervisor to conduct the Ph.D. viva-voce examination by contacting the Board of Examiners.

The reports of the external adjudicators shall be made available to the Supervisor before the viva-voce examination.

The Board of Examiners for the viva-voce shall comprise the following members:

1. Chairperson, DRC – Chairperson
2. One of the adjudicators of the thesis, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor – Member
3. Chairperson, BoS – Member
4. Supervisor – Member
5. Co-Supervisor (if any) – Member
6. Head of the Department – Convener
7. Two senior professors from the same or other Departments, as members (at least one from another Department)

16.2. Conduct and Outcome

The viva-voce examination shall be open to students and faculty of the University, and to scientists in the concerned/allied subject. The Director, R&D, shall send a circular to all Departments to display the date and time of the viva-voce examination on the notice boards, one week in advance.

The viva-voce is primarily designed to test the scholar's depth of knowledge of the subject matter of the thesis, including the methodology adopted, and the scholar's competence in defending the thesis and explaining the observations made in the field of study.

The scholar shall address the clarifications sought by the external adjudicators in their reports during the viva-voce.

After consulting the Board of Examiners of the viva-voce, the Convener, DRC, shall declare either: (a) that the scholar has successfully completed the Ph.D. open viva-voce and may be awarded the Ph.D. degree; or (b) that the scholar be asked to take the viva-voce examination a second time, giving reasons thereof. The same examiners shall conduct the second viva-voce examination, not earlier than one month and not later than six months from the date of the first viva-voce examination. The Director, R&D, shall participate in the second viva-voce examination, record their observations, and send them directly to the Vice-Chancellor.

No scholar shall be permitted to submit or defend a thesis for the Ph.D. degree on more than two occasions.

17. DECLARATION OF THE PH.D. RESULT

a) On completion of the viva-voce examination, the reports of the thesis examiners and the report of the viva-voce Board of Examiners shall be sent immediately to the Director, R&D, marked "confidential."

b) After successful completion of the viva-voce examination, and after incorporating the suggestions made by the Board of Examiners/participants, the candidate shall submit two hardbound copies of the thesis and two soft copies of the thesis to the Director, R&D.

c) On successful completion of the viva-voce, and on consideration of the reports of the Viva-Voce Board and the thesis adjudication, the Vice-Chancellor may approve the notification of the award of the provisional Ph.D. degree to the scholar. The award of the degree shall be confirmed by the Board of Management (BOM).

d) A press note shall be issued from the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

e) A soft copy of the thesis shall be sent to the UGC, New Delhi, within 30 days of the award of the Ph.D. degree, for hosting on INFLIBNET, accessible to all Indian universities/institutions. Another soft copy shall be hosted on the KU website. The Controller of Examinations shall declare the candidate's Ph.D. result only on receipt of two hardbound copies and two soft copies of the thesis.

Note: All other matters not covered by the above rules shall be referred to the Standing Committee, whose decision shall be final.

18. FEE STRUCTURE FOR PH.D. CANDIDATES

The application fee, registration fee, fee for recognition of degrees from other universities, annual research fee for extension of time, and fee for submission of synopsis and thesis shall be payable by the scholar as prescribed by Kaveri University from time to time. The scholar should pay the fees at the beginning of the academic year. The scholar is not permitted to attend RRMs, write Pre-Ph.D. examinations, appear for pre-submission seminars, or submit the thesis without clearing any outstanding fee dues.

19. PUBLICATION OF THE THESIS

An approved thesis may be published in full, as a book, or in part, only with the permission of Kaveri University and with due acknowledgment (vide the Declaration Form in the prescribed format).

20. RE-REGISTRATION

a) Scholars who could not submit their Ph.D. thesis within the prescribed maximum duration (including permissible extensions) may apply for re-registration. The scholar should apply for re-registration to the Director, R&D, providing appropriate reasons for the non-completion of the thesis within the

prescribed period. The Vice-Chancellor may approve the request for re-registration, considering its merit.

b) A candidate may re-register under the same Supervisor, or under a new Supervisor at the Institution with an NOC. The re-registered candidate shall be given a maximum of two years to submit the thesis. For re-registered candidates changing their area of research, the required period shall be similar to that for freshly registered candidates. These candidates must submit an NOC if they change Supervisor/Co-Supervisor.

c) Candidates shall pay the prescribed fee for re-registration. The regulations and fees in force shall govern re-registered scholars. These candidates are not eligible for any further extensions, and their registration shall be cancelled at the end of the prescribed duration of re-registration.

21. DECISION BY VICE-CHANCELLOR

In all other matters not explicitly covered under these Regulations, the Vice-Chancellor may take a decision having regard to the circumstances of the case. If deemed necessary, the Vice-Chancellor may refer the matter to the Board of Research Studies for suitable recommendations before taking a decision.

These Ph.D. Regulations shall come into effect from the academic year 2026-2027.