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UNIVERSITY**
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Ref. No./CU/R/2024-25/1778

**NAAC
GRADE A+**
Accredited University

Dated: 12/06/2025

**FROM THE OFFICE OF REGISTRAR
NOTIFICATION**

Subject: Regarding Ph.D. program framework.

The Ph.D. program framework outlining key components i.e. eligibility criteria, admission processes, coursework structure, research supervision, progress evaluation mechanisms and grievances mechanism is notified as Annexure I.

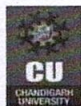
This framework will uphold academic rigor, foster high quality research and promote a culture of scholarly excellence.

Registrar
[Signature]
Registrar
Chandigarh University
Gharuan, Mohali-140413

Cc: Copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. All Principals/Heads of University Teaching Departments
2. All the Deans/Executive Directors/Directors
3. All Branch Officers
4. OSD/PAs to Pro-Chancellor and Vice Chancellor *(for kind information of the Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor)*

Encl: As above



CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY

Department of Academic Research (DAR)



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Ph.D. PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

Issued By	Dean Research Office
Framework	Ph.D. Program
Version	June, 2025
Ref. No.	CU/UCRD/Ph.D./25/855

Robina

Dean Research & Development
Chandigarh University
Gharuan-Mohali (Pb)



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Department of Academic Research (DAR)

A) List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
CU	Chandigarh University
DAR	Department of Academic Research
AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
DST	Department of Science and Technology
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
UGC	University Grants Commission
SOP	Statement of Purpose
SSC	Scholar Selection Committee
DRC	Departmental Research Committee
SRC	Scholarly Research Committee
PTPS	Pre-Thesis Proposal Seminar
TPS	Thesis Proposal Seminar
SPR	Six-Month Progress Report
CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average
ME	Master of Engineering
MBA	Master of Business Administration
M.Phil.	Master of Philosophy
NPTEL	National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning
SWAYAM	Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds
HR	Human Resources
Q1, Q2	Quartile 1, Quartile 2 (Journal ranking categories)
SCIE	Science Citation Index Expanded
DMC	Detailed Marks Card
UIMS	University Information Management System
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
VC	Vice Chancellor
THM	Tourism and Hospitality Management
N&D	Nutrition and Dietetics
MLT	Medical Lab Technology



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B) Preamble

- **Ph. D. Thesis** is the documentation of the research work carried out by a research scholar.
- **Research** means the systematic investigation of the existing or new knowledge. It is used to establish or confirm the fact(s), reaffirm the result(s) of previous work(s), solve new or existing problem(s), support theorem(s) or develop new theory (or theories). A research project may also be an expansion of past work in the field.
- **The Ph. D. Degree** signifies that an awardee of the degree has undertaken a substantial piece of research work, which has been conducted and reported under the proper academic supervision and in an appropriate research environment during a prescribed period.
- **Research Scholar** means a student admitted to a Ph. D. program through the well-defined established procedure adopted by Chandigarh University (CU). Following categories of the research scholars ordinarily shall be admitted.
- ❖ **A Regular Full Time Research Scholar** shall receive an assistantship from CU or from any other recognized and approved funding agency such as AICTE, CSIR, DBT, DST, ICAR, ICMR, UGC etc.
- ❖ **A Self-Supporting Research Scholar** shall not receive any assistantship and shall undertake the program either as a part-time or full-time scholar.
A Sponsored Research Scholar may be sponsored by any government department or by any reputed industry or by any external research organization or by any academic organization. Such a scholar must provide a certificate of sponsorship from her / his employer in the prescribed form at the time of submitting the application for admission.

C) Eligibility Criteria: -

The following candidates are eligible to apply for admission to the Ph.D. programme:
Candidates who have successfully completed:

- (a) A 1-year/2-semester (Or more) master's degree program after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree program or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree program after a 3-year bachelor's degree program 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



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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.

- (b) A 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree program should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed.
- (c) Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. program 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. program.
 - 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) Admission Process

Submission of application form: All interested candidates fill the online/offline application form available at www.cuchd.in along with application fee and upload the required documents. The candidates who qualify the above-mentioned eligibility criteria will be called for interview along with presentation of Statement of Purpose (SOP)/Research proposal.

- (i.) Candidates are required to appear for CU eligibility test conducted online. (Note: Entrance exam syllabus will consist of 50% Research Aptitude, English Language Proficiency, and Logical Reasoning, and 50% shall be subject-specific. The syllabi are available at web portal of CU and will be announced during the examination period by respective institutes.
- (ii.) Candidates who qualify for a fellowship/scholarship through UGC-NET, UGC-CSIR NET, GATE, CEED, or similar national-level tests are exempted from the CU eligibility test.



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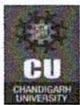
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- (iii.) Shortlisted candidates will be invited to appear before the Scholar Selection Committee (SSC) for an interview. The final selection of candidates shall be made based on the following criteria:
- (a) 70% weightage for the performance in the CU eligibility test/other qualifying examinations.
 - (b) 20% weightage for performance in the interview.
 - (c) 10% weightage for Statement of Purpose (SOP)/Research proposal presentation.
 - (d) Selection shall also be subject to the availability of seats in each subject/discipline, as announced on the official university website.
- (iv.) Candidates must indicate their preferred supervisor(s) before appearing for the Ph.D. interview. They are required to consult the online database of available supervisors and provide a minimum of four preferences for Supervisor-1. Candidates may also fill separate preferences for Supervisor-2, selecting a maximum of three potential supervisors. These preferences may include faculty members from interdisciplinary departments, provided their expertise is relevant to the candidate's proposed area of research. In cases where fewer than four supervisors are listed in the chosen discipline, candidates can select accordingly.
- (v.) The Dean/Head of the department will forward the list of the selected candidates, rejected candidates, waitlisted candidates, candidates not called for test/interview due to non-eligibility or incomplete application along with their applications to the Dean (Research). The Dean (Research) will seek the approval of the Vice-Chancellor for declaration of the results. The list of the selected candidates will be notified by email and on CU website.
- (vi.) Candidates must pay the prescribed semester fee within the stipulated time. Only upon successful payment of the fee, candidate will be officially enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

*Note: A member of the **academic/ non-academic staff of CU** who satisfies above eligibility criteria may be considered for admission to the Ph.D. degree as a **Part-time scholar** provided, they have been given administrative clearance by the Registrar/Vice-Chancellor.*

E) Programme Duration

1. Minimum: 3 years (including coursework) | Maximum: 6 years.
2. Extension permissible up to 8 years with re-registration on DRC recommendations.



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3. Women candidates and persons with disabilities (with a disability of 40% or more) may be granted an additional relaxation of up to 2 years in the maximum duration of the Ph.D. program. However, under no circumstances shall the total period for completion of the Ph.D. exceed 10 years from the date of admission.
4. Female Ph.D. scholars are eligible for maternity or childcare leave of up to 240 days during the course of their Ph.D. program. This leave is inclusive within the maximum limit allowed for the completion of the degree.

F) Structure and Functionalities of Different Committees

a) Constitution of Scholar Selection Committee (SSC)

S. No.	Role	Designation
1.	Chairman	Head of the Department/ Dean or Director of the school
2.	Member Secretary	Ph.D. Coordinator of the department
3.	Members	4-5 Professors and Associate Professors from the department/School
4.	DAR Representative	Member nominated by the Dean (R&D) or PVC Research

The SSC shall be responsible for:

1. Conducting Ph.D. admission interviews and assessing the Statement of Purpose (SOP) presentations.
2. Verifying eligibility criteria and research competence of candidates.
3. Shortlist candidates based on academic qualifications, and research interests.
4. Evaluating candidates based on merit, research aptitude, and alignment with departmental research priorities.
5. Recommend the final list of selected candidates to the DAR Office.
6. Ensure adherence to reservation and diversity policies (where applicable).

b) Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

S. No.	Role	Designation
1.	Chairman	Head of the Department/ Dean or Director of the school
2.	Member Secretary	Ph.D. Coordinator of the department
3.	Members	8-10 Professors and Associate Professors from



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the department/school

The DRC shall be responsible for:

1. Approving the allocation of supervisor(s) and processing requests for a change of supervisor, as per institutional guidelines.
2. Assessing and recommending the inclusion of interdisciplinary or external supervisors where necessary for the candidate's research.
3. Identifying and addressing issues related to research delays, lack of academic progress, or non-compliance with program requirements.
4. Serving as the primary body for grievance redressal and resolution.
5. Monitoring compliance with departmental and university regulations.
6. Administrative and departmental oversight of the research process.
7. Extension of Ph.D. programme.

c) Scholarly Research Committee (SRC)

S. No.	Role	Designation
1.	Chairman	Head of the Department/ Dean or Director of the school
2.	Member Secretary	Supervisor-1 and Supervisor-2
3.	Members	a) 2 Professors/Associate Professors from the department/school of the same research interest. b) 2 Professors/Associate Professors from the inter disciplinary (in case of interdisciplinary research)
4.	Co-opted Member	Ph.D. Coordinator of the department

The SRC shall be responsible for:

1. Evaluating periodic progress reports and conducting six-month progress reports (SPR). The six-monthly progress reports shall be submitted to DRC with a copy to the research scholar.
2. To review the research proposal, research gaps and finalize objectives and the title of research.



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3. To guide the research scholar in developing an appropriate study design and research methodology, and to identify any coursework the scholar may be required to complete.
4. In case the progress of the research scholar is unsatisfactory, the SRC shall record the reasons for the same and suggest corrective measures. If the research scholar fails to implement these corrective measures, the SRC may recommend the cancellation of registration from the programme.
5. Approving modifications to research plans, titles, or supervisory arrangements.
6. Conducting evaluations and presentations for the Pre-Thesis Proposal Seminar (PTPS) and final Synopsis, in coordination with one nominated representative from the Department of Academic Research (DAR) office.
7. Providing academic and methodological guidance in response to issues raised by the scholar or supervisor, and to participate actively in resolving grievances related to the research process.
8. The prime focus of SRC is to uphold the quality of research, provide academic guidance, and ensure rigorous evaluation of individual scholars throughout the duration of the Ph.D. program.

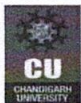
G) University Thrust Areas for Research and Innovation

1. Architecture

- Sustainable Architecture and Green Buildings
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Smart Cities and Infrastructure
- Heritage Conservation
- Climate-Responsive Design
- Digital Architecture and BIM

2. Civil Engineering

- Sustainable Construction Materials
- AI/ML Applications in Civil Engineering
- Concrete Technology
- Structural Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering including GIS
- Environmental Engineering
- Construction Technology & Management
- Sustainable Mobility and Intelligent Transportation



3. Computer Science and Engineering

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Cybersecurity and Blockchain
- Data Science and Big Data Analytics
- Cloud and Edge Computing
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Biofeedback
- Human robot interaction

4. Mechanical Engineering

- Advanced Manufacturing and 3D Printing
- Thermal and Fluid Sciences
- Robotics and Automation
- Smart Materials and MEMS
- Renewable Energy Systems

5. Electrical Engineering

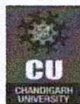
- Power Systems and Smart Grids
- Renewable Energy Integration
- Control Systems and Automation
- Electric Vehicles and Battery Technologies

6. Electronics and Communication Engineering

- VLSI and Embedded Systems
- Wireless Communication and 5G
- Signal and Image Processing
- Antenna Design
- Biofeedback
- Robotics, Human robot interaction
- Healthcare
- RF and Microwave Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Internet of Things (IoT) and Cyber-Physical Systems
- Photonics and Optoelectronics

7. Biotechnology

- Genetic Engineering and CRISPR
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
- Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology
- Drug Discovery and Bioprocess Engineering



8. Physics

- Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Quantum Materials
- Functional Materials
- Glasses and Ceramics
- Photonics and Optoelectronics
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos Theory
- High-Energy and Particle Physics
- Nuclear Physics
- Atomic and Optical Clocks

9. Chemistry

- Green and Sustainable Chemistry
- Material Chemistry and Nanotechnology
- Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Analytical and Electrochemical Techniques

10. Management

- Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship
- Financial Analytics and FinTech
- Marketing Analytics and Consumer Behavior
- Human Resource Management in Industry 4.0

11. Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Drug Design and Delivery Systems
- Pharmacogenomics and Toxicology
- Herbal and Natural Product Research
- Clinical and Regulatory Pharmacy

12. Legal Studies

- Cyber Law and Digital Governance
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Environmental and Human Rights Law
- Comparative Constitutional Studies

13. Media Studies

- Digital Media and Communication
- Media Literacy and Social Impact
- Film and Visual Culture
- Journalism and Ethics in New Media



14. Education

- Curriculum Innovation and Pedagogy
- Inclusive and Special Education
- Educational Technology and e-Learning
- Policy and Administration in Education

15. Computer Applications

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- Data Science & Big Data Analytics
- Cybersecurity & Blockchain
- Cloud Computing & Virtualization
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Software Engineering & Agile Development
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

16. Mathematics

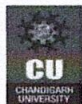
- Applied Mathematics & Mathematical Modeling
- Computational Mathematics
- Pure Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, Number Theory)
- Optimization Techniques
- Probability & Statistics
- Mathematical Biology
- Cryptography & Information Security
- Pure Mathematics- (Analysis, Fixed point theory, Algebra, Geometry, Fractional calculus, Special Functions, Fractals, etc.)
- Data Science

17. Zoology

- Wildlife Conservation & Biodiversity
- Animal Physiology & Endocrinology
- Ecology & Environmental Biology
- Entomology and Pest Management
- Molecular Zoology & Genetics
- Evolutionary Biology
- Aquatic Biology and Fisheries

18. Psychology

- Clinical & Counseling Psychology
- Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Organizational/Industrial Psychology
- Educational & Child Psychology



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- Positive Psychology & Mental Health

19. Hotel Management

- Hospitality Operations & Quality Management
- Tourism Development & Sustainability
- Food and Beverage Innovation
- Hospitality Marketing & Consumer Behavior
- Event Management
- Revenue Management and Hospitality Analytics
- Green and Sustainable Hospitality Practices
- Eco and Community based Tourism
- Impact of tourism on climate change and carbon footprints.
- Biosphere reserves and protected areas for tourism development.

20. Medical Lab Technology

- Clinical Biochemistry & Hematology
- Molecular Diagnostics
- Medical Microbiology & Virology
- Immunopathology
- Laboratory Automation & AI Integration
- Quality Control in Laboratory Practices
- Infectious Disease Diagnostics

21. Nutrition and Dietetics

- Clinical Nutrition & Therapeutic Diets
- Public Health Nutrition
- Nutrigenomics
- Food Safety and Quality Control
- Sports Nutrition
- Diet and Chronic Disease Management
- Functional Foods & Nutraceuticals

22. Physical Education

- Sports Science & Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanics & Kinesiology
- Sports Psychology
- Physical Fitness and Wellness Programs
- Inclusive Physical Education
- Sports Training and Coaching
- Adapted Physical Education for Special Needs

23. Botany

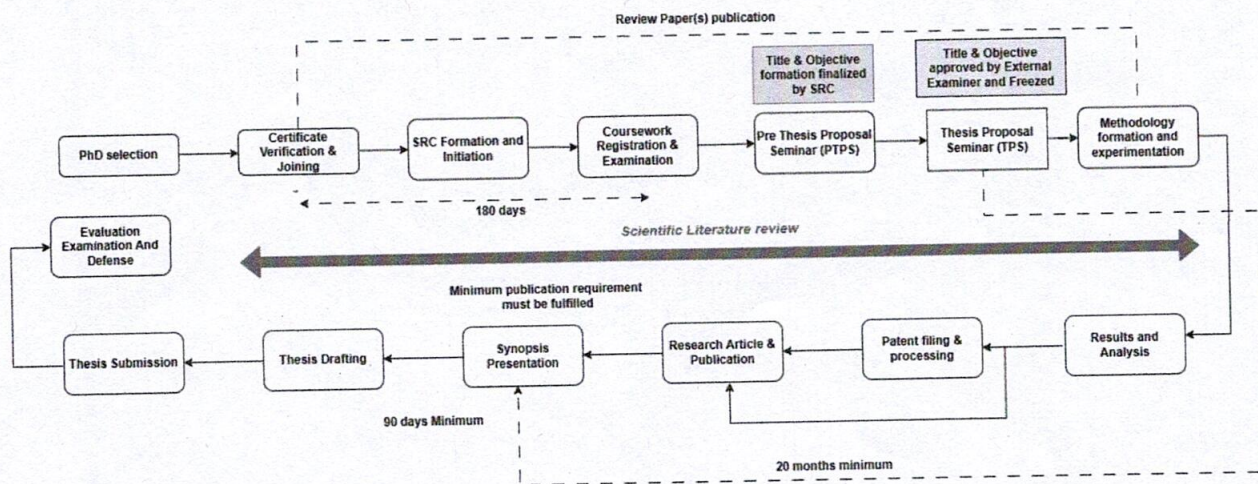
- Plant Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

- Plant Physiology and Biochemistry
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Plant Taxonomy and Systematics
- Ethnobotany and Traditional Knowledge Systems
- Environmental and Stress Biology
- Plant-Microbe Interactions
- Conservation Biology and Biodiversity
- Agronomy and Sustainable Agriculture

24. Physiotherapy

- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Musculoskeletal and Orthopedic Physiotherapy
- Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapy
- Sports Physiotherapy and Injury Prevention
- Geriatric Rehabilitation
- Pediatric Physiotherapy
- Women's Health and Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation
- Pain Management and Manual Therapy
- Tele-rehabilitation and Digital Health in Physiotherapy

WORKFLOW OF Ph.D. PROGRAM



General Work Flow

Fig. 1. Ph.D. Program Framework

1. Stage 1:

Supervisor(s) Allocation Process (Supervisor(s) will be allocated before the commencement of classes.)



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1.1. Recognition as Supervisors:

- 1.1.1. Recognition as Supervisor for guiding research work will be accorded by the Vice-Chancellor in the prescribed format.
- 1.1.2. The Vice-Chancellor is conferred with special powers to relax the conditions in special cases and to cancel or withdraw the recognition status given to a Ph.D. supervisor.
- 1.1.3. Recognized supervisors can only supervise scholars in other institutions, with prior approval from the Dean Research and Vice-Chancellor and this should be reported in the academic council minutes.
- 1.1.4. Recognizing supervisor will be as per the relevant UGC and other statutory norms.

1.2. Eligibility criteria to be a supervisor:

- 1.2.1. A permanent faculty member working as Professor / Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor of CU with a Ph.D.

1.3. Allocation of Supervisor(s):

- 1.3.1. An eligible Professor/ Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor can supervise up to eight/six/four Ph.D. scholars, respectively. At any point, the total number of Ph.D. scholars under a faculty member, as a supervisor, shall not exceed the number prescribed in this clause.
- 1.3.2. In the case of interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research work, if required, a supervisor-2 from outside the Department/School/Centre/College/University may be appointed if they are well known in their research work and have Q1/ Q2 SCIE publication as per JCR reports. This condition may be relaxed by Vice Chancellor in case such persons are not available for specific disciplines/Research areas.
- 1.3.3. In cases where there are two supervisors, a full supervision slot will be counted for each supervisor involved. Furthermore, Supervisor-1 (the main supervisor) must be from the parent department offering the Ph.D. program.
- 1.3.4. CU may approve a faculty member from a collaborating institution as Supervisor-2 for a Ph.D. scholar, provided the faculty member fulfils the prescribed eligibility requirements. The collaborating institution may be an

industry, a recognized organization, or an academic/research institution, including those based in other countries.

1.3.5. In case of relocation of a Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred, provided all the other conditions in these regulations are followed and the research work does not pertain to the project secured by CU supervisor(s) from any funding agency. The scholar will, however, give due credit to the CU supervisor(s) and CU for part of the research already done.

1.3.6. Faculty members with less than three years of service before superannuation shall not be allowed to take new research scholars under their supervision. However, such faculty members can continue to supervise Ph.D. scholars who are already registered until superannuation and as a supervisor-2 after superannuation, but not after attaining the age of 70 years.

1.4. Process for Allocation of Supervisor(s):

The allocation of supervisors shall be carried out through a structured and transparent process as outlined in Fig. 2:

- 1.4.1.** The Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and profiles of eligible supervisors shall be made available to prospective Ph.D. scholars, based on their responses to a preliminary online preference form.
- 1.4.2.** Scholars will review the available supervisor profiles and shortlist potential supervisors whose research areas align with their proposed research interests.
- 1.4.3.** These preferences will be submitted through an official online supervisor selection form to the respective Ph.D. coordinators.
- 1.4.4.** The Ph.D. coordinators shall review the submitted preferences and finalize the proposed allocation of Supervisor-1 and Supervisor-2 (if applicable) and seek formal consent from the selected supervisors.
- 1.4.5.** The finalized recommendations will be forwarded to the Department of Academic Research (DAR) for review and approval.
- 1.4.6.** Upon receiving all necessary approvals, the supervisor allocation shall be formally confirmed and communicated to the scholar.

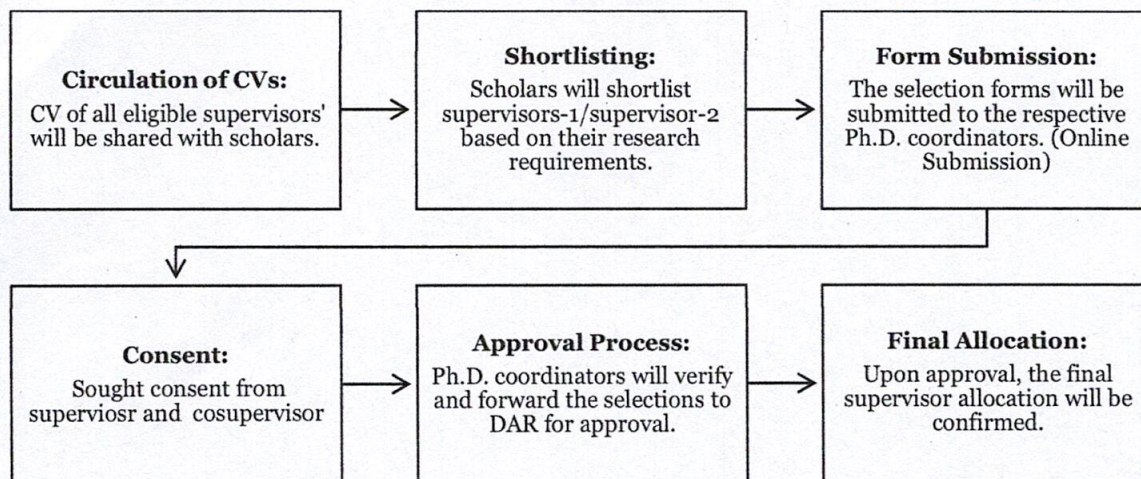


Fig. 2. Supervisor(s) Selection Process

1.5. Interdisciplinary Research and External Supervisors:

For interdisciplinary research work, it is mandatory to appoint a supervisor-2 from a different department relevant to the research area.

1.5.1. If an external supervisor (from outside the CU) is proposed, the scholar must obtain prior consent from the following:

- Supervisor-1
- Supervisor-2 (if applicable)
- Departmental Research Committee (DRC)
- Dean Research

1.5.2. A formal consent letter from the external supervisor must also be submitted and approved by the relevant authorities before the scholar can proceed.

1.6. Change of Supervisor:

1.6.1. If during the course work period and before the research objectives are finalized, either the supervisor does not wish to continue supervision or the scholar does not wish to continue with the assigned supervisor, a change of supervisor may be allowed. In such cases, the scholar can opt for a new



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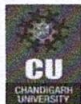
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supervisor from the previously submitted preference list or submit new preferences.

- 1.6.2. If the research objectives are already finalized, a supervisor change will only be allowed on strong and valid grounds. In such cases, the scholar will not be permitted to choose a new supervisor. The new supervisor will be allocated by the PVC/Dean (Research and Development).
- 1.6.3. If a supervisor becomes unavailable or absconds, the supervisor-2 (if any) may assume the role of supervisor -1 after approval from the DRC, Dean, and PVC, and with final approval from the Vice Chancellor (VC). Otherwise, if there is no supervisor-2, a new supervisor shall be appointed by the DRC in consultation with the Dean and PVC research, subject to final approval by the Vice-Chancellor.
- 1.6.4. If the supervisor-2 is from a different department, the scholar may propose a new supervisor from the relevant department. The entire process of change must be completed within 30 days.

1.7. Supervisor Resignation or Departure from University

- 1.7.1. If a supervisor is leaving the university, a transition must be managed by obtaining consent from the scholar, the outgoing supervisor, and the incoming supervisor. All parties must sign the transfer agreement.
- 1.7.2. If a supervisor-1 or supervisor-2 resigns, the Human Resources (HR) department will provide the information to the Research Office. This will enable the supervisor reassignment process to be completed within the one-month notice period.
- 1.7.3. If the supervisor leaves before objective finalization, they will no longer be allowed to continue supervising the scholar; however, in special circumstances, the Vice Chancellor may accord permission for continued supervision.
- 1.7.4. If the supervisor-1 leaves after objective finalization, they must continue to supervise the scholar in the capacity of a supervisor-2, provided there is at least one supervisor from CU.
- 1.7.5. If the supervisor leaves after final or pre-thesis submission, there is no need to appoint a new supervisor; the outgoing supervisor may continue supervision until final defense.



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2. Stage 1:

2.1. Course Work (First 6 months)

- The courses are aligned with UGC guidelines and must be completed with a minimum CGPA of 6.0 (maximum 3 attempts allowed). Scholars are required to complete minimum four courses of 12 credits, which include:
 1. Seminar (2 credits)
 2. Research and Publication Ethics (2 credits)
 3. Research Methodology (4 credits)
 4. One subject specified by supervisor(s) (4 credits)

2.2. Research Methodology Classes

The subject "Research Methodology" for full-time scholars will be conducted in offline mode (physical mode). If full-time scholars are taking academic load, their first two lecture slots should remain unengaged. The classes will be conducted by senior professors. For part-time scholars, the subject will be conducted online on weekends

2.3. Subject Specified by Supervisor(s)

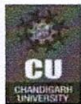
Each scholar is required to undertake one subject specified by their supervisor(s), aligned with their proposed research area. If this subject is already being offered in ME, MBA, M.Phil., or any other master's program, the scholar must attend the class along with the respective students.

2.3.1. If more than 50% of Ph.D. scholars are registered for the same subject, it will be scheduled as a weekend class taught by designated faculty.

2.3.2. Otherwise, the scholar may attend classes with master's students (ME/MBA/M.Phil. or equivalent), or complete the subject through NPTEL/SWAYAM platforms.

2.3.3. For part-time scholars, if the subject is not being taught currently, it can be completed through NPTEL/SWAYAM.

In such cases, the scholar must produce a valid pass certificate issued by NPTEL or SWAYAM. Upon successful completion of coursework, scholars will be eligible to proceed to the next stage.



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3. Stage 3:

3.1. Research Plan & Pre Thesis Proposal Seminar (PTPS) *(Minimum duration after course work should be 6 months)*

3.1.1. Research plan presentation: The scholar shall prepare and present a preliminary research plan outlining the scope, methodology, and expected outcomes of the proposed study.

3.1.2. The scholar must present the Pre-Thesis Proposal Seminar (PTPS) before the Student Research Committee (SRC), in conjunction with one expert nominated by the DAR office. This presentation serves as a formal academic evaluation of the research direction and feasibility.

3.1.3. A **research proposal** is prepared, comprising:

- Research Title.
- Identified research gaps.
- Objectives of the study.

4. Stage 4

Thesis Proposal Seminar (TPS) External: At this stage, the scholar must submit the TPS report with a plagiarism level not exceeding 10%, as verified through approved plagiarism detection software.

4.1. Upon internal approval, the finalized research proposal will be forwarded to an external examiner for evaluation.

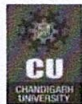
4.2. The external TPS process includes the following components:

4.2.1. Finalization of the research title.

4.2.2. Approval of research gaps and objectives.

Note:

- a) Once approved by the external examiner, the research objectives and title will be final. Any subsequent modifications to these components will require the scholar to repeat both the Pre-Thesis Proposal Seminar (PTPS) and the Thesis Proposal Seminar (TPS) processes.



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- b) The final TPS report shall be forwarded to the external examiner, and the thesis examination is typically expected to be conducted within 2 to 3 months.

While submitting the Ph.D. **TPS** report for an external viva voce examination of a candidate, the following documents must be attached:

1. Registration form
2. Course work Result- DMC
3. Six-month progress report (for all semesters)
4. PTPS report with minutes of meeting
5. Two copies of report
6. Plagiarism report
7. External Examiner panel

5. Stage 5:

Progress Review Process (Every 6 months)

5.1. Weekly Meetings and Documentation:

- 5.1.1. Every Ph.D. scholar is required to hold weekly meetings with their supervisor to discuss research progress and address any academic or administrative issues.
- 5.1.2. Minutes of each meeting must be prepared and properly documented by the scholar, and validated by the supervisor.
- 5.1.3. The four to five meetings conducted each month will collectively constitute the monthly research progress report.
- 5.1.4. The monthly report must be uploaded to the University Information Management System (UIMS) only after obtaining approval from the supervisor.

5.2. Monthly Evaluation and Progress Report Submission:

- 5.2.1. Supervisors are required to verify the monthly evaluation, including ratings and remarks, in the Monthly Progress Report available on the Web portal for the work done by their scholars each month.



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5.2.2. Hard copy submissions are also permitted if required by the institute. The decision to accept hard copies will be made by the concerned Ph.D. Coordinator, Head, or Director.

5.3. Six-Monthly Report:

5.3.1. After submission of six consecutive monthly progress reports, the compiled reports must be downloaded, signed by the supervisor, and submitted for approval by the Scholarly Research Committee (SRC).

5.3.2. These six reports, once approved, will constitute the scholar's official Six-Month Progress Report (SPR).

5.3.3. A biannual progress review seminar shall be conducted in the presence of the SRC, during which the scholar presents their research progress and receives feedback.

5.3.4. Feedback provided by the Scholarly Research Committee (SRC) during the biannual progress review seminar must be duly incorporated into the scholar's ongoing research work, and reflected in subsequent progress reports and presentations.

6. Stage 6:

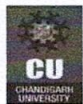
Publications (Start early publication, write at least 1 review paper during course work)

- Scholars conduct experiments, collect data, and analyze research findings.
- Patent filing and intellectual property protection are encouraged when applicable.
- Scholars must meet publication requirements through one of the following combinations mentioned in Table 1.

6.1. Publication Conditions (Minimum Requirements)

6.1.1. The journal publication must be in a peer-reviewed journal and should be indexed in Scopus.

6.1.2. Conference articles should be presented at reputable conferences and must also be indexed in Scopus to qualify.



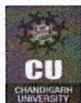
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- 6.1.3.** The journal may fall under any Quartile Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4, as per the Scopus indexing list.
- 6.1.4.** The Ph.D. candidate must be the first author of the publication.
- 6.1.5.** The author's affiliation must clearly state "Chandigarh University".
- 6.1.6.** The article must align with and fall under the scope of the defined research objectives.
- 6.1.7.** Additional co-authors may be included upon verification of their contributions, but the total number of authors should not exceed six.
- 6.1.8.** One granted patent, relevant to the scope of the scholar's research work, will be considered equivalent to one journal article.

Table 1. Cluster wise detailed minimum publication conditions

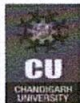
Sr. No.	Name of Cluster	Name of Departments	Minimum Publication conditions
1.	ENGINEERING	Doctor of Philosophy Civil Engineering / Electronics and Communication Engineering / Mechanical Engineering / Computer Applications / Computer Science and Engineering / Electrical Engineering	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
2.	SCIENCE	Doctor of Philosophy Physics / Mathematics / Zoology / Botany / Chemistry / Pharmaceutical Sciences / Bio-Technology	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
3.	MANAGEMENT	Doctor of Philosophy Business Management / Commerce / Economics / Tourism and Hospitality Management	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference)



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			Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
4.	ARTS	Doctor of Philosophy English / Psychology / Education / Mass Communication	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
5.	Allied SCIENCE	Doctor of Philosophy Nutrition & Dietetics / Optometry / Medical lab Technology / Physiotherapy / Forensic Science	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
7.	LEGAL STUDIES	Doctor of Philosophy Law	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal or conference)
8.	Architecture	Doctor of Philosophy Architecture	01 Scopus Journal Research Article (Compulsory) and 02 Scopus indexed Articles (may be journal or conference) Or 01 Journal research article in Q1 and 01 other article in Scopus (may be journal



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			or conference)
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- The scholar must be the **first author**, with the supervisor listed as a co-author.
- Publication records are submitted for review as part of the research progress.

7. Stage 7

Synopsis Submission (Internal) (Minimum eligibility: After 30 months of enrolment and 20 months' post TPS)

Ph.D. scholars are required to submit a Synopsis document after fulfilling the minimum publication requirements and meeting the prescribed timeline conditions. The synopsis must provide a comprehensive overview of the research work completed, highlighting the major findings and including a detailed record of publications resulting from the research.

1. The Student Research Committee (SRC), in conjunction with one expert nominated by the DAR office, will evaluate the scholar's research work based on the following criteria:
 - a. The quality and originality of the research work.
 - b. Compliance with publication requirements as specified in the Ph.D. guidelines

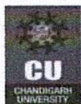
Based on the evaluation, the committee will either recommend the scholar for final thesis submission or provide detailed suggestions for modifications to be addressed prior to resubmission.

9. Stage 8:

Thesis Preparation and Submission (Minimum 90 days after synopsis approval)

Following the completion and internal approval of the synopsis, the Ph.D. scholar will be allocated a minimum of 90 days for the preparation of the final thesis. Thesis shall undergo multiple stages of evaluation, including supervisor review, departmental scrutiny, and compliance checks, prior to final submission for external examination.

9.1. Thesis Submission Fee



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Prior to submission of thesis file in the Department of Academic Research (DAR) office the scholar must pay a thesis submission fee of ₹25,000. After payment of the submission fee, the complete thesis submission file must be submitted to the Department of Academic Research (DAR) office within 20 days from the date of payment.

9.2. Required Documents

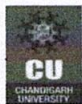
The following documents must be attached along with the final thesis submission:

1. Registration form
2. Course work Result- DMC
3. Six month progress report (for all semesters)
4. Final synopsis with minutes of meeting
5. Two hard copies of final thesis
6. Thesis submission fee receipt
7. Plagiarism report
8. External Examiner panel
9. Published papers

10. Constitution of the External Examiner Panel for Final Ph.D. Thesis Defense

In reference to the need for establishing uniformity and academic rigor in the evaluation process of Ph.D. theses, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the constitution of the External Examiner Panel for the final Ph.D. viva voce has been drafted. In accordance with this SOP, a panel comprising eight (08) external examiners is to be constituted for each Ph.D. candidate. The panel has to be formed based on the following guidelines:

1. A total of eight (08) external examiners shall be nominated, out of which 50% of the experts should be from Institutes of National Importance and Government Universities.
2. All nominees must hold the designation of Associate Professor or above.
3. The panel shall include a minimum of three (03) Professors, fulfilling the mandatory academic seniority requirement.



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4. Four (04) examiners should be located within a 200 Km radius of the institution, and the remaining four (04) from other parts of India. Additionally, one international nomination may be included.
5. Official email IDs and verified contact numbers of all nominated members are mandatory for communication and verification.
6. The Supervisor and Ph.D. Coordinator are responsible for confirming the availability and willingness of each nominee to undertake the evaluation and participate in the viva voce as per the schedule.
7. Final selection of examiners will be done by the Hon. Vice Chancellor.
8. Invitation to the external examiner for thesis/synopsis evaluation will be sent via email, and upon acceptance, a hard/soft copy of the thesis will be shared as required by the examiner.
9. After sending the invitation, the first follow-up via email and call will be made after 5 days, and repeated three times. If the examiner does not respond, a new examiner's approval will again be sought from the Vice Chancellor, and the same process will be repeated.
10. Upon acceptance by the external examiner, the first reminder email to share the evaluation report will be sent one month after sharing the thesis/synopsis file. This will be followed by biweekly follow-ups (3 times). If the examiner fails to submit the report within the stipulated time and refuses to provide it, another examiner will be selected by the Vice Chancellor.
11. The maximum time to complete the viva from the date of thesis submission is six (06) months.
12. The maximum time to complete the synopsis viva from the date of synopsis submission is three (03) months.
13. The final Ph.D. thesis viva voce shall be conducted in offline mode. However, if the external examiner is unable to attend in person, the mode may be changed to hybrid to facilitate the examiner's online participation. Nevertheless, it is mandatory for the scholar and DRC members to attend in offline mode.

11. Stage 9

Evaluation and Defense of Thesis



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If the examiner explicitly recommends resubmission, the following provisions will be applied:

- a) The scholar will be required to revise the thesis in accordance with the examiner's comments and resubmit it for re-evaluation.
- b) A resubmission fee of ₹10,000 must be paid by the scholar at the time of revised submission.

If the thesis is approved by the external examiner, an open defense examination is conducted in the presence of external expert. Based on the evaluation report of the external expert and the performance during the defense, the scholar may be required to submit a revised version of the thesis, incorporating the suggested changes, if applicable.

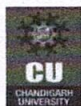
Upon successful completion of the defense and approval of any required revisions, the scholar has to submit a hard bound copy of the thesis duly signed by the expert and supervisor(s) to the DAR office. A **formal notification** confirming the award of the degree shall be issued by the university upon completion of all administrative and academic formalities.

Grievance Redressal and Dispute Resolution

The Grievance Redressal and Dispute Resolution mechanism is a structured and transparent process designed to address and resolve issues faced by Ph.D. students. It ensures that students have a fair and accessible platform to voice their concerns and seek solutions. The system categorizes grievances into two broad types: **Queries (normal issues)** and **Grievances (substantive or serious concerns)**. Normal queries include routine academic or administrative questions, while sincere issues involve more serious concerns such as problems with supervisors, mentorship, or institutional policies. Below is a detailed explanation of the grievance redressal process, including the types of issues addressed and the steps involved in resolving them.

11.1. Normal Queries

These are routine questions or concerns that students may have during their Ph.D. journey. Examples include:



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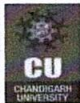
- **Ph.D. Conditions:** Clarifications about program requirements, timelines, or milestones.
- **Publication Guidance:** Assistance with finding suitable journals or conferences for publication.
- **Venue Selection:** Help with selecting appropriate venues for presenting research.
- **ERP Account Issues:** Queries related to fee deposits, account access, or technical problems.
- **Coursework:** Questions about course registration, deadlines, or evaluation criteria.

In the grievance redressal process, queries and issues are systematically routed through the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) Chairman to ensure efficient and effective resolution. The DRC Chairman plays a central role in coordinating and overseeing the resolution process, ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly and fairly. The Chairman routes the issues to other key stakeholders, such as supervisors, Ph.D. coordinators, administrative staff, and committees like the Student Research Committee (SRC) and Departmental Research Committee (DRC), to address the concerns comprehensively.

11.1.1. Role of the DRC Chairman

The DRC Chairman is responsible for ensuring that all student queries and grievances are addressed promptly and fairly. Their key responsibilities include:

- **Receiving Queries and Grievances:** The DRC Chairman serves as the primary point of contact for students to submit their concerns.
- **Assessing the Nature of the Issue:** The Chairman evaluates whether the issue is a routine query or a serious grievance requiring formal intervention.
- **Routing to Appropriate Stakeholders:** Based on the nature of the issue, the Chairman routes it to the relevant individuals or committees, such as supervisors, Ph.D. coordinators, administrative staff, SRC, or DRC.
- **Coordinating the Resolution Process:** The Chairman oversees the resolution process, ensuring that all parties work collaboratively to address the concern.
- **Monitoring Timeliness and Fairness:** The Chairman ensures that the issue is resolved within 10 days timeframe and that the process is transparent and fair.



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- **Escalating Serious Issues:** For grievances that cannot be resolved at the departmental level, the Chairman escalates them to DAR.

11.1.2. Routing Process

The DRC Chairman routes queries and grievances to the following stakeholders based on the nature of the issue:

A. Supervisors

- **Role:** Address issues related to research guidance, feedback, and academic progress.
- **Instances:** Inadequate supervision, lack of timely feedback, or disagreements over research direction.

B. Ph.D. Coordinators

- **Role:** Handle administrative and procedural queries, such as program requirements, coursework, milestones, ERP, account related.
- **Instances:** Course registration, deadlines, or clarification of program policies, fee payment, semester update, conference payment. Fee deposit issues, ERP account access problems, or delays in funding disbursement.

C. Student Research Committee (SRC)

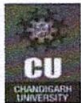
- **Role:** Provide guidance on research-related issues, such as publication, journal selection, and conference participation.
- **Instances:** Assistance with finding suitable journals, resolving authorship disputes, or preparing for conferences.

D. Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

- **Role:** Address conflicts related to research methodology, intellectual property, ethical concerns, supervisor allocation conflict, etc.
- **Instances:** Disputes over research direction, ethical clearance, or access to research resources.

11.1.3. Resolution Process

- **Submission:** Students submit their queries or grievances to the DRC Chairman.



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- **Assessment:** The Chairman assesses the nature of the issue and determines the appropriate stakeholder or committee to address it.
- **Routing:** The Chairman routes the issue to the relevant individual or committee (e.g., supervisor, Ph.D. coordinator, SRC, DRC).
- **Resolution:** The assigned stakeholder or committee addresses the issue and proposes a resolution.
- **Monitoring:** The Chairman monitors the process to ensure timely and satisfactory outcomes.
- **Escalation:** If the issue cannot be resolved at the departmental level, the Chairman escalates it to DAR.

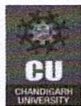
11.1.4. Key Principles

- **Accessibility:** Students can easily submit queries or grievances to the DRC Chairman through multiple channels (e.g., email, online portal, in-person).
- **Transparency:** The process is transparent, with students kept informed about the status of their issue.
- **Confidentiality:** Sensitive issues are handled with strict confidentiality to protect the privacy of all parties.
- **Fairness:** The process ensures impartiality and fairness, with no bias toward any party.
- **Timeliness:** Queries and grievances are resolved promptly to minimize disruption to the student's academic progress.

11.2. Handling Serious Issues Grievance: Role of Higher Authorities

For serious issues such as discrimination, harassment, or bias, the grievance redressal process involves escalation to higher authorities within the institution. These issues are initially routed to the Department of Academic Research (DAR), where senior officials such as the Assistant Dean (Ph.D. Operations), Associate Dean, and Dean of Research take charge of resolving the matter. If the issue remains unresolved within a specified timeframe (e.g., 10 days), it is escalated to the Vice Chancellor (VC) Office for further action. Below is a detailed explanation of this process.

11.2.1. Serious Issues Addressed



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Serious issues that require intervention by higher authorities include:

- **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment based on gender, ethnicity, religion, or other protected characteristics.
- **Harassment:** Sexual, verbal, or emotional harassment by peers, faculty, or supervisors.
- **Bias:** Unfair evaluation or treatment due to personal prejudices or conflicts of interest.
- **Policy Violations:** Misinterpretation or misuse of institutional policies.
- **Ethical Concerns:** Breaches of research ethics or academic integrity.

11.2.2. Routing Process for Serious Issues

Step 1: Submission to DAR

- Students submit their grievances to the DAR or may be forwarded by DRC Chairman.
- The grievance is formally documented, and an acknowledgment is sent to the student within 24-48 hours.

Step 2: Initial Review by Assistant Dean (Ph.D. Operations)

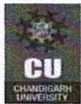
- The Assistant Dean (Ph.D. Operations) conducts an initial review of the grievance to assess its severity and validity.
- If the issue falls under the category of serious concerns, it is escalated to the Associate Dean and Dean of Research.

Step 3: Investigation by Senior Authorities

- The Associate Dean and Dean of Research oversee a formal investigation into the matter.
- This may involve:
 - Interviewing the complainant, respondent, and witnesses.
 - Reviewing relevant documents, emails, or records.
 - Consulting with legal or ethical experts, if necessary.

Step 4: Resolution Within 10 Days

- The DAR aims to resolve the issue within 10 working days.
- Possible resolutions include:



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- Mediation between the parties involved.
- Corrective actions, such as reassignment of supervisors or changes in evaluation processes.
- Disciplinary actions, such as warnings or suspension, in cases of policy violations.

Step 5: Escalation to VC Office

- If the issue is not resolved within 10 days, it is escalated to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (VC) Office.
- The decision made by the Vice Chancellor's Office shall be final and binding on all parties involved.

This framework provides a comprehensive and structured pathway for Ph.D. scholars to progress through their academic journey, ensuring adherence to university standards and research rigor.