

INFORMATION BROCHURE

ADMISSION TO PH D PROGRAMMES

JULY, 2026

RESEARCH UNIT

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi,

New Delhi-110068 www.ignou.ac.in

For queries, applicants may contact: researchunit@ignou.ac.in

Monday to Friday (excluding Gazetted holidays)

DISCLAIMER

The Ph.D. Information Brochure for July 2026 is a compendium of inputs assembled and collated from various Schools, Disciplines and other related sources.

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Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official IGNOU website for updates, if any, regarding guidelines, schedules, and other admission-related information.

For notifications and updates regarding Ph.D. Admissions 2026, kindly visit:

[IGNOU Official Website \[www.ignou.ac.in\]\(http://www.ignou.ac.in\)](http://www.ignou.ac.in)

Note: The last date for submission of the online Ph.D. Admission Form for the July 2026 Session is **21 days from the date of announcement.**

Candidates may fill the online Ph.D. Admission Form through the following portal:

<https://ignou-phd.samarth.edu.in/> .

Date of Activation of online application : **10.06.2026**

Date of closure of online application: **01.07.2026**

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications are invited for admission to the Ph.D. Programme for the July 2026 Session. The list of disciplines, discipline-wise number of seats (category-wise) available, and eligibility criteria are provided in **Appendix-I**.
2. The Ph.D. Programme is offered in compliance with the **UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022**, and amendments thereto issued from time to time.
3. IGNOU offers the Ph.D. Programme under two categories: **Full-Time** and **Part-Time**. Candidates admitted under both categories shall be required to attend the Course Work classes as per the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines at the respective Schools of Studies located at the IGNOU Headquarters, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The Course Work shall be conducted during the first six months of admission and will be held only at the IGNOU Campus, New Delhi. Students are required to attend the Course Work classes on a regular basis. A minimum of **80% attendance** in the Course Work is mandatory.
4. The minimum and maximum duration of the Ph.D. Programme shall be **three years** and **six years**, respectively. However, women candidates and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) having **40% or more disability** (or “severe” where the percentage is not defined) shall be allowed an additional period of **two years** beyond the maximum duration for completion of the Programme.
5. At present, IGNOU does not provide hostel facilities for Ph.D. students. Candidates shall be required to make their own arrangements for accommodation and stay in Delhi during the Course Work and other academic requirements.
6. Candidates who are employed and wish to pursue the **Part-Time Ph.D. Programme** must obtain a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from their employer in the prescribed format attached as **Annexure-IV. Submission of the NOC is mandatory at the time of interview (wherever applicable)**.

B. ADMISSION PROCEEDURE AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Admission Categories:

Admission to the Ph.D. Programme shall be conducted under the following categories:

- i. **Category-I:** UGC-NET with JRF
- ii. **Category-II:** UGC-NET (Eligible for Assistant Professor and Ph.D.)
- iii. **Category-III:** UGC-NET (Eligible for Ph.D. only)
- iv. **Category-IV:** University-level Entrance Test followed by Interview Selection Procedure.

(**Note:** Candidates applying under *Category–IV: University-level Entrance Test* shall select “**NOT APPLICABLE**” against the option of *UGC NET JRF* while filling out the online PhD admission application. Such candidates are **required to appear for the entrance test conducted by the University**. The syllabus for entrance test is provided separately on the website as **Appendix II**)

2. Selection Procedure and Weightage

1. Interview/Viva-Voce shall be mandatory for candidates under all categories. The selection criteria shall be as follows:

- **Category–I (UGC-NET with JRF):**
Selection shall be based on the performance in the Interview/Viva-Voce only.
- **Categories–II & III [UGC-NET Qualified]:**
A weightage of **70%** shall be given to the NET score and **30%** weightage shall be given to the performance in the Interview/Viva-Voce.
- **Category–IV (University-level Entrance Test):**
Candidates securing a minimum of **50% marks** in the Entrance Test (with applicable relaxation as per the UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022) shall be eligible to appear for the Interview/Viva-Voce. For preparation of the final merit list, **70% weightage** shall be given to the performance in the Entrance Test and **30% weightage** shall be given to the performance in the Interview/Viva-Voce. In the case of candidates qualifying through the University-level Entrance Test, candidates shall be called for the Interview/Viva-Voce in the ratio of **1:5** against the number of available seats in the respective discipline/category, subject to fulfillment of the prescribed eligibility criteria and applicable regulations.

Merit and Preference:

- Selection shall be based on combined merit and the applicable reservation policy of the Government of India.
- Preference for admission shall be given in the following order, subject to availability of seats:
 - i. Category–I
 - ii. Category–II
 - iii. Category–III
 - iv. Category–IV

3. Interviews shall be conducted by the University only at its Headquarters located at **Maidan Garhi, New Delhi**. No TA/DA is permissible for attending the interview. Eligible candidates shall be called for Interview/Viva-Voce by the respective Discipline-Specific Admission Committee. Information regarding the schedule and related details shall be uploaded on the official IGNOU website.

4. The candidates will be examined in the following components:

- Research Methodology – **40%**
- Subject Domain Knowledge – **40%**
- Communication Skills – **20%**

5. Candidates shall be required to produce an original valid photo identity proof at the time of the Interview/Viva-Voce. The identity proof may include any one of the following:

- I. Aadhaar Card
- II. Voter ID Card
- III. Driving Licence
- IV. Passport
- V. Identity Card issued by Government Agencies

6. Based on the performance in the Interview/Viva-Voce and other applicable criteria, the final list of selected candidates shall be prepared, subject to the Reservation Policy of the Government of India and availability of seats/vacancies.

7. The list of selected candidates shall be displayed on the official IGNOU website:

[IGNOU Official Website www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in)

8. No individual communication regarding selection shall be sent to the candidates. Applicants are therefore advised to regularly visit the University website for updates and notifications related to admissions.

9. Selected candidates shall be governed by the IGNOU Ordinances, IGNOU Regulations, Ph.D. Guidelines 2022, and amendments thereto issued from time to time for the conduct of the Ph.D. Programme.

10. Offer letters for admission shall be issued only to the selected candidates.

C. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR Ph.D ADMISSION:

The eligibility criteria for admission to Ph.D programme are as follows:

1. Candidates who have completed: 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme after a 3-year/6 semesters bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed.

or

equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution.

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.

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. 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.

2. Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme. 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.

a) See **Appendix I** for further details of discipline wise vacancy and specific eligibility criteria.

NOTE: The application fee for admission to the Ph.D. Programme is **Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only)**. The application fee once paid shall be **non-refundable** under any circumstances.

- A candidate may apply in one discipline. Those seeking admission in more than one discipline must submit separate applications for each discipline.
- Before applying for the Ph.D. Programme, candidates must ensure that they fulfill the specific eligibility criteria prescribed for the concerned discipline, as mentioned in **Appendix-I**.
- In case a candidate applies for a discipline without fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria for that discipline, the application shall not be considered by the University.
- Admission granted to a candidate shall be liable to cancellation at any stage if it is found that:
 - the information furnished by the candidate is false or incorrect; or
 - the candidate does not fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria for the Programme.
- Candidates are advised to download and retain a copy of the duly filled-in online Registration/Application Form for future reference.
- Applications for admission to the Ph.D. Programme shall be accepted through **online mode only**. No offline or hard-copy application form shall be accepted by the University.
- Reservation of seats shall be as per the norms and guidelines of the **Government of India**.
- Merely being called for the Interview/Viva-Voce shall not entitle a candidate to claim admission to the Ph.D. Programme. The Doctoral Research Committee may decide not to recommend a candidate if suitable research supervision or specialization in the proposed area of research is not available in the concerned discipline.
- The University reserves the right not to fill some or all the seats in any Research Degree Programme if suitable candidates are not found during the selection process, including the Interview/Viva-Voce.

Appendix- I

Discipline wise number of vacancies and their specific Eligibility Criteria

S. No.	School	Discipline/ Programme Code	Vacancy of Seats	Specific Eligibility Criteria, if any
1	SOSS	Psychology (PHDPC)	UR =06* SC =02 ST =01 OBC =04 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=14 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Autism/ID/MI/SLD)]	Master's Degree in Psychology or related field from a recognized University / Institute.
2	SOSS	Anthropology (PHDAN)	UR =04 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=09	Masters in Anthropology (M.Sc. or M.A.)
3	SOSS	Political Science (PHDPS)	UR =03 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=08	Master's Degree in Political Science/Politics/ International Relations
4	SOSS	Public Administration (PHDPA)	UR =01 SC =01* ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=04 [*01 seat is reserved for PWBD (Deaf/HH)]	Master's in Social Sciences such as Public Administration/public policy and Governance and /Or M.Phil Degree in Public Administration.
5	SOS	Bio-Chemistry (PHDBC)	UR =06* SC =03 ST =02 OBC =03 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=15 [*01 seat is	Master's Degree from a recognized university or any other qualification recognized as equivalent thereto in Biochemistry/ allied subjects.

			reserved for PwBD (Locomotor)]	
6	SOS	Chemistry (PHDCHEM)	UR =03 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=07	M.Sc. Chemistry from a recognized University / Institute or any other qualification recognized as equivalent thereto in such fields of study as are notified for the purpose from time to time by the University.
7	SOS	Geography (PHDGEOG)	UR =02 SC =01 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=04	M.A. / M.Sc. in Geography, Earth Systems Science and Relevant Discipline of Geospatial Technology.
8	SOS	Geology (PHDGY)	UR =06* SC =03 ST =01 OBC =04 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=15 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Locomotor)]	Post graduation in Geology or Geological Science or Applied Geology or Marine Geology or Earth Science and Resource Management or Petroleum geosciences or Petroleum Exploration or Geo Chemistry or Geophysics or Hydrogeology or Geomatics or Geoinformatics or Remote Sensing and GIS from any recognized university
9	SOS	Life Sciences (PHDLS)	UR =08* SC =03 ST =01 OBC =05 <u>EWS =02</u> TOTAL=19 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Autism/ID/ MI/SLD)]	Post Graduate degree in Life Sciences OR M.Phil Degree.
10	SOS	Physics (PHDPH)	UR =01 SC =00 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=02	Master's Degree in Physics from a University recognized by UGC.
11	SOS	Statistics (PHDSTAT)	UR =05* SC =02 ST =01 OBC =02	Master's degree in Statistics / Applied Statistics

			<u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=10 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Locomotor)]	
12	SOS	Mathematics (PHDMT)	UR =04 SC =02* ST =00 OBC =03 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=10 [*01 seat is reserved for PWBD (Deaf/HH)]	Master's or MPhil degree in Mathematics
13	SOH	Sanskrit (PHDSK)	UR =02 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =01 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=06	M.A. in Sanskrit Discipline/Acharya/Equivalent to Sanskrit Discipline.
14	SOH	Hindi (PHDHIN)	UR =02 SC =01 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=04	Master's Degree in Hindi
15	SOH	English (PHDENG)	UR =02 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=07	Master's Degree in English
16	SOCIS	Computer Science (PHDCS)	UR =06 SC =02 ST =01 OBC =03 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=13	Master of Computer Applications (MCA) or M.Sc. in Computer Science / IT / equivalent or ME/M.Tech in Computer Science/IT/ Equivalent and valid NET Score.
17	SOE	Education (SOE)	UR =06* SC =03 ST =02 OBC =05 <u>EWS =02</u> TOTAL=18 [*01 seat is	MA(Education) or M.Ed.

			reserved for PwBD (Multiple)]	
18	STRID E	Distance Education (PHDDE)	UR =09* SC =04** ST =02 OBC =06 <u>EWS =03</u> TOTAL=24 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Multiple)] [**01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Blind/Low Vision)]	Master's degree and NET in any discipline, Master's preferably in MADE, MA(Education), M.Ed.
19	SOITS	Environmenta l Science (PHDEV)	UR =05 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=10	Master's Degree in Science /Engineering from a University recognized by UGC
20	SOPVA	Fine Arts (PHDPVA)	UR =02 SC =00 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=03	Master Degree in Fine Arts.
21	SOPVA	Theatre Arts (PHDPVA)	UR =01 SC =01 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=03	Masters degree in Theatre Arts.
22	SOPVA	Music (PHDPVA)	UR =01 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=04	Master Degree in Music
23	SOPVA	Dance	UR =01	Master Degree in Dance (All forms of

		(PHDPVA)	SC =01 ST =01 OBC =00 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=03	dance inclusive)
24	SOSW	Social Work (PHDSW)	UR =04 SC =02 ST =01 OBC =03 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=11	Master's Degree in Social Work.
25	SOMS	Management (PHDMGMT)	UR =08* SC =04 ST =02 OBC =06 <u>EWS =02</u> TOTAL=22 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Multiple)]	Master's Degree in Management/ or declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body/ or Master's degree in any allied areas related to Management. Candidates with CA /CS/ CMA (ICWA) qualifications are also eligible to apply.
26	SOMS	Commerce (PHDCOM)	UR =03 SC =00 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=05	Master's Degree in Commerce or Candidates having qualified CA/CS/ICWA
27	SOCE	Nutritional Science (PHDFN)	UR =02 SC =00 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=03	Master's Degree (M.Sc.) in Food and Nutrition / Nutrition and Dietetics / Public Health Nutrition from a recognized Institution with UGC-NET in Home Science.
28	SOCE	Child Development (PHDCD)	UR =07 SC =02 ST =01 OBC =04 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=15	Master's in Home Science/Community Science (General and Composite) OR Master's in Home Science/Community Science with a specialization in Child Development, Human Development, Human Development and Childhood Studies, Or Human Development and Family studies OR Master's in Early Childhood development OR M.A. in Education (Early Childhood Care and Education) OR MA in Education OR M.Ed. in Special Education in any disability area OR M.Sc. in Counseling and Family Therapy OR Master's in

				<p>Psychology from a recognized University.</p> <p>UGC NET in Home Science / Psychology/ Education.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Candidates who have MA/MSc Home Science (Composite/ General) as eligibility qualifications and are interested to be considered for admission under PhD Home Science as well as PhD Child Development must fill up TWO SEPARATE application forms for PhD Home Science and PhD Child Development. Filling up a form for one PhD does NOT make you eligible to be considered for the other PhD automatically.</p>
29	SOCE	Home Science (PHDHC)	<p>UR =05*</p> <p>SC =02</p> <p>ST =01</p> <p>OBC =03</p> <p>EWS =02</p> <p>TOTAL=13</p> <p>[*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Locomotor)]</p>	<p>Master's Degree in Home Science with a specialization in Community Resource Management and Extension / Home Science Extension / Family Resource Management / Development Communication and Extension /Development Extension / Resource Management and Design Applications/ Home Management / Extension / Extension Education and Communication / Master's Degree in Home Science (General).Master's in Home Science (Clothing and Textiles / Textiles and Clothing / Textiles and Apparel Design / Master's degree in Fabric and Apparel Science) or Master's in Fashion and Textiles / Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Studies / Clothing and Textiles Sciences / Fashion Studies / Fashion Design.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Candidates who have MA/M.Sc. Home Science (Composite/ General) as eligibility qualifications and are interested to be considered for admission under PhD Home Science as well as PhD Child Development must fill up TWO SEPARATE application forms for PhD Home Science and PhD Child Development. Filling up a form for one</p>

				PhD does NOT make you eligible to be considered for the other PhD automatically.
30	SOVET	Vocational Education (PHDVE)	UR =03 SC =00 ST =00 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=06	Masters Degree with NET qualifications in Entrepreneurship, Commerce, Management, Environmental Sciences, Education, Labour Welfare/Personnel Management/Industrial Relations/Labour and Social Welfare/Human Resource Management, Agriculture Extension.
31	SOEDS	Development Studies (PHDDV)	UR =04 SC =01 ST =00 OBC =01 <u>EWS =00</u> TOTAL=06	Master's degree (two years/ four semesters in development studies, economics, sociology, political science, extension education, population studies or equivalent subjects with minimum 55 percent and UGC JRF/UGC Net for PhD. A relaxation of five percent marks has been provided to students who belong to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Castes communities (Non-Creamy Layer), Differently-abled and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category as per UGC norms.
32	SOGDS	Gender and Development Studies (PHDGDS)	UR =03 SC =02* ST =01 OBC =02 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=09 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Deaf/HH)]	Master's Degree in Women's Studies or Gender and Development Studies or Gender Studies or any Master's Programme in Social Sciences with 55% (50% marks in the case of SC,ST,OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Differently-abled and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC from time to time, or for those who has obtained their Master's Degree prior to 19 th September, 1991) excluding grace mark or Master's degree in other streams with one or two courses in the area of Women's Studies or Gender and Development Studies or Gender Studies and / or with demonstrable evidence of teaching and / or research publications in the area of Women's Studies or Gender Studies or Gender and Development Studies.
33	SOTST	Translation Studies (PHDTT)	UR =03 SC =01* ST =00 OBC =03 <u>EWS =01</u> TOTAL=08	Master's Degree in Translation Studies or allied Subjects viz., Literature/ Linguistics/Comparative Literature/ Cultural studies etc.

			[*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Deaf/HH)]	
34	SOFL	French (FL)	UR =01 SC =01 ST =00 OBC =01 EWS =01 TOTAL=04	MA/MPhil in French from an Indian or Foreign University
35	SOFL	Arabic (PHDAL)	UR =04* SC =00 ST =00 OBC =01 EWS =00 TOTAL=05 [*01 seat is reserved for PwBD (Blind/Low Vision)]	M.A in Arabic (As per latest Guidelines for Admissions approved by UGC/IGNOU)
36	SOJNMS	Journalism & Mass Communication (PHDJMC)	UR =03 SC =01 ST =01 OBC =03 EWS =00 TOTAL=08	Master's Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication/ Communication/ Journalism/ Development Journalism/ Journalism and Digital Media/Journalism and Electronic Media/Advertising and Public Relations/Media Research

Note: As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022, the *Guidelines Relating to Reservation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) in Ph.D. Admissions, 2026*, and the University Guidelines issued from time to time, 5% horizontal reservation shall be provided to Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) having not less than 40% benchmark disability, duly certified by a competent authority. Such reservation shall be adjusted against the respective vertical category (UR/SC/ST/OBC-NCL/EWS) to which the candidate belongs.

Where suitable candidates are not available under a particular disability category, interchange among eligible PwBD categories may be permitted within the horizontal reservation framework. In the event that no eligible PwBD candidate is available even after such interchange, the seat shall revert to the respective vertical category in accordance with the applicable roster. Such reverted seats shall not ordinarily be treated as backlog vacancies.

Annexure-IV

(No Objection Certificate from Employer must be submitted by the candidates seeking admission to Part Time Ph D Programme in IGNOU, New Delhi. The NOC should be submitted on the letterhead of the Employer).

Date:

NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr./Mrs.....S/O, D/O, W/O.....has been working as (designation)..... in our institute / Organisation (designation) in our Institute / Organization since (date)..... Our institute/ organization has no objection on his/ her admission in Ph.D. Programme as per the following terms:

- i. Mr. / Mrs..... is permitted to pursue the PhD programme on time basis.
- ii. His/her official duties shall permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research.
- iii. If required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

Signature,

Name and Seal of the Employer and Organization

Designation

Contact Address