DSNLU Ph.D. PROGRAM REGULATIONS - 2024

(Modified/Amended/updated/ from time to time as per UGC regulations)

As per the UGC Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of Ph.D. Degree Regulations, 2022

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLYING Ph.D. DEGREE:

The candidate must possess Master's Degree in Law/LL.M/etc Social Sciences like M.A., M. Com, MBA or natural sciences like M.Sc., M. Tech for interdisciplinary research (from any recognized University or its equivalent from an accredited institution /Foreign University) with a minimum of 55% of marks or B+ grade.

*Relaxation of 5% marks will be given to SC/ST/BC/Specially Abled and other categories of candidates as per the UGC Regulations, 2022.

2. CATEGORIES OF Ph.D.: Full-Time and Part-Time:

2.1. Full-time candidates: the above rule 1. would be applicable.

2.2. Part-time candidates (Internal/External): In Part-time, the candidate can be either an Internal or External.

2. 2.1 Internal:

Faculty working in the DSNLU will fall under this category. They can be both permanent as well as contractual Faculty.

2. 2.2 External:

(i) Persons working as academicians will come under this category.

(ii) Candidates should have 3years of full-time teaching experience in Law at the time of applying for the Ph.D. program with other minimum qualifications as per the regulation.

2.3. Executive:

2.3. Eligibility for admission under Executive category shall be as follows

2.3.1 Executive candidates: the above rule 1. would be applicable

2.3.2 Judicial Officers/ Advocates/ Law Officers Executives / Administrators having completed at least 3 years of service.

2.3.3. However, 5% (five percent) marks relaxation will be given those who completed 10 years of judicial service or professional experience.

3. PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION:

3.1 All the Full Time and Part Time candidates should appear for Entrance Test conducted by the University. However, the following candidates are exempted to appear for the Entrance Test.

3.1.1 Candidates who have qualified in JRF, if they apply within two years of their date of eligibility.

3.1.2 Candidates who have qualified UGC- JRF (after two years) /NET/SLET and having a minimum of two publications in any referred Journal of National/International standards i.e., ISBN/ Books or ISSN/eISSN.

3.1.3 Candidate applying under the Executive category are exempted from entrance test.

3.2 MODE OF ADMISSION TEST : (Entrance and Interview.)

3.2.1 The Entrance Test will be conducted by the University as per the specifications in Notification of Admission into Ph.D. The entrance Test will have objective as well as descriptive questions to test the research and legal aptitude of the candidate.

3.2.2 The Entrance Test shall have Legal Research Methodology, Jurisprudence, Constitutional Law, IPC, Law of Torts, Contracts Laws, Family Law and Transfer of Property and labor Laws.

3.2.3 The Admission test will be conductedfor100 Marks andthe candidate should secure minimum 40% of marks to be eligible for interview. After qualifying the Test, the eligible candidate will have to attend the interview for 50marks.The Admission will be given on the basis of entrance and interview

3.2.4 Submission of preliminary research proposal is mandatory on which interview will be conducted.

4. The candidates who have been admitted are required to submit their preliminary research proposal at the time of interview.

4.1.1 RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

It should contain an outline of the Research Topic and demonstrate command of the state of the ability in the relevant area. The Research proposal shall be submitted at the time of interview with a minimum of 2000 words and a maximum of 3000 words along with the application form.

The Research Proposal shall include: -

i. Introduction:
ii. Scope and Objectives:
iii. Hypothesis:
iv. Review of Literature:
v. Conclusion:

4.1.2 WRITING GUIDELINES:

i. To be in English
ii. Times New Roman
iii. Font Size 12
iv. Spacing 1.5
v. Citation Method- Bluebook/Indian Law Institute
vi. Left Margin 1.5; Right Margin 1; Top Margin 1.5 and Bottom 1; with page No.
vii. Details of the candidates including address for correspondence e-mail ID & phone no (mobile number) shall be provided.

4.2. Consequent to the presentation, admission will be given.

4.3. Research registration number will be allotted to provisionally admitted candidates mentioning research topic (.....) and name of Research Supervisor/Guide.

5. COURSE WORK AND DURATION:

5.1. It is mandatory that all Research Scholars (Full-time & Part-time or Executive) after their admission must attend compulsory 'Course Work' as per UGC Regulations-University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2022)within one year after admission.

5.2. Course Work shall have 12 (twelve credits).

5.3. **ATTENDANCE:** Full time Research Scholar shall regularly sign the attendance register maintained by the University. Part time /Executive shall sign the attendance register maintain by the respective guide.

5.4. **DURATION OF THE PROGRAM: *** (Commences from the day of the Admission)

CATEGORY	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM**
Full-time	3 Years	4 Years
Part-time	3 Years	6 Years
Executive	3 Years	6 Years

*: In genuine cases where evidence produced for published research work, 6 months (Six months) period will be relaxed by the Vice-Chancellor for early submission.

**Special Extension:
In case, if the Research is not completed within the maximum period of program for reason, the Research Scholar may be permitted for re registration for another 4 years or 6 years as the case may be for extension of time for on the recommendations of the DRC.

6. DOCTORAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

6.1. The Vice Chancellor shall constitute Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) DRC shall comprise of a. All Professors of DSNLU b. All Associate Professors of DSNLU c. Two Assistant Professors of DSNLU and two external members nominated by the Vice-Chancellor for a minimum period of 1 year years as per the Regulations.

6.2. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall be the Ex-Officio Chairperson of the DRC

6.3. The DRC will review progress of research work submitted by the Research Scholar and may suggest to make additions/ alterations in the nature and scope of the research proposal periodically.

7. RESEARCH SUPERVISOR:

7.1. Professor/ Associate Professor / Assistant Professor of DSNLU/ or outside law teacher who is recognized as external supervisor by DSNLU as per UGC rules and are appointed as a Research Supervisor/Guide.

7.2. The number of Ph.D. candidates registered at DSNLU shall be allotted to each faculty is as follows:

7.2.1. Research Supervisors in the cadre of Professor, are permitted to have maximum number of (10), an Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to maximum of (6) and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of (4) full time or part time Ph.D. Scholars at any given point of time as per UGC rules.

7.2.2. 2 Part time scholars or / Executive scholars are equivalent to one Full time scholar. There is no limitation for research supervisor to guide part time and executive research scholars regarding maximum number.

7.2.3 Vice Chancellor shall allot the Research Supervisor for the Research Scholar on the recommendations of DRC.

7.3. If a Research Supervisor retires or takes up an assignment outside the University on deputation/lien, the candidate will be permitted to continue his/her research under the same Research Supervisor OR he/she may be permitted to change his/her Research Supervisor if he/she desires so, with the permission of the Vice Chancellor.

8. PROGRESS REPORTOF THE RESEARCH WORK:

The research scholar shall submit a Research Progress Report (RPR) every six months with the endorsement of research supervisor. The same will be reviewed by the DRC.

9. GUIDELINES FOR Research Progress Report (After the Course Work Is Completed)

9.1 Research Scholar shall make Final thesis submission;

9.2 The First presentation requires the Research Scholar has to converse about the statement of problem, scope and limitation to the research, Review of literature, Research Methodology and Hypothesis after one year or and one year before final presentation.

9.3 After One month of First Presentation, Second Presentation of research scholar would explain and analyze the progress made by the Researcher in furtherance of the Research work, after carrying out the suggestions of DRC in the first research presentation with complete description of the research findings, conclusions and suggestions.

9.4 All the presentations should be made in the presence of DRC. DRC suggestions, if any are to be carried out by the research scholar before submission.

9.5: Academic integrity:

DSNLU follows a four-tier similarity thresholds as mandated my UGC regulations and amended time to time

A. The Four-Tier Similarity Thresholds & Penalties

Under the 2018 Regulations (which remain the active statutory standard), similarity is graded into four levels after standard exclusions:

| Level | Similarity Percentage | Consequence / Penalty for PhD Scholars |

I. | Level 0 | Up to 10% |

Minor similarities; no penalty. Thesis proceeds for evaluation.

II. Level 1 | Above 10% to 40% |

Revision required. Student must submit a revised script within a maximum period of 6 months. |

III. Level 2 | Above 40% to 60% |

Debarment. Student is debarred from submitting a revised script for 1 year.

IV. Level 3 | Above 60%
| Cancellation. Student's PhD registration for that programme is cancelled. |

* Repeat Offences: A repeat violation is penalized at one level higher than the previous offence.

* Post-Award Plagiarism: If plagiarism is proved after the PhD degree has been awarded, the degree is put in abeyance (suspended) for a period recommended by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) and can be revoked.

* Zero-Tolerance Core Sections: Regardless of the overall similarity percentage, copying in the Abstract, Hypothesis, Observations/Results, Conclusions, and Recommendations is treated as serious academic misconduct by the integrity panels.

B. What is Excluded from the Similarity Check?

The software similarity check excludes:

* All quoted work reproduced with necessary permission and/or proper attribution.
* References, bibliography, table of contents, preface, and acknowledgements.
* Generic terms, statutory laws/acts, standard symbols, and standard equations.
* Common knowledge or coincidental matches of up to 14 consecutive words.

C. Key Operational & Modern Shifts (2022–2026)

* Detection Software Shift: Under the INFLIBNET ShodhShuddhi initiative, DrillBit-Extreme replaced Urkund (Ouriginal) as the standard national plagiarism detection software provided to Indian universities.

* AI-Generated Content: While the 2018 text does not explicitly mention generative AI, current UGC norms and university ordinances treat unacknowledged AI-generated text as academic misconduct/plagiarism. Many universities enforce strict caps (typically 10%–20%) on AI-detected text and require a mandatory declaration regarding AI tool usage.

* 2022 PhD Regulations Clarification: The 2022 PhD Regulations reinforced that submitting an originality report is mandatory, but clarified that a low similarity score alone is not sufficient proof that a thesis is free of plagiarism (e.g., uncited paraphrasing of ideas still counts as misconduct).

* Mandatory Shodhganga Deposit: Electronic copies of all awarded theses must be deposited in INFLIBNET's Shodhganga repository, making every subsequent paper or thesis automatically checked against past Indian theses.

| AI & Software | Basic text matching (Turnitin / early Urkund); no AI norms. | DrillBit-Extreme via ShodhShuddhi; unacknowledged AI text treated as misconduct. |

* The library generates the official Similarity Index Report and Anti-Plagiarism Certificate, which must be signed by the Librarian, your Supervisor, and the Head/Principal, and bound into the thesis.

* Mandatory Undertakings:

* A signed Self-Plagiarism / Originality Undertaking by the scholar.

* A Certificate from the Research Supervisor attesting that the work is original and checked via the university's approved tool.

Legal Research Rules/UGC

Because doctrinal and empirical legal research relies heavily on primary legal sources, DSNLU follows the standard UGC exclusion filters when running DrillBit:

* Statutes, Bare Acts & Constitutional Provisions: Generic legal terms and statutory text are excluded from the similarity count, provided they are accurately cited and not copied as unattributed commentary.

* Case Law & Judgments: Direct extracts from Supreme Court/High Court judgments must be placed in quotation marks (or block quotes) with complete citations (e.g., AIR / SCC). Unquoted verbatim summaries of case facts from secondary sources (like SCC Online headnotes, Manupatra summaries, or law blogs) are flagged as plagiarism.

* Bibliography & Footnotes: References, bibliography, table of cases, table of statutes, preface, and acknowledgements are excluded from the percentage calculation.

* 14-Word Rule: Coincidental matches of up to 14 consecutive words are ignored.

AI-Generated Text: DSNLU requires an originality declaration and scrutinizes AI-generated prose during pre-submission review; unacknowledged AI-written sections can be rejected by the Doctoral Committee regardless of a low DrillBit similarity score.

Submission of synopsis and Thesis:

1. After completing minimum years of research study and approval by Doctoral Research Committee from the date of admission, the candidate with permanent registration is eligible to apply for submission of thesis.

2. The synopsis shall be between 2000 to 5000 words. Five (05) copies of synopsis shall be presented along with thesis before the Doctoral Research Committee/RAC, along with soft copy shall be sent to the University with certification from the Supervisor.

3. The soft copy of the thesis shall be submitted to the University library for plagiarism check. A certificate will be issued about the level of similarity detected based on authorized software. The thesis will be permitted for submission if the level of similarity is deemed acceptable as per the rules framed by the University bodies and UGC from time to time.

4. The application for submission of soft copy of thesis for plagiarism check and the relevant rules be obtained from the Librarian, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam.

Synopsis and Thesis Format

1. The synopsis and the thesis shall be in the format detailed in these rules.

2. The synopsis and thesis shall be written in English. However, theses in Languages and Literature shall be in the respective languages.

3. The title page shall contain
   (a) Title of the Thesis,
   (b) Degree and Subject for which the thesis is submitted. For interdisciplinary research, discipline of the PG degree and the discipline of the department where the research work is carried out shall be mentioned.
   (c) Candidate's Name,
   (d) Supervisor's Name and Designation, (Including co-supervisor).
   (e) Address of the Institution
   (f) University logo and
   (g) Month and Year of Submission

4. The certificates to be attached before the contents page
   (a) A certificate from the Supervisor that it is the original work of the candidate and free of plagiarism. In the case of inter-disciplinary research study, both Supervisor and Co-supervisor shall give this certificate.
   (b) An undertaking / declaration from the candidate that the thesis is his / her original research work and is not submitted for the award of any other degree either in full or a part thereof.

5. The type set should be in 1.5 or 2.0 line space, and 12 font size.

Artistic fonts should be avoided. A well stitched soft binding /Hard Binding is suggested. The ideal thesis report is around 300 pages.

10. EVALUATION PROCESS AND AWARD OF Ph.D. DEGREE:

For the submission of the thesis, the Research Scholars are required to observe the following guide lines

10.1 Ph.D. scholars shall publish minimum of two research papers in a referred journals before viva-voce of Ph.D. examination.

10.2 The thesis shall be in English and it shall be the result of Scholar's own work that attains the standard of literary presentation;

10.3 Scholars have to submit a draft thesis to the Research Supervisor and make a pre-Ph.D. presentation open to DRC and other faculty members and research

scholars of DSNLU for suggestions which may be suitably incorporated into the draft thesis on the advice of the Supervisor;

10.4 Research Scholar has to make a second presentation after the incorporating the suggestions, if necessary, after one month from the first presentation.

10.5 The scholar should obtain a certificate from the Research Supervisor, and the thesis should contain the same;

10.6 The scholar shall be required to submit five copies of his/her thesis, five copies of synopsis along with a softcopy.

10.7 Subsequent to the submission of the thesis by the scholar, the thesis will be sent to three external examiners for evaluation.

10.8. The thesis submitted by the candidate will be sent to three external examiners selected by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of consolidated list of examiners submitted by the Research Supervisor and Dean Academic Affairs.

10.09. The Research Supervisor and DRC Members are required to submit list of examiners.

10.10. The Vice-Chancellor may recommend the valuation of Thesis by Foreign examiners, in case , subject matter requires or demand.

10.11. The Doctoral Research Committee of DSNLU can also submit the list of examiners for evaluation of research work submitted by research scholar.

10.12. The Research Supervisor and Dean (Academic Research and Research) shall prepare consolidated examiners list.

10.13 The examiners shall give their opinion with a report in writing to the University giving their assessment of the thesis and their recommendations as to whether the degree shall or shall not be awarded to the scholar.

10.14. If any examiner suggests any changes/alterations in particular area or any additional work to be undertaken by the Research Scholar, the researcher shall resubmit the revised thesis; Subsequent to receiving the satisfactory assessment report and unanimous recommendation of all the evaluators for the award of the Degree, the open Viva voce examination will be conducted on a scheduled date with one of the external examiners who evaluated the thesis.

10.15. After successful completion of Viva voce examination, the award of the degree may be recommended by the viva voce committee. (The Research Supervisor/Guide and Dean, Academic Affairs and one DRC member nominated by the Vice Chancellor and one of the evaluator to the University and Vice Chancellor as a chairman;

10.16. Once the Viva Voce committee recommends the award of the Ph.D. Degree to the scholar, a notification will be released and the scholar may be given a Provisional Certificate specifying that the Doctoral Degree has been awarded in accordance with the University Guidelines and provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

10.17 The award of the degree will be presented at the annual convocation or in absentia.

11. FEE STRUCTURE:

The fee Structure, including the adjudication fee, will be decided by the University from time to time. In case of re-registration, the fee structure prevailing as on that date shall be applicable.

11.1. FEE STRUCTURE (2023-2024 Onwards)

Fee Particulars	Full-Time	Part-Time(Internal/External)	Executive
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Application and Registration Fee	Rs.5,000	Rs.5,000	Rs.10,000/-
Fee for Pursuing Ph.D.(1stYear)			
1st Year Fee	Rs.50,000	Rs.75,000	Rs.1,00,000
Facilities Fee (Every Year)	Rs.15,000	Rs.15,000	Rs.20,000
Library Fee (Every Year)	Rs.10,000	Rs.10,000	Rs.10,000
Library Deposit (Refundable)	Rs.5,000	Rs.5,000	Rs.5,000
Total First Year Fee	Rs.80,000/-	Rs.1,05,000/-	Rs. 1,35,000/-
Continuation up to maximum no. of years (Every Year)			
2nd Year	Rs.75,000/-	Rs.1,00,000	Rs.1,30,000
3rd Year	Rs.75,000/-	Rs.1,00,000	Rs.1,30,000
4th Year	Rs.75,000/-	Rs.1,00,000	Rs.1,80,000
5th Year	Rs.75,000/-	Rs.1,00,000	Rs .1,80,000
Re Registration Fee	Rs.20,000	Rs.20,000	Rs.30,000+30,000/-
Examination Evaluation Fee	Rs.50,000	Rs.50,000	Rs.50,000

Note: In addition to the above Fee, Mess charges are as per the agreement with the service provider and as may be fixed by the authorities from time to time. Final amount will be settled as per actuals at the time of leaving the University.

11.2. Full Time scholar may opt for Halls of Residence. Part Time or Executive scholar are not entitled for Halls of Residence, but they can be provided accommodation on payment in University guest house on availability.

12. The Decision of Vice Chancellor is final regarding any dispute related to Ph.D. program in DSNLU.

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