



Revised Regulations of ME/MS & Ph.D Degree Programs

QUEST Postgraduate Policy (2026)

Effective from July-2023 and onwards



Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research

QAUID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY
OF
ENGINEERING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
NAWABSHAH



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ME/MS Program

Regulations regarding the General Scheme of Studies for the Postgraduate Degree Programs (ME/MS) of the Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, under Section (48) (1) (a) of the Act, 1996.

1. Short Title:

These Regulations may be called the “Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, General Scheme of Studies for the Postgraduate Degree Programs (ME/MS) Regulations-2026”, replacing such regulations framed by the University authorities (if any).

2. Commencement:

These regulations shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the date of approval by the University's statutory bodies and shall be **applicable to all students enrolled from 2023 onwards**. These regulations are framed in alignment with the Higher Education Commission's Graduate Education Policy (2023). In case of any conflict between these regulations and HEC's Graduate Education Policy (2023), the provisions of the HEC policy shall prevail.

3. Definitions: In these Regulations unless otherwise expressly stated.

- i. “University” means the Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, Nawabshah.
- ii. “Academic Year” means the Academic Year of the University.
- iii. “Semester” means a Period of 22 weeks of an academic year for teaching and evaluation and/or guidance to the students of the University.
- iv. “Vice Chancellor”, “Pro Vice-Chancellor”, “Dean”, “Chairman”, “Director Postgraduate Studies”, “Teacher” and “Controller of Examinations” means the Vice Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellor the Dean, the Chairman, the Director Postgraduate Studies, the Teacher and the Controller of Examinations of the University.
- v. “Credit Hour (C.H.)” means one credit hour for a particular course is generally considered as one hour of teaching theory per week.
- vi. “Quality Point (Q.P.)” means the value obtained by multiplying grade obtained by student with the credit hours of that course.
- vii. “Grade Point Average (G.P.A)” means a value obtained by dividing sum of quality points by sum of credit hours offered during a particular semester.
- viii. “Cumulative Grade Point Average (C.G.P.A)” means the value obtained by dividing sum of quality points for all the courses appeared by sum of credit hours for all the courses appeared.

4. Requirement to start a ME/MS Programme:

There should be at least 02 number of Ph.D. teachers in the department to start a program and their filed of research in Ph.D. should match with the program.

5. Criteria/Procedure for Admission in ME/MS Program:

- i) To be eligible for admission to the Master's degree program, a candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree or equivalent (16 years of schooling) comprising a

minimum of 120 credit hours after HSSC/Grade-12 or equivalent, in Engineering/Science/Social Sciences/Humanities from a recognized institution, with a minimum CGPA of 2.0 (**or** First Division with a minimum of 60% marks, where the CGPA system is not applicable).

- a) He/She is further required to be proficient in English language and be physically and mentally fit for the study.
- ii) All candidates seeking admission to the Master's Degree program must fulfill the following standardized test requirement:
 - a) They must qualify a rigorous admission test conducted by the University with a minimum passing score of 50%, or alternatively, produce a valid score of GRE/ HAT General/ NTS-GAT General with a minimum cumulative passing score of 50%.
 - b) The University reserves the right to accept any of the above-mentioned tests as proof of eligibility, in accordance with the policies of the HEC and the University's own admission criteria.
- iii) The applicant must submit the Application Form, duly completed in all respects, along with all relevant supporting documents, to the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research on or before the last date notified for the submission of admission forms. Additionally, the applicant must also fill and submit the online application form, complete in all respects, within the stipulated timeframe. Applications received after the prescribed deadline, whether in physical or online mode, shall not be entertained under any circumstances.
- iv) The Director, PGS/IICT will process applications received and will prepare merit list of the candidates who qualify the test for admission and put up the same before Vice-Chancellor for approval.
- v) Selected candidates for admission to the courses will be informed of their selection by notification/letter issued by Director, PGS/IICT or their names will be displayed on the notice board of Post-Graduate Centre (PGC) as well as departmental notice board and on the website of the University.
- vi) The selected candidates will be required to report to the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research for verification of their documents and payment of prescribed fees and seek registration within stipulated time as mentioned in the admission notification/letter. Accordingly, the Director, PGS/IICT shall assign registration number to each candidate.
- vii) The Director, PGS/IICT shall forward the names of the candidates admitted in the due course of time to the subject teachers.
- viii) The classes of ME/MS will commence when at least five (05) candidates are enrolled for a given course. No student will be admitted after two weeks of the start of the classes.
- ix) Admission of any student will be liable to be cancelled at any stage if his/her academic progress or conduct at any stage is found to be unsatisfactory.
- x) A postgraduate student, if employed, will be required to submit "No Objection Certificate" at the time of registration/admission from his/her employer that he/she would be permitted to attend the classes regularly and during the period of studies he/she would be posted at or near Nawabshah.

- xi) If any student is found deficient in the prerequisite knowledge, he/she shall be required to complete the prescribed deficiency course(s). In the case of intradisciplinary admission, the student shall complete **6–9 Credit Hours of Level-6 deficiency courses**, as prescribed by the concerned department, during the initial period of study. In all other cases, the decision to require additional deficiency course(s) shall be made by the Academic Advisor/Supervisor/Chairman of the concerned department/ Director, PGS/IICT. The tuition fee, if any, for such deficiency course(s) shall be borne by the student.
- xii) If any of the particulars given by the candidate in his/her application for admission are found & proved to be incorrect or facts suppressed, he/she shall be refused for admission. If any incorrect or false statement or suppression of facts is detected and proved after a candidate has been granted admission, his/her admission shall stand cancelled and he/she shall be expelled from the University at any time during the course/research of his/her studies and shall not be refunded any fee, and the University may take legal action against him/her as per University rules as deemed appropriate.
- xiii) A candidate who is already enrolled in some other institution is ineligible to get admission in this University. If any case is detected at any-time where a student enrolled in this University is also student of some other Institution, his/her admission in the University shall stand cancelled.
- xiv) At the time of admission, selected candidates shall submit an undertaking to abide by all the rules of the University and not to indulge in any political or such an activity contradictory to the rules.
- xv) The academic program will be conducted in evening.

6. Yearly Academic Program:

i.	Teaching duration of 1 st Semester	16 Weeks
ii.	Mid Semester Examination including mid break	02 Weeks
iii.	Preparation of final 1 st Semester Examination	02 Weeks
iv.	Conduct of final 1 st Semester Examination	02 Weeks
v.	Summer Break	06 Weeks
vi.	Teaching duration of 2 nd Semester	16 Weeks
vii.	Mid Semester Examination including mid break	02 Weeks
viii.	Preparation of final 2 nd Semester Examination	02 Weeks
ix.	Conduct of final 2 nd Semester Examination	02 Weeks
x.	Winter Break	02 Weeks

Total 52 Weeks

Note: The minimum number of contact hours for a theory subject of 03 credit hours per semester is 45. One (01) credit hour of theory is equal to 1 contact hour.

7. The Minimum and Maximum period for completion of the requirements for award of degree:

The ME/MS degree shall be awarded by the university not before the completion of two (02) years or four (04) regular semesters, and not after the completion of four (04) years or eight (08) regular semesters. Extension beyond the maximum limit due to

force majeure may be processed as per university statutory approvals in compliance with HEC guidelines.

In case a student is unable to secure an ME/MS degree within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of ME/MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.

8. Fee per Semester:

In case of delay/excess period beyond 04 semester (02 years from the initial date of admission), the candidate has to pay semester fee (in each semester). The excess period of even a single day will be considered as a full semester for charge of semester fee. No any wavier in the semester fee will be given to any student.

It is mandatory for all ME/MS students to deposit the semester fees/dues prior to the commencement of each semester's classes, research work, and conduct of seminars/ viva-voce & examinations. Failure to comply will result in students being barred from appearing in the relevant seminar/ viva-voce or examinations, and their admission shall be suspended until all outstanding dues are cleared. Non-compliance with the above policy will lead to the matter being referred to the relevant statutory bodies or competent authorities for consideration of cancellation of admission, and/or the initiation of any other necessary action as deemed appropriate by the University.

9. Courses and Credit Hours:

- i. The courses of studies for the degree programs of the University shall be as recommended by the Board of Studies of the concerned department and approved by Advanced Studies & Research Board of the University from time to time.
- ii. Each degree program shall carry a number of approved courses and each course shall be assigned a number of Credit Hours. The Credit Hours per semester for each discipline shall be 09 for ME/MS program.
- iii. There shall be two semesters in an academic year. The duration of teaching time in each semester shall be 16 weeks with maximum 45 classes.

10. Scheme of Studies:

The scheme of studies shall be as under:

i. Course Work Requirement:

The candidate who wants to pursue ME/MS by course + research work (mixed mode) will have to pass 24 credit hours courses in three semesters and then select research/thesis/project work of 6 credit hours. Moreover, the research work candidate/student should apply, deliver and pass initial and final seminar and viva voce by presenting his/her research work before ASRB members as per existing policy. On the other hand, the candidate who desires to complete ME/MS by course work will have to take and study the courses of 4th semester, i.e., a total of 6 credit hours subjects (two subjects of each 3 credit hours) in addition to the 24 credit hours courses and have to pass the subjects as per approved policies of the university.

ii. Research Work Requirement

The minimum period for completing the research component shall be one semester, consisting of 06 credit hours of thesis/dissertation.

iii. Time Limit for Presentation (ppt) and Questions & Answers sessions of Seminars:

Seminar	Maximum time allowed for presentation	Maximum time allowed for Questions & Answers
Initial Seminar	25 Minutes	20 Minutes
Final Seminar	30 Minutes	25 Minutes

The Directorate of Postgraduate Studies and Research will conduct the seminars/viva voce of each student who applied for seminar/viva voce within one month (30 working days) subject to the availability of external, internal examiners and completion of all requirements by the student for the seminar/viva voce. In case, if any delay occurs in conduct of seminar, then the university will compensate/ adjust such period in between next seminar/viva voce, such an arrangement shall not be for more than 30 days.

11. **Initial Seminar:** After successful completion of the course work of first semester the student will select his/her Thesis/Dissertation topic in consultation with his/her Academic Advisor/Supervisor and submit a research proposal on prescribed proforma. The student will be eligible to deliver initial seminar of his/her project if his /her minimum GPA in the first semester is not less than 3.0. Meeting all the requirements, the candidate will deliver initial seminar publicly including internal examiner, external examiner and AS&RB members.
12. **Research work:** On the approval of AS&RB the student shall proceed with his/her research work under the guidance of his/her supervisor in accordance with the approved regulations.
13. **Research Publication:** Students are encouraged to publish research paper(s) in HEC recognized journals. The published research paper of the student will be verified by the Director (ORIC) for its genuineness.
14. **Final Seminar & Viva Voce:** The candidate will be eligible to deliver final seminar of his/her project if his/her minimum GPA in all three semesters (courses) is not less than 3.0.
15. **Thesis/Dissertation:** Before final seminar the student shall submit his/her thesis duly checked by the research supervisor to the Director (PGS/IICT) for evaluation by internal and external examiners.
16. **Schedule for conduct of Seminar(s) & Final Viva Voce:** Those students who submit their applications before 15th day of the month, their seminar/viva voce will be conducted up to 15th day of the next month. Any application received for conduct of seminar/viva voce after 15th day of the month will be entertained in the subsequent month.

For Example:

- (a) Application received up to 15.01.2026, seminar/viva voce will be conducted from 01.02.2026 to 15.02.2026.
- (b) Application received after 15.01.2026, seminar/viva voce will be conducted from 01.03.2026 to 15.03.2026.

The Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research will not receive any incomplete application form for the conduct of seminar/viva voce. Maximum 03 to 05 ME/MS seminars/viva voce will be conducted in a day.

17. Number of attempts allowed to improve CGPA

In case of failure or having acquired less CGPA than required for initiation of the research work, the student will be given one chance to clear/improve CGPA after declaration of all semester's results (Course work). The expenses incurred on such examination will be borne by the candidate him/herself.

In case if the student fails to secure required CGPA for research work, he/she will be allowed once to improve it in any two courses. The expenses incurred on such examination shall be borne by the student his/her self.

18. Examination Evaluation System as defined below shall be used

- i. Theory: By Internal Examiner
- ii. Seminar(s)/Viva Voce: By Internal Examiner(s) preferably from within the University, and External Examiner(s) from outside the University (from other Universities).

19. Appointment of Examiners:

The Supervisor(s) shall propose panels for internal and external examiners. From these panels, Dean of the concerned Faculty shall recommend the internal and external examiner (or any other expert, if necessary). The Pro-Vice Chancellor shall then appoint/approve the examiners as proposed by the Dean or may change both or any examiner if deems necessary.

The presence of any one of the Dean, Pro-Vice Chancellor/Vice Chancellor shall be mandatory during the seminar. However, the seminars will be postponed/ rescheduled if at least Dean of concerned faculty, Pro-Vice Chancellor/Vice Chancellor and one member of the AS&RB are not available during the seminar. Moreover, the presence of the supervisor shall be mandatory for the conduct of the seminars/viva voce.

i. Recommendations of Examiners:

The examiners shall recommend in the prescribed proforma, any one of the following after thorough evaluation of the thesis and viva-voce examination/ defense that

- (a) The degree be awarded.
- (b) Accepted with minor corrections.
- (c) Accepted with major corrections.
- (d) The degree be not awarded and work be rejected.
- (e) More research may be carried out; the thesis may be revised/rewritten within a prescribed time not exceeding 06 months.

ii. Declaration of Final Thesis Result:

The results of final viva voce/thesis examination will not be announced by the controller of examination until the minimum period of the degree be completed.

20. The minimum requirement for each Semester course and the Schedule of Tests, Mid Semester and Final Semester Examination shall be as under

S #	Activity	Period
(a)	Quizzes / Tests	During Classes
(b)	Mid Semester Examination	in 8 th week (after teaching of 7 weeks)

(c)	Assignment(s)/Presentation(s)/Report(s)	During/After Completion of Classes
(d)	Final Semester Examination	After 16 weeks

21. Mid Semester Examination:

Mid semester examination will be of one-hour duration for 3 CHs course and each question paper will contain 02 questions, the candidate will have to attempt both the questions.

22. Distribution of Marks:

The distribution of marks of each 03 CH theory course in a semester will be as under:

Theory

	Maximum Marks 100
i. Sessional work	20
ii. Mid Semester Examination	20
iii. Final Semester Examination	60

Total:	100 Marks
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23. Attendance Requirement:

No student shall be allowed to appear in the Final Semester Examination having class attendance less than 75%.

24. Appearance in the Semester Examination:

The semester examination will be opened to the students who full-fill the following conditions.

- During the semester immediately preceding the examination, he/she has been on the roll list of the concerned Department of concerned faculty.
- He/she has fulfilled the prescribed requirements of the attendance.
- He/she has submitted his/her Examination Form complete in all respects along with the prescribed fee and photographs to the Controller of Examination, through Director Postgraduate Studies & Research within the due date.

25. Duration of Final Semester Examination:

Final Examination will be of 03-hours duration for 03 CHs course and each question paper will contain 05 questions. The student will have to attempt all questions (No Choice).

a. Conduct of Sessional Work/Mid-Semester and Final Semester Examinations and declaration of results shall be as follows:

- 05 marks of tests for subjects carrying 100 marks shall be awarded by the teacher concerned after conducting three tests (MCQs type, assignment or presentation). Two best of three tests will be considered for award of 05 marks. The scripts of all assignments and tests will be returned to the students.
- At the end of each semester, the marks of attendance and sessional work secured by the student of the concerned subject shall be announced by the concerned subject teacher by displaying the same on the Notice Board.
- Mid semester Examination will be conducted by the Examination Department in collaboration with the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research.

- iv. The question paper (drawn from within the course of mid semester) and their solutions (duly sealed) for the mid semester and final semester examinations will be submitted by the concerned teacher to the Controller of Examinations at least two days before the Examinations.
- v. The marks of the mid semester examination question paper of 03 CHs will be 20.
- vi. The scripts of mid semester examination will be shown to the students after evaluation. Each blank page/space in the scripts will be stamped/line drawn, by the factotum/head invigilator/invigilator concerned.
- vii. The marks of each test and mid semester examination will be displayed and solutions will be discussed in the classroom immediately after evaluation. If any student is not satisfied with the evaluation, he/she may convey this to the Chairman of the concerned department/Director (PGS/IICT) within 07 days of the result thus displayed and the matter will then be looked into by the Departmental Committee under intimation to the Director (PGS/IICT), whose decision will be final. Any such objections after the expiry of 07 days will not be entertained. A copy of the Marks of the tests and mid semester will be submitted by the teacher in the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies (PGS/IICT) immediately after the announcement of the results.
- viii. The teachers will prepare 3 copies of the result of each course separately at the end of each semester (attendance, tests, mid semester examination, assignment and final semester examination) on the prescribed proforma and shall forward to the Controller of Examinations.
- ix. The cumulative result (including all the marks of attendance, assignments, tests, mid semester examination and final semester examination) of each semester of a year will be announced by the Controller of Examinations.

b. Plagiarism and Similarity Index Thresholds for Thesis:

Prior to the evaluation of the ME/MS thesis by external and internal examiners, the student must submit the dissertation in the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies and Research for similarity index checking. The Director (PGS/IICT) will send the dissertation/Thesis to the Director ORIC for checking of similarity index. The thesis may be processed for final evaluation if the overall similarity index is less than or equal to 19%, provided that no single source has a similarity index greater than or equal to 5% without proper citations as reported by the Director ORIC, in strict compliance with HEC Anti-Plagiarism guidelines.

26. Setting of Question Paper/Assessment of Scripts:

a. Setting of Question Paper

- i. Question Papers for Semester Examination shall be drawn by the teacher(s) of concerned subject as Examiners, for all departments. In case of more than one subject teacher of a particular subject in the same department with assigned sections, the respective teacher will draw question paper for concerned section.
- ii. The departmental committee with consent of dean of the faculty may moderate the question paper if necessary.

b. Assessment of Scripts:

The scripts of the Theory Examination will be assessed by the respective Examiner. The award lists shall be submitted to the Director (PGS/IICT) for scrutiny in order to avoid any discrepancy in the subjects of same semester.

27. Scanning of Result:

- i. A committee comprising of the Dean of the concerned Faculty, the Chairman of the concerned Department, Director (PGS/IICT) and the concerned teacher of the subject who if necessary, for reasons of checking the quality and consistency of assessment of scripts, will at random re-assess at least 15% of the scripts and in case gross discrepancy is detected, the Committee shall be empowered to take appropriate action with approval of the Vice Chancellor.
- ii. Prior to sending ledgers of the results of Regular/Supplementary Examination to the Vice Chancellor for his/her signature, the overall tabulated and checked ledgers shall be pursued and rescanned by the Dean of concerned Faculty and the Chairman of concerned Department/Director (PGS/IICT).

28. Passing Examinations:

- i. A candidate having passed all the Heads with minimum GPA equal to 2.0 shall be declared "PASS" or otherwise.
- ii. A candidate having passed all the Heads with overall minimum CGPA of 3.0 will be eligible to conduct research work by selecting a supervisor from any related department.
- iii. Selection of supervisor shall meet the HEC prescribed criterion for research supervisor.
- iv. All such candidates who passed all the heads of all the semesters but failed to secure CGPA equal to 3.0 will be entitled for improvement of grades only once. No candidate failing in any head(s) will be allowed to improve grades of passed subjects.
- v. Also, those candidates who failed in any head(s) of first to third semester of Master's Degree Program will be entitled only once to appear in one time chance to appear in special examination after the declaration of 3rd or 4th semester result. Such candidates will not have any chance to improve the grades further. The expenditures to be incurred on their examination shall be borne by the applicant(s).
- vi. A candidate who fails in any head(s) even after special chance will be disqualified for the degree.

29. Grade Equivalent:

GRADE	GRADE POINT	Max Marks 100
A+	4.0	>90%
A	3.5	81% to 89%
B+	3.0	73% to 80%
B	2.5	65% to 72%
C+	2.0	60% to 64%
C	1.5	55% to 59%
C-	1.0	50% to 54%
F*	N/A	<50%

Note: Fraction is to be considered as a whole number. The results will be prepared on the basis of Grade Point Average (GPA).

The 60% marks in each subject will be considered as PASS and will be considered as 2.00 GPA and 73% marks aggregate will be considered as 3.00 CGPA.

30. Promotion Rules:

- i. The Director, Postgraduate Studies & Research is authorized to allow the ME/MS students for re-registration/re-enrolment who have the gap of one year only. However, the re-registration/re-enrolment will be allowed once during the entire degree program.
- ii. A student will be promoted to the 2nd semester of the first year provided he/she has completed minimum attendance requirement i.e. 75% and submitted examination form and appeared in at least one of the Heads of the Final Semester examination (First Semester).
- iii. A student will be promoted to the 3rd semester provided he/she has obtained GPA equal to 2.0 or higher in at-least 60% Heads of 1st semester of first year in regular examination and has completed minimum attendance requirement i.e. 75% of 2nd semester and submitted examination form and appeared in at-least one of the heads of examinations (Second Semester). Benefit of the fraction will be given to the student.

31. Progress of Candidates:

Progress of all postgraduate students will be monitored by Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research.

32. Conduct of the Students:

The conduct of the postgraduate students will be monitored by the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies and Research. In case of any misconduct observed or reported by class teacher, supervisor, chairman/Director PGS/IICT or any other person in writing will be processed by Director PGS/IICT for permission to send the same to the Discipline Committee of the University for Appropriate Action.

33. Cancellation of Admission:

In case if the progress of the postgraduate student is not satisfactory, Director PGS/IICT will present such case to AS&RB for consideration. The AS&RB may issue warning to the student or even can cancel the admission if deems appropriate. In case, if any student fails to deliver his/her initial seminar within 30 months after the date of admission, his/her admission in Master's Program will be cancelled.

34. Award of Degree:

A student shall be awarded degree of ME/MS only after he / she has passed the examination as prescribed in relevant sections, and successfully defended his / her research work within stipulated time frame.

35. Time for Checking Scripts:

The time limit for checking the answer scripts shall be 15 scripts per day plus one week, unless specified.

36. Final Award:

The final award list once received by the office of the Controller of Examination shall not be liable to the subsequent change, except with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.

37. Retotaling of Marks:

Retotaling of the marks shall be done on payment of prescribed fee i.e. Rs.1000/- per paper for a candidate who submits an application to the Controller of Examination, through the Director PGS/IICT within two weeks from the date of announcement of result.

38. Medium of Instructions:

Instruction in all courses and laboratories are carried out in English language.

39. Modification of Regulations:

The Regulations are subject to modification by the Competent Authority as may be felt appropriate from time to time.

40. Method of Working out G.P.

i). Credit Hours (C.H)

One credit hour for a particular course is generally to be considered as one hour of teaching theory per week.

ii). Quality Points (Q. P)

For computation of the (G. P. A), the quality point (Q. P) is first determined by multiplying the value of the grade earned by the students with the Credit Hours of the that course e.g. if a student obtain “A⁺” grade for a three credit hours course then his quality points will be calculated as follows

$$Q.P = 4 \times 3 = 12$$

iii). Grade Point Average (G. P. A):

Grade Point Average is an expression for the average performance of a student in the course he/she has offered during a particular semester. This is calculated by adding the quality points of all the courses taken, divided by the total number of Credit Hours offered.

$$G.P.A = \frac{\text{Sum of Quality Points}}{\text{Sum of the Credit Hours}}$$

iv). Cumulative Grade Point Average (C. G. P. A):

The cumulative Grade Point Average (C. G. P. A) is the expression describing the performance of a student in all semester is determined by the following way.

$$C.G.P.A = \frac{\text{Sum of Quality Points for all the courses appeared}}{\text{Sum of the Credit Hours for all the courses appeared}}$$

41. Graduate Supervision Workload Limits:

The maximum supervisory load per full-time faculty member shall comply with the HEC mandated teacher-to-student ratio of 1:12. A research supervisor shall not supervise a total of more than twelve (12) graduate students (ME/MS and PhD combined) simultaneously, ensuring strict alignment with quality assurance standards.

PhD Program

Regulations regarding the General Scheme of Studies for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Program of the Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, under Section (47) (1) (k) of the Act, 1996.

1. Short Title:

These Regulations may be called the “Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology General Scheme of Studies for Ph.D. degree programs Statutes 2026”

2. Commencement:

These regulations shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the date of approval by the University's statutory bodies and shall be **applicable to all students enrolled from 2023 onwards**. These regulations are framed in alignment with the Higher Education Commission's Graduate Education Policy (2023). In case of any conflict between these regulations and HEC's Graduate Education Policy (2023), the provisions of the HEC policy shall prevail.

3. Definitions:

In these Regulations unless otherwise expressly stated.

- i. “University” means the Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology, Nawabshah.
- ii. “Academic Year” means the Academic Year of the University.
- iii. “Semester” means a Period of 22 weeks out of an academic year for teaching and evaluation and/or guidance of the students of the University.
- iv. “Vice Chancellor”, “Pro Vice-Chancellor” “Dean”, “Principal”, “Chairman”, “Director Postgraduate Studies & Research”, “Teacher” and “Controller of Examinations” means the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Dean, the Principal, the Chairman, the Director Postgraduate Studies, the Teacher and the Controller of Examinations of the University.
- v. “Credit Hour (C. H.)” means one credit hour for a particular course is generally considered as one hour of teaching theory per week.
- vi. “Quality Point (Q. P.)” means the value obtained by multiplying grade obtained by student with the credit hours of that course.
- vii. “Grade Point Average (G. P. A.)” means a value obtained by dividing sum of quality points by sum of credit hours offered during a particular semester.
- viii. “Cumulative Grade Point Average (C. G. P. A.)” means the value obtained by dividing sum of quality points for all the courses appeared by sum of credit hours for all the courses appeared.

4. Medium of Instructions:

Instruction in all courses and laboratories will be carried out in English language.

5. Requirement to start a Ph.D. program:

There should be at least three (03) PhDs faculty members with research field in line with program title to start a PhD program in the department.

6. Conduct of the Students:

The conduct of the postgraduate students will be monitored by the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies. In case of any misconduct observed or reported by Class Teacher, Supervisor, Chairman, Directorate of Postgraduate Studies or any other person in writing

will be processed by Director Postgraduate Studies for permission to send the same to the Discipline Committee of the University for proper disposal.

7. Cancellation of Admission:

In case if the progress of the postgraduate student is not satisfactory, Director Postgraduate Studies will present the case to AS&RB for consideration. The AS&RB may issue warning to the candidate or even can cancel the admission if deems appropriate.

8. Credit Hours for a PhD Program:

The courses shall be offered through regular classes (i.e., classes taught on campus by full-time faculty members of the university) and shall preferably be of 800 level.

Description	Credit Hours
Course Work	18 CH
Research Work	30 CH
Total Course work + Research Work	48 CH

9. Yearly Academic Program:

1. Teaching duration of 1 st semester	16 Weeks
2. Mid Semester Examination including mid break	02 Weeks
3. Preparation of final 1 st Semester Examination	02 Weeks
4. Conduct of final 1 st Semester Examination	02 Weeks
5. Summer Break	06 Weeks
6. Teaching duration of 2 nd Semester	16 Weeks
7. Mid Semester Examination including mid break	02 Weeks
8. Preparation of final 2 nd Semester Examination	02 Weeks
9. Conduct of final 2 nd Semester Examination	02 Weeks
10. Winter Break	02 Weeks

Total 52 Weeks

Note: Number of contact hours for a theory subject of 03 credit hours per semester is 45. One (01) credit hour of theory is equal to 01 contact hour.

10. The minimum requirement for each semester course and the Schedule of Tests, Mid Semester and Final Semester Examination shall be as under:

S #	Activity	Period
(e)	Quizzes/Tests	During Classes
(f)	Mid Semester Examination	in 8 th week (after teaching of 7 weeks)
(g)	Assignment(s)/Presentation(s)/Report(s)	During/After Completion of Classes
(h)	Final Semester Examination	After 16 weeks

11. Criteria/Procedure for Admission in PhD Program:

- (a) To be eligible for admission to the PhD degree, the candidate must possess MPhil/ME/MS (18 years education) in relevant field with CGPA not less than 3.0 (or first division with minimum 60%). He/She is further required to be proficient in English language and be physically and mentally fit for the study.

- (b) In compliance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023, applicants must submit a valid score card of either the International GRE Subject Test or the HEC Admission Test (HAT), duly conducted and authenticated by the recognized testing agency (e.g., NTS or HEC-ETC). The qualifying score on this test shall be at least 60% (60 out of 100). If the prescribed HEC test is not available, the University may conduct its own subject-specific test, for which the minimum qualifying score shall be 70% (70 out of 100).
- (c) All test requirements are subject to the overarching regulations of the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023, including the HEC's directive on centralized testing through the HEC-Education Testing Council (ETC) for admissions from Fall 2026 and onward. The University reserves the right to verify the equivalency of all test scores and to ensure strict compliance with HEC mandates regarding merit, transparency, and quality assurance in graduate admissions.
- (d) The applicant must submit the Application Form, duly completed in all respects, along with photocopies of all relevant supporting documents (including a research proposal signed by the applicant and their proposed supervisor(s)), to the Director (PGS/IICT) **both in physical form and online** via the university's admission portal, on or before the prescribed closing date. Applications received after the deadline, whether submitted physically or online, shall not be entertained under any circumstances.
- (e) The Director (PGS/IICT) will process the applications along with research proposal before the AS&RB for its deliberation and decision.
- (f) Candidates selected for admission will be informed accordingly, through notification/letter issued by Director (PGS/IICT) and/or their names will be displayed on the Post-Graduate Centre (PGC) notice board and on the website of the University.
- (g) The selected candidates will be required to report to the Director (PGS/IICT) for verification of their documents and payment of prescribed fee and seek registration within prescribed/stipulated date. The Director (PGS/IICT) shall assign registration number to each student.
- (h) The schedule of classes for course work of PhD program will be announced by Director (PGS/IICT) after receiving application forms of approved subjects from the candidate(s). Each candidate has to take two compulsory courses along-with one optional/elective course in first semester and three optional courses in second semester. The all four (04) optional subjects should be endorsed/proposed by the supervisor(s) for approval and Director (PGS/IICT), Chairman of the concerned Department and the Pro-Vice Chancellor shall assign the subjects to the suitable teachers.
- (i) Admission of any student will be liable to be cancelled at any stage if his/her academic progress or conduct at any stage is found to be unsatisfactory.
- (j) A postgraduate student, if employed, will be required to submit **“No Objection Certificate”** NOC from his/her employer along with application form before start of 1st semester's classes stating that he/she would be permitted to attend the classes regularly, failing which the University will cancel his/her admission without any notice.
- (k) If any of the particulars given by the candidate in his/her application for admission are found to be incorrect or facts suppressed, he/she shall be refused admission. If any incorrect or false statement or suppression of facts is detected after a candidate has been granted admission, his/her admission shall be stand cancelled and he/she shall be expelled from the University at any time during his/her degree or the legal action may be taken against him/her as per university rules as deemed appropriate.

- (l) A candidate who is already enrolled in another institution will be ineligible to get admission in this University. If a case is detected at any-time where a student enrolled in this University is also student of some other Institution, his/her admission in the University shall be cancelled.
- (m) At the time of admission, selected candidates shall submit an undertaking on the stamp paper of Rs.100/- or above duly attested by the first class magistrate to abide by all the rules of the University and not indulge in any political activity.
- (n) If any student is found deficient in the pre-requisite knowledge, he/she will be required to update his/her knowledge for which extra classes may be arranged during the first semester. The decision to direct a graduate student to take up an extra course to improve the deficiency in a particular field will be made by the Academic Advisor/Supervisor and the expenditure incurred upon such arrangement shall be borne by the student.

12. Duration of PhD Program:

For full-time students, the minimum period for completing Ph.D. degree shall be three academic years (06 semesters) and maximum duration will be seven years (14 semesters). As such for part-time candidates, the minimum duration will be 05 academic years (10 semesters) and maximum duration will be 08 academic years (16 semesters).

The classes of Ph.D. courses will be conducted in the evening.

In case a student is unable to secure a PhD degree within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes for delay. In event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of PhD degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.

13. Study Leave for Full-Time Ph.D. Student:

Those who are registered as Full-Time PhD students will have to submit proof of proceeding on study leave immediately after completion of the course work or before applying for initial seminar. The students will have to avail at least two years study leave as requirement for the PhD degree program.

14. Evaluation of Final Thesis:

The PhD dissertation must be evaluated by:

- a) At least two external experts who shall be PhD faculty members from the world top 500 universities ranked by the Times Higher Education or QS World Ranking in the year corresponding to dissertation evaluation year OR
- b) Pakistan-based Distinguished National Professors, Meritorious Professors from any national university; or professors from top universities ranked by HEC; or professors from any Pakistani University having a minimum H-Index 30 for Sciences, 15 for Social Sciences or 8 for Art & Humanities as determined by Web of Science OR
- c) At least one external expert qualifying any one of the conditions mentioned at 'a' above if the PhD candidate publishes dissertation research in a peer-reviewed journal that is classified by the HEC in category W for Sciences and X or above for Social Sciences. OR
- d) As per HEC earlier policy from revised list of Technologically/Academically Advance Countries for Evaluation of PhD thesis vide letter No. 1-22 (NQAC)/QAD/2017/HEC/04-361 dated: 24.03.2017 and vide letter No. 1-22

(NQAC)/QAD/2018/HEC/65-515 dated: 12.09.2018 (list of forty-eight countries) available on HEC website.

The following general guidelines shall be observed while selecting external evaluator:

- a) Relevance of Expertise: in the same or related fields as in the dissertation.
- b) No Conflict of Interest: in personal, financial, or professional stakes.
- c) Objectivity: capable of making unbiased evaluations.
- d) Diversity: in terms of geography, culture, professional backgrounds etc.
- e) Reputation: must be good in the field, with a track record of fair and thorough evaluations.
- f) Availability: should have the time and availability to review the dissertation.
- g) Professionalism: capable of conducting themselves in a professional and respectful manner throughout the evaluation process.
- h) Communication: capable of providing clear and constructive feedback on the dissertation.
- i) Confidentiality: capable of maintaining confidentiality and protecting the intellectual property of the dissertation.
- j) Compatibility: well-versed with the research methodology, approach, and theories used in the dissertation.

15. The courses of Studies:

The courses of studies for the degree programs of the University shall be as recommended by the Board of Studies of the concerned department and approved by Advanced Studies and Research Board of the University from time to time.

- i. Each degree program shall carry a number of approved courses and each course shall be assigned a number of Credit Hours. The Credit Hours per semester for each discipline shall be 09.
- ii. There shall be two semesters in an academic year. The duration of teaching time in each semester shall be 15 weeks.

16. Scheme of Studies:

The scheme of studies shall be as under: It is mandatory that the Ph.D. students will undertake 02 compulsory courses along-with 01 elective/optional course of 03 credit hours in first semester of Ph.D. courses.

(a) Course work:

The minimum period for completing course work for Ph. D. degree program is two semesters. A total of 18 credit hours are partially required to be completed for Ph.D. degree program followed by research work of minimum 2 academic years for full-time students and minimum 5 academic years for part-time students. The maximum time to complete PhD courses is two years. However, the Advanced Studies and Research Board may decide the time period, if required.

(b) Distribution of Marks:

The distribution of marks of each theory course in a semester will be as under:

Theory

	Maximum Marks
(i) Sessional work	20
(ii) Mid Semester Examination	20
(iii) Final Semester Examination	60

Total:	100 Marks
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(c) Attendance Requirement

A student should have at least 75% attendance to appear in the Final Semester Examination.

(d) Appearance in the Semester Examination

The semester examination will be open to the students who full-fills the following conditions.

- i) During the semester immediately preceding the examination, he/she has been on the roll list of the concerned Department of concerned faculty.
- ii) He/he has fulfilled the prescribed requirements of the attendance.
- iii) He/she has submitted his/her Examination Form dully filled-in completely along with the prescribed fee to the Controller of Examination, through Director Postgraduate Studies. If the student has deposited the fee and not submitted in the office of the Director (PGS/IICT) within due date, then the student will pay the late fee even his/her normal fee is already deposited in due date. Therefore, the examination form along-with fee must be submitted in due date.

(e) Mid Semester Examination:

Mid semester examination will be of one-hour duration for 3 CHs courses and each question paper will contain 02 questions. The candidate has to attempt all questions (No Choice).

(f) Final Semester Examination:

Final Examination will be of 2-hours duration for 3 CHs course and each question paper will contain 04 questions. The student has to attempt all questions (No Choice).

17. Conduct of Sessional Work/Mid-Semester and Final Semester Examinations and declaration of results shall be as follows:

- (i) 05 marks of tests for subjects carrying 100 marks shall be awarded by the teacher concerned after conducting three tests (MCQs type, assignment or presentation). Two best of three tests will be considered for award of 05 marks. The scripts of all assignments and tests will be returned to the students.
- (ii) At the end of each semester the marks of the sessional work secured by the student of the concerned subject shall be announced by the concerned subject teacher by displaying on the Notice Board.
- (iii) Mid semester Examination will be conducted by the Examination Department in collaboration with the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research.
- (iv) The question paper (drawn from within the course of mid semester) and their solutions (duly sealed) for the mid semester and final semester examinations will be submitted by the concerned teacher to the Controller of Examinations at least two days before the Examinations.
- (v) The marks of the mid semester examination question paper of 03 CHs will be 20.
- (vi) The scripts of mid semester examination will be shown to the students after evaluation. Each blank page/gaps in the scripts will be stamped/line drawn, by the factotum/head invigilator/invigilator concerned.

- (vii) The marks of each test and mid semester examination will be displayed and solutions will be discussed in the classroom immediately after evaluation. If any student is not satisfied with the evaluation, he/she may convey this to the Chairman of the concerned department/Director (PGS) within 07 days of the result thus displayed and the matter will then be looked into by the Departmental Committee under intimation to the Director (PGS), whose decision will be final. Any such objections after the expiry of 07 days will not be entertained. A copy of the Marks of the tests and mid semester will be submitted by the teacher in the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies (PGS) immediately after the announcement of the results.
- (viii) The teachers will prepare 03 copies of the result of each course separately at the end of each semester, tests, mid semester examination, assignment and final semester examination) on the prescribed proforma and shall forward to the Controller of Examinations.
- (ix) The cumulative result (including all the marks of assignments, tests, mid semester examination and final semester examination) of each semester of a year will be announced by the Controller of Examinations.

18. Setting of Question Paper/Assessment of Scripts:

a) Setting of Question Paper:

Question Papers for Semester Examination shall be drawn by the teacher(s) of concerned subject as Examiners, for all departments. In case of more than one subject teacher of a particular subject in the same department with assigned sections, the respective teacher will draw question paper of concerned section.

The departmental committee with consent of dean of the faculty may moderate the question paper if necessary.

b) Assessment of Scripts:

The scripts of the Theory Examination will be assessed by the respective Examiner. The award lists should be submitted to chairman/Director (PGS/IICT) for scrutiny in order to avoid any discrepancy in the subjects of same semester.

c) Scanning of Result:

A committee comprising of the Dean of the concerned Faculty, the Chairman of the concerned Department, Director (PGS/IICT) and the concerned subject teacher who if necessary, for reasons of checking the quality and consistency of assessment of scripts, will at random re-assess at-least 15% of the scripts and in case gross discrepancy is detected, the Committee shall be empowered to take appropriate action with approval of the Vice Chancellor.

Prior to sending ledgers of the results of Regular Examination to the Vice-Chancellor for his/her signature, the overall tabulated and checked ledgers shall be pursued and rescanned by the Dean of concerned Faculty and the Chairman of concerned Department/Director (PGS/IICT).

19. Passing Examinations:

- a) A candidate having passed all the Heads with minimum CGPA equal to 2.0 shall be declared "PASS" or otherwise.
- b) A candidate having passed all the Heads of with overall minimum CGPA of 3.0 will be eligible to conduct research work by selecting a supervisor/co-supervisor from the department where he/she is enrolled as student.
- c) Selection of supervisor should meet the HEC prescribed criterion for research supervisor.

- d) All such candidates who passed all the heads of all the semesters but failed to secure CGPA equal to 3.0 will be entitled for improvement of grades only once. No candidate failing in any head(s) will be allowed to improve grades of passed subjects.
- e) A candidate who fails in any head(s) even after re-registration will be disqualified for the degree.

20. Time for Checking Scripts:

The time limit for checking the answer scripts shall be 15 scripts per day plus one week, unless specified.

21. Retotaling of Marks:

Retotaling of the marks shall be done on payment of prescribed fee per paper for a candidate who submits an application to the Controller of Examination, through the Director (PGS/IICT) within two weeks from the date of announcement of result.

22. Grade Equivalence:

GRADE	GRADE POINT	Max Marks 100
A+	4.0	>90%
A	3.5	81% to 89%
B+	3.0	73% to 80%
B	2.5	65% to 72%
C+	2.0	60% to 64%
C	1.5	55% to 59%
C-	1.0	50% to 54%
F*	N/A	<50%

Note: Fraction is to be considered as a whole number. The results will be prepared on the basis of Grade Point Average (G.P.A).

23. Method of Working out G.P.

i). Credit Hours (C.H):

One credit hour for a particular course is generally to be considered as one hour of teaching theory per week.

ii). Quality Points (Q. P):

For computation of the (G.P.A), the quality point (Q.P) is first determined by multiplying the value of the grade earned by the students with the Credit Hours of the that course e.g. if a student obtain “A⁺” grade for a three credit hours course then his quality points will be calculated as follows

$$Q.P = 4 \times 3 = 12$$

iii). Grade Point Average (G. P. A)

Grade Point Average is an expression for the average performance of a student in the course he/she has offered during a particular semester. This is calculated by adding the quality points of all the courses taken, divided by the total number of Credit Hours offered.

$$G. P. A = \frac{\text{Sum of Quality Points}}{\text{Sum of the Credit Hours}}$$

iv). Cumulative Grade Point Average (C.G.P.A)

The cumulative Grade Point Average (C.G.P.A) is the expression describing the performance of a student in all semester is determined by the following way.

$$C. G. P. A = \frac{\text{Sum of Quality Points for all the courses appeared}}{\text{Sum of the Credit Hours for all the courses appeared}}$$

24. Promotion Rules:

A student will be promoted to the 2nd semester of the first year provided he/she has completed minimum attendance requirement i.e. 75% and filled up examination form and appeared in at least one of the Heads of the Final Semester examination (First Semester).

25. Number of attempts and Supplementary Examination:

The PhD student(s) will be given only one chance to re-register for maximum of three courses, in case to attend or qualify. There will be no supplementary examination for PhD courses. In case if the student fails to secure required CGPA for research work, he/she will be allowed once to improve it in any two courses. The expenses incurred on such examination shall be borne by the student his/her self.

26. Progress of Candidates:

- (i) Progress of all postgraduate students will be monitored by Director Postgraduate Studies & Research.
- (ii) The progress of the each PhD student will be submitted by the supervisor every year (e.g. January-2026 to December-2026).
- (iii) Director Postgraduate Studies will present the progress of the students to AS&RB for consideration.

27. Comprehensive Examination:

Following the completion of coursework, every PhD student shall be required to pass the comprehensive examination to be granted candidacy as a PhD researcher, with the provision that the student failing to pass the comprehensive exam, shall be allowed to retake the exam once; The required coursework, comprehensive exam. The responsibility in this regard rests collectively with the PhD student and the university.

In case of noncompliance, the registration shall be cancelled and transcripts for completion of coursework may be issued to the student. In an event of force majeure i.e., noncompliance on account of circumstances beyond the control of student, the university may consider the matter in accordance with the procedure prescribed at 3.12(iv).

The following are the guidelines for a conducting Comprehensive Examination:

- (a) The exam should be based on recapitulation of the conceptual knowledge of the discipline to which the student is admitted.
- (b) The exam shall cover the 06 PhD courses studied, conducted on one composite question paper.
- (c) The evaluation shall be on an aggregate basis, expressed in terms of Pass/Fail and shall not be graded.

The comprehensive examination conducted by the QUEST Testing Service (QTS) through immediately after completion of course work and must be conducted within two years from the date of admission. A Ph.D. student after completing the course work successfully shall undertake the comprehensive examination. Duly signed result of the examination shall be submitted to the Director (PGS/IICT).

28. Conduct of Seminar(s)/Viva Voce:

It is mandatory that at least one of the Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor or the Dean of concerned faculty be present during the seminar. Otherwise, the seminar will be postponed/rescheduled. In addition to above, the presence of two Advance Studies & Research Board (AS&RB) members and any one of the supervisors (supervisor or co-supervisor) is mandatory for conduct of the seminar/viva voce.

A Ph.D. student after having completed all requirements will apply for seminar/viva voce. The Directorate of Postgraduate Studies & Research will arrange and conduct the seminar/viva voce subject to the availability of external, internal examiners within one month (30 days). During this process, if any delay occurs, which is not on part of the student, the University will compensate /adjust period of the gap between next seminar/viva voce.

29. Time limit for Presentation (ppt) and Questions & Answers sessions during a Seminar:

Seminar	Maximum time allowed for presentation	Maximum time allowed for Questions & Answers
Initial Seminar	25 Minutes	20 Minutes
1 st progressive	30 Minutes	25 Minutes
2 nd progressive	30 Minutes	25 Minutes
Final Seminar	35 Minutes	Unlimited

30. Initial Seminar:

A student will become eligible to deliver initial seminar before examiners and AS&RB members after qualification of 1st Semester examination and has appeared in all papers of 2nd semester examination.

31. Research Work:

On the approval of AS&RB the student shall proceed with his/her research work under the guidance of his/her supervisor(s) in accordance with the approved Regulations.

32. Supervisory Load and Criteria:

- The supervisory workload of research supervisors shall be determined based on the nature of the institution, availability of teaching and research facilities, and the academic standing of supervisors. However, it is mandated that the maximum supervisory load shall not exceed five PhD students, simultaneously.
- Fresh PhDs can supervise ME/MS and co-supervise PhD students, while a PhD faculty member, after two years of obtaining a PhD degree, can supervise one PhD student in 3rd year, two PhD students in 4th year and maximum up to 5 PhD students from 5th year onward, subject to fulfillment of other conditions provided in this policy.

To be a PhD research supervisor, an individual shall meet the following requirements:

- a) A PhD degree from an HEC recognized national/international university/degree awarding institute.
- b) The research supervisor shall be given opportunities to attend and qualify course(s) on ME/MS/PhD Supervision which should also have contents on research ethics, publications, patents, etc.
- c) Publication Requirements (within the last 3 years after PhD: at least one research publication in W category journal; OR within last 5 years after PhD: at least five research publications in X category journal for Science and Technology; and similar requirements for Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Regional/National Languages as specified in HEC policy).

33. Progressive Seminars:

The Ph.D. scholar shall deliver two progressive seminars before final seminar. Minimum time between initial seminar and first progressive seminar and between subsequent progressive seminars shall not be less than 06 months for full-time students and be not less than 09 months for part-time students.

After completion of the research work and its write-up the student will submit his/her thesis duly checked by his/her supervisor to the Director (PGS/IICT). The thesis will be evaluated by two subject experts from technologically advanced countries as per HEC, Islamabad's prevailing list.

34. Final Seminar (Open Defense) and Final Viva Voce:

After successful completion of two progressive seminars and incorporation of the comments/suggestions/additions communicated by the experts after evaluation of the thesis, the candidate on recommendations of his/her supervisor will deliver final seminar (open defense) publicly including internal and external examiners, AS&RB members & HEC nominated official (online). He/She will then appear in the final viva voce on the same day. The panel for viva voce will consists the supervisor, internal examiner (preferably from the University), external examiner (from outside the University/other university) and Director (PGS/IICT).

35. Plagiarism Policy

The University has adopted the HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2.0 (2023) for all batches. Accordingly, prior to the evaluation of the PhD thesis by external and internal examiners, the student must submit the dissertation in the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies and Research for similarity index checking. The Director (PGS/IICT) will send the dissertation/Thesis to the Director ORIC for checking of similarity index. The thesis may be processed for final evaluation if the overall similarity index is less than or equal to 19%, provided that no single source has a similarity index greater than or equal to 5% without proper citations as reported by the Director ORIC (Focal Person for Anti-Plagiarism), in strict compliance with HEC Anti-Plagiarism guidelines

36. Research Publication:

The candidate shall publish research articles meeting the following criteria at least:

- a. One research article in W category journal or two research articles in X category journals, for Science disciplines; OR
- b. One research article in X category journal or two research articles in Y category journals, for Social Science disciplines.
 - i. The PhD researcher shall be the first author of these publications.
 - ii. The research article shall be relevant to the PhD research work of the PhD researcher.
 - iii. The article shall be published after approval of the research synopsis.
 - iv. The article shall be published in a relevant research journal recognized by HEC

37. Schedule for conduct of seminar(s) & final viva voce:

Those students who submit their applications before 15th day of the month, their seminar/viva voce will be conducted up to 15th day of the next month. Any application received for conduct of seminar/viva voce after 15th day of the month will be entertained in next to subsequent month.

For Example:

- (a) Application received up to 15.01.2026 seminar/viva voce will be conducted from 01.02.2026 to 15.02.2026
- (b) Application received after 15.01.2026 seminar/viva voce will be conducted from 01.03.2026 to 15.03.2026

The Directorate of Postgraduate Studies will not receive incomplete application form for conduct of seminar/viva voce. Maximum 01 to 02 PhD seminars/viva voce will be conducted in a day.

38. Examination Evaluation System will be applicable as defined below.

- a) Theory: Internal Examiner
- b) Seminar(s)/Viva Voce: Internal Examiner(s) preferably from within the University, and External Examiner (s) from outside the University

39. Appointment of Examiners:

The Vice Chancellor will accord approval for appointment of the panel of examiners on the recommendations of the Dean of concerned faculty as proposed by the supervisor(s) or may change both or any examiner if deems necessary.

The Supervisor(s) will initiate proposal for appointment of examiners (internal and external) through Chairman of the Department.

40. Recommendations of Examiners:

The examiners shall record their recommendations in the prescribed proforma approved by the Advanced Studies and Research Board any one of the following after thorough evaluation of the thesis and viva-voce examination/defense.

- a) Accepted as submitted
- b) Accepted subject to minor changes as per comments below
- c) Accepted subject to major changes/modifications/additional work as per comments given below and highlighted in the thesis book and or on separate sheet.
- d) That more research may be carried out, the thesis may be revised/rewritten within a prescribed time not exceeding 12 months (requires reevaluation by same expert).
- e) Returned to be rewritten and resubmitted for another examination
- f) That the degree be not awarded and work be rejected

41. Final Award:

The final award list once received by the office of the Controller of Examination shall not be liable to the subsequent change, except with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.

42. Declaration of Final Thesis Result:

The results of final viva voce/thesis examination will not be announced by the controller of examination until the minimum period of the degree be completed i.e. three years for fulltime and five years for part-time students.

43. Award of Degree:

A student shall be awarded degree of PhD degree only after he/she has passed the examination as prescribed in relevant sections, and successfully defended his/her research work within stipulated time frame.

44. Modification of Regulations:

These Regulations are subject to modification by the Statutory Bodies (AS&RB/ HT&SC) and or Competent Authority of the university as may be felt appropriate in future.