

**Hidayatullah National Law University**  
**PhD Ordinance, 2021**

<b>Preamble</b>	<p><b>1.1:</b> This Ordinance shall be called the Ordinance for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree. The following Ordinance conforms with the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standard and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulation 2016 as amended to date. This shall come into force from the date of its notification on the university website (<a href="http://www.hnlu.ac.in">www.hnlu.ac.in</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2:</b> The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Hidayatullah National Law University (hereinafter referred to as the Ph.D. degree) shall be awarded to those fulfilling the conditions as laid down in this Ordinance. There shall be two streams of Ph.D in the University, viz: (a) Ph.D. in Law, and (b) Interdisciplinary Ph.D.</p> <p>In Interdisciplinary Ph.D the research must be in an area that is in interface with the law and/or public policy. The nomenclature of the Ph.D Degree shall be Doctor of Philosophy (Law) and Doctor of Philosophy (Interdisciplinary Studies), respectively. The title of the thesis shall also be included in the Degree certificate.</p>
<b>Procedure for admission</b>	<p><b>2.1:</b> Admission to the Ph.D. program may be conducted either once a year or twice a year, depending upon the number of vacancies of PhD seats in the University.</p> <p>2.1.1: The University may also suspend admission to Ph.D programme for such a period as it deems appropriate if there are no vacancies available. The number of seats available for admission in the University shall be decided well in advance and mentioned in the Admission Notice/Prospectus of the University.</p> <p>2.1.2: The applications of candidates seeking admission will be processed, and eligible candidates shall be required to appear in a Ph.D. Entrance Test to be conducted by the University.</p> <p>2.1.3: The Entrance Test shall be qualifying with marks of 50%. The Entrance Test syllabus shall consist of 50% research methodology questions and 50% subject-specific questions.</p> <p>2.1.4: The University will organise an interview/viva-voce where the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation followed by an interview/viva-voce before an Admission Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor. The interview/viva-voce shall consider the following aspects:</p> <p>(a) whether the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed</p>

	<p>research;</p> <p>(b) whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University;</p> <p>(c) whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge.</p>
<p><b>Syllabus for Ph.D. Entrance Test:</b></p>	<p><b>2.2.1:</b> For the entrance examination, there shall be two descriptive/objective test papers (one for Research Aptitude and another one in law and concerned/allied/relevant discipline) to determine the analytical and critical thinking of the candidate.</p> <p>(a) Test 1: Research Aptitude (50 Marks)</p> <p>(b) Test 2: Law and concerned/allied/relevant discipline (50 Marks)</p> <p><b>2.2.2:</b> Candidates, who have qualified for UGC NET (Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)/ lectureship) or SLET, shall be exempted from the Entrance Test. However, the exempted candidates shall be required to present their research interest/area and attend interview/viva-voce like other candidates.</p>
<p><b>Submission of Application Form</b></p>	<p><b>2.3:</b> Duly filled in prescribed Application Form shall be submitted before the last date along with attested copies of mark sheets and certificates of all the previous examinations from High School/Higher Secondary onwards, including qualifying examinations. Those who claim reservation under any category is required to submit relevant certificates. The University may also require the candidates to submit a research proposal, Statement of Purpose (SOP), list of publications and any other documents or information with the objective of selecting the most meritorious candidates for the Programme.</p>
	<p><b>2.4:</b> After the entrance test and evaluation of scripts, the office of the controller of examination shall forward the list of candidates with their score in the test along with the Application Forms, with all enclosures, to the Admission Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor for preparing the Merit list for presentation and interview/viva-voce of candidates. The Presentation and Interview/Viva-Voce shall be evaluated by an expert panel appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The final merit list will be prepared by the Admission Committee and submitted for necessary approval by the Vice-Chancellor.</p>
<p><b>Course Work:</b></p>	<p><b>2.5: Course Work:</b> After admission, each Ph.D. scholar shall be required to undertake Course Work offered by the University. In the Course Work, a Ph.D. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% of marks or equivalent grade to continue in the Programme.</p> <p>(As instructed during the meeting, details of course work is attached as a separate Note for approval of the RDCU by circulation)</p>

**Allotment of Supervisors:**

**2.6:** A Ph.D. student shall undertake research work under the guidance of a supervisor allotted to them by the RDCU. Allotment of Supervisor shall be based on the availability of seats, the specialisation of the faculty, the research interest of the candidates and based on the following rules:

- a) Any regular full-time Professor of the University with at least five research publications in UGC CARE/refereed journals and any full-time regular Associate Professor of the University with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals may be recognised as research Supervisor. Provided that in areas where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the RDCU may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.
- b) Any regular full-time Assistant Professor of the University may also be appointed as a Supervisor if they have two years post-Ph.D experience as a full-time regular teacher and two publications in refereed journals. If this condition is not satisfied, they may be appointed as a Co-Supervisor. In areas where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the RDCU may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.
- c) Only a full-time regular teacher of the University can be appointed as a Supervisor. The external Supervisors are not allowed. However, the RDCU may appoint one Co-Supervisor in addition to the regular Supervisor on the request of the research scholar or based on the research's interdisciplinary title, with the Supervisor's and Co-Supervisor's consent. The Co-Supervisor may be from this University or other Universities/ Institutes/ Centers/ Industry etc. The Co-Supervisor shall submit their CV to the Chairperson, RDCU, and NOC from their employer, for recognition in this University as Co-Supervisor. The RDCU may consider their suitability as per University rules, and then a letter can be issued to them to this effect.
- d) The allocation of the Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the RDCU depending on the vacancy available per the Research Supervisor, the specialisation of the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview/viva voce.
- e) A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor at any given point of time cannot guide more than Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of six (6) Ph.D. scholars, and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of four (4) Ph.D. scholars.
- f) A Ph.D. seat under a Research Supervisor will be treated vacant immediately after submitting the thesis or upon withdrawal/cancellation of registration of scholars under the provisions of this Ordinance.

	<p><b>g)</b> If there is a Co-Supervisor for a particular PhD student, that will be counted as half seat for each concerned Supervisor and co-supervisor.</p> <p><b>h)</b> If the Supervisor retires/resigns from the University, students shall be allowed to submit the thesis under the same Supervisor provided they have completed the Pre-Submission presentation. If the candidate has completed the coursework but has not done the Pre-Submission presentation, the Supervisor may continue as a Co-Supervisor with the concurrence of RDCU. In such cases, the RDCU shall appoint a regular teacher of this University as the Supervisor. If the candidate has not completed the coursework, the RDCU shall allot another regular teacher of this University as the Supervisor.</p> <p><b>i)</b> In extraordinary conditions (such as the death of the Supervisor), the RDCU may change the Supervisor to protect the students' academic interests. The quota of PhD students for a Supervisor may be relaxed in this context.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility of Admission and Reservation</b></p>	<p><b>3.1: Eligibility of admission and reservation:</b> Candidates with a Master's Degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's Degree 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, recognised or authorised 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.</p> <p><b>3.1.1:</b> Candidates with LL.M or equivalent degrees in law are eligible to apply for PhD in Law or interdisciplinary Ph.D. However, candidates with other Masters degrees or professional degrees are eligible to apply only for interdisciplinary Ph.D.</p> <p><b>3.1.2:</b> A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, shall be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC(non-creamy layer)/differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the University Grants Commission from time to time.</p> <p><b>3.2:</b> The reservation for admission to Ph.D. program shall be applicable as per Chhattisgarh State Government rules.</p> <p><b>3.3.</b> A candidate who is already registered as a Ph.D. scholar in another recognised national level Institution/university may transfer their registration to HNLU in the following circumstances, provided they have already successfully completed the coursework in their previous institution/university:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) If their Supervisor joins this University as a full-time regular faculty member.</li> <li>(ii) If the candidate joins this University as a full-time faculty member or</li> </ul>

	<p>research staff. In such cases, the candidate's former Supervisor may be appointed as the external Co-Supervisor.</p> <p>Such candidates shall be permitted to submit their thesis after the expiry of the remaining period for submitting their thesis prescribed under the Ordinance, provided they continue to work on the same topic. The period spent in their previous Institution/University shall be counted towards calculating the duration of their registration. They shall discontinue/withdraw their Ph.D registration with their previous Institution/University. They shall submit a proper coursework mark sheet and a certificate indicating the date of registration and the title of their PhD topic from the competent authority of their previous institution/university.</p> <p><b>3.4:</b> In the case of a candidate having a qualifying Masters degree from a foreign University, the equivalence of qualifying Degree possessed by them shall be reviewed by the RDCU and only after that they can be registered for Ph.D. There will be no entrance test for them. However, they have to face an interview like other candidates. They will be required to complete coursework prescribed for the Ph.D. program.</p>
<p><b>Research Degree Committee of the University (RDCU)</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Subject to the general provision of the Academic Council, all matters connected with the Ph.D. program shall be dealt with by RDCU in accordance with the Ordinance made for the purpose.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> The RDCU shall consist of the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Vice-Chancellor (Chairperson)</li> <li>ii. All Professors of this University.</li> <li>iii. Three Associate Professors and Two Assistant Professors (having Ph.D. degree) shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor for two years from amongst the faculty member of the University.</li> <li>iv. The Chairperson, RDCU , may induct three more internal faculty members as Members of RDCU .</li> <li>v. Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any) of the Ph.D. scholar concerned (by invitation).</li> </ul> <p>The Dean Research shall be the Convener of RDCU. The Chairperson may also appoint a Professor as the Secretary of RDCU. The Convener and Secretary shall work together.</p> <p><b>4.3.</b> The Chairperson, RDCU, shall have the power to induct three external subject experts (having PhD) as members of RDCU.</p> <p><b>4.4.</b> The RDCU shall perform the following functions —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The RDCU shall decide the Research supervisor/s for the research scholars.</li> <li>b) After completing the course work, the candidates shall submit the work plan in consultation with the Supervisor in the form of a synopsis. If found suitable, the same shall be approved by the RDCU for carrying out the research work. The progress of the research work shall be evaluated by the RDCU based on the six-monthly reports submitted by the candidate for this purpose</li> </ul>

<p><b>Guidelines for Ph.D Scholars</b></p>	<p>5.1: Ph.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years from the date of registration to the Programme. The RDCU may grant an extension of registration for an additional period of up to one year (i.e. two semesters). In exceptional circumstances, the Vice-Chancellor may grant further extension of one semester (i.e. six months) on the recommendation of the Supervisor.</p> <p>5.2: Full fee shall be payable to the University by Ph.D. scholars for all the extended periods, one year or six months as the case may be.</p> <p>5.3: Ph.D. scholars shall be required to be present in the University during such period as instructed by the Vice-Chancellor.</p> <p>(As instructed , the details is attached as a separate Note for approval of the RDCU by circulation)</p> <p>5.4: For candidates drawing scholarship/fellowship/stipend or any other monetary benefit from this University or any other organisation, attendance is mandatory throughout their registration period. They may be allowed to leave the University only upon sanctioned leaves, fieldwork, Conferences/seminars etc. Their presence in the University shall be duly recorded and maintained by their Supervisor.</p> <p>5.5: A record of the progress of work of Ph.D. scholar shall be kept by the Supervisor. Once every 06 months, the Student shall submit a Progress Report to the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any). The Student shall also make a mandatory presentation on this Progress Report every 06 months before a panel comprising all the internal members of the RDCU (RDCU Internal Committee) and the Supervisor/Co-Supervisor. The Supervisor shall forward all six-monthly Progress Reports of the research scholar to the Panel, as mentioned earlier. Based on evaluation of the presentations and Progress Reports by the Panel, the Dean (Research) shall prepare a consolidated progress report of all Ph.D students of the University. This consolidated progress report shall be submitted to the RDCU for evaluation.</p> <p>5.6: The Second or third half-yearly report shall indicate the specific topic of research, along with the final Synopsis in the prescribed format based on the literature survey relevant to the research. The final Synopsis shall be presented before the RDCU for feedback and comments, which shall be suitably incorporated into the Synopsis under the advice of the Supervisor. Once the RDCU approves the Synopsis, no change is permitted. However, minor changes in the title of the Ph.D. thesis may be allowed by the RDCU within four years from the date of registration.</p>

	<p>5.7: Registration of a Ph.D. scholar shall be liable to be cancelled by the RDCU at any time if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The course work is not completed as required by this Ordinance.</li> <li>(b) Two consecutive six-monthly progress reports are not submitted.</li> <li>(c) Two consecutive six-monthly presentations are not made.</li> <li>(d) The scholar's progress is not found satisfactory by RDCU consecutively for two half-yearly evaluations.</li> <li>(e) The candidate drawing scholarship/fellowship/stipend or any other monetary benefit from the University or any other organisation does not comply with the University's attendance requirement.</li> <li>(f) Admission may be cancelled at any time if the University finds that the information furnished by the candidate is false.</li> </ul> <p>5.8: In case the Supervisor ceases to be Supervisor by virtue of death/ absence/ leave for more than one year, the RDCU shall appoint another Supervisor from this University. If the Co-Supervisor ceases to be the Co-Supervisor by virtue of any of the above reasons, the RDCU may appoint another Co-Supervisor at the Student's request.</p> <p>5.9: A Ph.D. scholar shall not be permitted to take any other degree course during the research work.</p> <p>5.10: The women candidates and Persons with Disabilities (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. in the maximum duration of 5 years. In addition, the women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. for up to 240 days.</p>
<p><b>Supplication</b></p>	<p><b>6.1:</b> Before submitting the thesis, the scholar shall be required to present a Pre-Submission Seminar wherein they shall have to present and defend the findings of their research work. The seminar shall be conducted before the RDCU, faculty members, research scholars, and other students for feedback and comments, which may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis under the advice of the Supervisor.</p> <p><b>6.2:</b> After the seminar, the Supervisor shall forward the application of the scholar to RDCU for the supplication of the thesis along with a certificate about completion of the seminar and copies of one research paper published in refereed journal/s, evidences of two paper presentations in conferences/seminars and the exact title of the thesis duly approved by the RDCU. A Ph.D. scholar shall ordinarily supplicate the Ph.D. thesis within six months from the date of the seminar, through the Supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Four copies of thesis computer printed and one soft copy in PDF format along with six copies of the abstract of the research work done giving the salient points of their work.</li> <li>b) A certificate from the Supervisor after obtaining a declaration from the scholar to the effect that "the candidate has completed the research work for the full period prescribed and that the thesis embodies the</li> </ul>

	<p>results of their investigation conducted during the period they worked as a Ph.D. research scholar ".</p> <p>c) The thesis also 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.</p> <p>d) A no dues certificate from all the concerned sections of HNLU must be obtained by the research scholar.</p> <p><b>6.3:</b> The thesis submitted by the candidate shall be in English.</p> <p><b>6.4:</b> The Ph.D. scholar shall indicate in the Preface of their thesis as to how far it embodies the original result of their research or observations and in what respects their investigation appears to be advancing the knowledge on the subject.</p> <p><b>6.5:</b> No Ph.D. scholar shall submit any work which has been accepted or rejected for any other degree in this or any other University as their thesis. Provided that in such a case, they shall indicate in the application and the Preface the extent to which such a work, previously done, had been incorporated.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation:</b></p>	<p>7.1: Upon completion of the proposed research work, the scholar shall produce a thesis that shall be submitted for evaluation as per the provisions of this Ordinance. For evaluating the thesis, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint 03 examiners from a panel of around 25 examiners (with expertise in law and interdisciplinary subjects) approved by the RDCU and names of 05 other subject experts submitted by the concerned Supervisor (in the area of the doctoral research of a particular candidate ) to the Vice-Chancellor.</p> <p>7.2: An examiner shall ordinarily be required to accept the appointment offered by the University within a month from the issue of the letter. If no information is received from an examiner within one month from the date of issue of the letter of appointment, their appointment shall stand cancelled, and another examiner shall be appointed.</p> <p>7.3: On receipt of the acceptance of any examiner, the Vice-Chancellor shall forward the copy of the thesis to the examiners for blind evaluation and take all action to get the report of the examiner expeditiously.</p> <p>7.4: The examiners shall be requested to submit their individual reports within three months of the receipt of the thesis.</p> <p>7.5: In submitting the report, the examiner shall state whether the thesis complies with the following conditions to merit the award of the Ph.D.</p> <p>a) It should be a piece of research work characterised either by finding new facts or by a fresh approach to interpreting facts and theories.</p> <p>b) It should reflect the candidate's capacity for critical examination and</p>



judgment.

- c) It should be satisfactory in its literary presentation.

7.6: After the examiners have examined the thesis, they may recommend one of the following:

- a. that the thesis be accepted for the award of the Ph.D. degree.
- b. That the thesis be re-submitted in a revised form
- c. that the thesis be rejected.

In case one or more examiners seek clarification or recommend revision, the report/reports of the examiner/examiners concerned (without mentioning the name/names) shall be sent to the Ph.D. scholar through the Supervisor concerned to enable the former to submit clarification through the Supervisor on the points raised or to submit the thesis in a revised form, as the case may be. The clarification shall be sent to the concerned examiner for perusal, and if the examiner is satisfied, a specific recommendation for the award of the Ph.D. degree may be made.

7.7: The report of each examiner shall be specific and state the grounds on which the recommendation is based.

- a. In case two examiners recommend the award of the Ph.D. degree under clause 7.6 (a) of this Ordinance, the candidate shall proceed to defend the thesis through open viva voce examination.
- b. In case two examiners make their recommendation under clause 7.6 (b) of this Ordinance, the thesis shall be revised. The revised thesis must be re-submitted within six months. Upon further recommendation of revision by the examiners, the thesis shall be rejected.
- c. In case two examiners make their recommendation as per clause 7.6(c) of this Ordinance, the thesis shall be rejected.

7.10: The Viva-voce examination of the candidate shall be conducted by one or more external examiners nominated from the three external examiners who evaluated the thesis. The date and time of the viva- voce examination shall be fixed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the external examiner/s. All the members of the RDCU shall be invited to the viva voce examination, and other members of the faculty, researchers and students of this University shall be informed about the viva-voce in advance. It shall be an open Viva-Voce examination, and the research scholar shall defend the thesis.

7.11: If the viva examiner/s reports are unanimous, the concerned candidate shall be informed accordingly along with his Supervisor and co-supervisor(if any).

7.12: Viva Voce Examiners shall submit a comprehensive report on the Viva-voce examination of the candidate's performance, including the questions over the various points raised. The Viva Examiner/s shall make the final recommendation for the award of the Ph.D. degree considering the candidate's performance at the Viva-voce and the reports of the examiners.

	<p>7.13: The reports of all the examiners and of the Viva-voce examination shall be placed before the concerned RDCU for consideration. In case of unanimous recommendations, the RDCU shall approve the award of the Ph.D. degree.</p> <p>7.14: In all other cases or wherever reports are ambiguous, the examiners' reports shall be directly placed before the RDCU for its specific decision.</p> <p>7.15: In case of publication of the thesis in full or in part, the candidate shall state on the title page that it was a thesis approved for the award of the Ph.D. degree.</p> <p>7.16: After the approval of the Academic Council, the examiners' reports may be made available to the candidate concerned on request.</p> <p>7.17: Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and announcements of the award of the Ph.D. Degree, the University shall submit a soft copy of the thesis to the UGC within thirty days for hosting the same in INFLIBNET and Association of Indian Universities (AIU).</p>
RESIDUARY POWERS:	Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, any question, which is not covered by this Ordinance, or any difficulty arising out of this Ordinance, shall be dealt with according to the direction of the Vice-chancellor of the University.