



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India – 695034

(Established as University of Travancore by the Travancore University Act in 1937 and reconstituted as

University of Kerala by the Kerala University Act of 1957 and presently governed by the

Kerala University Act of 1974 passed by the Kerala State Legislative Assembly)

(Re-accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade)

AcE1/A3/0126/2025/UOK

31.12.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR Ph.D. REGISTRATION - JANUARY 2026 SESSION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates of Indian Nationals for online registration to Full-time / Part-time research leading to the Award of Ph.D. Degree of the University, for the January 2026 Session.

The admission to Ph.D. programme under various subjects shall be subject to the availability of vacancies. Admission is not permitted to the subjects in which no vacancies are reported.

Selected candidates shall carry out their research under the supervision of recognised regular Research Supervisors in the University Departments or in the approved Research Centres, governed by the Regulations for the Award of Ph.D. Degrees, University of Kerala, 2022. (Full text available in Research Portal: <https://research.keralauniversity.ac.in>).

I. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Candidates who have qualified the following criteria are eligible for Ph.D. Registration:

1.(i) Master's Degree programme with either 1-year/2-semester duration after a 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's Degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester Master's Degree programme after a 3-year Bachelor's Degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the Master's Degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

(ii) Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a (4-year/8-semester) Bachelor's Degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.

2. (i) Qualified in the entrance test conducted by this University or National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the UGC/CSIR /ICAR/ICMR or GATE or State Level Eligibility Test conducted by the Kerala Government or Fellowship awarded by the Central and State Govt. Departments/Agencies approved by the University. Candidates who qualified the UGC NET examination in any of the three categories mentioned below are also eligible for admission to Ph.D. programme.

1.**Category-1** include eligibility for Award of JRF, Appointment as Assistant Professor and Admission to Ph.D.

2.**Category-2** include eligibility for Appointment as Assistant Professor and Admission to Ph.D.

3.**Category-3** include eligibility for Admission to Ph.D. only.

Candidates seeking admission to the Ph.D. programme with "**UGC NET - Admission to Ph.D.**" as eligibility criteria, must ensure that their UGC NET certificate is **valid** and has **not**



expired at the time of application.

The validity period of other qualification (if any) prescribed by the concerned agencies shall be considered, while granting admission.

(ii) Candidates who have passed the M.Phil Degree Programme with a minimum of Grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent. The M.Phil Degree shall be in the discipline concerned for which the applicant is seeking registration and M.Phil Degree shall be obtained from a University recognised by University of Kerala.

3. Candidates possessing an equivalent qualification, 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 to accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D programme.

4. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the State Government / University from time to time.

5. The relaxation of 5% marks/grade to the categories mentioned under (4) above are calculated only on the marks/Grade obtained in the qualifying examination. No weightage/ grace marks shall be added to the marks obtained in the qualifying examination other than the marks/grade mentioned in the mark list.

II. EXEMPTION FROM ENTRANCE TEST

The following categories are exempted from qualifying the entrance test for registration to Ph.D.

1. Teachers of University/ Govt./ Aided College (Regular), having 7 or more years of teaching experience are exempted from the entrance test.
2. Scientists working in approved research laboratories either owned or managed by the Central/State Government or in Autonomous Research Institute of National Status, with 7 years experience as Grade Scientists having two research papers published in recognized research journals of the subject concerned approved by the UGC.
3. Those candidates who qualify UGC-NET/JRF, UGC-CSIR-NET/JRF, DBT/JRF, DST-INSPIRE, SLET, GATE and Research Fellowships of Central or State Government Departments/ Agencies approved by the University, as the case may be.
4. Teacher Fellowship holders and M.Phil Degree holders seeking registration for Ph.D. shall be required to qualify Entrance Test, in case registration is sought in a different discipline other than that specialized at PG/M.Phil Degree levels respectively.
5. Awardees of DST Women Scientist Scheme by the Department of Science & Technology (DST)
6. Candidates who have passed the M.Phil Programme with a minimum of Grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent.
7. Awardees of VSSC-JRF/ UGC-NFSC/ UGC-NFOBC/ UGC-NFPwD.

III. ALLOCATION OF SUPERVISORS/ AVAILABILITY OF SEATS

The allocation of candidates to the Research Supervisor for Ph.D. registration shall be done in compliance with the Regulation for the award of Ph.D. Degree, University of Kerala, 2022 implemented in the University vide U.O. No. Ac.E1/23887/2022 dated 07.12.2023 in



accordance with the UGC Regulations 2022.

1. Approved Research Supervisors having **at least three years of service remaining for superannuation w.e.f. the last date of submitting application only shall be eligible for being allotted as Research Supervisors** for the purpose of registration of candidates.

2. In the case of Scientists in the regular service in research laboratories of Central/ State Government, located in the geographical jurisdiction of the University, approved as Research Supervisors, the Scientist in Grade-C&D, Scientist Grade-E and Scientist Grade-F&G are equated with Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor respectively, exclusively for the purpose of research supervision.

3. A Professor as Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor, at any given point of time, shall guide not more than eight Ph.D Scholars; an Associate Professor as Research Supervisor shall supervise up to a maximum of six Ph.D Scholars; and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor shall guide up to a maximum of four Ph.D scholars.

Even if a teacher/Scientist is an approved supervisor in more than one discipline the total number of research scholars he/she can supervise at a time shall be as stipulated in the above clause.

4. In case of interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary research work, if required, a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department / School / Centre / College / University may be appointed subject to the approval of the Syndicate provided such Supervisor shall be an approved Research supervisor in any other Recognised Institute/ Research Centres.

5. Registration shall not be granted under adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, technical staff, administrative staff, Library staff and teachers serving outside the geographical jurisdiction of the University.

6. Allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected Research Scholar shall be decided by the Department Doctoral Committee concerned, considering the present number of scholars under each Research Supervisor (including co-supervision also) specialization area of the Research supervisors and the research interests of the Research Scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview.

7. Vacancies available in each subject can be obtained from the University Research Portal www.research.keralauniversity.ac.in. (link 'Other Info')

IV. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION

1. The admission shall be based on the criteria notified by the University, keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory/regulatory bodies concerned, and taking into account the reservation policy of the State Government from time to time. The mode of implementation of the reservation policy in the admission for Ph.D. programme shall be based on the University orders issued in this regard from time to time.

2. The registration for Ph.D shall be granted only on the basis of merit and subject to the availability of vacancies with the supervising teachers and as per the Norms and Regulations framed by the University in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of Ph.D Degrees) Regulations 2022.

3. Selection of the candidates to the Ph.D. programme shall be based on either of the following methods as applicable to the candidates:

i. Selection of students who qualify the fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests / State level tests approved by the University exclusively for this purpose shall be based on an interview by the Doctoral Committee concerned.

ii. The selection of candidates who have qualified M.Phil Degree and Ph.D. entrance examination conducted by the University shall be based on an interview. Provided that, for



the selection of candidates who qualify the entrance test conducted by the University, a weightage of 70 % for the entrance test and 30 % for the performance in the interview / viva-voce shall be given. (Not applicable to the candidates who have passed Ph.D. entrance examination conducted by the University prior to January 2024).

4. Candidates called for the initial screening and subsequent presentation before the Doctoral Committee, will be intimated through the email address provided in the application form. In case of candidates are less in number, no screening will be conducted.

5. The candidates who fail to attend the initial screening process shall not be considered for further procedures to the admission for Ph.D. Research.

V. MODE OF RESEARCH

1 Candidates selected for full-time research shall report at the Research Centre (on all working days) where the proposed Research Supervisors have been given the facility centre. They are eligible for the leave as prescribed by the University or the State/ Central agencies sponsoring their research as the case may be.

2. Ph.D. research in Part-time mode shall be allowed to the candidates who satisfy all eligibility criteria stipulated under Clause 13 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 subject to the availability of permissible vacancies as stipulated in U.O. No. AcE1/A4(2)/2019 dated 06.05.2019 and U.O. No. AcE1/5731/2024/UOK dated 10.07.2024.

3. Applications for Part-time registration should be accompanied by a No Objection Certificate from the appropriate authority, in the organization where the candidate is employed, clearly stating that

i. The candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis.

ii. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work

iii. His/her official duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.

4. Employed candidates shall not be permitted to do full-time research unless they obtain Leave without allowance for pursuing research.

5. Part-time scholars are not eligible for any type of fellowships/scholarship.

6. Full-time Research Scholars are permitted to convert the mode of Ph.D. Research to part-time on getting permanent employment only after the completion of mandatory course work period of six months from the date of joining research. However the scholars are permitted to convert the mode of Ph.D. Research from full-time to part-time after the completion of a minimum 3 years of valid research period.

VI. COURSE WORK

1. Research Scholars admitted to the Ph.D programmes, irrespective of the mode of research shall be required to undertake course work for a minimum period of one semester (six months) with 14 credits within the first year since the date of registration for Ph.D. research.

2. Research Scholars possessing M.Phil. Degrees with "Research Methodology" course in the curriculum will be exempted from appearing the Paper-I of the course work examination, provided their M.Phil. Degree shall be recognised by the University of Kerala.

3. "Research and Publication Ethics" Paper-II of the Course Work examination is made compulsory for all Ph.D. scholars.

4. Ethical Committee Clearance is mandatory for Research work involving Human subjects as instructed by the respective Doctoral Committee.



VII. HOW TO APPLY

1. Applications shall be submitted only through online mode available in the website - www.research.keralauniversity.ac.in (See 'How to apply' in the home page of the portal)
2. Candidates who wish to apply for Ph.D. registration in the subjects which are not offered at the University Departments shall submit the print outs of the applications along with all supporting documents to the Registrar, University of Kerala on or before 16.01.2026.
3. UGC/CSIR-JRF / DBT-JRF / DST-JRF(INSPIRE) / GATE / UGC-MANF / VSSC-JRF / UGC-NFSC / UGC-NFOBC / UGC-NFPwD / KSCSTE / DST (Women Scientist) qualified candidates who were permitted to join for Ph.D. research, after the last date of submitting application in the previous session of Ph.D. registration i.e. July 2025 session shall submit their online application in this session, without fail.
4. In case of subjects which are not given access for online registration due to non availability of vacancies, the UGC-JRF awardees and other similar candidates as mentioned above, who were given provisional admission for doing research without prior registration through the portal, such candidates are directed to submit a request duly recommended by the Supervisor and the concerned Doctoral Committee Chairman, specifying the details of provisional admission, to the office of the Registrar on or before 15.01.2026.

VIII. REGISTRATION FEE

Candidate shall pay the registration fee of Rs. 800/- (Rupees Eight Hundred only) through the online payment facility provided in the Research Portal . No other mode of payment will be accepted.

Fee once paid will not be refunded.

IX. Important Points to remember

1. The **last date for receipt of duly filled online applications is 15.01.2026 till 05.00PM.** Being a Statutory date, the last date for the submission of applications **will not be extended at any circumstances.**
2. The University reserves the right to reject any application for proper reasons adduced therewith.
3. Suppression of facts or furnishing false details from the candidates shall be viewed seriously and such candidates shall be removed from the selection process/ Research without prior notice.
4. The candidate shall ensure that their applications are submitted successfully before the last date stipulated for the same. Any technical difficulties faced by the candidates during the online submission of application shall be addressed to researchhelp@keralauniversity.ac.in, well before the last date to avoid the last minute rush.

RESMI R
Registrar(i/c)

