

B.G.

# NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

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PROSPECTUS

## Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**1, Woodburn Park  
Kolkata-700 020**

Phone : 2283 5157, Fax : (033) 2283 5082

e-mail : registrar@wbnsou.com

nsou@wbnsou.com

website : www.wbnsou.com

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## 1. The Concept of Open University

An open learning system is one in which the onus of learning is primarily on the students. Despite this, they are formally enrolled in a system which takes in other learners too. Thus, we draw a line of distinction between the above-mentioned category of students and (a) those borrowing books from Libraries and (b) those formally attached to a conventional university where classroom teaching is the principal mode of instruction.

The Open University represents an alternative approach to higher learning. It stands apart from a highly formal, institutionalized and centrally administered system of education. Its philosophy is built around the principles of universality, flexibility and innovativeness. Its ideas and institutions, its methods and procedures are all shaped accordingly. Conceptually, it can be viewed as a system drawing upon the best elements in formal and non-formal education.

The 'openness' consists of a variety of features. First, it offers easy access to the learners. The entry requirement is not too exacting. A genuine interest in picking up knowledge is all that it expects. Consequently, it would try to embrace as many learners as possible.

Second, its territorial reach is visibly wide. It aims at bringing education to the doorstep of the learner, wherever he or she may be. Various methods of communication and contact are used for this purpose. The classroom of the University, thus, is as wide as the entire land it seeks to serve.

Third, the Open University is learner-oriented. It devises its courses and methods of teaching to suit the needs of the learners. Their options and inclinations are given due priorities. A variety of courses short-term or long-term, liberal or professional—can be pursued under the University.

Fourth, it believes in fair distribution of quality education, teaching aid, consultancy and study materials. Whatever resources the University has are made evenly available to all learners wherever or whoever he or she might be. It eliminates variations and discrimination.

Fifth, its administration is decentralized. In promoting Distance Education, the University creates a wide network of Study Centres. Students need only to come to the nearest available centre for collecting all information, completing all formalities, discussing their academic issues and appearing for evaluation of their work at intervals chosen by them.

Sixth, student assessment under Open University is based on continuous assessment and credit system. It does not require students to get bogged down in one final examination. One can study at one's own pace.

In short, the Open University seeks to open up the treasure house of knowledge to the maximum number of users. Thereby it would enhance their skills for productivity and further learning. Socially, too, the University promises steady empowerment of those who suffered backwardness for want of these skills. Considering the current trends all over the world, the Open University is going not only to complement the conventional system of higher education but may soon occupy the centre stage also in developing countries where the resources do not measure up to the vastness of the clientele.

## 2. Vision and Mission of Netaji Subhas Open University

### **Vision :**

Netaji Subhas Open University, the state open university of West Bengal, will contribute to the building up of quality human resource base of the State and collaborate with other open universities of the national and state levels towards the improvement of the quality of distance education and to promote and develop appropriate technology to create the distance education scenario of an international standard in our country keeping in view of the demands of the knowledge seekers for education appropriate to the twenty first century.

### **Mission :**

To spread higher education in different parts of the state and to cooperate with universities to provide access to higher education and to different skill enhancing educational programmes Netaji Subhas Open University shall :

- provide quality education in a flexible mode to serve the aim of establishing an equitable knowledge society within the state, provide higher education through distance learning through the language of the state, i.e. Bengali
- make education affordable to the disadvantaged
- provide facility for lifelong education to intending learners
- strive for upgradation of technology without compromising the basic values of the society.
- contribute to the development of the state and the nation and to motivate learners to strive for secular, scientific and democratic education.

### 3. Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

#### i) Areas of research :

- a) Arts : all subjects including Library Science, Mass Communication & Journalism
- b) Science : Mathematics, Geography, Environmental Science, Zoology
- c) Commerce
- d) Management
- e) Computer Science / Application
- f) Distance Education
- g) Interdisciplinary Subjects

#### ii) Eligibility :

##### A. Essential :

- a) Post Graduate degree or equivalent in the related subject.
- b) 2-years Post Graduate Diploma of a recognized University/ institution will be deemed to be equivalent to Post Graduate degree for pursuing Ph. D. Programme.
- c) BE/B. Tech and MBBS degree holders will be eligible for registration on satisfactory completion of a dissertation after 6 months of work.
- d) CA from ICAI and CS from ICSI (as these have been recognised as equivalent to Post-graduate Degree for pursuing Ph. D. in Commerce/ Law/Management).
- e) Desirable : (i) Computer literacy (ii) Knowledge of research methodology

#### iii) Application for admission :

Application for admission to Ph. D. Programme may be submitted in the prescribed form, to be obtained on payment of Rs. 100/-, at any time of the year along with 8 copies of synopsis of the proposed work in about 1000 words.

#### Guidelines for Preparing a synopsis

- (i) Name of the Candidate
- (ii) Title of Research, (iii) Contents of Synopsis (to be signed by the Candidate & his own supervisor if any).

Contents of synopsis will be as follows : (i) Introduction, (ii) Objective of the Study, (iii) Prior Literature Survey, (iv) Methodology of Work, (v) Contribution to Knowledge, (vi) Social Relevance of the Study, (vii) Tentative Chapters, (viii) Bibliography and References.) The Guidelines for Ph.D. in Bengali may be collected from the Dept. of Bengali.

#### iv) Preparation of Research Proposal :

Candidates may, if necessary, be provided with a supervisor from amongst those in the panel of Research Guides of the University and this will be decided at the time of pre-registration seminar.

The panel of Research Guides is to be prepared from amongst the faculty members of the University and also from those of other Universities and research institutes. Joint supervision of research will be permissible. There should not be more than five scholars of this University under one supervisor.

A candidate may also suggest someone as his supervisor whose name is not in the existing panel. The competent authority will decide on the suitability of the proposed supervisor and may include his/her name in the existing panel. In that case, a consent letter of the supervisor alongwith his/her countersigned CV shall have to be enclosed with the application.

#### **Guide/ Supervisor**

The following categories of Academic persons may act as Research Guide/Supervisor subject to the approval of the Advisory Body.

- (A) Teachers of any University, Deemed University, Research Organisation equivalent to University.
- i) Having Ph.D. Degree or at least ten years project/Research experience
  - ii) Professor
  - iii) Reader
  - iv) Lecturer (University) with Ph.D.
  - v) Retired teachers with Ph.D. having experience of guiding research/project
- (B) Teachers of College
- i) Professor
  - ii) Reader
  - iii) Senior Lecturer having Ph.D.

#### **v) Screening of application :**

The applications will be examined by the Research Committee, approved by the Vice Chancellor, after prior screening by the concerned School. The Research Committee will examine the applications of the candidates and the CV of the supervisor as proposed by the candidate. The Committee may also suggest the name of the supervisor /cosupervisor, if needed.

#### **vi) Process of screening :**

The Research Committee may follow the following procedure for deciding on the application which will be forwarded to RAC/Vice-Chancellor for final approval :

- a) The candidate will be called for personal interview/ seminar before registration.
- b) Recommend the candidates for registration on the basis of Pre Registration Seminar.
- c) Suggest the candidate to make necessary modifications or changes and resubmit the proposal within 30 (thirty) days from the date of seminar.

#### **vii) Registration :**

The selected candidates will be registered for the Ph.D. programme on payment of Registration Fee of Rs. 10,000/- (exclusive of the examination fee). A candidate who has been offered registration shall deposit the prescribed fee within a period of three months from the date of offer, failing which the same may be treated as cancelled. The registration may also be cancelled for any one of the following reasons :

- a) unsatisfactory progress.
- b) failure to submit the thesis within the stipulated time.
- c) non-compliance with the provisions of the Act, Statutes and Regulations of the University.

A candidate whose registration has been cancelled for any of the aforesaid reasons may, however, apply for re-registration.

The minimum and maximum time for completion of the programme shall be two years and five years respectively from the date of registration of the programme. The maximum period may be extended upto two years on year-to-year basis with the approval of Research Advisory Committee.

The medium of dissertation shall be English except in case of literature and language course like Hindi, Bengali etc.

#### **viii) Monitoring of the progress of Research :**

Commencing from the date of registration, Annual Reports are to be submitted by the Research students through the Supervisor who will forward it to the concerned School along with his remarks and assessment of the work done.

#### **ix) Submission of thesis :**

1. The candidate has to present her/his research work thesis in a draft synopsis (5000 words) form in an open presubmission seminar to be organised by the School before six months of final submission of the thesis. The audience of the Research Seminar will consist of (i) approved experts, (ii) the supervisor and (iii) the faculty members of the discipline (s) concerned as well as others interested in the theme. The presentation of the research work will be followed by an open interaction. The Director of the School and the experts will prepare the report of the seminar and communicate it to the candidate and the Research Supervisor(s) concerned with appropriate advice. Based on this report, the candidate and Research Supervisor(s) will modify, if necessary, and finalise the research work.
2. Notwithstanding the procedures laid down above, the Vice Chancellor shall have the authority to approve the candidature of any candidate for registration to the Ph.D. programme and assign Research Supervisor(s) from the approved panel in case she/he is satisfied that the request for such an approval of the candidate is in the best interest of the candidate and the University as well. The list of such candidates approved by the Vice Chancellor will be placed before the Research Advisory Committee for ratification.

Six copies of the hardbound thesis shall have to be submitted. An examination fee, of Rs. 5,000/-, shall have to be deposited at the time of submission of thesis. Cost of sending thesis abroad shall have to be paid on actual basis after despatch of the thesis.

#### **x) Evaluation of thesis :**

The evaluation will be done by the following examiners independently :

- a) one national expert
- b) one foreign expert (ordinarily)
- c) research supervisor

A panel of five examiners/experts (one among the examiners will be the supervisor) will be formed by the Director in consultation with senior faculty members of the concerned School and the supervisor.

Three experts from the panel will be selected by the Research Advisory Committee/Vice-Chancellor. If the experts unanimously recommend the thesis for award of Ph. D. degree, an open seminar-cum-viva


viva voce examination in presence of the approved examiners will be arranged. In case there is no unanimity among the referees, the thesis will be rejected or referred back for re-submission along with modifications as suggested by the referees.

Examiners (the supervisor and one external examiner) of viva voce examination will be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor on recommendation of the Director of the School concerned.

**xi) Award of Ph.D. Degree.**


Based on the reports of the examiners of the thesis itself and of viva-voce examination, the candidate will be awarded Ph.D. degree after approval of the Academic Council.

## Identity Card

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To be carried by the candidate whenever he/she visits any Centre/H.Q. of the University.</li><li>2. In case of loss of the card an FIR is to be lodged and an application is to be submitted with a copy of the FIR along with a DD of Rs. 50/- (Fifty) in favour of <b>Netaji Subhas Open University</b>, payable in Kolkata.</li><li>3. If this card is found by anybody it should be sent to the address on the right.</li></ol>	 <p>1, Woodburn Park Kolkata-700 020</p>
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**Identity Card**  
*(To be filled up by the candidate)*

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<p>Enrolment No. : (To be supplied by the University)</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Address :.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Telephone No (if any) .....</p> <p>Course : Ph.D.      Subject.....</p> <p>Signature of the Candidate : .....</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"><p><i>Attested P.P. Size Photograph (To be affixed by applicant)</i></p></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of the Registrar with seal</p>
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