VELS

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS)
(Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
PALLAVARAM, THALAMBUR, PERIYAPALAYAM, THIRUVANMIYUR, ADYAR - CHENNAI

Admission Policy for the Ph.D Programmes



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PALLAVARAM, THALAMBUR, PERIYAPALAYAM, THIRUVANMIYUR - CHENNAI

ADMISSION POLICY FOR THE PH.D. PROGRAMMES

Policy No.: VISTAS/Research/PhD-Admission/Policy/2026
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1. PREAMBLE

This policy governs the admission of Research Scholars to the Ph.D. programmes of the University. Admissions shall be carried made in a transparent, merit-based manner in strict compliance with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations 2022, and applicable National/State reservation policies.

2. FREQUENCY OF ADMISSION

Admissions to the Ph.D. programmes shall be done **twice a year**, during the January and July sessions, subject to availability of vacancies under approved research supervisors.

2.1 Notification and Application

a. A detailed admission notification is issued well in advance through the University website according to the number of seats available for Ph.D. program in different disciplines, date of entrance examination etc., and the candidates shall be admitted, depending on the vacancies, once every 6 months (i.e. January and July sessions).
b. Candidates shall submit the prescribed application form along with supporting documents to the Registrar.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a. Candidates should have completed the qualifying academic pattern of 10+2+UG (minimum 3 years) or 11+1+UG (minimum 3 years) followed by a 2 years Postgraduate degree (Minimum one year for 4 years UG).
b. Candidates must possess a Master's degree or an equivalent professional degree recognized by the relevant statutory authority with minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade.
c. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

d. Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.
e. Candidates with professional qualifications such as CA/ICWA/ACSI, MBBS with required experience, Indian Medicine degrees, and National Defence Academy (NDA) candidates with relevant postgraduate qualifications are also eligible as per University regulations.

4. CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION

Candidates can register for admission to the Ph.D. program under one of the following categories:-

a. Full time
b. Part-Time

5. DURATION

a. Minimum Duration for Full-Time -3 years; Part-Time-4 years
b. Maximum duration for Full-Time-5 years; Part-Time-6 years.
c. Extension beyond the above maximum limits is subjected to the approval of the competent authority of VISTAS.
d. The Women Candidates and persons with disability (more than 40% disability) are allowed for a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. in the maximum duration. In addition, the women candidates are eligible for Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of Ph.D. up to 240 days.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

a. Admission shall be through a two-stage process:
b. Entrance Test (100 marks) consisting of 50% Research Methodology and 50% Subject-specific content.
c. Interview/Viva-Voce before the Department Research Committee.
d. Weightage for selection shall be 70% Entrance Test and 30% Interview.
e. The interview shall assess:
    i. Research aptitude and competence of the candidate

ii. Feasibility of the proposed research at the University

iii. Potential contribution to new or additional knowledge

f. Allocation of supervisors shall be based on the availability of vacancies, specialization, and research interest.

7. EXEMPTION FROM ENTRANCE TEST

a. The JRF- qualified students under Category-1 are admitted into the Ph.D programme based on an interview as per the University Grant Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2022.

b. For students who qualify in Categories 2 and 3, 70% weightage will be given for test scores and 30% weightage for the interview for admission to Ph.D programmes. The Ph.D. admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks obtained in the interview/viva voce.

c. The marks obtained in the NET by the candidates in Categories 2 and 3 will be valid for a period of one year for admission to Ph.D.

8. RESERVATION POLICY

The admission process shall strictly follow National/State/central reservation policies as applicable.

9. FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

9.1 Eligible full-time scholars may be awarded the Vels Research Fellowship (VRF) based on merit.

9.2 Vels Research Fellowship details:

a. Eligible Full-Time Research Scholars admitted to the Ph.D. Programme may be considered for the VISTAS Research Fellowship (VRF), subject to the eligibility conditions, selection process, availability of fellowship positions / funds and approval of the competent authority.

b. The fellowship shall be provided at the following rates:

Category of School	Monthly Fellowship
School of Engineering	₹30,000/-
School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	₹30,000/-
School of Physiotherapy	₹30,000/-
School of Management Studies	₹30,000/-
School of Law	₹30,000/-
School of Basic Sciences	₹25,000/-
School of Life Sciences	₹25,000/-
School of Commerce & Economics	₹25,000/-
School of Computing Sciences & Hotel and Catering Management	₹25,000/-

c. The above fellowship rates may be revised by the competent authority from time to time.

9.3 Award of any external fellowship shall result in discontinuation of Vels Research Fellowship (VRF).

9.4 Further the fellowships for the full time research scholars will be revised based on the suggestions from the Executive Council of VISTAS.

10. COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

10.1 Attendance, progress, and compliance with Ph.D. regulations shall be monitored by the Research Supervisor and concerned authorities.

10.2 Scholars must complete the Ph.D. programme within the stipulated minimum period, failing which fellowship amounts may be recovered as per regulations.

11.AMENDMENT

The University reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time in accordance with UGC regulations and statutory requirements.

Prepared by:
Dean, Academic Research VISTAS
Recommended by:
Board of Research Studies (BORS)
Approved by:
Executive Council, VISTAS

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