Faculty of Disability Management and Special Education (FDMSE)

Degree of Master of Philosophy in Special Education (M.Phil)
& Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education (Ph.D)
(With effect from June 2016)

1. Title: Minimum Standards & Procedures for the award of M.Phil. & Ph.D. Degrees in Special Education – RKMVERI-FDMSE (Based on UGC Regulations 2016)

1.1. FDMSE offers M.Phil. in Special Education & Ph.D. in Special Education research programmes in three areas of disability specializations viz. Visual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI) and Mental Retardation (MR). Also it offers M.Phil. & Ph.D. research programmes in Disability Management.

2. Eligibility criteria for admission to M.Phil. programme in Special Education:

2.1 Candidates seeking admission to the M.Phil. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) shall have a Master's Degree in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) or a professional Degree declared equivalent to the Master’s Degree in Special Education by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent Degree from a foreign educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.

2.2 A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, is allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Master's Degree prior to 19th September, 1991. The eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace mark procedures.
3. **Eligibility criteria for admission to Ph.D. programme in Special Education:**

Subject to the conditions stipulated in these regulations, the following persons are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) programme:

3.1. Candidates who have Master’s Degree in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) satisfying the criteria stipulated under Clause 2 mentioned above.

3.2. Candidates who have cleared the course work of M.Phil. in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and successfully completing the M.Phil. Degree in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) shall be eligible to proceed to do research work leading to the Ph.D. Degree in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) in an integrated programme. A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, is allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

3.3. A person whose M.Phil. in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) Dissertation has been evaluated and the viva voce is pending is admitted to the Ph.D. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR).

3.4. Candidates possessing a Degree considered equivalent to M.Phil. Degree in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) of an Indian Institution or from a Foreign Educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR).

4. **Duration of the Programme:**

4.1. M.Phil. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) shall be for a minimum duration of two (2) consecutive semesters and a maximum of four (4) consecutive semesters.

4.2. Ph.D. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years.

4.3. Extension beyond the above limits will be allowed subject to the approval of Research Advisory Committee of RKMVERI-FDMSE.

4.4. The women candidates and Persons with Disabilities (more than 40% disability) are allowed a relaxation of one year for M.Phil. in Special Education and two years for Ph.D. in Special Education in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates are provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil./Ph.D. for up to 240 days.

5. **Procedure for admission:**

5.1. Admission to M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) are through an Entrance Test conducted at the level of Faculty-FDMSE.
a) The UGC-NET (including JRF/SLET) qualified candidates are exempted from entrance test for admission into M.Phil. /Ph.D. programme in Special Education (VI/HI/MR).

b) The candidates who have already passed M.Phil. in Special Education programme (VI/HI/MR) are also admitted to Ph.D. (VI/HI/MR) programme in Special Education without entrance examination.

c) Admission into one of the following modes of programmes is given considering the research/teaching/professional experience of the candidate and his aptitude for research:

(i) M.Phil
(ii) Integrated M.Phil.-Ph.D.
(iii) Ph.D.

5.2. Number of students to be admitted in to M.Phil. in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) & Ph.D. in Special Education(VI/HI/MR).

a) On an annual basis a predetermined and manageable number of M.Phil. and/or Ph.D. scholars to be admitted in Special Education (VI/HI/MR) depending on the number of available Research Supervisors and other academic and physical facilities available, keeping in mind the norms regarding the scholar- teacher ratio (as indicated in Para 6.5), laboratory, library and such other facilities is decided by the Doctoral committee before public notification.

b) Standing advertisement is given in the website. The number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, procedure for admission, is also notified for the benefit of the candidates.

c) National/State level reservation policy is adhered to.

5.3. The admission is based on the criteria notified by FDMSE keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC, and taking into account the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.

5.4. Entrance Test & Interview Procedures

a) An Entrance Test shall be qualifying with qualifying marks as 50%. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject specific. The Entrance Test shall be conducted at the premises of RKMVERI-FDMSE.

b) An interview is organized for the candidates to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before the Research Advisory Committee.

5.5. Aspects to be considered in the interview are

a) Candidates’ competency for the proposed research;

b) Suitability of FDMSE for the research work;

c) To check if the proposed area of research can contribute to new or additional knowledge.
d) All eligible candidates (see section 2), who are required to write entrance exam, will have to undergo an interview and score the minimum marks as indicated in the table below. Admission will be made purely on merit basis considering the extant reservation norms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Type of Examination</th>
<th>Max. Marks</th>
<th>Min. Marks Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Written Test</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
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5.6 FDMSE maintains the list of all M.Phil. and Ph.D. registered scholars on its website on year wise basis. The list shall include the names of the registered candidate, topic of his/her research, name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor and date of enrollment/registration.

6. **Allocation of Research Supervisor**: Eligibility criteria to be a Research Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, Number of M.Phil./Ph.D. scholars permissible per Supervisor, etc.

6.1. A regular professor of FDMSE with at least 5 research publications in refereed journals and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of FDMSE with Ph.D. Degree in Special Education/education and at least two research publications in refereed journals is recognized as Research Supervisor.

6.2. Only full time regular faculty members of FDMSE can act as Research Supervisors. External supervisors are not allowed. However, Co-Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments of the same institute or from other related institutions with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee. For the time being, because of the shortage of faculty in Special Education, eligible faculty from College of Education situated in the same campus can act as research supervisors.

6.3. The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar is decided by the Research Advisory Committee depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview.

6.4. In case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary in nature where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/Faculty/College/Institution on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by RKMVERI-FDMSE.

6.5. A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than three (3) M.Phil. and Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of two (2) M.Phil. and six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of one (1) M.Phil. and four (4) Ph.D. scholars.
6.6. In case of relocation of an M.Phil./Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed in letter and spirit and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by the parent institution/supervisor from any funding agency. The scholar will however give due credit to the parent guide and the institution for the part of research already done.

7. **Course Work:** Credit requirements, number, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.

7.1. The credit assigned to the M.Phil. or Ph.D. course work shall be of 12 credits.

7.2. Four credits are assigned to a course on Research Methodology which covers areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, field work, etc.

7.3. In conformity with credit hour instructional requirement, two other four credit courses are prescribed, the content, instructional & assessment methods of which are suggested by Research Advisory Committee.

7.4. The Department where the scholar pursues his/her research shall prescribe the course(s) to scholar based on the recommendations of the Research Advisory Committee.

7.5. All candidates admitted to the M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial one or two semesters.

7.6. Candidates already holding M. Phil. Degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in integrated course, are exempted by the Department from the Ph.D. course work. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work as prescribed by the Department.

7.7. Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Research Advisory Committee and the Concerned Specialization Department and the final grades will be communicated to the candidate.

7.8. A M.Phil./Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade/CGPA in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the Dissertation/Thesis.

8. **Research Advisory Committee and its functions:**

8.1. Research Advisory Committee is constituted at FDMSE for making policy decisions regarding research programs, prescribing the course work, allotting research supervisor, forwarding the proposals to Ethics committee and such other functions which are common in nature to all the scholars. The following are the members of Research Advisory Committee:

1. Assistant Administrative Head
2. Dean of FDMSE
3. Research Coordinator
4. HoDs of all departments(VI, HI & MR)
5. Two Externals

9. **Doctoral Committee and its functions:**

9.1. A General Test Committee / Doctoral Committee is constituted for each M.Phil/PhD scholar respectively to monitor their research progress once in 6 months. The Research Supervisor of the scholar is the Convener of this Committee. The research supervisor will constitute the committee and is responsible for organizing the periodic review meetings. The following is the constitution of the Committee:

1. Research Supervisor (Convener)
2. External Subject Expert
3. Dean or HoD of the Department
4. PhD Coordinator
5. Adjunct Faculty (preferably HoD of sister Departments)

9.2. Responsibilities of the committee:

9.2.1. To review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;

9.2.2. To guide the research scholar to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do.

9.2.3. To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar.

9.3. A research scholar has to appear before the Doctoral Committee once in six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six monthly progress report is submitted by the Doctoral Committee to the Institution/College with a copy to the research scholar.

9.4. In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the Doctoral Committee records the reasons for the same and suggests corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the Doctoral Committee may recommend to FDMSE with specific reasons for cancellation of the registration of the research scholar.

10. **Evaluation and Assessment Methods, Minimum Standard/Credit for award of the Degree etc,**

10.1. The overall minimum credit requirement for the award of M.Phil. Degree is 24 credits. 12 credits are given to the course work & the rest of the credits are distributed among Dissertation hours.

10.2. Upon satisfactory completion of course work, and obtaining the marks/grade prescribed in sub-clauses 7.8 mentioned above, as the case may be, the M.Phil. /Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake research work and produce a draft Dissertation/Thesis within 6 months to 1.5 years for M.Phil. Programme & 2.5 years to 5.5 years for Ph.D programme.

10.3. Prior to the submission of the Dissertation/Thesis, the scholar shall make a presentation in the Department before the Research Advisory Committee of the Institution concerned which shall also be open to all faculty members and other research scholars. The feedback and comments
obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft Dissertation/Thesis in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee.

10.4. M.Phil. scholars shall present at least one (1) research paper in a conference/seminar and Ph.D. scholars must publish at least one (1) research paper in refereed journal and make two paper presentations in conferences/seminars before the submission of the Dissertation/Thesis for adjudication, and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.

10.5. The Academic Council of RKMVERI-FDMSE deputes Ph.D. coordinator, who, using well developed software and gadgets detects plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty. While submitting for evaluation, the Dissertation/Thesis shall have an undertaking from the research scholar and a certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting to the originality of the work, vouching that there is no plagiarism and that the work has not been submitted for the award of any other Degree/Diploma of the same Institution where the work was carried out, or to any other Institution.

10.6. The M.Phil. Dissertation submitted by a research scholar is evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least one external examiner who is not in the employment of RKMVERI. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by both of them together, and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested experts/researchers.

10.7. The Ph.D. Thesis submitted by a research scholar is evaluated by his/her Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, who are not in employment of FDMSE, of whom one examiner may be from outside the country. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by the Research Supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners, and shall be open to be attended by Members of the Research Advisory Committee, all faculty members of the Department, other research scholars and other interested Experts/researchers.

10.8. The public viva-voce of the research scholar to defend the Dissertation/Thesis is conducted only if the evaluation report(s) of the external examiner(s) on the Dissertation/Thesis is/are satisfactory and include a specific recommendation for conducting the viva-voce examination. If the evaluation report of the external examiner in case of M.Phil. Dissertation, or one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner in case of Ph.D. Thesis, is unsatisfactory and does not recommend viva-voce, FDMSE shall send the Dissertation/ Thesis to another external examiner out of the approved panel of examiners and the viva-voce examination shall be held only if the report of the latest examiner is satisfactory. If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory, the Dissertation/Thesis shall be rejected and the research scholar shall be declared ineligible for the award of the Degree.

11. Academic, administrative and infrastructure requirement to be fulfilled by Colleges for getting recognition for offering M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes:

11.1. FDMSE is eligible to offer M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes since it satisfies the availability of eligible Research Supervisors, required infrastructure and supporting administrative and research promotion facilities as per the UGC Regulations 2016.

11.2. FDMSE has earmarked library resources including latest books, Indian and International journals, e-journals, extended working hours for all disciplines, adequate space for research scholars in the Department/library for reading, writing and storing study and research materials.

11.3. FDMSE has also access the required facilities of the neighboring Institutions/Colleges, or of those Institutions/Colleges/R&D Laboratories/Organizations which have the required facilities.

12. Treatment of Ph.D. / M.Phil. through Distance Mode/Part-time:

12.1. FDMSE shall not offer M.Phil./Ph.D. through distance mode.

12.2. Part-time M.phil./Ph.D. programs are allowed subject to extant Ph.D. Regulations.

13. Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees prior to Notification of UGC 2016 Regulations, or Degrees awarded by foreign Universities:

13.1. Award of Degrees to candidates registered for the M.Phil./Ph.D. programme on or after July 11, 2009 till the date of Notification of UGC Regulations, 5th May 2016 are governed by the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and procedure for Awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2009.

13.2. If the M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree is awarded by a Foreign University, the Indian Institution considering such a Degree shall refer the issue to a Standing Committee constituted by the concerned institution for the purpose of determining the equivalence of the Degree awarded by the foreign University.

14. Depository with INFLIBNET:

14.1. Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree(s), Controller of Examinations Office of FDMSE submits through main University an electronic copy of the M.Phil. Dissertation/Ph.D. Thesis to the INFLIBNET, for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges.

14.2. Prior to the actual award of the Degree, the Controller of Examinations Office of FDMSE will issue a Provisional Certificate to the effect that the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions of these UGC Regulations, 2016 immediately after the completion of viva-voce.