

RU- Ph.D

Academic Regulations

Rishihood University is India's first impact university. Our academic areas include creativity, entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, and public leadership. Rishihood's multi-disciplinary style ensures that we nurture a generation of leaders who can bring a positive change in the world.

The university believes in an 'ecosystem' approach to learning rather than isolated training and research. Therefore, Rishihood actively engages and nurtures an ecosystem for our academic areas as well as for the larger growth of the nation and society. Our learning environment inspires people to achieve 'Rishihood'. Our programs and projects are designed so that each person associated with the university is motivated to contribute to society in a positive way. The name Rishihood signifies the state of being a Rishi and is derived from Swami Vivekananda's inspirational discourse. We are inspired by his ideas on education and are driven by a mission to rebuild India.

1. Eligibility for Ph.D. Program

1.1. Candidates for admission to the Ph.D. program shall have successfully completed.

1.1.1. A 1-year/2-semester Master's degree program (after 4 year undergraduate degree) with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 10- point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree 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. Applicants with more than three years of industry/teaching/professional experience will be given preference.

1.1.2. A 2-year/4-semester master's degree program, with the same conditions as in sub-clause 1.1.1 above.

1.1.3. A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree with Research should have a minimum CGPA of 7.5/10.

1.2. Candidates who have cleared the M.Phil. course work with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 10-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree from a Foreign 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. Applicants with more than three years of industry/teaching/professional experience will be given preference.

1.2.1. A person whose M.Phil. dissertation has been evaluated and recommended for award of the degree, may be admitted to the Ph.D. program on a provisional basis even before the viva-voice or final defence.

1.3. A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of 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 University Grants Commission from time to time.

Note: 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 above are permissible based only on the qualifying marks without including the grace mark procedures, if any.

1.4. For sub-clause 2.1.3 a relaxation of 0.5 score, i.e., CGPA of 7/10 or an equivalent relaxation of 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.

1.5. Scholars will be selected through UGC - National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET)/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/Graduate Pharmacy Test (GPAT)/ JRF/ CEED (Common Entrance Examination for Design) / Rishihood University PhD Entrance Test (RUPET).

1.6. Scholars who have pursued a Bachelors/master's degree from RU and with a CGPA 8.0 and above on 10-point scale will be exempted from UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/JRF/CEED / RUPET.

1.7. Candidates with MBBS / BDS degree from an Indian Universities / Institution shall have minimum CGPA of 5.5 on a 10-point scale, or 55% in the qualifying degree, irrespective of the category. They are exempt from the UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/JRF/CEED / RUPET requirement.

1.8. Candidates with Master of Surgery (MS)/ Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from an Indian University / Institute are exempt from the minimum CGPA as well as the UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/JRF/CEED / RUPET requirement.

1.9. As per UGC official circular dated 15th March 2021, professional qualifications such as Chartered Accountant (CA), Company Secretary (CS), Cost and Works Accountant (ICWA), will be considered equivalent to PG Degree. All such professionals with at least 55% are eligible to apply for the program. Applicants with more than three years of industry/teaching/professional experience will be given preference.

1.10. Candidates with a medicine degree from an overseas university/institute should have qualified for the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination conducted by the National Board of Examination.

1.11. Candidates with Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) / Person of Indian Origin (PIO) status will be treated at par with Indian Nationals in the General Category.

Note:

- 1) Candidates under OBC-NC and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category must submit a copy of valid certificate, issued after 31st March 2022, as per GOI issued by a competent authority. Reservation shall be applicable as per the GOI Norms.
- 2) For details regarding EWS please go through the link: <https://dopt.gov.in/sites/default/files/ewsf28fT.PDF>

2. Duration of the Program:

- 2.1. Ph.D. program shall be for a minimum duration of two years excluding course work, and a maximum of six years.
- 2.2. Extension beyond the above limits can be given by the University Research Advisory Committee in case of exigency, but not beyond more than two years.
- 2.3. Women candidates and Persons with Disabilities (more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of two years for a Ph.D. in the maximum duration (clause 3.1). In addition, women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days once in the entire duration of Ph.D.
- 2.4. For student exchanges, if they contribute significantly to the completion of the thesis, leave of absence may be granted from the second year onwards on the following basis:
 - a) Research expeditions (less than one month): authorized by the supervisor and head of the department.
 - b) Research missions (more than one month): proposed by the department and approved by the Research Advisory Committee for working in National/International Research Laboratories or Centres of Excellence; and
 - c) Exchange programs: proposed by the department and approved by the Research Advisory Committee for working in the Institutions in India/abroad.

3. Procedure for admission:

- 3.1. All Ph.D. Scholars will be admitted through a UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/JRF/CEED/RUPET followed by a viva voce (As per Clause 4.4).
- 3.2. University shall:

- 3.2.1. Decide on an annual basis through the academic body a pre-determined and manageable number of Ph.D. scholars to be admitted depending on the number of available Research Supervisors and other academic, research, and physical facilities available, keeping in mind the norms regarding the scholar-teacher ratio (as indicated in sub-clause 5.4), laboratory, library, and such other facilities.
- 3.2.2. Notify well in advance on the university website and through advertisement in at least two (2) national newspapers, of which at least one (1) shall be in the regional language, the number of seats for admission, subject/discipline-wise distribution of available seats, criteria for admission, the procedure for admission, examination centre (s) where entrance test(s) shall be conducted and all other relevant information for the benefit of the prospective candidates;
- 3.2.3. Adhere to the National/State-level reservation policy, as applicable (Clause 4.4).
- 3.3. The admission shall be purely based on merit and the criteria notified by the University (as per Clause 4.4) keeping in view the guidelines/norms in this regard issued by the UGC and other statutory bodies concerned and considering the reservation policy of the Central/State Government from time to time.
- 3.4. University shall admit candidates by a two-stage process – an entrance exam and a viva-voce. The entrance exam at the time of admission can be through the National Level Entrance Tests or Equivalent Tests conducted by RU:
 - 3.4.1. Sixty percent of the total vacant seat of the academic year shall be filled from UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/ JRF/ CEED qualified students and the remaining forty percent through the university/common entrance test qualified students based on Interviews conducted by the concerned Institute. However, in case of an unfilled vacancy in either of the categories, candidates from another category can be requisitioned to fill up the vacant slots, in the order of merit and following reservation norms.
 - 3.4.2. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of questions that test research/ analytical/ comprehension/quantitative aptitude. The Entrance Test shall be conducted at the Centre(s) notified in advance (changes of Centres, if any, also to be notified well in advance) by the organization conducting the examination.

Qualifying marks for the Entrance Test will be 55% for General category and 50% for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/differently abled category. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject- specific. Provided further that, if despite the above relaxation, the seats allotted to SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layers)/Differently abled categories remain unfilled, the Universities concerned shall launch a Special Admission Drive, for that particular category within one month from the date of closure of admissions of General Category. The University

RAC shall devise an admission procedure, along with eligibility conditions to ensure that most of the seats under these categories are filled.

3.4.3. An interview/viva-voce must be organized by the University/College concerned wherein the candidates are required to discuss their research interest/area through a presentation before a duly constituted Departmental Research Committee. The selection of qualified candidates should be based on interview/viva-voce for UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR-NET/GATE/GPAT/ JRF/ CEED / RUPET whereas for the candidates who have qualified the entrance test, the selection shall be evaluated in the ratio 70 (written test): 30 (interview). Merit list for both shall be separately published.

3.4.4. Along with the application each candidate must submit a Statement of Purpose (SOP) which is an opportunity to aid the admission committee in evaluating the candidature. If you are applying for more than one academic discipline, you may include separate Sops for each discipline. The SOP should include your thoughts and feelings about your interests and motivations for applying for PhD at RU. How will your PhD work influence various stakeholders in the area and influence policy making. (200 words) relevance of your recent and current activities (200 words), details about your academic interests including (but not limited to) your areas of interest, a problem that interests you, and what you plan on doing after completing your Ph.D. (250 words).

3.5. Short-listed candidates will be called for interview as per the ratio approved by the Academic Council from time to time. The interview/viva-voce shall also consider the following aspects, viz. whether:

3.5.1. the candidate possesses the competence for the proposed research.

3.5.2. the research work can be suitably undertaken at the University.

3.5.3. the research topic is relevant and results in an impact.

The University reserves the right to restrict the number of candidates to be called for interview to a reasonable number on basis of qualification and/or experience.

3.6. The University shall maintain the list of all the registered Ph.D. scholars on its website on a year-wise basis. The list shall include the name of the registered candidate, the topic of his/her research, the name of his/her supervisor/co-supervisor, date of enrolment/registration.

3.7. The final selection for admission for Ph.D. will be based on the performance in Entrance and interview with a weightage of 70% for the entrance test and

30% for the performance in the interview. The school may give some weightage within the interview marks like any appropriate fellowships, gold medals and distinctions as decided by the respective Admission Committees for the academic year which will be put on the website. All members of the Admission Committee including SC/ST/OBC representatives (except co-opted members) will award marks to all candidates. 'Department Research Committee' (DRC) of the UGC Regulations, will be called as the Admission Committee in RU. All faculty members are eligible to serve as members of the Admission Committee subject to the condition that their dependents/relatives are not appearing in the Entrance Exam for admissions to their School/Dept./Centre. The Chairperson, Admission Committee will take an undertaking from all members in this regard.

- 3.8. Application Fee: A scholar can make more than one application and there is no application fee for applying for the program.
- 3.9. Course Fee & Stipend for Full time: The fee will be charged each semester as per Institute rules/ norms applicable from time to time. For the Batch starting 2023 the candidates will have to pay a one-time fee of Rs. 15,000 towards registration (which is refundable) and a semester fee of Rs. 15,000. The full-time students will be given a stipend of Rs. 50,000 along with hostel accommodation (twin sharing basis) and food at the mess.
- 3.10. Cancellation of Admission / Program: The University reserves the right to cancel, at any stage, the admission of a candidate admitted to a program if:
 - 3.10.1. Later found that he/she is not entitled, being unqualified or ineligible in accordance with the Regulations in vogue, or suspension/termination of program.
 - 3.10.2. Registration can be cancelled upon recommendation of the RAC on non-payment of fees due for two consecutive semesters.
 - 3.10.3. Registration can be cancelled upon recommendation of the RAC on non-completion of course work within the given time frame i.e., within one year from date of registration.
 - 3.10.4. Failure to present and defend a synopsis within the given timeframe i.e., three months after completing all coursework.
 - 3.10.5. Non-submission of progress reports, or two consecutive unsatisfactory progress reports for the candidate.
 - 3.10.6. If a full-time research scholar absents himself/ herself for a continuous period of four weeks without prior intimation/ sanction of leave.
 - 3.10.7. If the research scholar leaves the Ph.D. Program.
 - 3.10.8. If the research scholar's academic progress is found by the RAC to be unsatisfactory.

3.10.9. If the Research Scholar is found to be involved in an act of misconduct, plagiarism, dishonesty and/or indiscipline.

3.10.10. Ordinarily, a candidate shall not be eligible for re-registration once his/ her earlier registration has been cancelled. The UDC may, however, upon the recommendation of the SDC, permit re-registration based on the merits of the case, to be recorded in writing.

In case of cancellation/withdrawal of admission after registration from program, refund of fee will not be permissible.

3.11. Selection Criteria: Selection process is purely based on merit.

3.11.1. Stipulated dates for a written test and /or interview shall be communicated to the shortlisted candidates.

3.11.2. Along with the application each candidate must submit a Statement of Purpose (SOP) which is an opportunity to aid the admission committee in evaluating your candidature. If you are applying for more than one academic discipline, you may include separate Sops for each discipline. The SOP should include your thoughts and feelings about your interests and motivations for applying for PhD at RU. How will your PhD work influence various stakeholders in the area and influence policy making. (200 words) relevance of your recent and current activities (200 words), details about your academic interests including (but not limited to) your areas of interest, a problem that interests you, and what you plan on doing after completing your Ph.D. (250 words).

3.11.3. The prescribed qualifications and experience are the minimum required and the mere fact that a candidate possesses the same will not entitle him/her for being called for an interview.

3.11.4. University reserves the right to restrict the number of candidates to be called for interview to a reasonable number, based on qualifications and/or experience.

3.11.5. Provision exists to apply in one or more Departments/Centres/Schools. Accordingly, a candidate can submit his/her application in one or more departments.

3.11.6. All entries should be carefully made while applying. RU will not be responsible for wrong entries. Candidates shall be solely responsible for the correctness and authenticity of the information / documents provided in the application.

3.11.7. Candidates must fill/enter their CGPA, or percentage of marks as issued by their institute/college/university. Candidates must not convert their CGPA into percentage and vice-versa.

3.11.8. Applications submitted by the candidates shall be considered final and binding. Requests for making corrections in the application shall not be entertained.

Candidates should complete application in all respects and no correspondence/communication will be entertained for incomplete applications.

- 3.11.9. The last date for submission of online application shall not be extended. Accordingly, no request shall be entertained for accepting the application after the last date. RU will not be responsible for technical error while making the application / payment of fee. Therefore, candidates are advised to submit their applications well in advance without waiting until the last date.
- 3.11.10. Applications will be scrutinized; relevant documents will be checked/verified for their authenticity.
- 3.11.11. Admission will be offered subject to availability of seats, faculty in the Specialization, and the Institute Assistantship.
- 3.11.12. Students shall be governed by ordinances/ regulations in vogue.
- 3.11.13. The University has the right to cancel, at any stage, the admission of the candidate who is found admitted to a course to which he/she is not entitled, being unqualified or ineligible in accordance with the rules and regulations in force.
- 3.11.14. RU reserves the right to verify the antecedents or documents submitted by the candidate at any time during their period of study. In case it is found that the documents submitted by the candidate are not genuine, then his/her admission shall be terminated, and disciplinary/criminal proceedings will be initiated.
- 3.11.15. Merely applying for / being shortlisted/appearing for the interview / written test /or subsequent processes do not imply that a candidate will necessarily be offered admission. No request for considering the candidature in department, other than in which applied, will be entertained.
- 3.11.16. Candidates are advised to fill their correct and active email addresses in the application as all correspondence will be made by the Institute through online only.

All information regarding Test / Interview will be uploaded on the respective Department's/ Centre's/School's website only. No separate communication will be made. Further, for any updates, please keep regularly visiting the University website, for subsequent amendments in the advertisement and results. The University shall not be responsible for the failure of candidates with respect to visiting the website on any ground.
- 3.11.17. The candidates should ensure that they fulfil all the eligibility conditions as specified. Their admission will be purely provisional subject to confirmation that they satisfy the prescribed eligibility conditions. Mere issue of call letters to the candidates will not imply that his/her candidature has been found eligible.
- 3.11.18. After joining, Hostel and mess facilities will be provided as per availability.

3.11.19. All candidates are advised to regularly visit the Institute website for further information.

3.12. **Reservation of Seats**

Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Classes

- i) Reservation of seats in admissions to various programs of study shall be in the following manner:
 - Scheduled Caste: 15% of total intake in each program
 - Scheduled Tribe: 7 ½ % of total intake in each program
 - Other Backward Classes: 27% of total intake in each program
 - Economically Weaker Sections: 10% of total intake in each program
 - ii) The seats reserved for the SC/ST shall be filled by the SC/ST candidates only. However, in the case of non-availability of the eligible candidates the reserved seats may be interchanged between the SC & ST. If still any seat remains unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidates of either Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or both, may be thrown open to the general category in that year provided this has been notified to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Tribes; University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development and concurrence has been obtained, failing which the seat will be left vacant.
 - iii) The seats reserved for the OBCs shall be filled with the OBC candidates only. Only if OBC candidates possessing the minimum eligibility marks are not available in the OBC category then the vacant OBC seats shall be converted into General Category seats in accordance with the admission schedule notified by the University.
- b) Persons with Disabilities (PWD) = 5% of total intake in each programme shall be reserved for the PWD. The reserved seats shall be filled by the eligible PWD candidates in order of their merit. (Ref. Order dated 19.07.2016 in case No. 5998/1040/2016/D176 of the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the matter of Sh. RLN Sharma Vs. IIM, Ahmedabad, and Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department by Act No-49 of 2016 dated 27.12.2016 in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II- Section 1)

4. **Thrust areas of research:** proposed area of research is socially relevant/locally need-based/ nationally important/globally significant/creates value to the society or in cutting edge areas or contributes to new/additional knowledge in the areas of emerging concerns worldwide. The idea is to introduce systemic reforms through the research produced.