

## **Main Features of the M.Phil.-Ph.D. Programmes**

*(Applicable to students admitted to the “articulated” M.Phil.–Ph.D. Programmes)*

### **1. Programme Structure**

The M.Phil. and Ph.D. are regarded as two streams within the M.Phil.– Ph.D. Programme.

### **2. Student Status**

Each student in the M.Phil.– Ph.D. Programme will at any one time be classified into one of the following three categories:

- (a) M.Phil. student;
- (b) Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy); or
- (c) Ph.D. student (post-candidacy), or Ph.D. candidate for short.

Students will be offered admission as either an M.Phil. student or a Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy).

### **3. Transfer of Candidature**

- 3.1 Transfer between M.Phil. and Ph.D. (pre-candidacy) is permitted subject to approval by the Graduate Division. Students should complete relevant application form and submit it to the supervisor and Graduate Division Head for consideration. Upon approval, the Graduate Division would report such transfers to the Graduate School immediately. Transfer from the Ph.D. (post-candidacy) stage to M.Phil. status will normally not be permitted; unless otherwise approved by the Graduate Council.
- 3.2 Should the date of transfer take effect after the commencement of a term, students will pay the tuition fee of the new status in the following term for M.Phil. students, or 6-month interval for Ph.D. students. Tuition fee would not be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

### **4. Progression to Candidacy**

No student will be admitted directly as a Ph.D. student (post-candidacy); such a status can only be gained by a Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) upon satisfying all the candidacy requirements. Only a Ph.D. candidate can submit a thesis and be examined.

### **5. Candidacy Requirement**

- 5.1 The candidacy requirements of each Graduate Division, which have been specified in their respective programmes of studies, shall include at least the following components:

- (a) course requirements (refer to 5.3 below),
- (b) candidacy examination (refer to 5.4 below), and
- (c) thesis proposal and defence of proposal (refer to 5.5 below).

5.2 No Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) shall proceed to the post-candidacy stage until (s)he has fulfilled all components of the requirement.

### 5.3 Course Requirements

#### 5.3.1 Lecture Courses

The requirements for lecture courses or equivalent are:

- (a) not less than 12 units for M.Phil. students;
- (b) also not less than 12 units for Ph.D. students in the pre-candidacy stage, completion of which will be part of the candidacy requirements (see 5.1 above).

#### 5.3.2 Thesis Research Courses

In addition, each student's progress in research will be monitored through courses called 'Thesis Research', which will be graded A - F. The number of units required per term should not be less than the following. Each unit should be regarded as equivalent to approximately 3 hours of study/research per week by the student.

| Status                                | Full-time | Part-time |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| M.Phil.                               | 6         | 3         |
| Ph.D. (pre-candidacy)                 | 6         | 3         |
| Ph.D. (post-candidacy)                | 12        | 6         |
| Continuing students (M.Phil. & Ph.D.) | 3         | 3         |

Table 1: Minimum research units per term

### 5.4 Candidacy examination

The Graduate Division shall spell out the examination details, frequencies and the number of times that the examination may be attempted by each student in the respective programmes of studies. Students are required to pass the candidacy examination within the maximum period allowed for fulfilling the candidacy requirement as specified in 6.3.

### 5.5 Thesis proposal and defence

The thesis proposal and its defence can take different forms according to the traditions of different disciplines. Please refer to the programmes of studies of each Graduate Division.

## 6. Study Period

### 6.1 Normative study period

The normative study periods for different streams are tabulated below:

| Degree                                              | Full-time | Part-time |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| M.Phil.                                             | 24        | 36        |
| Ph.D. (entering with a research master's degree)    | 36        | 48        |
| Ph.D. (entering without a research master's degree) | 48        | 64        |

Table 2: Normative study periods in months

Students will pay standard tuition fees during the normative study period. Beyond that period, students will be classified as 'continuing' and will pay only continuation fees if they only take thesis research courses.

## 6.2 Maximum study period

A student beyond the maximum study period will be discontinued. The maximum study periods are as follows, counted from the date of first entry to the M.Phil.– Ph.D. Programme (e.g., for M.Phil. students who subsequently transferred to Ph.D. (pre-candidacy), the study period will count from the date (s)he entered the M.Phil. Programme).

| Degree                                              | Full-time | Part-time |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| M.Phil.                                             | 48        | 60        |
| Ph.D. (entering with a research master's degree)    | 72        | 84        |
| Ph.D. (entering without a research master's degree) | 84        | 100       |

Table 3: Maximum study periods in months

- 6.3 In addition, for Ph.D. students, there will be a maximum period to fulfil the candidacy requirement, counted from the date of first entry to the M.Phil. – Ph.D. programme. A Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) beyond this maximum period will be discontinued. A full-time Ph.D. student (entering without a research master's degree) will have the studentship stopped at the 25-month if (s)he cannot fulfil the candidacy requirement, but which will be resumed in the following month upon fulfilling the candidacy requirement, provided that the Graduate Division has notified the Graduate School (also see 9.2 below).

| Degree                                              | Full-time | Part-time |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Ph.D. (entering with a research master's degree)    | 24        | 32        |
| Ph.D. (entering without a research master's degree) | 36        | 48        |

Table 4: Maximum periods to fulfil candidacy requirement, in months

## 6.4 Summary of study periods

The normative study period, maximum study period and maximum period allowed for fulfilling the candidacy requirement are summarized below:

| Degree                                              | Mode | Candidacy # | Normative Period | Maximum Period |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| M.Phil.                                             | FT   | --          | 24               | 48             |
| M/Phil.                                             | PT   | --          | 36               | 60             |
| Ph.D. (entering with a research master's degree)    | FT   | 24          | 36               | 72             |
| Ph.D. (entering with a research master's degree)    | PT   | 32          | 48               | 84             |
| Ph.D. (entering without a research master's degree) | FT   | 36*         | 48               | 84             |
| Ph.D. (entering without a research master's degree) | PT   | 48          | 64               | 100            |

Table 5: Summary of study periods, in months

# *Maximum period to fulfil candidacy requirement, counted from first entry.*

\* *PGS will stop at the 25-month if the student cannot fulfil the candidacy requirement, but will resume in the following month upon fulfilling the candidacy requirement, provided that the Graduate Division has notified the Graduate School.*

## 7. Progression

Each student will receive grades (A - F) every term both for lecture courses and for thesis research courses. A student will have to observe Clauses 13.1 or 13.4 of the "General Regulations Governing Postgraduate Studies".

## 8. Thesis

8.1 Please also refer to the 'General Information for Thesis Preparation and Submission – A Guide for Research Postgraduate and Taught Doctoral Students' for more details.

### 8.2 Submission

An M.Phil. student or a Ph.D. student (post-candidacy) should declare the intention to submit thesis by completing relevant forms at least 4 months before the intended thesis submission date. If the intended date of submission is to be more than 3 months ahead of the end of the original normative period, permission of the Graduate Council and Dean of the Graduate School is required. Since the normative study period will end 3 months after the intended date of submission, permission to shorten normative period will be handled at the same time. There will be no separate channel for applying to shorten the normative period.

8.3 A Ph.D. student (pre-candidacy) cannot submit a thesis.

## 9. Eligibility for Studentship

9.1 Students in the M.Phil.– Ph.D. programme are eligible to be considered for the award of a postgraduate studentship (PGS) provided all the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) They are full-time students.
- (b) They are within their normative study periods.
- (c) In the case of Ph.D. students (pre-candidacy), they have not spent more than 24 months (full-time equivalent basis) to fulfil their candidacy requirement since entry to the M.Phil.– Ph.D. programme.

9.2 Students will receive PGS at the following level according to different status:

| Status                 | PGS Level |
|------------------------|-----------|
| M.Phil.                | PGS-1     |
| Ph.D. (Pre-candidacy)  | PGS-1     |
| Ph.D. (Post-candidacy) | PGS-2     |

9.3 A full-time Ph.D. student (entering without a research master's degree) will have the studentship stopped at the 25-month if (s)he cannot fulfil the candidacy requirement, but which will be resumed in the following month upon fulfilling the candidacy requirement provided that the Graduate Division has informed the Graduate School. In such circumstances, the student will not receive studentship for the whole normative study period as stated on the admission notification. Instead, the studentship would be adjusted and applicable only for the remaining normative study period.