



DIHE GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM POLICY

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DIHE Graduate Research Programme

1. 'Formal' Research and Research Supervision

Apart from running its various undergraduate degree programmes, Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education (DIHE) strives to be one of the active universities in research. The DIHE offers research supervision leading to the awards of degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy across all its current major areas of research activity (such as Computer Science, Computational Finance, Renewable Energy and Earth Sciences). DIHE provides a reasonably developed infrastructure for the provision and quality assurance (QA) of its research degree programmes.

The experience of attempts at introducing research in universities of Pakistan shows that research candidates often waste their time in the name of course work especially, in the sense that after completing the course work, no faculty member is ready to accept the candidate under his / her supervision for one reason or the other, and consequently the candidate happens to abandon the research study or, at the worst, get a degree without any kind of actual research. To circumvent this problem, a candidate shall not be admitted in a Research Programmes in the Science School unless a suitable Supervisor is available for him / her at the time of admission in any of the above research programme.

Academic responsibility for the progress and support of all research students in DIHE, including appointment of an appropriate supervisor and arrangement of lectures and classes rests with the University faculty or department. The Research Supervisor will meet a student to initially construct a programme and then provide guidance and advice throughout his / her Graduate Studies. In fact, however, DIHE's approach to graduate study reflects an emphasis on the individual student's ability to work independently, to take the initiative in exploring a line of research, or in acquiring a new skill or in identifying and remedying a perceived area of weakness.

The maximum number of Ph.D. students under the supervision of a faculty member may normally be five, which could be increased to something like eight, under special circumstances (taking into account responsibilities like the teaching and administrative assignments). In research institutions, where the faculty members are involved in full-time research with low teaching work load, the number of Ph.D. students may be larger.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Entry to Graduate Research Programme

- (i) The holders of a good undergraduate degree (16 years of education) from a recognised university shall be eligible for admission in the M.Phil. / MS programme.
- (ii) The holders of a 2-year graduate degree of M.Phil. / MS from a recognised university shall be eligible for admission in the Ph.D. programme.
- (iii) On the recommendation of a research supervisor, the holders of a 16-year education from a recognised university can be deemed eligible for admission in M.Phil. / MS / Ph.D. programme.

3. Admission Procedure

- (i) The candidate has to pass a GRE-type admission test conducted by DIHE (older NTS general) for the admission. However, before the final award of the Ph.D. degree — specifically, before the Ph.D. Thesis Evaluation and the Defense [see below] — a candidate must pass the international GRE (subjective) or the Comprehensive Examination, in lieu thereof.
- (ii) To complete formally the admission procedure, a candidate has to submit a research proposal / synopsis which will be submitted for approval in the meeting of the Board of Advanced Study and Research (BASR).
- (iii) After the approval from the BASR, his / her formal admission will be confirmed.

4. Structure of Programmes

(i) M. Phil. / MS Degree

The M.Phil. programme will normally be spread over a minimum period of 4 Semesters (2 years). Generally, the first two Semesters will comprise course work. Students are required to complete 8 courses of 24 credit hours (see the section entitled ‘course work’ given below). The research work may be had simultaneously or taken up after the first two Semesters. Apart from the course work, the MS candidate shall have to satisfactorily complete a Research Project of 6 credit hours, while the M. Phil. Candidate shall have to satisfactorily complete a thesis of 9 credit hours.

(ii) Ph.D. Degree

[A] The Ph.D. programme will normally comprise a 54-credit hour programme spread over a minimum period of 6 Semesters (3 years). Generally, the first and second Semesters will comprise a course work consisting of 3 papers of 3 credit hours each (see

the section entitled 'Course Work' given below). The research work may be had simultaneously or taken up in the remaining Semesters. Apart from the course work, Ph.D. candidate shall have to satisfactorily complete a Research Work of 36 credit hours.

[B] DIHE offers an M.Phil. / Ph.D. Programme spread over a minimum period of 8 Semesters (4 years). If the research during the first two years of this programme is satisfactory, the candidate may be awarded an M. Phil. Degree and allowed to continue as a Ph.D. candidate [in the sense of paragraph (i) immediately above], without going afresh for formalities of admission required for admission in the Ph.D. programme.

5. Course Work

(i) After having done the 2-year graduate degree of M.Phil. / MS, a candidate shall have to undertake a study with the following structure of credit hours:

Course Work:	18 credit hours (6 hours)
Research Work:	36 credit hours
Total:	54 credit hours

(ii) After having done the 4-year undergraduate degree of BS, a candidate shall have to undertake a study with the following structure of credit hours:

Course work for M.Phil. / MS:	24 credit hours (8 courses) [with First Division or CGPA of 3 on the scale 1-4, if the candidate wishes to go for admission in the Ph.D. programme]
Course work for Ph.D.:	12 credit hours (4 courses)
Research Work:	36 credit hours
Total:	72 credit hours

It may be noted that Ph.D. course work credits may be implemented via selection of a particular mode of course execution (as recommended by the respective Supervisor) from the various available approaches, including guided, taught, seminar, and independent research studies. Students should be prepared that the level of detailed teaching may be considerably less than they have experienced in undergraduate or graduate courses taught elsewhere.

(iii) As is common knowledge, unlike the undergraduate programmes, a Ph.D. is a research degree, not essentially a programme of teaching more and more of courses. Thus, after judiciously examining a candidate for his / her standing in the area (knowledge-base) — e.g. if a candidate publishes a paper which is rated as an interesting and new contribution by international referees — he / she could be exempted from course work.

6. Thesis Evaluation and Defense

(i) A person who is a candidate for the award of a Doctorate should have developed a good piece of new and interesting research. The Thesis Evaluation and Defense of Thesis signify this.

(ii) A student must submit a completed Ph.D. thesis proposal form indicating the aims, the general framework and issues, the methodology and the corpus of the Doctoral Thesis. The Doctoral Thesis is a major research project which should make an original contribution to the discipline. It frequently becomes a young scholar's first published book and establishes the reputation of an individual in the academic community. The selection of a topic and the completion of the project should therefore be undertaken with the utmost seriousness.

(iii) After the completion of a Thesis, it must be evaluated by at least two foreign experts of the field.

(iv) Upon the advice of the Supervisor, the University's administrative officers will recommend that the thesis proceed to the Defense / Final Research Seminar. The candidate has to defend his / her thesis in this Viva Voce Exam in front of the local / foreign experts and academic audience. At this point, candidates will be asked to provide, at their own expense, at least 5 copies of their Thesis, for distribution to the members of the examining team.

(v) If and when the candidate passes the Final Oral Examination, the BASR / School of Graduate Studies will recommend to the University that the Ph.D. degree be awarded to him / her.

7. Publication of Research Papers

The candidate must get published at least one Research Paper, which is rated as an interesting and a new contribution, in an international journal of repute. This is in addition to the preceding provisions required for the final award of a Ph.D. degree.

8. Referencing & Citation Guidelines

There are many formats for research citation and referencing. For ease of research work, all research students at DIHE must follow either MLA or APA as standardized reference format.