

**TAMIL NADU NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (TNNLU)
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**

**REGULATIONS FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) Programme in LAW
2021**

Contents

1. SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION AND COMMENCEMENT	3
2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE PH.D. PROGRAMME	3
3. CATEGORIES OF ENROLMENT & DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME:	4
4. AVAILABILITY OF SEATS, ADMISSION NOTIFICATION, ADMISSION PROCEDURE, REGISTRATION, COURSE FEES, COURSE WORK, ATTENDANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT.	5
4.1 AVAILABILITY OF SEATS & ADMISSION NOTIFICATION:	5
4.2 ADMISSION PROCEDURE:	6
4.3 REGISTRATION:	8
4.4 PAYMENT OF FEES	9
4.5 COURSE WORK: CREDIT REQUIREMENTS, DURATION, SYLLABUS, MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COMPLETION, ETC.	10
4.6 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE STUDENT	11
4.7 ATTENDANCE	11
5. RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND DOCTORAL COMMITTEE	12
5.1 RESEARCH COMMITTEE	12
5.2 DOCTORAL COMMITTEE AND ITS FUNCTIONS:	14
6. RESEARCH SUPERVISOR: ELIGIBILITY & RECOGNITION, ALLOCATION OF SUPERVISORS, JOINT SUPERVISORS, EXTERNAL CO-SUPERVISORS AND CHANGE OF SUPERVISORS.....	15
6.1 RESEARCH SUPERVISOR: ELIGIBILITY & RECOGNITION	15
6.2 ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR AND NUMBER OF PH.D. STUDENTS PERMISSIBLE PER SUPERVISOR, ETC.....	15
6.3 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT SUPERVISORS:-	16
6.4 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL CO-SUPERVISOR:-	16
6.5 CHANGE OF RESEARCH SUPERVISOR.....	16
7. CHANGE OF AREA OF RESEARCH	17
8. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE: ...	18
9. FORMAT AND LANGUAGE OF THESIS.....	21
10. PUBLICATION OF THE THESIS.....	22
11. MISCELLANEOUS:	22
ANNEXURE A: FEES STRUCTURE	24
APPENDIX A: COVERING LETTER FOR SUBMITTING RESEARCH PROPOSAL.....	26

APPENDIX B: COVERING LETTER FOR SUBMISSION OF THE RESEARCH SYNOPSIS FOR A PRE-SUBMISSION COLLOQUIUM	27
APPENDIX C: DECLARATION	29
APPENDIX D: CERTIFICATE BY THE SUPERVISOR.....	30
APPENDIX E: PROGRESS REPORT (COVERING LETTER)	31
APPENDIX F: TERM PROGRESS REPORT OF THE RESEARCH WORK DONE	32
APPENDIX G: REPORT ON REMITTANCE OF THE TERM FEES (COVERING LETTER)	33
APPENDIX H: PERMISSION/DEPUTATION TO ATTEND THE PH.D. COURSE WORK FROM THE EMPLOYER	34

TAMIL NADU NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (TNNLU)
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

REGULATIONS FOR AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)
PROGRAMME IN LAW 2021

1. Short Title, Application and Commencement

- 1.1 The Tamil Nadu National Law University's Regulations for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme in Law 2021 shall be known as the **TNNLU Ph.D. Regulations 2021** (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations).
- 1.2 The Regulations shall govern all matters relating to the administration of the Ph.D. programme in the University with an interdisciplinary approach and it shall apply to all research students as well as the research supervisors of TNNLU.
- 1.3 The Regulations shall come into force from such date as may be specified by the University.

2. Eligibility for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme

- 2.1 The Candidates seeking admission for the Ph.D. programme shall meet any of the following requirements as to the eligibility:

- (a) The Candidate should have a Master's degree in Law or an equivalent professional degree approved by the Bar Council of India or the UGC, from time to time, with at least 55% of marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever any other grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% of marks, that is, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) or 'Differently Abled' and such other candidates as may be notified by the UGC and Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Master's degree before 19th September 1991.

Or

- (b) The candidate should have an M.Phil. degree (with course work) and not less than 55% of marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade (as mentioned above, wherever grading system is followed). A relaxation of 5% of marks or an equivalent relaxation of the grade may be allowed as mentioned in Regulation 2.1. (a). Further, subject to the Regulations, a Candidate may also be admitted to the Ph.D. programme if his/her M.Phil. dissertation is evaluated, but the viva-voce examination is pending, provided that such M.Phil programme is

pursued from TNNLU or in the University or institution that has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TNNLU.

Explanation: the eligibility marks of 55% (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned in Regulation 2.1. (a) and (b) are considered solely for qualifying marks without including the grace mark procedures.

Or

- (c) The candidate should have a law degree (LL.B.) as well as passed the Company Secretary Examination conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and shall have the Associate Membership of the Institute. Importantly, the research proposed by such a candidate should be inter-disciplinary in its design and approach.

Or

- (d) The candidate should have a law degree (LL.B.) and additionally passed the final examination of Chartered Accountants conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Besides, the research proposed by such a candidate shall be inter-disciplinary in its design and approach.

Or

- (e) The candidate should be a faculty member (either a regular or part-time teacher) of the TNNLU and shall fulfil the relevant conditions as to the eligibility for admission into Ph.D. Programme.

3. Categories of Enrolment & Duration of the Programme:

- 3.1 The University shall offer its Ph.D. programme in both full-time and part-time modes. However, ordinarily, the enrolment for the Ph.D. programme in the University shall be in full-time mode and where the full-time mode of study is not possible for the candidates then such candidates can register their Ph.D. programme on a part-time mode subject to the terms of the Regulations.
- 3.2 For conversion from either part-time to full-time or from full-time to part-time shall only be permitted by the Post Graduate Council or Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies (CPGLS) in consultation with the Research Committee. For this purpose, the candidate desiring to have availed of such a conversion in his/her enrolment mode shall make an application to the Post Graduate Council and pay the required fees. All decisions regarding JRF and SRF will be considered and approved by the Council and Committee referred above.
- 3.3 The minimum duration for the Ph.D. programme on a full-time mode shall be 3 years (including course work) and the maximum duration is 6 years which includes 1 year of the extension. Thus, excluding the

- extension, the maximum duration is 5 years from the date of the candidate's registration. Within the said maximum period, the candidate shall complete the research work undertaken by him/her and submit it for evaluation. In the case of a part-time candidate, the minimum period is 4 years (including course work), and this includes the time spent for research at any other place with the permission of the supervisor. The maximum duration prescribed for the full-time research students shall apply to the part-time research students too.
- 3.4 On completion of the maximum duration, an extension of up to one year (two extensions, each for six months) may be granted by the Post Graduate Council on the recommendation of the research supervisor if it is convinced that the candidate seeking such extension will be able to complete the writing of his/her thesis within the period of extension.
 - 3.5 The Post Graduate Council shall thereon inform the candidate concerned, the Research Committee and the Vice-Chancellor if such an extension is granted or rejected.
 - 3.6 The extension, mentioned above, maybe awarded subject to the candidate paying the notified fees which may be revised by the University from time to time.
 - 3.7 Notwithstanding anything said in Regulation 3.3, women candidates and Persons with more than 40% disabilities may be allowed a relaxation of two years in the aforementioned maximum duration.

4. Availability of Seats, Admission Notification, Admission Procedure, Registration, Course Fees, Course Work, Attendance and Progress Report.

4.1 Availability of Seats & Admission Notification:

- 4.1.1 On an annual basis, TNNLU shall decide through the Post-Graduate Council and Research Committee a predetermined or manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted. This shall be done considering the number of available Research Supervisors, the scholar-teacher ratio and other academic/physical including library facilities of the University.
- 4.1.2 The Ph.D. notification may be prepared based on the guidelines/norms made by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned, and by considering the reservation policy of the Government from time to time.
- 4.1.3 The University, then, shall issue an admission notification on its website and an advertisement in at least 2 national newspapers, of which at least 1 shall be in the regional language. The notification shall specify the number of vacancies, criteria for admission, details of

the entrance test, the procedure for admission and where necessary, specify the examination centre(s).

4.2 Admission Procedure:

- 4.2.1 Application for admission shall be submitted along with the research proposal/synopsis of the topic of research to the Registrar of TNNLU in the prescribed form and on payment of the prescribed fees.
- 4.2.2 Then there shall be a screening for the Ph.D. admission. The screening for Ph.D. admission shall consist of two components, viz., an Entrance Test and an Interview. Besides, if the candidate seeks to avail of the TNNLU Research Fellowship, if any, for pursuing research then he/she shall appear for the Admission Test to determine the *interse* merit based on which such Research Fellowship shall be awarded.
- 4.2.3 The syllabus for the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of the research methodology and the other 50% shall be subject-specific.
 - a. The question paper of the Entrance Test shall have two parts. Questions in Part-A shall cover the research methodology, constitutional law, jurisprudence, environmental law, international law and human rights law. Whereas, Part-B shall test students on the subject-specific knowledge. The duration of the Test shall be one and half hours with an additional half an hour for the visually impaired or differently-abled students.
 - b. Part-A shall contain Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). In this Part, all questions shall be compulsory and carry 2 marks each. There will be no negative marking for the questions answered wrongly.
 - c. Part-B shall have five descriptive or analytical questions relating to the area of study chosen by the student. Each question carries equal marks.
 - d. Notwithstanding what is stated in Regulation 4.2.3.a, the University reserves the right to exclusively focus on the research methodology component for 50 marks in Part-A of the Entrance Test.
 - e. The Entrance Test shall ordinarily be conducted at the university. However, the University reserves the right to choose the mode of the Entrance Test (online/offline).
- 4.2.4 A candidate securing 50% of marks (in the case of general category) and 45% (in the case of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes) in the Entrance Test shall alone be considered as qualified. Such candidates shall be declared as eligible to be called for an interview.

- 4.2.5 Later, the candidates who have passed the Entrance Test shall be called for an interview. However, a candidate with UGC NET (including JRF) shall be exempted from writing the Entrance Test.
- 4.2.6 All the candidates seeking admission to the Ph.D. Programme who have passed the Entrance Test and all the candidates exempted from such Entrance Test, if any, shall be required to present themselves for an interview before the Research Committee. This Committee shall be comprised of all the research supervisors from within the University and where necessary, external experts may be invited by the Vice-Chancellor to interview the candidates and screen their research proposals.
- 4.2.7 In the interview, the candidates shall present their research proposal before the Research Committee.
- 4.2.8 During the Candidates' presentations on a research proposal, the Research Committee shall assess the students for 50 marks and award marks on the following parameters:
- (a) Candidate's ability in presenting and defending the research proposal (10 marks);
 - (b) research aptitude of the Candidates (as evidenced by research publications and papers presented in conferences in the subject area) (5 marks);
 - (c) the research methodology adopted (10 marks);
 - (d) the viability of the topic of research (5 marks);
 - (e) (i) whether the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research (1 mark);
(ii) whether the research work can be suitably undertaken at the TNNLU (1 mark); and
(iii) whether the proposed area of research can contribute to new/additional knowledge (3 marks); (i.e., d (i) to (iii) carries 5 marks); and
 - (f) the academic performance and records of the candidate as well as the interdisciplinary design of the research proposal (15 marks).
- 4.2.9 If necessary, the Research Committee may recommend remedial steps to be taken by the Candidate to complete the requirements of the course work.
- 4.2.10 Ranking of the selected candidates shall be done only based on their performance in the interview with specific reference to the parameters mentioned in Regulation 4.2.8.

- 4.2.11 As per the UGC (Minimum Standards for the award of MPhil/PhD) (2nd Amendment) Regulations 2018, for the selection of candidates, the University will give 70% of weightage to the entrance examination and 30% to the interview or viva voce.
- 4.2.12 The University shall notify the list of Candidates who applied for the Ph.D. admission and the selected Candidates for each academic year. In addition, a Candidate who has been ranked and advised for admission may be intimated by post.

4.3 Registration:

- 4.3.1 The Candidates who have been ranked and advised for admission shall submit all the necessary documents and certificates to the University with the required photocopies (self-attested).
- 4.3.2 The Candidates shall complete all the formalities relating to their admission and registration within the last date as may be notified on the University's website or by postal correspondence. If need be, on the Candidate's written request, which is duly recommended by the Post Graduate Council, the Vice-Chancellor may grant an extension of three months to complete admission and registration formalities.
- 4.3.3 On its website, the University shall maintain and update the list of all the students registered for Ph.D. on yearly basis. The said list shall include the name of the registered candidate, the topic of research, the name of the research supervisor and the date of enrolment/registration.
- 4.3.4 Subject to Regulations 3.3 and 3.4, a candidate who is registered as a research student shall remain on the rolls of the TNNLU for a maximum period of six years provided that he/she satisfies the periodic progress and pays all the dues in fees.
- 4.3.5 A candidate shall cease to be on the rolls of TNNLU as a research student in the following circumstances:
- a. The candidate has completed his/her open defence and is awarded a Ph.D. degree;
- or
- b. As the candidate's registration is cancelled for any of the following reasons:
 - i. Misconduct
 - ii. Non-payment of fees

- iii. Falling short of the minimum attendance
- iv. Failure to complete the research within the maximum duration (with extension) prescribed by the Regulations
- v. Discontinuation of research study

4.4 Payment of Fees

- 4.4.1 The University reserves the right to determine and revise the fee structure applicable to the Ph.D. research students from time to time.
- 4.4.2 Every research student shall promptly pay the applicable categories of fees (See Annexure-A) as may be notified by the University, from time to time, by its circular on the notice board or by notification on the TNNLU's website. However, a Teacher/Research Officer of TNNLU who is also the research student/student in the University is exempted from the payment of such hostel and user fees or charges and refundable deposits if any.
- 4.4.3 Every research student is also required to remit the term fees (semester fees) along with the production of an attendance certificate (full-time research students) and a progress report. Also, every research student shall make an open presentation of the progress of research achieved during that semester before the payment of the next semester fees before the Doctoral Committee that may be constituted by the Post Graduate Council.
- 4.4.4 A list of the Candidates defaulting on the payment of fees shall be maintained and notified by the University on its website and where necessary by postal correspondence such a candidate may be informed.
- 4.4.5 If any candidate fails to remit the fees which are due within 30 days from the last date specified by the University, then the University reserves the right to remove the name(s) of such Candidates from the rolls. A corresponding note shall be displayed on the TNNLU's notice board and website.
- 4.4.6 In cases where the default in payment of fees exceeds 30 days, the research student shall be required to apply for re-admission within 180 days, which shall be placed for consideration before the Post Graduate Council. If the Post Graduate Council along with Research Committee is satisfied with the genuineness of the causes of delay then it shall be competent to take the appropriate decision to re-admit the research student. However, the registration shall remain cancelled

if the research student is in default of fees for more than 180 days from the actual due date.

4.5 *Course Work: Credit Requirements, duration, syllabus, minimum standards for completion, etc.*

- 4.5.1 The candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall complete the coursework within one year from the date of joining.
- 4.5.2 Ordinarily, the Ph.D. coursework shall be conducted by the University in an offline mode. However, the University reserves the right to conduct the same in an online mode if it is impossible to administer the course work in an offline mode owing to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or for any other reasons.
- 4.5.3 Unless exempted, every candidate admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall do mandatory Ph.D. coursework for 16 weeks. The Course work is designed for 16 credits comprising of the following components:
- a) A Research Methodology Course (4 credits);
 - b) One course on the broader subject area of the research topic as determined by the Post Graduate Council and Research Committee (4 credits);
 - c) One course covering the research topic (4 credits);
 - d) A comprehensive literature survey evidenced by written submission documenting the areas and materials covered (4 credits); and
- 4.5.4 Each student shall take the coursework examination for 100 marks which shall be conducted at the end of the course work. In addition, a viva-voce examination that is conducted immediately after the coursework examination for 50 marks. The Post Graduate Council shall constitute a Doctoral Committee for this purpose.
- 4.5.5 The Syllabus for the research methodology including quantitative methods, computer applications and research ethics shall be framed by the Research Committee of TNNLU and the syllabus relating to the subject-specific courses shall be framed by the supervisor of the research student concerned in consultation with the Research Committee.
- 4.5.6 Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses shall be finalized after an assessment by the course teacher and the evaluation of the end semester examination if any.
- 4.5.7 The Post Graduate Council with the assistance of the Research Committee shall administer course work and the evaluation of the same. At the end of the course work, the Post Graduate Council shall

direct the examination department of the University to complete the entry of marks/grades in the records of the candidate.

- 4.5.8 Thereafter, the result of the Course work shall be communicated to the candidate and a grade card shall also be issued to him/her by the University.
- 4.5.9 A candidate who obtains a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the course work alone shall be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the final dissertation/thesis.
- 4.5.10 Also, if need be, the full-time research students may be required to assist the professors of the University in organizing seminars, conferences, publications and lectures, etc.

4.6 Progress Report by the Student

- 4.6.1 All research students (enrolled on part-time & full-time mode) shall submit a semester-wise progress report to their Research Supervisors.
- 4.6.2 There shall be a half-yearly open presentation of the research student convened by the Chairperson/Convener of the Post Graduate Council on the recommendation of the research supervisor.
- 4.6.3 A half-yearly presentation of the progress of the research shall be made by each candidate, before the respective Doctoral Committee, which may be attended by other research Supervisors and research students of TNNLU.
- 4.6.4 The Doctoral Committee shall draw up minutes on the presentation and assessment and also record whether the student has been making satisfactory progress or not. A copy of the minutes so made shall be sent to the Registrar with due intimation to the Post Graduate Council, Academic Section and Research Committee.

4.7 Attendance

- 4.7.1 A student registered as a full-time Ph.D. research student shall have at least 80% attendance every semester. Failing which, such scholar's name shall be removed from the rolls of TNNLU subject to other provisions stated herein.
- 4.7.2 Notwithstanding what is stated in Regulation 4.7.1, the Post Graduate Council may condone the shortage of attendance up to 10 % on an application made by the student, duly recommended by the Research Supervisor and approved by the Research Committee.
- 4.7.3 Unless exempted by the Post Graduate Council, Regulations 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 may also be applied to the part-time scholars during the term of the Ph.D. coursework.

- 4.7.4 A research student shall be eligible to attend interdisciplinary conferences/seminars/specialized training programmes connected with his/her area of research or visit other places for collecting data, and such days when they were away from TNNLU, including days of travel, shall be counted for attendance or for periods of being in residence at TNNLU if they have been duly authorized to do so by the Research Supervisor and endorsed by the Research Committee.
- 4.7.5 Notwithstanding anything contained in the Regulation regarding attendance,
- (a) a candidate who comes under the national/state or such other fellowship or scheme/project etc. shall be governed by the respective rules governing the award of such fellowship/scheme or project, regarding attendance, leave, etc.
 - (b) a research student shall be eligible to avail of leave for 30 days in one calendar year and maternity/child care leave for 240 days in the entire period of research along with leave without fellowship for 3 months on medical grounds or for any other genuine reasons with the recommendation of the Research Supervisor.
 - (c) a Ph.D. research student after successful completion of his course work for 6 months may be permitted to go for his/her regular employment with prior approval from his/her research supervisor and endorsed by the Post Graduate Council and Research Committee. Such research students who have got an exemption from the daily attendance shall appear before his/her Doctoral Committee every quarterly in an academic year to submit a report on his/her research activity. If the report is not satisfactory to the Doctoral Committee, then it may cancel the exemption provided to the research student. In any case, the decision of the Post Graduate Council in consultation with the Research Committee shall be final in the said matter.
- 4.7.6 An exemption from daily attendance does not include anything related to the submission of a progress report every six months and other acts mandated in this Regulation.

5. Research Committee and Doctoral Committee

5.1 *Research Committee*

- 5.1.1 The TNNLU shall have a Research Committee with the Vice-Chancellor as Convener, and all Research Supervisors of the TNNLU

serving as its members. From among the members of the Research Committee, the Vice-Chancellor may nominate an officiating Convener for the meetings and proceedings which he/she may not be personally attending.

5.1.2 The Research Committee shall meet at least twice a year to review the progress of the research work of the registered students in TNNLU and peruse the minutes prepared by the Doctoral Committee on the research progress made by the students in each semester or as and when it may be found necessary. If necessary, the Research Committee may offer suggestions to the student as to how the research work can be made interdisciplinary in its design or approach.

5.1.3 The Research Committee shall assist the Post Graduate Council in consideration of the following matters:

- a. Applications for conversion of Ph.D. from full-time to the part-time mode or vice versa;
- b. Research Fellowship of TNNLU or consideration of UGC JRF/SRF;
- c. Extension of the maximum duration up to one year on the request of the candidate and its rejection;
- d. Availability of seats and Ph.D. admission notification;
- e. Ph.D. Entrance Test and synopsis presentation (interview or viva voce) and ranking of the selected candidates;
- f. Scrutiny of the academic records of the candidates at the time of Ph.D. registration;
- g. Cancellation of Ph.D. registration;
- h. Re-admission of research students;
- i. Administration of Ph.D. course work, designing syllabus for the same and course work evaluation;
- j. Matters associated with the attendance of research students;
- k. On the allocation of research supervisors, Joint Supervisors and External Co-Supervisor;
- l. Change of Research Supervisor;
- m. Pre-submission presentation or Colloquium;

- n. Research ethics;
- o. Constitution of the Board or Panel of external examiners;
- p. Submission of thesis and any delay in doing the same;
- q. Publication of thesis/dissertation;
- r. Interpretation of the Regulations; and
- s. Matters not covered under the Regulations

5.2 *Doctoral Committee and its functions:*

- 5.2.1 There shall be a Doctoral Committee to monitor the progress of each student registered for research in TNNLU.
- 5.2.2 The Post Graduate Council in consultation with the research supervisor shall constitute the Doctoral Committee.
- 5.2.3 For the Doctoral Committee, the research supervisor concerned shall be the Convener and another three research supervisors from the same or allied discipline in TNNLU shall be its members.
- 5.2.4 The Doctoral Committee shall be in existence during the full period of registration of a candidate, with such changes in membership as may become necessary. Any change in the composition of the Doctoral Committee may be introduced by the Post Graduate Council from time to time.
- 5.2.5 The Doctoral Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. To assist the Research Committee in reviewing the research proposal and finalize the topic of research;
 - b. To guide and supervise the research student to develop the study design and methodology of research and identify the course(s) that he/she may have to do;
 - c. To periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research student.
 - d. To assist the Post Graduate Council in any or all of the matters associated with the Ph.D. programme.
- 5.2.6 A research student shall appear before the Doctoral Committee at least once every six months to make a presentation of the progress of his/her work for evaluation and further guidance. The six-monthly

progress reports shall be submitted by the Doctoral Committee to the Research Committee with its inputs to the research student.

- 5.2.7 In case the progress of the research student is unsatisfactory, the Doctoral Committee shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research student fails to implement these corrective measures, the Doctoral Committee may recommend to the Post Graduate Council and Research Committee with specific reasons for the cancellation of the registration of the research student.

6. Research Supervisor: Eligibility & recognition, allocation of supervisors, Joint Supervisors, External Co-Supervisors and Change of supervisors.

6.1 Research Supervisor: Eligibility & Recognition

- 6.1.1 Any regular teacher of the TNNLU (Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor) with a Ph.D. degree in either law or first-degree courses (Economics, Sociology, Commerce, History, and Political Science, etc.) shall be eligible to become the research supervisors subject to fulfilment of the conditions on the minimum number of publications as specified in the Regulation 6.1.2.
- 6.1.2 An Assistant Professor or Associate Professor who holds a Ph.D. Degree, and has published at least 2 research papers in the refereed or UGC CARE listed journals, shall be eligible to be recognized as Research Supervisors under this provision. Whereas, Professors seeking recognition as research Supervisors should have published at least 5 research papers in the refereed or UGC CARE listed journals. The Research Papers mentioned herein shall be published within 5 years immediately preceding the date of application.
- 6.1.3 Teachers (with Ph.D. in law or first-degree courses) who were recognized research supervisors in any other University/Institution shall be recognized as research supervisors from the date of their recruitment in TNNLU.

6.2 Allocation of Research Supervisor and Number of Ph.D. students permissible per Supervisor, etc.

- 6.2.1 The Post Graduate Council on the recommendation of the Research Committee shall allocate the research supervisors for a selected Ph.D. student by taking into consideration the following:
- a. the interdisciplinary nature of the study;
 - b. number of students per Research Supervisor;

- c. available specialization among the Supervisors; and
 - d. research interests of the students as indicated by them at the time of interview.
- 6.2.2 The number of Ph.D. Scholars permissible per Research Supervisor are as follows:

SL.NO	RESEARCH SUPERVISOR <i>in the rank of</i>	MAXIMUM NO.OF Ph.D. STUDENTS
1	PROFESSOR	8
2	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	6
3	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	4

6.3 Appointment of Joint Supervisors:-

- 6.3.1 If the research Supervisor of a candidate makes a written request to appoint a Joint Supervisor to guide the candidate along with him/her to get better academic support to the candidate then the Post Graduate Council on the recommendation of the Research Committee may appoint a Joint Supervisor from among the research supervisors available in TNNLU.
- 6.3.2 In calculating the number of a candidate registered under a particular guide the candidates under his Joint Guidance shall not be counted.

6.4 Appointment of External Co-Supervisor:-

- 6.4.1 In consultation with Research Committee, the Post Graduate Council may appoint an External Co-Supervisor if the research topic is interdisciplinary and the Post Graduate Council feels that the expertise in the University has to be supplemented from outside. In this direction, the Post Graduate Council may take the opinion of the internal research supervisor if necessary.
- 6.4.2 The External Co-Supervisor may be chosen based on his/her subject expertise and consent. Such External Co-Supervisor may be chosen from the institutions of national repute which have an MOU with the University.

6.5 Change of Research Supervisor

- 6.5.1 Based on (a) the area of study chosen by research students; (b) the expertise of supervisors; and (c) available vacancies under a research supervisor, the Post Graduate Council along with the Research

Committee shall decide on the allocation of supervisors, Joint Supervisors, External Co-Supervisors and change of research supervisors. Hence, research students shall not have a right to select their research supervisors.

- 6.5.2 An application for a change of supervisor can be made by the student concerned if his/her supervisor is not available to that student for consultation or guidance for a continuous period of one year or more on account of the supervisor's ill health or other eventuality. The Post Graduate Council shall look into the genuineness of all such requests made by students in this matter.
- 6.5.3 Where the Post Graduate Council approves such a request then it shall inform the candidate/supervisor concerned. A corresponding change in the entry on registered candidates with their topic and supervisor/s' name that is maintained on the website shall be executed.
- 6.5.4 However, a request for a change of Supervisor shall be made at least 6 months before the research student's giving notice for submission of the thesis for adjudication by examiners. Provided that, this limitation shall not be applicable in the case where the present Supervisor is unable to continue supervision due to reasons of health, shifting of the place of work/residence to a distant place, etc.
- 6.5.5 Research Supervisors of the University may continue to supervise the work of students registered with them even after their retirement. Nevertheless, the Post Graduate Council in consultation with Research Committee may allot a Co-Supervisor to help the student concerned. Alternatively, the Research Committee may allot a new supervisor in the place of the supervisor who has retired if such supervisor is unwell for a long period or is unwilling on health grounds or has died.

7. Change of Area of Research

- 7.1 Since the change of research area requires redoing of the course work supporting the new area of research no research student shall be allowed to change the area of research using the present registration.
- 7.2 However, a research student who is registered shall be eligible to request for approval or a change in the title of his/her thesis and the Post Graduate Council in consultation with the Doctoral Committee shall approve such requests, provided such a request shall be made at least 3 months before the submission of the thesis.

8. Evaluation and Assessment Methods, minimum standards for the award of the degree:

- 8.1 On satisfactory completion of the Ph.D. course work with the required percentage of marks/grade, the research student shall be required to undertake his study and produce a draft dissertation/thesis within the maximum time stipulated by the Regulations.
- 8.2 Before the submission of the dissertation/thesis, the research student shall make a presentation of the findings of the research before the Research Committee and Doctoral Committee which shall be open to all faculty members, research students and other persons interested. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated into the draft dissertation/thesis with the approval of the Doctoral Committee. For this purpose, the candidate shall submit 5 hard copies of the synopsis prepared in English and conform to the specification as may be prescribed by TNNLU.
- 8.3 The Ph.D. students shall publish at least one (1) research paper in a refereed journal and make two paper presentations in interdisciplinary or discipline-specific conferences/seminars relevant to their study before the submission of the dissertation/thesis for evaluation, and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and reprints of the published research papers.
- 8.4 The final Thesis shall be subjected to testing by plagiarism software to detect plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Research Ethics and Plagiarism standards shall be strictly observed by students as per the relevant regulations of the UGC and University in this regard.
- 8.5 A research student proposing to submit the thesis shall inform TNNLU, at least one month in advance and such intimation shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chairperson/Convener of the Post Graduate Council and Research Committee that he/she has presented the salient features of the proposed thesis in a pre-submission seminar (colloquium) in the TNNLU. The request shall be accompanied by:
 - a. evidence of having paid the required fees prescribed by the TNNLU
 - b. Marks/grade obtained in the Course work examination
 - c. attendance certificate of the student (enrolled on full-time mode)
 - d. Recommendation of the Research Supervisor endorsed by the Doctoral Committee to the effect that the work of the research student is adequate and meets the requirement of the thesis.

- 8.6 In addition, (a) a brief bio-data of the research student; (b) an appendix containing the research articles published by the student, either alone or as co-author, in the same area of research study as supplementing the research work; and (c) a consent letter authorizing the TNNLU to upload the thesis on the *shodhganga* website or other sites as may be stipulated by the UGC from time to time shall be submitted to the University
- 8.7 Importantly, the research student shall submit the thesis after the expiry of one month from the date of the notice but within six months. The delay in submitting the thesis beyond six months, but within one year may be condoned by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Post Graduate Council, Research Committee and the Doctoral Committee.
- 8.8 In cases where a research student is unable to submit the thesis, after giving notice of submission, within the maximum period of registration, including extensions provided for under these Regulations, the research student shall be required to take a fresh admission on payment of all fees and fulfilment of other requirements, except that in the case of such admissions the research student shall not be required to take Entrance Test and Ph.D. course work. But such research students shall be allowed to submit the thesis only after the expiry of six months after such readmission is granted. No such re-registration shall be granted in cases where the Research Committee did not recommend for the re-registration opining that the research student has not made any remarkable progress in the preparation of the thesis.
- 8.9 On final approval of the synopsis by the Doctoral Committee, the candidate shall be required to submit 5 sets of theses/dissertations which will be sent for evaluation purposes. The hard copies shall be accompanied by a CD containing the entire research in a PDF format which will be used for plagiarism check.
- 8.10 Then, the Ph.D. thesis submitted by a research student shall be evaluated by his/her research supervisor and at least two external examiners, of whom one examiner may be from outside the state or country.
- 8.11 (a) A recommendation on the Panel of External Examiners shall be prepared by the Post Graduate Council in consultation with the Research Committee and Doctoral Committee of the candidate who has submitted the thesis.
- (b) The recommended panel shall include the names of 10 eminent experts, who are regular Professors or Associate Professors in any

University/Research Institute other than TNNLU and may include experts from foreign countries also.

(c) The Post Graduate Council shall submit its recommendation on the constitution of the Board/Panel of External Examiners to the Vice-Chancellor of TNNLU.

(d) Finally, the Vice-Chancellor selects the external examiners to be appointed for evaluation of the thesis.

8.12 The research student will be allowed to defend the thesis if the evaluation report(s) received from the external examiner(s) indicate that the research thesis (evaluated) is satisfactory and additionally, a recommendation for conducting the public/open defence of the thesis (*viva-voce* examination) has been made.

(a) In case, if one of the evaluation reports of the external examiner declares the thesis as unsatisfactory and thus not recommended *viva-voce* for the research student then the University shall send such a thesis to one more external examiner from the approved panel of examiners.

(b) Thereafter, when the report of the latest examiner declares the thesis to be satisfactory for which the *viva-voce* examination may be conducted the University shall conduct the same.

(c) If the report of the latest examiner is also unsatisfactory then the dissertation/ thesis shall be rejected and the research student shall be declared ineligible for the award of the degree.

8.13 Whereas, if the *viva-voce* examination is recommended by the external examiners of the thesis then it shall be conducted in the presence of the research supervisor and at least one of the two external examiners. Where an examiner is not able to travel, the *viva voce* can be conducted by the examiner by using any form of the online platform in the presence of others who are present (physically/virtually) in the public *viva voce* examination.

8.14 The *viva-voce* examination shall also be open to being attended by Members of the TNNLU Research Committee, Doctoral Committee, invitees, all faculty members of the TNNLU, research students and other interested experts/researchers and others.

8.15 On the day of the public *viva-voce* examination, if the research student defends his/her thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners then they shall declare the same at the end of the examination.

8.16 On payment of notification fees by the student, a certificate of notification shall be issued by the University confirming the award of a Ph.D. degree to students who have successfully met the standards set by the Regulations for the award of a Ph.D. degree.

- 8.17 The said notification shall be conclusive proof as to the award of a Ph.D. degree.
- 8.18 In addition, every candidate who has been awarded a Ph.D. degree shall make an application along with prescribed fees for obtaining a convocation certificate during the actual convocation ceremony, either in person or in-absentia or as may be decided by the University in this matter from time to time.

9. Format and Language of Thesis

- 9.1 The thesis shall be typed in English and should conform to the format and standards prescribed by the Regulations.
- 9.2 A thesis shall contain the following components:
- a. A cover page indicating the name of the University, title of the thesis, name of the student and research supervisor/Co-Supervisor/External Supervisor with appropriate salutations.
 - b. Table of contents (The table of contents may indicate the following with their corresponding page numbers: index of authorities, list of abbreviations, acknowledgement, declaration, certificate by the research supervisor, introduction, components of research methodology (the statement of the problem, aims and objectives of the study, research hypothesis, research questions, importance of the study, research methodology, literature review, chapterisation including sub-chapterisations, bibliography, webliography and annexure/s,);
 - c. An index of authorities shall give details about the statutes/conventions/judicial decisions (arranged alphabetically), etc. which are used in the work; and then the list abbreviations provide information on the short forms of words/references used in the study. The same shall be made available immediately after the index of authorities.
 - d. Next in the order, there shall be an acknowledgement by the student expressing his/her gratitude to those who were of support or guidance in completing the research undertaken.
 - e. Followed by the acknowledgement, a declaration that is signed by the candidate shall be there affirming that the Dissertation is an original work and that the research work did not form part of any dissertation submitted for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship, or any other title or recognition within the University or elsewhere.
 - f. After which, there shall be a certificate by the Research Supervisor(s) (signed) to the effect that to the best of his/her/their

knowledge the thesis is a *bonafide* record of research carried out by the research student under supervision.

- g. Then, the thesis shall contain all the chapters (including introduction and conclusion). The chapters shall be analytical and interdisciplinary in their design. Besides, the appropriate research method/tools used by the student for the collection of empirical data, statistics or their interpretation, if any, shall be annexed to the thesis.
 - h. After the last chapter, a list of references used for research shall be cited as a bibliography (books and articles) and webliography (actual web resources used in the thesis with their URLs).
 - i. A student may seek any additional advice in this matter from the Doctoral Committee.
- 9.3 The entire body of the thesis shall be typed in an A4 sheet using the font size of 12 in Times New Roman and all the footnotes shall be typed using the font size of 10 in Times New Roman. The body of the thesis and the footnotes shall be typed with 1.5 spaced lines. Ordinarily, the student is expected to observe the maximum limit of 300 pages while writing his/her thesis. If need be, the Research Committee may notify a different limit on the maximum number of pages in a thesis.
- 9.4 The research student shall use the Bluebook citation format (19th edn).

10. Publication of the Thesis

- 10.1 A research student who desires to publish his/her thesis shall obtain written permission from the University.
- 10.2 The University shall grant written permission to the student to publish his/her thesis after all the corrections and improvisations, as may be suggested by the Board of Examiners are executed by the student. A certificate by the supervisor to this effect may be obtained by the candidate. Also, the student shall duly acknowledge the University in the thesis to be published.
- 10.3 Nevertheless, the University reserves its right to upload/publish the evaluated thesis in *Shodhganga* as required by UGC.

11. Miscellaneous:

- 11.1 Periodically, complete information (with necessary updates) including the decisions taken by the Post Graduate Council, Vice-Chancellor or Registrar on any of the matters related to the administration of the

- Ph.D. programme in the University shall be placed before the Academic Council and the Executive Council of TNNLU.
- 11.2 Research students shall attend a wide range of interdisciplinary research webinars, seminars, conferences and workshops related to their research.
 - 11.3 Similarly, the research students shall attend and participate in interdisciplinary lectures and other webinars organized by the University.
 - 11.4 No TA/DA shall be paid by TNNLU to the research students for attending any of their research-related work, seminars, and also assessments including the Entrance Test, Colloquium and Viva-Voce examination.
 - 11.5 Any item not covered by the TNNU's Ph.D. Regulations or any interpretation as to the Regulations shall be decided by the CPGLS and Research Committee in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor of TNNLU.
 - 11.6 For the convenience of students, the templates for the covering letter to be used for the specific requests besides the format of declaration, etc. are provided in the Appendix (A to H). The research students are expected to use the prescribed format and not deviate from the same.

Annexure A: Fees Structure

Sl. No.	Particulars	Full-Time Scholars	Part-Time Scholars
A. Course fee and other charges (Annual)			
1.	Research Fee	15000	15000
2.	Examination Fee	20000	20000
3.	Library Fee	5000	5000
4.	Ph.D. Course Work Fee	6000	6000
5.	Semester/term fees	3000*2=6000	3000*2=6000
B. User Charges (Annual)			
6.	Room Rent	12000	**
7.	Mess Charges	30000	**
8.	Internet Charges	5000	5000
9.	Electricity Charges	12000	12000
10.	Generator Diesel Charges	5000	5000
11.	Water Charges	12000	12000
12.	Security Charges	3000	3000
13.	Sports and Games Facilities Charges	3000	3000
Total (A+B)		1,34,000	92,000
C. One Time Payments			
14.	Registration Fee	15000	15000
15.	Entrance Test Fee	1500 (For SC/ST) 750	1500 (For SC/ST)750
16.	Provisional Certificate/ Notification Fee	250	250
17.	Convocation Certificate	750	750
18.	Extension Fees (after completion of five years) The Fee per semester extension is 10,000	**	**
D. Refundable Deposits			
19.	Library Deposit	5000	5000
20.	Hostel Deposit For SC/ST	10000 4000	10000 4000
21.	Mess Deposit	5000	5000
Total (C+D) For SC/ST		37500 32750	37500 32750

Explanation:

- a. The symbol ** in columns 6 & 7 (part-time scholars) indicates that the fee will be applied if the scholar avails of the room and mess facilities in

the University. The facility may either be availed in connection with the Ph.D. coursework or during any stage of the Ph.D. Programme. However, the room and mess facilities to be availed are subject to their availability.

- b. The symbol ** in column 18 indicates the fee applicable if the scholar seeks an extension for a semester after completing 5 years of research. Rs. 10,000/- of the fee is applicable per extension. Subject to the Regulations, a maximum of 2 extensions may be availed by the research student.

Appendix A: Covering Letter for submitting Research Proposal

From

Date:

(Candidate's name and address)

To

The Registrar

Tamil Nadu National Law University,

Tiruchirappalli

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Submission of the proposed research synopsis on the

Topic: “_____”.

Ref: Ph.D. Admission Notification No: TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D./academic
year (2020-21)/ dt: _____

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am herewith submitting 5 hard copies of the synopsis (the proposed plan of research) for the consideration of the Research Committee of TNNLU.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Name and Signature of the student)

Place and date

F.W.Cs to the CPGLS and Research Committee for information and necessary action.

Appendix B: Covering Letter for submission of the Research Synopsis for a pre-submission colloquium

From

Date:

(Candidate's name and address)

To

The Registrar

Tamil Nadu National Law University,

Tiruchirappalli

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Request for holding a pre-submission colloquium

Ref: Registration No: TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D./academic year (2020-21)/ dt:

Respected Sir/Madam,

Given the progress in my research, I am desirous of submitting my final thesis soon. Hence, I request you to permit me to have my Ph.D. pre-submission colloquium. For this purpose, I am herewith submitting 5 hard copies of the final research synopsis for the consideration of the panel. I have also taken the approval of my research supervisor(s) and the Doctoral Committee.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Name and Signature of the student)

Place and date

Recommended by the Research Supervisor

(Name and signature)

Submitted through the Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

No: TNNLU/CPGLS Law/Ph.D/

Date:

F.W.Cs to the Registrar, Research Committee, and Doctoral Committee for information and necessary action.

(Signature and seal) Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

(Signatures) Members of the Research Committee, and Doctoral Committee

Appendix C: DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled, “_____”, submitted for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law to the Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli is an original research work done by me.

I also hereby declare that this thesis or any part of it has not been submitted to any other University for the award of any Degree or Diploma or Fellowship.

Place:

Date:

(signature and name of the candidate)

Appendix D: Certificate by the Supervisor

(Name & Designation of the guide)

Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “ _____ ” submitted for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law, is a record of the research work done by _____ (name of the student), under my guidance and supervision during (duration of the study, ex. 2021-2026).

I certify that this is a bonafide work of _____ (Name of the Student).

(Signature of the Supervisor)

Date:

Appendix E: Progress Report (Covering Letter)

From

Date:

(Candidate's name and address)

To

The Registrar

Tamil Nadu National Law University,

Tiruchirappalli

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Submission of _____ term Progress Report of the Research work on the

Topic: “ _____ ”.

Ref: Registration No: TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D./academic year (2020-21)/ dt: _____

Regarding the abovementioned subject, I am hereby submitting the _____ (I/II/III, etc.) term progress report in triplicate on the study undertaken by me for your kind perusal and needful action.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

(Name & signature of the student)

Submitted through the Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

No: TNNLU/CPGLS Law/Ph.D/

Date:

F.W.Cs to the Registrar, Research Committee, and Doctoral Committee for information and necessary action.

(Signature and seal)Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

Appendix F: TERM PROGRESS REPORT OF THE RESEARCH WORK DONE

FROM (month and year) to (month and year)

1. Name of the Candidate :
2. Name of the Department : Department of Law
3. Name and Designation of Guide :
4. Number and date of Registration for Ph.D : Reg.No.
TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D./academic year and date.
5. Research Topic : **"Title"**

REPORT

During the ____ term the research candidate has visited the Library of _____. The candidate has studied the following books to collect necessary study materials and also has submitted a proposed synopsis/published research paper relevant to the study/attended the interdisciplinary seminar/workshop/symposium and presented a paper on the topic relevant to the study (mention whichever is appropriate).

(Details of books and articles referred during the term)

For instance,

1. Krishna Iyer V.R., *Human Rights and Law*, Bhopal: Vadpal Law House, 1986.
2. V.K.,Sircar, *Protection of Human Rights in India*, Hyderabad: Asia Law House, 2004.
3. Lohit D.Naikar, *The Law Relating to Human Rights*, Bangalore: Puliani & Puliani Publication, 2004

Signature of the Candidate

Signature of the Supervisor

Signature of the Chairman/Convener of CPGLS

Appendix G: Report on Remittance of the Term Fees (Covering Letter)

From

Date:

(Candidate's name and address)

To

The Registrar

Tamil Nadu National Law University,

Tiruchirappalli

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Remittance of _____ term fees for the Research work on the
Topic: “ _____ ”.

Ref: Registration No: TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D./academic year (2020-21)/ dt:

Regarding the abovementioned subject, I am hereby submitting the proof for the fees remitted for the term ____ (I/II/III, etc.) along with the progress report on the study undertaken by me for your kind perusal and needful action.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

(Name & signature of the student)

Submitted through the Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

No: TNNLU/CPGLS Law/Ph.D/

Date:

F.W.Cs to the Registrar, Research Committee, and Doctoral Committee for information and necessary action.

(Seal and signature) Chairman/Convener, Post Graduate Council, TNNLU

Appendix H: Permission/deputation to attend the Ph.D. Course work from the employer

(in the employer's letterhead)

To

The Registrar

Tamil Nadu National Law University,

Tiruchirappalli

Sub: Deputation for Ph.D. Course work

Ref: Circular No. TNNLU/Aca/Ph.D. Ph.D. Course Work/(academic year)/, dated:

(Name of the student with appropriate salutation) working as _____
at _____ is deputed/permitted to attend Ph.D. course work for
sixteen weeks commencing from (date) without prejudice to his/her work.

(Name and Signature of the deputing authority/employer)