



**TAMIL NADU STATE COUNCIL FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION
CHENNAI 600 005**

**Recommendations of the Committee
constituted to improve the quality of
M.Phil./Ph.D. research programmes in
Colleges and Universities of Tamil Nadu**

JUNE 2007

Sub:Recommendations of the Committee constituted to improve the quality of M.Phil./Ph.D. research programmes in Colleges and Universities of Tamil Nadu.

Preamble

Highly educated and eminent scholars are of the unanimous opinion that there is an urgent need to improve the standards of research carried out in the institutions of higher learning in Tamil Nadu and bring the quality of research to global standards. Researchers, at various times, at various levels, have pointed out that in certain cases we can notice that evils of duplication and subjective evaluation of works done in these institutions. There is, therefore, an urgent need for improving the standards of research by restructuring the research course curriculum. To avoid any element of duplication and subjective evaluation and such other problems, some radical changes have to be brought about in research, leading to the award of the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy.

In this regard, in the special meeting of the Vice-Chancellors held at Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education Office at Chennai on 10-11-2006, it was resolved to constitute a committee to recommend ways and means of improving the quality of M.Phil./Ph.D. research programmes offered in Colleges/Universities of Tamil Nadu.

Accordingly the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, Chennai has constituted a Committee with the following members.

Dr. C. Subramaniam
Vice-Chancellor
Tamil University
Thanjavur - 613 005

Convenor

Dr. K. Dharmalingam Professor and Head Department of Genetic Engineering School of Biotechnology Madurai Kamaraj University Madurai - 625 021	Member
Dr. R. Elango Professor and Head Department of Economics Annamalai University Annamalai Nagar - 608 002	Member
Dr. L.S. Ranganathan Principal VLB Janaki Ammal College Kovaipudur Coimbatore	Member
Dr. K. Sadasivan Professor and Head Department of History Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli - 627 012	Member

The first meeting of the Committee was held at the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education Office on 22-12-2006. In this meeting it was resolved to collect further information and details about research programmes, guidelines, rules and regulations followed in the Universities of Tamil Nadu and process them at the earliest.

Discussion

On 22-12-2006 the Committee deliberated upon the following issues, with a view to drawing up uniform guidelines for all Universities in Tamil Nadu.

1. Eligibility for Admission to M.Phil./Ph.D.;
2. Entrance Test for Admission to M.Phil./Ph.D.;
3. Constitution of a Standing Committee;
4. Duration of the course;
5. Framing Course Work for M.Phil. Programme;

6. Eligibility of Teachers for being M.Phil./Ph.D. Guides;
7. Number of candidates permitted to work under a Guide;
8. Panel of Examiners;
9. Process of Evaluation of the Project / Dissertation / Thesis;
10. Giving Dummy Numbers to the Dissertation / Thesis;
11. Norms for Ph.D. Evaluation;
12. Consolidation of titles of Ph.D. Degrees awarded year by year.

Material Collected

As per the resolution, the Committee has requested the Universities to send information and details on the present system followed, regarding M.Phil./Ph.D. Programmes in their respective Universities. Most of the Universities have responded to the request favourably and sent their rules and regulations governing M.Phil./Ph.D. Programmes.

At the end of the meeting, it was also resolved to convene the next meeting shortly to finalize the recommendations.

As per the resolution, the second meeting of the Committee was held at the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education Office on 5-4-2007. On the basis of the material collected from various institutions, the Committee finalized the recommendations and the final draft was placed before the third and final meeting of the committee which was held at the office of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education on 8-6-2007. After elaborate discussions the committee finalised unanimously the following recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Eligibility for Admission to the M.Phil./Ph.D. Programmes:

For securing admission to the M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes, candidates must have secured 55% of marks in the respective PG Degree Programme or any equivalent programme in the case of inter-disciplinary subjects. (B Grade in the

seven-point scale). However, the minimum marks for the SC/ST candidates would be 50%. For all the candidates, who have completed their PG Degree on or before 1991, the minimum eligible marks for admission to M.Phil./Ph.D. would be 50%.

2. *Entrance Test for Admission to M.Phil/Ph.D. Programmes:*

An Entrance Test and Interview would be administered for all the applicants, the performance in that would be taken into account along with the marks scored in the PG Programme. The Written Test would comprise objective questions for 75 marks and the Interview would carry 25 marks. The marks secured in written test and interview will be added to the marks obtained in the PG Degree examinations and the rank list will be prepared accordingly. Universities can conduct the entrance examination for admission to University and Affiliated Colleges as and when required.

For admission to the Ph.D. Programme there would not be any written Entrance Test for M.Phil. qualified candidates and for those who have already qualified themselves/in NET/JRF or any other national level eligibility test. For others, they have to undergo a written test as stipulated for M.Phil. admission. However, the above exempted candidates have to appear for an Interview before the Selection Committee which will assess their aptitude for research.

3. *Constitution of a Screening / Selection Committee:*

The Screening / Selection Committee would comprise of the Deans / HODs / Senior Professors of the institution concerned, nominated by the Head of the institution. The Committee would be responsible for admitting candidates as per the prescribed norms. The Screening Committee should closely scrutinize and review the topic chosen, the review of literature and all other parameters as to avoid duplication in the work.

4. Duration of the Course:

Minimum

Ph.D. Full Time	3 Years	M.Phil. Full time	1 Year
Ph.D. Part Time	4 Years	M.Phil. Part Time	2 Years
Ph.D. Full Time			
Candidates possessing			
M.Phil.	-	2 years	
Ph.D., Part -Time			
Candidates possessing			
M.Phil.	-	3 years	

5. Framing Course Work for M.Phil/Ph.D.

The M.Phil. Course work will contain Part I of the programme. The candidates have to take three courses (1). Research Methodology (2) Area of Specialization (3) Topic of Research.

Besides these three courses, which are aimed to equip the candidates in the direction of research one more course (4) would also be offered on general skills. This is aimed at imparting and improving skills in the areas of (i) Computer Operation Skills, (ii) Communicative Skills and (iii) Educational Skills (Pedagogical Skill - It includes practical training in teaching). For each course, 40% of marks would be allotted for the continuous internal evaluation and the remaining 60% would be allotted for the Semester-end University Examination. There can be 4 components for continuous internal evaluation/assessment carrying 10 marks each:

I	Tests 2	-	10x2=20
II	Term Paper (1)	-	10x1=10
III	Seminar Presentation	-	10x1=10

			40 marks

The Ph.D. candidates with M.Phil. qualification (Degrees) or qualified through National Eligibility Test as under the section 2 of the report may be exempted from the Course Work. Those candidates who join the Programme directly with their PG Degrees, have to take up the following two courses:

1. Research Methodology
2. Area of Specialization

The respective Universities will conduct examinations on the above courses at the end of the year. The course content and pattern of examinations will be as per the norms prescribed for M.Phil.

6. *Eligibility of Teachers for being M.Phil/Ph.D. Guides*

For guiding M.Phil. and Ph.D. candidates, the Guide should fulfil the following requirements:

For M.Phil. - The Guide should possess a Ph.D. Degree with three years of teaching experience and have published at least one paper in a reputed National / International Journal or one Monograph. In certain subjects like Computer Science, Biotechnology etc. respective universities can give exemption for eligibility of teachers to be guides for M.Phil.

For Ph.D. - The Guide should possess a Ph.D. Degree with Five years of teaching experience (or) have published at least Two papers in referred National/International Journals or Two monographs.

7. *The maximum number of Ph.D. and M.Phil research scholars a guide can accommodate at a time under the following categories are as follows:*

There will not be any restriction or compartmentalisation in respect of full time and part time:

I.	Those who are Guiding Ph.D. and M.Phil	:	8+4
II.	Those who are Guiding M.Phil. alone	:	12
III.	Those who are Guiding Ph.D. alone	:	8

8. *Constitution of Panel of Examiners:*

The practice of appointing examiners for individual candidates be dispensed with. The Chairpersons of Boards of Study or alternate equivalent academic bodies may be requested to prepare a list of Indian and Foreign experts in different areas of specialization of their discipline and communicate the same to the Controller of Examinations in advance. Each year, the list has to be updated. The Vice-Chancellor may choose the names from the list to constitute the panels of examiners.

9. *Evaluation of the Project / Dissertation / Thesis:*

An M.Phil. thesis may be evaluated by an Indian Examiner. There should be a compulsory viva voce examination for each candidate, which may be conducted by the faculty members with the guide of the respective departments as the Convenor on the basis of favourable report received from the external examiners.

For evaluating a Ph.D. thesis three examiners (two Indian examiners and one Foreign examiner) may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the general list already prepared and submitted to the Controller of Examination. But in some subjects like Tamil literature, the thesis may be evaluated by three Indian examiners and the valuation by a Foreign examiner need not be insisted upon. There should be total unanimity of opinion among all the examiners in awarding the degree. If two examiners recommend the award and the third examiner rejects the award, the thesis should be referred to a fourth examiner (of the same category of Indian or Foreign). If the fourth examiner also rejects the thesis the candidate be asked to re-submit the thesis within a period of one year. Any Ph.D. candidate has to appear for a public viva-voce examination before the award of the Degree.

10. *Giving Dummy Numbers to the Dissertation of Ph.D. and M.Phil:*

To avoid biased evaluation, the system of giving dummy numbers to the dissertation would be followed. The dissertations sent to the examiners should not contain the names either of the candidate or of the guide in any place in the thesis. However the office copy of the dissertation can contain the required details such as declaration of the guide and student, etc.

11. *Ph.D. Evaluation Norms:*

The examiner of a Ph.D. thesis may be requested to keep in view a few parameters for evaluation such as (i) Appropriateness and relevance of the title; (ii) Up-to-date review; (iii) Scientific data collection and adoption of appropriate technique of analysis; (iv) Critical discussion of research findings and conclusions with policy relevance, and (v) Adherence to standard rules with regard to mechanics of writing and format of the thesis.

12. *Consolidation of titles of Ph.D. Degree awarded year by year:*

The titles of Ph.D. Degrees already awarded in different Universities in various subjects may be consolidated centrally. As the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education has already been doing the work for the past five years, it was resolved to request the same body to update the same every year. The consolidated list which is being hosted in the website of Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education may be updated periodically.

The committee feels that these recommendations be uniformly followed by the Universities from the academic year 2007-2008, accepting all the above recommendations to maintain uniformity. The committee further decided to leave it to the discretion of the individual universities with regard to the other minor guidelines, which are not covered in the recommendations of the committee.