

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, MEGHALAYA

(Established under the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010; Recognised by the University Grants Commission)

RESEARCH POLICY

Governing the Conduct, Promotion and Regulation of Doctoral and Sponsored Research

Framed in conformity with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 and Ordinance – 1 of 2023 of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Approving Authority

Board of Management 45th Meeting held on date 28th March 2026 Item No. BoM-45/26/2

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Custodian

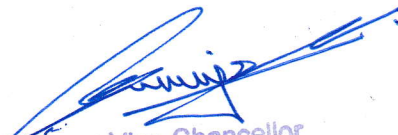
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Preamble

Research constitutes the intellectual core of a university. It is through sustained, ethically grounded and rigorously supervised inquiry that new knowledge is generated, existing knowledge is tested and refined, and society is offered solutions to problems that did not previously admit of solution. **Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya** ("the University"), established under the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010, and recognised by the University Grants Commission, regards research not as an ancillary activity appended to teaching but as a constitutive obligation of a modern university.

This Research Policy sets out, in a single consolidated instrument, the principles, structures, entitlements and obligations that govern research undertaken under the aegis of the University - whether pursued by faculty, by doctoral scholars, by postdoctoral fellows, or in collaboration with external institutions, industry and government agencies. It has been framed in strict conformity with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 (hereinafter "the UGC Regulations, 2022") and with Ordinance - 1 of 2023 of the University governing the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (hereinafter "the Ordinance"), and is intended to operate harmoniously with both instruments, as well as with such further guidelines as may from time to time be issued by the UGC, the Ministry of Education, and other statutory or regulatory bodies having jurisdiction over the University.

Where any provision of this Policy is found to be inconsistent with the UGC Regulations, 2022, the Ordinance, or any binding statutory direction, the latter shall prevail, and the inconsistent provision of this Policy shall be read down or amended accordingly through the process described in Section 22 below.

1. Short Title, Applicability and Commencement

1. **Short Title.** This document shall be called the "*Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya.*"
2. **Applicability.** This Policy applies to all Schools, Faculties, and Departments of the University that conduct, host, or supervise research; to all categories of Ph.D. scholars (full-time, part-time, self-financed, sponsored, and international); to all faculty members recognised as Research Supervisors or Co-Supervisors; to postdoctoral fellows and project staff engaged on sponsored research; and, to the extent relevant, to all externally funded or collaborative research undertaken in the University's name.

3. **Commencement.** This Policy shall come into force on the date of its approval by the both statutory bodies i.e., Academic Council and ratification by the Board of Management, and shall thereafter be reviewed periodically in the manner described in Section 22.

2. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms used in this Policy shall carry the meanings assigned to them in Regulation 2 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 2 of the Ordinance. For ease of reference, certain terms of frequent use are restated below:

- **“University”** means Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya.
- **“Research Supervisor” / “Guide”** means a faculty member recognised by the University to supervise a Ph.D. scholar, meeting the eligibility norms of Regulation 6 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 6 of the Ordinance.
- **“Scholar”** means a person registered for the Ph.D. programme of the University, whether full-time, part-time, sponsored, or international.
- **“RAC”** means the Research Advisory Committee constituted for each Ph.D. scholar under Chapter 6.6 of the Ordinance and Regulation 10 of the UGC Regulations, 2022.
- **“RDC”** means the Research Degree Committee, the apex statutory body of the University overseeing doctoral research, as constituted under Chapter 13.2 of the Ordinance.
- **“Ethics Board”** means the Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board constituted by the University to safeguard research integrity, as more fully described in Section 13 below and elaborated in the University’s separate policy on the Constitution of the Ethics Board.
- **“Sponsored Research”** means research funded, wholly or in part, by an agency external to the University, including government departments, national research councils, industry, and international agencies.
- **“Plagiarism” and “Research Misconduct”** shall carry the meanings given in Regulation 2(1)(r) of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and in the University’s Policy on Academic and Research Integrity, read with the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.

3. Vision and Mission

3.1 Vision

To establish Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya as a centre of research distinction in the North-Eastern region of India, recognised nationally and internationally for scholarship that is original, ethically conducted, socially relevant, and responsive to the developmental priorities of Meghalaya and the wider region, while meeting global benchmarks of academic rigour.

3.2 Mission

- To nurture a research culture grounded in intellectual curiosity, methodological rigour, and unwavering commitment to honesty and originality.
- To provide doctoral scholars and faculty with the supervisory guidance, infrastructure, and financial support necessary for research of genuine scholarly merit.
- To encourage interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary inquiry that transcends the boundaries of conventional departments.
- To document, disseminate and protect the intellectual output of the University through publication, deposit, and, where appropriate, intellectual property protection.
- To align research priorities, wherever feasible, with regional concerns particular to Meghalaya and the North-East - including but not limited to indigenous knowledge systems, biodiversity, tribal studies, sustainable development, and border-area studies - without foreclosing research of a purely fundamental or theoretical character.
- To ensure that every research activity conducted in the University's name is undertaken in strict compliance with applicable law, with the UGC Regulations, 2022, and with prevailing norms of research ethics.

4. Objectives of the Policy

This Policy seeks, specifically, to:

1. Establish a single point of institutional reference for the principles governing research conducted at, or in the name of, the University;


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2. Define the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board of Management, the Academic Council, the Research Degree Committee, the Research Advisory Committees, the Ethics Board, Research Supervisors and Scholars;
3. Prescribe minimum standards for research supervision, research infrastructure, and research output that are not lower than those mandated by the UGC Regulations, 2022;
4. Set out the University's approach to research funding, intellectual property, publication ethics, data stewardship, and interdisciplinary collaboration;
5. Provide the overarching framework within which the University's subsidiary policies - namely the Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme, the Admission Policy for Foreign Students, the Fellowship/Scholarship Policy, the Constitution of the Ethics Board, the Constitution of the RAC and DRC, and the Grievance Redress Policy - shall operate as coherent parts of a single regulatory architecture; and
6. Ensure the continuous alignment of institutional practice with the evolving directions of the UGC, the Ministry of Education, and other statutory bodies.

5. Scope and Domains of Research

The University shall, through its Schools, Departments and recognised Centres, promote research across the full spectrum of disciplines in which it is competent to supervise doctoral candidates, including the Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce and Management, Law, and Education. Within this spectrum, the University shall particularly encourage:

- **Fundamental and curiosity-driven research**, which advances disciplinary knowledge without a predetermined application, and which the University recognises as indispensable to the long-term health of any research ecosystem;
- **Applied and translational research**, oriented towards addressing identifiable problems in industry, governance, health, agriculture, or community life;
- **Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research**, conducted by a Ph.D. scholar across two or more academic disciplines, as contemplated in Regulation 2(1)(o) of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 12.2 of the

Ordinance, and for which the University shall permit the appointment of Co-Supervisors from outside the home Department, School, or, where necessary, the University itself; and

- **Regionally significant research**, addressing the ecological, linguistic, cultural, economic and administrative particularities of Meghalaya and the wider North-Eastern region, for which the University shall, subject to availability of funds, earmark a portion of its internal seed-money grants.

Each School and Department shall, once in every five years or as directed by the Research Degree Committee, articulate a statement of thrust areas for research, to be placed before the Academic Council for information. Such statements shall guide, but not exclusively determine, the allocation of internal research support; a scholar's or supervisor's proposal falling outside the declared thrust areas shall not, for that reason alone, be denied consideration.

6. Institutional Architecture for Research Governance

Research at the University is governed through a layered institutional architecture, summarised below. The detailed constitution, composition, and terms of reference of each body - save the Board of Management and the Academic Council, whose constitution derives from the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010 and the Statutes made thereunder - is the subject of separate, dedicated policy instruments referred to in this Policy and adopted contemporaneously with it.

Body	Level	Principal Function
Board of Management (BoM)	University	Apex approving authority for the Research Policy and all subsidiary research-related policies and ordinances.
Academic Council	University	Academic approving authority; oversight of academic standards in research, coursework and evaluation.
Research Degree Committee (RDC)	University	Apex body for the oversight, coordination and quality assurance of doctoral research; addresses matters not resolved at RAC level; recommends award of degrees.
Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board ("Ethics Board")	University	Safeguards research integrity; reviews matters of plagiarism, data fabrication, human/animal-subject ethics, and conflict of interest.

Body	Level	Principal Function
Ph.D. Admission Committee	University	Conducts and finalises Ph.D. admissions each cycle.
Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	Scholar-specific / Department	Reviews and finalises the research proposal; monitors the scholar's periodic progress; recommends corrective measures or termination where warranted.
Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) / Departmental Research Committee	School / Department	Departmental-level coordination of research proposals, supervisor allocation, and coursework prior to elevation to the RDC.
Dean (Research) / Director, Research and Development Cell	University	Day-to-day administration of the research ecosystem; secretarial support to the RDC; custodian of this Policy.

Nothing in this Section shall be read as diminishing the statutory authority of the Academic Council or the Board of Management under the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010; the bodies listed above operate under delegation from, and remain accountable to, those statutory authorities.

7. Research Supervisors: Eligibility, Recognition and Workload

7.1 Eligibility for Recognition as Research Supervisor

In accordance with Regulation 6 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 6.1 of the Ordinance, the following categories of faculty are eligible for recognition as Research Supervisors:

- A permanent faculty member holding the rank of Professor or Associate Professor, possessing a Ph.D., and having at least five (5) research publications in peer-reviewed or UGC-CARE listed journals;
- A permanent faculty member holding the rank of Assistant Professor, possessing a Ph.D., and having at least three (3) such publications;
- A scientist of equivalent rank in a Central or State Government research institution whose Ph.D. degrees are conferred by the University, subject to fulfilment of the publication norms above.

Where a discipline genuinely lacks peer-reviewed or refereed journals, or where such journals are available only in very limited number, the Research Degree Committee may relax the publication requirement, provided that the reasons for such relaxation are recorded in writing and placed before the Academic Council

for ratification. Adjunct faculty and part-time or contingent instructors shall not be recognised as Research Supervisors; they may act only as Co-Supervisors.

7.2 Ceiling on the Number of Scholars per Supervisor

The number of Ph.D. scholars that a Research Supervisor may guide at any given time, whether as sole supervisor or in combination with co-supervisory charges, shall not exceed the ceiling prescribed in Regulation 6(3) of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 6.2 of the Ordinance, reproduced below:

Rank of Supervisor	Maximum Ph.D. Scholars (Regular)	Additional Supernumerary Seats for Foreign / International Scholars
Professor	8	Up to 2, over and above the regular ceiling
Associate Professor	6	Up to 2, over and above the regular ceiling
Assistant Professor	4	Up to 2, over and above the regular ceiling

7.3 Co-Supervision

A Co-Supervisor may be appointed from within the same Department, from another Department of the University, or, in the case of genuinely interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research, from an institution external to the University, subject in every case to the approval of the competent authority (the RAC in the first instance and, where the Co-Supervisor is external to the University, the RDC). Adjunct faculty may act only in the capacity of Co-Supervisor and never as the principal Research Supervisor.

7.4 Restriction Near Superannuation

A faculty member with fewer than three (3) years of service remaining before superannuation shall not be permitted to take on new scholars as Research Supervisor. Such faculty may, however, continue to supervise scholars already registered under them until superannuation, and may thereafter continue in the capacity of Co-Supervisor until they attain the age of seventy (70) years, and not beyond.

7.5 Responsibilities of the Research Supervisor

- To provide regular, substantive academic guidance to the scholar throughout the period of registration;


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- To assist the scholar, through the RAC, in the design of the study, the choice of methodology, and the identification of coursework requirements;
- To monitor progress and certify the scholar's readiness to proceed from coursework to the research and writing stage;
- To ensure the scholar's compliance with the University's norms on plagiarism, authorship, data integrity and publication ethics; and
- To certify, at the time of thesis submission, the originality of the work and that it has not been submitted elsewhere for any other degree or diploma.

8. Categories of Doctoral Scholars

The University admits, and this Policy applies equally to, the following categories of Ph.D. scholars, the detailed eligibility and procedure for each being governed by the Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme and, where applicable, the Admission Policy for Foreign Students:

- **Full-time scholars**, who pursue the programme as their principal engagement;
- **Part-time scholars**, who are employed elsewhere and pursue the programme alongside their employment, subject to a No-Objection Certificate from their employer as required under Regulation 13 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 11 of the Ordinance;
- **Sponsored scholars**, whose research is funded wholly or partly by an external agency, and who remain subject to the same academic requirements as any other scholar notwithstanding the source of their funding;
- **International/foreign scholars**, including wards of Indians employed in Gulf countries, admitted under the supernumerary quota and the guidelines at Annexure I of the Ordinance;
- **Self-financed scholars**, who do not hold institutional fellowship support but who are, in all other respects, subject to the identical academic regime prescribed for fellowship-holders.

No category of scholar shall be subject to a diluted academic requirement - in respect of coursework, research proposal evaluation, periodic review, plagiarism screening, or thesis evaluation - on account of the mode or source of their admission or funding.

9. Research Infrastructure and Institutional Support

The University shall endeavour to provide, subject to budgetary provision, the following minimum research infrastructure to every recognised Department or Centre offering the Ph.D. programme, consistent with the requirements of Regulation 12 of the UGC Regulations, 2022:

- Adequate library resources, including subscription to relevant national and international databases and journals, and institutional access to INFLIBNET/N-LIST resources;
- Laboratory, workshop, field-research, or equivalent research facilities appropriate to the discipline concerned;
- Access to plagiarism-detection software approved by the UGC, to be used at the stage of research proposal submission, periodic reporting, and pre-submission of the thesis;
- Adequate seating, computing, and internet facilities for registered scholars;
- Administrative support for the processing of fellowship disbursement, travel claims, and conference support; and
- A functioning institutional repository, integrated where feasible with the Shodhganga repository maintained by INFLIBNET, for the deposit of theses upon award of the degree, in compliance with Regulation 17 of the UGC Regulations, 2022.

10. Research Funding and Financial Support

10.1 Internal Support

- The University shall, subject to availability of funds, operate a scheme of Seed Money Grants to support preliminary or pilot research by faculty and, where appropriate, doctoral scholars, prior to their securing external funding.
- The University shall provide, subject to policy limits notified separately, financial support towards conference travel, publication charges in legitimate (non-predatory) journals, and short research visits, upon recommendation of the RAC and approval of the Dean (Research).
- Financial support to Ph.D. scholars by way of fellowship or scholarship shall be governed by the University's separate Fellowship/Scholarship

Policy for Ph.D. Scholars, which forms part of the same regulatory architecture as this Policy.

10.2 External and Sponsored Research

- The University shall actively facilitate applications by its faculty and scholars to national funding bodies (such as the Department of Science and Technology, the University Grants Commission, the Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Indian Council of Historical Research, and similar bodies) and, subject to applicable law including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, to international funding agencies.
- All sponsored research projects shall be routed through the Office of the Dean (Research), which shall maintain a central registry of ongoing projects, sanctioned amounts, and utilisation certificates.
- Overhead charges recovered from sponsored projects shall be apportioned between the University's central research development fund and the host Department/Centre in a ratio to be notified separately by the Finance Committee, in consultation with the RDC.
- No member of the faculty shall accept sponsored research funding in a manner inconsistent with the University's Conflict of Interest norms set out in Section 16 below.

11. Coursework and the Research and Publication Ethics Requirement

Every Ph.D. scholar shall be required to complete coursework in accordance with Regulation 9 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 7 of the Ordinance, comprising a minimum of fourteen (14) credits, structured as follows:

Course Component	Minimum Credits
Research Methodology	4
Core Course of the Concerned Discipline	3
Computer Application in Research	3
Literature Review	2
Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)	2

The course on Research and Publication Ethics shall be conducted in the manner notified by the UGC (D.O. No. F.1-1/2018 (Journal/CARE), 2019) and

shall be treated as a compulsory, non-waivable component of the coursework for every scholar irrespective of discipline. A scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks, or the equivalent grade on the UGC ten-point scale, in the coursework in order to be permitted to proceed to the research and thesis-writing stage, failing which re-registration for the coursework shall be required, subject to the recommendation of the RAC.

All Ph.D. scholars shall additionally be required to undergo training in teaching, pedagogy, or academic writing relevant to their subject, and may be assigned four to six (4–6) hours per week of teaching or research assistantship, in accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the UGC Regulations, 2022.

12. Research Proposal, Registration and Periodic Review

1. **Research Proposal.** Every candidate seeking registration shall submit a Research Proposal in the format prescribed at Annexure II of the Ordinance, addressing the introduction, review of relevant literature, objectives, hypotheses (where applicable), methodology, and the rationale and expected usefulness of the study.
2. **Evaluation of the Proposal.** The Research Proposal shall be reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee for feasibility, originality and academic merit, and the RAC shall finalise the topic of research before confirmation of registration, as required by Regulation 10(1)(i) of the UGC Regulations, 2022.
3. **Periodic Review.** Every registered scholar shall appear before the RAC each semester to present a report on the progress of the work. The RAC's recommendations, together with the scholar's progress report, shall be communicated to the University and a copy furnished to the scholar. Where progress is found unsatisfactory, the RAC shall record its reasons and prescribe corrective measures; persistent failure to implement such measures may result in a recommendation, supported by specific reasons, for cancellation of registration, subject to confirmation by the RDC and the Academic Council.
4. **Extension and Maximum Duration.** The Ph.D. programme shall be of a minimum duration of three (3) years, including coursework, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission, extendable by up to two (2) further years through re-registration, so that the total period shall in no case exceed eight (8) years. Female scholars and Persons with Disabilities (with more than 40% disability) may be granted a further relaxation of two (2) years, provided that the total

period in such cases does not exceed ten (10) years. Female scholars shall additionally be eligible for maternity or child-care leave of up to 240 days over the course of the programme, in accordance with Regulation 4 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 4 of the Ordinance.

13. Research and Publication Ethics; Plagiarism

Research integrity is treated by the University as a non-negotiable condition of the doctoral enterprise and not as a procedural formality attached to it. The substantive framework for research ethics - including the constitution, powers and procedure of the Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board - is set out in the University's dedicated policy, the Constitution of the Ethics Board to Maintain Research Integrity, which is to be read as an integral part of this Research Policy. The present Section states the principles that the Ethics Board is charged with upholding.

13.1 Screening for Plagiarism

- Every research proposal, every thesis submitted for evaluation, and, at the discretion of the Department, interim reports, shall be screened using UGC-approved plagiarism-detection software prior to submission or evaluation, in compliance with Regulation 11(3) of the UGC Regulations, 2022, Chapter 9.2 of the Ordinance, and the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.
- A similarity index exceeding the threshold prescribed under the 2018 UGC Regulations (ordinarily not exceeding 10% from a single source and 40% in aggregate, exclusive of quoted material, bibliography, and generic terms, subject to any revision by the UGC) shall result in the return of the document to the scholar for revision, and, in cases of severe or repeated violation, referral to the Ethics Board for disciplinary action.

13.2 Undertakings and Certification

At the time of thesis submission, the scholar shall furnish a signed undertaking that the thesis contains no plagiarism, and the Research Supervisor shall furnish a certificate attesting to the originality of the work and confirming that it has not been submitted, in whole or in substantial part, for any other degree or diploma at any other institution, as required by Regulation 11(4) of the UGC Regulations, 2022.

13.3 Human and Animal Subjects; Biosafety

Research involving human participants, animal subjects, hazardous biological, chemical or radiological materials, or sensitive personal data shall additionally require clearance from the relevant Institutional Ethics Committee, Institutional Animal Ethics Committee, or Biosafety Committee, as constituted under the Ethics Board's oversight, before commencement of data collection. No such research shall proceed to the RAC evaluation stage without documentary evidence of such clearance.

13.4 Authorship and Acknowledgement

Authorship of any publication arising from University-affiliated research shall be determined strictly by intellectual contribution, in accordance with recognised international norms (such as those of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, where applicable by analogy). Honorary or gift authorship is prohibited. The University's affiliation and, where relevant, the source of funding shall be duly acknowledged in every such publication.

13.5 Consequences of Misconduct

Proven instances of plagiarism, data fabrication or falsification, duplicate or redundant publication, or other research misconduct shall attract the penalties prescribed under the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 and the University's Academic and Research Integrity framework, ranging from mandatory revision, through withholding of degree or withdrawal of a conferred degree, to debarment from future registration, without prejudice to any other action available in law.

14. Intellectual Property Rights

1. **Ownership.** Subject to any specific agreement executed with a sponsoring agency, intellectual property arising from research conducted using University resources, or in the course of a scholar's or faculty member's engagement with the University, shall vest in the University, with the inventor(s)/author(s) entitled to due recognition and, where the University's separate Intellectual Property Rights Policy so provides, a share of any commercial revenue realised.
2. **Sponsored and Collaborative Research.** Where research is funded or co-conducted with an external agency, ownership and licensing of resulting intellectual property shall be governed by the terms of the relevant


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Memorandum of Understanding or funding agreement, which shall in every case be vetted by the Office of the Dean (Research) prior to execution.

3. **Disclosure Obligation.** Every faculty member and scholar shall promptly disclose to the Dean (Research) any invention, discovery, or creative work of potential commercial or protectable value arising from University-affiliated research, prior to public disclosure or publication, so as to preserve the University's ability to seek patent or other statutory protection where warranted.
4. **Student/Scholar Rights.** Nothing in this Section shall be construed to deprive a Ph.D. scholar of authorship credit, or of the right to include, with due acknowledgement, previously published work of the scholar's own authorship in the thesis, as permitted under Annexure III of the Ordinance.

15. Publication and Dissemination Policy

- A Ph.D. scholar shall be required to have published, or to have had accepted for publication, at least one research paper in a peer-reviewed or UGC-CARE listed journal, and to have presented at least two papers at conferences or seminars, before being permitted to submit the thesis, in accordance with Chapter 9.1 of the Ordinance and prevailing UGC guidance; the RAC shall verify such compliance at the pre-submission stage.
- Scholars and faculty are strictly prohibited from publishing in predatory or spurious journals; the University shall maintain and periodically update, for the guidance of scholars and supervisors, a reference to the UGC-CARE list and shall treat publication outside that list, undertaken to circumvent this requirement, as a matter warranting scrutiny by the Ethics Board.
- A pre-submission seminar shall be held for every scholar, open to faculty and fellow research scholars, at which the scholar shall present the key findings of the thesis prior to its formal submission, as required by Regulation 11(2) of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapter 9.1(b) of the Ordinance.
- Upon successful completion of evaluation and before the formal announcement of the award of the degree, the University shall deposit an electronic copy of the thesis with INFLIBNET for hosting on the Shodhganga repository, so that it is accessible to other higher educational and research institutions, as required by Regulation 17 of the UGC Regulations, 2022.


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16. Thesis Evaluation and Award of the Degree

The evaluation of the thesis and the conduct of the viva-voce examination shall follow the procedure prescribed in Regulation 11 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Chapters 9 and 10 of the Ordinance, the salient features of which are restated here for completeness:

- The thesis shall be evaluated by the Research Supervisor and at least two external examiners, expert in the relevant field and not in the employment of the University, of whom, wherever possible, one shall be from outside India;
- The viva-voce examination shall be conducted only where both external examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis (after incorporation of any suggested corrections); where one examiner recommends rejection, the thesis shall be referred to an alternate examiner from the approved panel, and the outcome of that reference shall be determinative;
- The viva-voce shall ordinarily be conducted as an Open Viva-Voce, in the presence of members of the RAC, faculty, and other research scholars, and may be conducted online where circumstances so require;
- The entire process of evaluation, including declaration of the viva-voce result, shall be completed within six (6) months of the date of thesis submission;
- Prior to the actual conferment of the degree, the University shall issue a Notification/Result Declaration/Provisional Certificate to the effect that the degree is being awarded in conformity with the UGC Regulations, 2022.

17. Interdisciplinary, Collaborative and Industry-linked Research

- The University shall encourage, and shall not structurally disadvantage relative to single-discipline research, proposals that are genuinely interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary in character, and shall, where necessary, facilitate the appointment of Co-Supervisors from other Departments, other institutions, or industry.
- The University may enter into Memoranda of Understanding with other universities, national research laboratories, and industry partners for joint supervision, joint degree, or collaborative research programmes, subject to

prior approval of the Academic Council and, where financial commitments are involved, the Board of Management.

- Industry-sponsored doctoral research (including Industry Ph.D. or similar schemes) shall be permitted subject to the same academic requirements as any other mode of registration, and subject to appropriate safeguards, recorded in the governing agreement, against conflicts of interest and against restrictions on the scholar's right to submit and defend the thesis on its academic merits.

18. Foreign and International Research Collaboration

The admission and academic regulation of foreign nationals seeking to pursue the Ph.D. programme at the University is governed comprehensively by the University's separate Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme for Foreign Students, framed in conformity with Regulation 7 of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and Annexure I of the Ordinance, and is not restated here. This Policy notes, for completeness, that:

- Each eligible Research Supervisor may guide up to two international scholars on a supernumerary basis, over and above the regular ceiling specified in Section 7.2 above;
- The University shall, subject to institutional capacity, encourage joint or co-supervised doctoral projects with reputed foreign universities and research institutions, and shall facilitate scholar and faculty mobility through existing or future bilateral arrangements; and
- All such collaboration shall remain subject to applicable Indian law, including provisions governing visas, foreign exchange, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, where relevant.

19. Research Data Management

1. **Custody and Retention.** Primary research data, laboratory notebooks, field records, survey instruments, and similar primary materials generated in the course of University-affiliated research shall be retained by the Department or Centre concerned, or by the Research Supervisor, for a minimum period of five (5) years following completion of the research or publication of results arising from it, whichever is later, to enable verification in the event of a query or challenge.
2. **Access and Confidentiality.** Where research data contains personal, sensitive, or classified information, access shall be restricted in accordance

with applicable law (including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, where applicable) and any conditions attached to Ethics Committee clearance.

3. **Transfer of Data on Relocation.** Where a female scholar relocates on account of marriage or other compelling reason, research data may, in accordance with Regulation 6(4) of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and with due safeguard for any project obligations owed to a funding agency, be transferred to the institution to which the scholar relocates, with due credit recorded to the parent institution and supervisor for work already undertaken.

20. Conflict of Interest

Every Research Supervisor, member of the RAC, RDC, Ethics Board, or Ph.D. Admission Committee shall disclose, in writing, any personal, financial, or familial interest that could reasonably be perceived to affect their impartiality in relation to a research proposal, a scholar's evaluation, an external examiner nomination, or a funding decision, and shall recuse themselves from deliberation and decision-making on that matter. A Research Supervisor shall not evaluate, examine, or participate in the viva-voce panel of their own scholar otherwise than in the capacity expressly contemplated by Regulation 11 of the UGC Regulations, 2022. Failure to disclose a material conflict of interest shall be treated as a matter for the Ethics Board.

21. Monitoring, Quality Assurance and Institutional Reporting

- The Dean (Research) shall place before the RDC, at least once every semester, a consolidated report on the status of ongoing Ph.D. registrations, extensions, terminations, and thesis submissions across all Departments.
- The RDC shall, at least once annually, review the functioning of the RACs, the adequacy of research infrastructure, and the University's compliance with the UGC Regulations, 2022, and shall report its findings, together with any recommendations, to the Academic Council.
- The University shall maintain, and update at least once every academic year, a public list on its website of recognised Research Supervisors (with name, designation and Department) and of registered Ph.D. scholars (with name, topic of research and date of admission), as required by Regulation 5(4) of the UGC Regulations, 2022.

- The University shall undergo periodic external assessment of its research ecosystem, whether through the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the National Institutional Ranking Framework, or such other mechanism as the UGC may from time to time prescribe, and shall use the outcomes of such assessment to inform revision of this Policy.

22. Relationship with Other University Policies

This Research Policy is the parent instrument within a coordinated family of policies governing the doctoral and broader research ecosystem of the University. It is to be read together with, and does not supersede, the following subsidiary instruments, each approved by the same competent authority and amended, where necessary, in a manner that preserves consistency across the set:

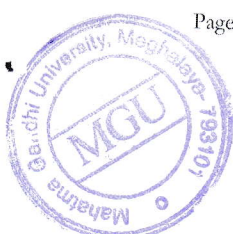
- The Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme;
- The Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme for Foreign Students;
- The Fellowship/Scholarship Policy for Ph.D. Scholars;
- The Constitution of the Ethics Board to Maintain Research Integrity;
- The Constitution of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Doctoral Research Committee (DRC); and
- The Policy for the Grievance Redress Mechanism of Scholars.

In the event of an apparent conflict between this Policy and any of the above instruments, the matter shall be referred to the Research Degree Committee for reconciliation, and, failing resolution there, to the Academic Council, whose decision shall be final, subject always to the overriding force of the UGC Regulations, 2022 and any binding statutory direction.

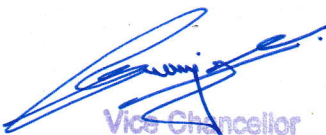
23. Grievance Redress

Any scholar or faculty member aggrieved by a decision taken under this Policy - whether relating to supervisor allocation, progress evaluation, funding, authorship, or any other matter arising from the conduct of research - may seek redress in accordance with the University's Policy for the Grievance Redress Mechanism of Scholars, without prejudice to any other remedy available in law.


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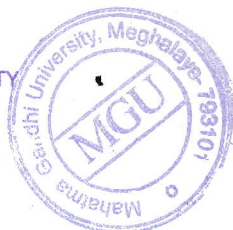
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Vice-Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya - 793101

24. Amendment, Review and Interpretation

1. **Periodic Review.** This Policy shall be reviewed by the Research Degree Committee at least once every three (3) years, or earlier where warranted by amendment of the UGC Regulations, 2022 or other binding statutory direction, and any resulting amendment shall be placed before the Academic Council and the Board of Management for approval.
2. **Interim Directions.** Pending formal amendment, the Vice-Chancellor may issue such interim directions as are necessary to bring the University's practice into conformity with a change in the UGC Regulations, 2022 or other binding statutory instrument, such directions to be ratified at the next meeting of the Academic Council.
3. **Interpretation.** Where any doubt arises as to the interpretation of this Policy, the matter shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision, taken in consultation with the Research Degree Committee, shall be final, subject to the overriding authority of the Board of Management.
4. **Effective Date.** This Policy shall take effect from the date of its approval by the Board of Management and shall apply to all scholars registered on or after that date; scholars registered prior to that date shall, save as the RDC may otherwise direct in the interest of equity, continue to be governed by the provisions in force at the time of their registration, to the extent those provisions are not inconsistent with the UGC Regulations, 2022.


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Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
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Annexure: Cross-Reference to Governing Instruments

Subject	UGC Regulations, 2022	MGU Ordinance – 1 of 2023
Eligibility for admission	Regulation 3	Chapter 3
Duration of programme	Regulation 4	Chapter 4
Admission procedure	Regulation 5	Chapter 5
Research Supervisor allocation	Regulation 6	Chapter 6
Admission of foreign scholars	Regulation 7	Annexure I
Coursework	Regulation 9	Chapter 7
Research Advisory Committee	Regulation 10	Chapter 6.6 / Chapter 13.1
Evaluation and award of degree	Regulation 11	Chapters 9 & 10
Part-time Ph.D.	Regulation 13	Chapter 11
M.Phil. (discontinued)	Regulation 14	-
Provisional certificate	Regulation 15	Chapter 10.2
Deposit with INFLIBNET/Shodhganga	Regulation 17	Chapter 9.3 note


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 MEGHALAYA- 793101


 Vice Chancellor
 Mahatma Gandhi University
 Meghalaya - 793101





Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya

Mahatma Gandhi University Meghalaya

महात्मा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय मेघालय

Established by the Act Govt. of Meghalaya, & Recognized by UGC, Approved by
BCI, PCI, MNC, RCI and Member of AIU

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION

45th Meeting of the Board of Management

Date: 28 March 2026

Item No.: BoM-45/26/2

RESEARCH POLICY

The Dean (Academic Affairs) and the Dean (Research) jointly placed before the Board the draft “**Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya**”, framed in conformity with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, Ordinance No. 1 of 2023 of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya, and the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010, for consideration and approval.

The Board examined the draft Policy in detail and observed that it establishes a comprehensive institutional framework governing research undertaken under the aegis of the University by faculty members, doctoral scholars, postdoctoral fellows and sponsored research projects. The Board further observed that the Policy prescribes the University’s vision and mission for research, institutional governance architecture, recognition and responsibilities of Research Supervisors, research infrastructure, funding mechanisms, research ethics, intellectual property management, publication standards, thesis evaluation, interdisciplinary and international collaboration, research data management, conflict of interest, quality assurance and the relationship between the parent Research Policy and all subsidiary research policies of the University.

RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Management hereby approves the “**Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya**” as the principal institutional policy governing the conduct, promotion, administration, regulation and quality assurance of research undertaken under the authority of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The approved Research Policy shall constitute the parent policy governing all research activities of the University and shall apply to every School, Faculty, Department, Research Centre, recognised Research Supervisor, Co-Supervisor, doctoral scholar, postdoctoral fellow, sponsored research project, externally funded research programme and collaborative research activity undertaken under the authority of the University, subject to the provisions of the University Grants Commission Regulations, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010, the Statutes, Ordinances and other applicable laws.



University Campus:-Khanapara :13th Mile, G.S.Road, Khanapara Under Dist-Ri-Bhoi,
Meghalaya - 793101. Tel.: 08415921060

E-mail : info@mgu.edu.in Web : www.mgu.edu.in

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The subsidiary research instruments, namely the Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme, Admission Policy for the Ph.D. Programme for Foreign Students, Fellowship/Scholarship Policy for Ph.D. Scholars, Constitution of the Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board, Constitution of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and Doctoral Research Committee (DRC), Policy for the Grievance Redress Mechanism of Scholars and every other research-related regulation framed by the University shall operate in harmony with, and derive their institutional authority from, the approved Research Policy.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Vice Chancellor is hereby authorised to issue administrative directions, implementation guidelines, operational procedures, standard operating procedures, administrative orders, formats, manuals and such other consequential directions as may be necessary for effective implementation of the approved Research Policy.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Dean (Research), Dean (Academic Affairs), Registrar, Research Degree Committee, Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board, Ph.D. Admission Committee, Doctoral Research Committees, Research Advisory Committees, Heads of Departments, Finance Officer and every authority entrusted with responsibilities under the approved Policy shall discharge their respective functions strictly in accordance with the provisions contained therein.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Registrar shall issue the necessary notification, preserve the authenticated master copy of the Research Policy, circulate the same amongst all Schools, Departments, Research Centres and administrative offices of the University, publish the approved Policy on the official University website and undertake all consequential administrative action necessary for its implementation.

Certified to be a True Resolution


**Ex-officio Secretary, Board of
Management**

Registrar
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

REGISTRAR
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
MEGHALAYA- 793101


Chairman, Board of Management

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya - 793101



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT EXTRACT OF RESOLUTION

Extract of the Minutes of the 45th Meeting of the Board of Management

Date: 28 March 2026

Item No.: BoM-45/26/2

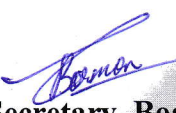
Research Policy

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Management approved the “**Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya**”, framed in conformity with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, Ordinance No. 1 of 2023 and the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2010, as the principal institutional policy governing the conduct, promotion, regulation and administration of research undertaken by the University.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the approved Research Policy shall operate as the parent policy governing all subsidiary research regulations, policies and academic procedures of the University.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Vice Chancellor shall issue such administrative directions as may be necessary for operationalisation of the approved Policy and the Registrar shall notify and implement the same throughout the University.

Certified to be a True Extract of the Minutes


Ex-officio Secretary, Board of
Management


Chairman, Board of Management

Registrar
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

REGISTRAR
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
MEGHALAYA- 793101



Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya - 793101

ACADEMIC COUNCIL RESOLUTION

46th Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 20 June 2026

Item No.: AC-46/26/3

RESEARCH POLICY

The Dean (Academic Affairs) and the Dean (Research) placed before the Academic Council the draft **“Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya”** for consideration and academic approval.

The Academic Council examined the draft Policy in detail and observed that it establishes a comprehensive academic framework governing research supervision, research quality, doctoral education, publication standards, research ethics, intellectual property, research infrastructure, sponsored research, interdisciplinary collaboration, international research cooperation, research data management and institutional quality assurance. The Council further observed that the Policy provides the overarching regulatory framework within which all subsidiary research policies of the University shall operate, thereby ensuring consistency, academic integrity and compliance with the University Grants Commission Regulations, 2022.

RESOLVED THAT

The Academic Council hereby approves the **“Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya”** from the academic standpoint and recommends the same to the Board of Management for statutory approval.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

Upon approval by the Board of Management, the Research Policy shall become the principal academic and regulatory framework governing research conducted under the authority of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Research Degree Committee shall periodically review implementation of the Research Policy and recommend amendments whenever necessitated by changes in the University Grants Commission Regulations, statutory provisions, national research policies or institutional academic requirements.



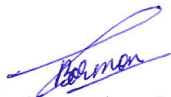
RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Dean (Research), Dean (Academic Affairs), Institutional Research Ethics and Integrity Board, Research Degree Committee and all academic authorities concerned shall implement the approved Policy strictly in accordance with its provisions.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT

The Registrar shall place the approved Research Policy before the Board of Management for statutory approval and thereafter undertake all consequential administrative action for its implementation.

Certified to be a True Resolution

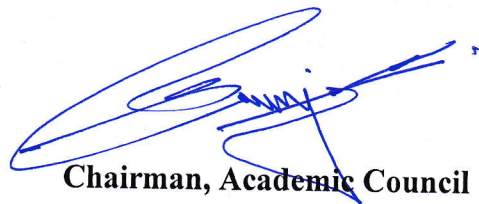


Ex-officio Secretary, Academic Council

Registrar

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

REGISTRAR
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
MEGHALAYA- 793101



Chairman, Academic Council

Vice Chancellor

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya - 793101



Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya

Mahatma Gandhi University Meghalaya

महात्मा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय मेघालय

Established by the Act Govt. of Meghalaya, & Recognized by UGC, Approved by
BCI, PCI, MNC, RCI and Member of AIU

ACADEMIC COUNCIL EXTRACT OF RESOLUTION

Extract of the Minutes of the 46th Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 20 June 2026

Item No.: AC-46/26/3

Research Policy

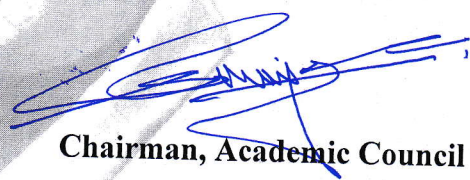
RESOLVED THAT the Academic Council approved the “**Research Policy of Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya**” and recommended the same to the Board of Management for statutory approval as the principal institutional policy governing research, doctoral education, research ethics, research administration and quality assurance at Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT upon approval by the Board of Management, the Policy shall be implemented throughout the University and shall govern all subsidiary research policies and regulations.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Dean (Research), Dean (Academic Affairs) and the Registrar shall take all necessary academic and administrative action for implementation of the approved Policy.

Certified to be a True Extract of the Minutes


Ex-officio Secretary, Academic Council


Chairman, Academic Council

Registrar
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

REGISTRAR
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
MEGHALAYA - 793101



Vice Chancellor
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