

# UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

## Rule XVII

### DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN exercise of the powers conferred by Part IV of the Constitution of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, the President, on the advice of the Senate, makes the following Rule:

1. This Rule may be cited as the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Rule and shall come into force as from the date of incorporation of the University.
2. In this Rule, unless otherwise stated:
  - (a) 'the University' means Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR);
  - (b) 'the Senate' means the Senate of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman;
  - (c) 'the Faculty/Institute' has the meaning assigned thereto in the Faculties Statute of the University; *Amended on 12 Oct 2010*
  - (d) 'the Head of Department' means the Head of a department of the Faculty/Institute; *Amended on 12 Oct 2010*
  - (e) words importing the masculine gender only shall include feminine gender and words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number, and vice versa.
3. The following provisions shall apply to both the full-time and part-time candidates, unless the text expressly states a contrary intention.
4. For admission as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, a person shall normally be required to possess the qualifications as stated in **Regulation I (Entry Requirements for Programmes of the University)**. *Amended on 1 Aug 2023*
5. *deleted.* *Amended on 1 Aug 2023*
6. (1) In special cases, the Senate may, upon the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty/Institute (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") concerned, permit a Master's degree candidate of the University to be admitted as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy if the candidate has completed not less than six (6) months and not more than eighteen (18) as a Master's degree candidate on the date of his application to convert his candidature. *Amended on 12 Oct 2010*
  - (1A) Notwithstanding the above, for candidates registered for Master's degree programme from January 2020 onwards, the Senate may, upon the recommendation of the Board concerned, permit a Master's degree candidate of the University to be admitted as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy if the candidate has completed not more

*Amended on  
8 Oct 2020  
and  
7 May 2021*

than twelve (12) months as a Full-time Master's degree candidate or not more than twenty four (24) months as a Part-time Master's degree candidate on the date of his application to convert his candidature.

- (2) In the case of a candidate admitted under the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section, the Senate may, on the recommendation of the Board concerned, count in part or in full the number of months the candidate has completed for his Master's degree towards the minimum period prescribed under Section 8 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

7. A candidate shall, upon admission, pursue a programme of study and research under the direction and supervision of a Supervisor and Co-supervisor(s) appointed by the Senate upon recommendation of the Board.

*Amended on  
10 Nov 2009,  
7 Aug 2012  
and  
7 June 2016*

- (1A) Upon the recommendation of the Board of Faculty/Institute, the Senate may appoint an External Consultant / External Co-Supervisor for a candidate for a postgraduate degree by research.

*Amended on  
5 Sep 2012*

- (2) A candidate shall be required to submit a progress report every six (6) months on the progress of his research to the Faculty/Institute.

*Amended on  
10 Nov 2009  
and  
12 Oct 2010*

- (3) *deleted.*

*Amended on  
5 Sep 2012*

- 8A. (1) A full-time candidate shall register and be on campus for the whole duration of the candidature while a part-time candidate shall register and be on campus at least 15 working days a year for the duration of candidature.

*Amended on  
4 April 2017*

- (2) A candidate is subject to sub-section 8A above unless approval from Senate is obtained to conduct the research in another institution/organization either locally or overseas.

8. (1) The minimum period of a Doctor of Philosophy candidature for a full-time candidate and for a part-time candidate shall be as stated in Schedule XVII(a). A candidate may apply either through his Supervisor, the Department, the Faculty or the Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research to change his candidature and the Senate may, upon recommendation of the Board of the Faculty/Institute, approve the same.

*Amended on  
10 Nov 2009,  
12 Oct 2010  
and  
4 Jan 2011*

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (1) above, the Senate may, in special cases and on the recommendation of the Board, permit a candidate to submit his thesis earlier than the prescribed minimum period.

- (2A) Notwithstanding sub-section 8(1) above, candidate registered from July 2015 onwards, the normal duration of study of a Doctor of Philosophy degree by research candidature for a full-time candidate or a part-time candidate shall be as stated in Schedule XVII(b). A candidate may apply through the Board of the Faculty/Institute to change his candidature and the Senate may, upon recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board, approve the same. *Amended on 9 June 2015*
- (2B) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section 8(2A) above, upon the recommendation of the Supervisor, through the Board of the Faculty/Institute, the Senate may allow a candidate who registered from July 2015 onwards to submit his thesis earlier than the normal duration. *Amended on 9 June 2015*
- (3) A candidate shall be required to complete his degree of Doctor of Philosophy programme and submit his thesis for examination not later than the maximum duration for a part-time candidate and the maximum duration for a full-time candidate as stated in Schedule XVII(a) and Schedule XVII(b). *Amended on 3 March 2015, 9 June 2015, and 7 June 2016*
- (4) Notwithstanding the above, the Senate may, upon the recommendation of the Board, extend the period of candidature beyond the maximum period. Such extension, if granted, shall not exceed two (2) years in any one case and shall be subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Senate. *Amended on 3 March 2015*
9. A full-time candidate for the degree may be permitted to undertake part-time work in the University subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the University.
10. Upon admission into an UTAR Doctor of Philosophy degree programme, a candidate shall not in pursue of any other postgraduate degree programme in the same discipline in UTAR or any other Institutions of Higher Learning. Prior written approval must be obtained from the University if he intends to pursue other academic programme in UTAR or any other Institutions of Higher Learning during the period of his candidature. *Amended on 10 Nov 2009*
11. (1) A candidate shall be required to present and defend his research proposal before a Committee established by the relevant Faculty/Institute. This research proposal defense must be done within nine (9) months from the date of registration as a full-time PhD degree candidate and within fifteen (15) months for a part-time PhD degree candidate. A candidate would be graded as "Satisfactory" or "Not Satisfactory". In order to proceed with the programme, a candidate shall have to attain a "Satisfactory" grade for the proposal defense. A candidate shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) times for proposal defence. *Amended on 10 Nov 2009 and 12 Oct 2010*

within eighteen (18) months for a full-time candidate and within twenty-four (24) months for a part-time candidate.

- (2) The grade for the proposal defense shall be determined by a committee comprising of the following persons appointed by the relevant Faculty/Institute: *Amended on 14 Apr 2009 and 12 Oct 2010*
- (aa) Two experts approved by the Faculty and one of them shall be appointed the Chairman; *Amended on 5 Sep 2012 and 9 June 2015*
- (a) The Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor(s)/ External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) of the candidate; and *Amended on 7 Aug 2013 and 5 Sep 2012*
- (b) ~~deleted~~; *Amended on 12 Oct 2010*
- (c) A member of the Faculty/Institute R&D and Postgraduate Committee.
12. Upon completion of the programme of study and research, a candidate shall be required to present his research results in a work completion seminar before he shall be allowed to submit his thesis. The work completion seminar shall be arranged by the relevant Faculty/Institute. The seminar shall be evaluated by a Panel of Assessors comprising of the following: *Amended on 7 June 2016*
- (a) Two experts approved by the Faculty and one of them shall be appointed the Chairman; *Amended on 9 June 2015*
- (b) The Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor(s) / External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) of the candidate; and *Amended on 7 Aug 2012 and 5 Sep 2012*
- (c) A member of the Faculty/Institute R&D and Postgraduate Committee.
13. Upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar and completion of any further work required, the candidate shall submit a thesis together with an abstract thereof and shall satisfy the examiners that: *Amended on 12 Oct 2010*
- (a) the thesis contains original work or critical exposition worthy of publication; and
- (b) the thesis is of sufficient standard and merit to qualify for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
14. ~~deleted~~ *Amended on 3 Mar 2015*
15. The examiners for the Doctor of Philosophy thesis of a candidate shall be appointed by the Senate and shall comprise:
- (a) two (2) External Examiners; and
- (b) one (1) Internal Examiner

In the event that there is no suitable Internal Examiner, the Senate may appoint another External Examiner for the thesis.

16. The Board of Examiners for the Doctor of Philosophy thesis of a candidate shall comprise:
- (a) the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) or in his absence, the Director of IPSR's representative, who shall be the Chairman;
  - (b) the External Examiners (or their reports in lieu of);
  - (c) the Internal Examiner; and
  - (d) two (2) representatives of the Faculty/Institute.

*Amended on  
12 Oct 2010  
and  
3 May 2024*

The Board of Examiners shall invite the Supervisor / Co-Supervisor(s) / External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) and may invite the Dean of the Faculty/Institute / Head of Department to attend the Board of Examiners meeting as invited members.

*Amended on  
12 Oct 2010  
and  
5 Sep 2012*

- 16A. A "viva voce" shall be conducted for a candidate. If required by the Board of Examiners, the candidate shall present himself for a written and/or practical examination on the subject matter of the thesis or related subjects, and in this event the candidate shall be required to satisfy the Board in the examination or examinations as well as in the "viva voce" and the thesis.

*Amended on  
3 Mar 2015*

- 16B. If the Board of Examiners is not satisfied that a sufficient standard has been reached in the "viva voce", the candidate shall be required to repeat the "viva voce". A candidate is allowed a maximum of two (2) attempts to obtain a "satisfactory" grade for his "viva voce".

*Amended on  
4 Jan 2011  
and  
3 Mar 2015*

17. (1) *deleted*  
(2) *deleted*

18. If the Board of Examiners is not satisfied that a sufficient standard has been reached in the thesis and "viva voce" (after a maximum of two (2) attempts) for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Board shall either:

*Amended on  
3 Mar 2015*

- (a) report that the candidate has failed; or
- (b) recommend that the candidate be required to pursue a further scheme of work over a period to be specified by the Board of Examiners, at the end of which the candidate may resubmit his/her thesis for re-examination.
- (c) *deleted*.

*Amended on  
5 Jan 2017*

- 18A. If a candidate is required by the Board of Examiners to resubmit his thesis for re-examination, he is automatically required to repeat the "viva voce". A candidate is allowed only one (1) resubmission of thesis for re-examination.

*Amended on  
5 Jan 2017*

*Amended on  
3 Mar 2015*

19. The candidature of a candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy degree shall be terminated if the candidate: *Amended on 10 Nov 2009*

- (a) does not comply with the requirement under the provisions of Section 10 above;
- (b) does not obtain a “Satisfactory” grade for his proposal defence as required under the provisions of Section 11 above;
- (c) has not passed the compulsory module(s) as required by the programme after three (3) attempts;
- (d) has been given three (3) consecutive warnings for failing to obtain a “Satisfactory” grade for the progress in his research work or non-submission of the research progress reports on time; *Amended on 1 Aug 2023*
- (e) does not complete and formally submit his thesis within the maximum duration of study prescribed in Section 8(3) above; or *Amended on 6 Mar 2018*
- (f) conducts himself in a manner which contravenes any provisions of the Laws of the University.

19A. A candidate shall be awarded a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy if he has: *Amended on 7 Aug 2012*

- (a) passed all the compulsory modules and the thesis;
- (b) fulfilled all the requirements of the Laws of the University and paid all the outstanding fees to the University.

**19B. Aegrotat and Posthumous Degree**

*Amended on 5 April 2021*

- (1) For the purpose of this clause:

An Aegrotat Degree is an award, without classification, made to a candidate who is prevented from completing his programme of study due to medical reason, permanent loss of ability or other reasons accepted by the Senate based on the evidence that the candidate would have fulfilled all the degree requirements should he had been able to continue his study. The award title conferred shall contain “Aegrotat”.

A Posthumous Degree is an award, without classification, made to a deceased candidate who did not complete his programme of study but had completed sufficient work to be awarded a degree. The award title conferred shall contain “Posthumous”.

- (2) For the award of Aegrotat Degree, a candidate must complete and submit his dissertation/thesis upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar.

- (3) Application for Aegrotat Degree must be made by the candidate (where possible) or candidate's guardian/ next of kin in writing to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research. The written application must include:
  - (i) a signed statement from the candidate (where possible) or candidate's guardian/ next of kin that he or the guardian/ next of kin is willing to accept the aegrotat award and thus, agreeing to waive the candidate's right to any further assessment/re-assessment should the application is approved; and
  - (ii) a medical report issued by a certified doctor in the case of illness or other appropriate documents for other cases that can establish the facts of the candidate's case.
- (4) For the Award for Posthumous Degree, a candidate must complete and submit his dissertation/ thesis upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar.
- (5) Application for Posthumous Degree must be made by the deceased candidate's guardian/ next of kin, in writing to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research. The written application must be accompanied by the death certificate of the deceased student.
- (6) The Senate may, upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and upon such conditions as it shall think fit, award an Aegrotat Degree or Posthumous Degree to the candidate concerned.

### **Appeal**

20. (1) A candidate, whose candidature has been terminated under Section 19 above, may appeal to the President of the University for reinstatement of his candidature. The decision of the President shall be final;
- (2) A candidate who failed under Section 18(a) may appeal to the President of the University for re-examination of his thesis. The decision of the President shall be final.
21. The appeal shall be in writing and submitted to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research together with payment of a prescribed appeal fee within two (2) weeks from the date of receipt of the termination notice or notification of result. Appeals submitted after the lapse of the said period shall not be entertained.

*Amended on  
10 Nov 2009*

*Amended on  
10 Nov 2009*

**Schedule XVII(a)- Duration of Study for Full-time & Part-time Doctor of Philosophy Programmes in UTAR as Approved by MOHE /MQA**

*Amended on  
4 Apr 2017*

Programme / MQA Registration No.	Faculty	Date of MOHE /Approval	Full-time		Part-time	
			Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
PhD(Engineering) (A11099)	FEGT	21.07.2010	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
		25.08.2011	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Computer Science) (A11097)	FICT	01.04.2010	2 years	6 years	5 years	8 years
PhD(Science) (A11018)	FSc	26.03.2010	2 years	5 years	4 years	6 years
PhD(Social Science) (A10033)	FAS	22.06.2009	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (A10011)	FBF	18.05.2009	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (A10032)	FAM	18.05.2009	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Chinese Studies) (A9050)	ICS	14.11.2008	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD in Science / PhD(Science) (A6916)	FES	29.03.2006	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
		21.06.2010	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD in Engineering / PhD(Engineering) (A6917)	FES	29.03.2006	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (Medical Sciences)/ PhD (Medical Science)/ MQA/FA1389	FMHS	16.02.2012	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (Medical Sciences) MQA/PA5697	FMHS	16.02.2012	2 years	6 years	4 years	8 years

*Amended on  
3 Mar 2015*

*Amended on  
3 Mar 2015*

*Amended on  
4 Apr 2017*



**Schedule XVII(b)- Duration of Study for Full-time & Part-time Doctor of Philosophy Programmes in UTAR as Approved by MOHE/MQA (For candidate registered from July 2015 onwards)**

MQA Registration No.	Faculty	Date of MOHE Approval	Full-time		Part-time	
			Normal Duration	Maximum Duration	Normal Duration	Maximum Duration
PhD(Engineering) (A11099)	FEGT	25.08.2011	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Computer Science) (A11097)	FICT	01.04.2010	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Science) (A11018)	FSc	26.03.2010	3 years	5 years	4 years	6 years
PhD(Social Science) (A10033)	FAS	22.06.2009	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (A10011)	FBF	18.05.2009	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (A10032)	FAM	18.05.2009	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Chinese Studies) (A9050)	ICS	14.11.2008	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Science) (A6916)	LKC FES	29.03.2006	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD(Engineering) (A6917)	LKC FES	29.03.2006	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (Medical Sciences)/ PhD (Medical Science) MQA/FA1389	FMHS	16.02.2012	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (Chinese Medicine) MQA/PA5697	FMHS	23.11.2016	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
PhD (Creative Arts) (MQA/PSA 11800)	FCI	20.02.2019	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
Doctor of Philosophy (Economics) (MQA/PSA 15504)	FBF	25.01.2022	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
Doctor of Philosophy (Education) (MQA/PSA15876)	FCI	01.08.2022	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
Doctor of Philosophy (Mathematics) (MQA/PSA15742)	FSc	01.08.2022	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years
Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Science (MQA/PSA16057)	Fsc	05.10.2022	3 years	6 years	4 years	8 years

Amended on  
9 Jun 2015  
and  
4 Apr 2017

Amended on  
4 Apr 2017

Amended on  
8 May 2020

Amended on  
1 Aug 2023

