

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)

1.0 Introduction

The Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU) was established by an Act (Act No.27) of the Legislative Assembly of the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2002. As per this Act the University with its headquarters at Chennai may carry out its academic activities in any State/Union Territory of the Indian Union as well as in any Country.

1.1 Preamble

The Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) is awarded to a candidate who has passed the stipulated course work and submitted a dissertation on the basis of original and independent research that makes a contribution to the advancement of knowledge, which is approved by Board of Examiners as required.

1.2 Objectives

- a) To promote acquisition of knowledge and to continually offer opportunities for upgrading knowledge, training and skills in the context of innovations, research and discovery in all fields of human endeavour's.
- b) To provide a ground for training as a stepping stone for research leads to innovation and discovery of new ideas.
- c) To provide a platform to broaden the area of research.
- d) To evolve flexible course work relating to the area of research.

2. M.Phil. Programme under full-time and part-time will be offered through the following Schools of Study.

- ❖ School of Social Sciences [SOSS]
- ❖ School of Management Studies [SOMS]
- ❖ School of Education [SOE]
- ❖ School of Humanities [SOH]
- ❖ School of Continuing Education [SOCE]
- ❖ School of Science [SOS]
- ❖ School of Computer Science [SOCS]
- ❖ School of Tamil and Cultural Studies [SOTCS]
- ❖ School of Journalism and New Media Studies [SOJNMS]
- ❖ School of Politics and Public Administration [SOPPA]
- ❖ School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration [SOCCJA]
- ❖ School of History and Tourism Studies [SOHTS]
- ❖ School of Special Education and Rehabilitation [SOSER]

3. Eligibility

(a) Candidates (under 10+2+3 or 10+2+5 pattern) for admission to the M.Phil. programme shall have a Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-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 for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.

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 and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Master's degree prior to 19th September, 1991. 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.

(b) Qualified in an entrance examination conducted by the Tamil Nadu Open University.

(c) Further, those candidates having qualified UGC/CSIR (JRF) examination NET/SET/GATE/Teacher fellowship exempted from appearing in the entrance test, if they are eligible otherwise.

4.0. Category

4.1 Full - Time Scholars

Scholars within the definition of this category are those who pursue their full - time M.Phil. Degree Programme in Tamil Nadu Open University.

4.2 Part - Time Scholars

A person within Tamil Nadu / Puducherry (as specified in the eligibility norms) irrespective of employment status, who wishes to pursue M.Phil. Degree Programme are eligible to register under part-time.

- (a) A teacher working in the University / Recognised Research Institution / Higher Education Institution / College / Higher Secondary School / High School / Polytechnic College within Tamil Nadu and Puduchery.

- (b) A candidate employed in a permanent job in a registered Firm / Institution / State or Central Government Department / Public Sector Undertaking within Tamil Nadu and Puduchery with a minimum of TWO YEARS of total working experience, after the qualifying degree.
- (c) A candidate has to submit the application through proper channel.

5. Eligibility for Guideship

- (a) Any regular Professor of the University/Institution Deemed to be a University/College with at least five research publications in refereed journals, any regular Associate Professor of the University/Institution Deemed to be a University/College with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals and any regular Assistant Professor of the University/Institution Deemed to be a University/College with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed journals with two years of Tamil Nadu Open University teaching experience may be recognized as Research Supervisor. Provided that in areas/disciplines where there is no or only a limited number of refereed journals, the Institution may relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with reasons recorded in writing.
- (b) Only a full time regular teacher of the concerned University/Institution Deemed to be a University/College can act as a supervisor. The external supervisors are not allowed. However, Co- Supervisor can be allowed in inter-disciplinary areas from other departments of the same institute or from other related institutions with the approval of the Research Advisory Committee.
- (c) The allocation of Research Supervisor for a selected research scholar shall be decided by the Department concerned depending on the number of scholars per Research Supervisor, the available specialization among the Supervisors and research interests of the scholars as indicated by them at the time of interview/viva voce.
- (d) In case of topics which are of inter-disciplinary nature where the Department concerned feels that the expertise in the Department has to be supplemented from outside, the Department may appoint a Research Supervisor from the Department itself, who shall be known as the Research Supervisor, and a Co-Supervisor from outside the Department/ Faculty/College/Institution on such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the consenting Institutions/Colleges.

6. Number of candidates under a Supervisor

A Research Supervisor/Co-supervisor who is a Professor, at any given point of time, cannot guide more than three (3) M.Phil. and Eight (8) Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of two (2) M.Phil. and six (6) Ph.D. scholars and an Assistant Professor as Research Supervisor can guide up to a maximum of one (1) M.Phil. and four (4) Ph.D. scholars.

7. Procedure for Admission

The student will be admitted during Academic Year (July) session only. For the admission into the M.Phil. Programme, an Entrance test and interview will be administered for all the eligible applicants and the performance in the interview will be taken into account along with the marks scored in the PG Programme. The written test would comprise of objective type of questions for 40% marks and the interview would be conducted for 10% marks. The marks secured in written test and interview will be added to the marks obtained in the PG Degree Examinations by giving 50% weightage and the rank list will be prepared accordingly. The respective Schools will conduct the entrance examination for the admission of M.Phil candidates by following the Tamil Nadu reservation policy.

8. Duration

a)

| Full-Time/ Part-Time | Duration | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Minimum Years | Maximum Years |
| Full-Time | 1 | 2 |
| Part-Time | 2 | 3 |

b) Final Examination shall be conducted in the Semester pattern.

9.0 Programme of Study

9.1 Part I: Course work

The M.Phil. candidates shall take compulsorily three theory courses and a Dissertation. The course work will be framed by the respective Schools.

For the full - time candidates course work will be covered in the first semester and dissertation in the second semester. For the part-time Candidates course - work will be covered in the second semester and dissertation in the fourth semester.

The credit assigned to the M.Phil. course work shall be a minimum of 8 credits and a maximum of 16 credits.

The course work shall be treated as prerequisite for M.Phil. preparation. A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which could cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, field work, etc. Other courses shall be advanced level courses preparing the students for M.Phil./Ph.D. degree.

A M.Phil. scholar has to obtain a minimum of 55% of marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade/CGPA in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) in the course work in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the dissertation/thesis.

The overall minimum credit requirement, including credit for the course work, for the award of M.Phil. degree shall not be less than 24 credits.

9.2 Part - II: Dissertation

Candidates shall submit the dissertation to the University through the Supervisor and the Head of the School within 6 months from the date of Completion of the course work in the case of Fulltime Programme and within one year from the date of completion of the course work in the case of Part-time Programme. If a candidate is not able to submit his / her dissertation within the period stated above, he / she shall be given an extension time of 6 months in the first instance and another 6 months in the second instance with penalty fee. If a candidate does not submit his / her dissertation even after the two extensions, his / her registration shall be treated as cancelled and he / she has to re-register for the Programme. However the candidate need not write the theory courses again, if he / she has already passed these courses.

The dissertation shall be evaluated by an external examiner for the maximum of 100 marks. The external examiner shall be selected from a panel of 3 experts suggested by the Research Supervisor and working within the respective area of the Research. The viva-voce examination shall be conducted by both the external examiner and the Supervisor and evaluated for the maximum of 50 marks. Internal marks for a maximum of 50 marks will be awarded by the Supervisor. The mark should be sent to the Controller of Examinations by the Research Supervisor.

The M.Phil. Dissertation can be submitted either in English or Tamil.

The maximum marks for the viva-voce examination shall be 50 (joint evaluation). A candidate shall be declared to have passed Part - II Examination if he/she secures not less than 50% of the marks prescribed for the dissertation that is for the maximum of 100 marks and 50% of the marks prescribed for the viva-voce Examination.

If the examiner who evaluates the dissertation makes a qualified recommendation such as revision of dissertation, the candidate shall be advised to revise the dissertation in the light of the suggestions made by the examiners and resubmit the dissertation, within a period of **SIX** months. Resubmission fee shall be charged as fee for Re-submission of dissertation. The revised dissertation shall be sent to the same examiner who evaluated the dissertation in the first instance.

10. Classification of successful candidates

The candidates who passed theory courses and dissertation and viva-voce will be classified as follows.

| Total Marks secured | Classification |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. 75% and above | I Class with Distinction (first attempt only) |
| 2. Above 60% to below 75% | I Class |
| 3. Above 50% to below 60% | II Class |

11.0. Restriction in number of chances for appearing the Examination

11.1 Full - time Candidates

No candidate shall be permitted to appear for the written Examination in any course more than four times or to re-submit the dissertation or appear for the viva-voce examination more than twice. Resubmission of a dissertation shall be done as mentioned supra with a penalty fee. The permitted chances shall be completed within a maximum period of 3 years.

11.2 Part - Time Candidates

No candidate shall be permitted to appear for the written Examination in any course more than four times or to re-submit the dissertation or appear for the viva-voce examination more than twice. Resubmission of a dissertation shall be done as mentioned supra with a penalty fee, within 6 months from the first of the month which follows the month in which the result of the first attempt is announced. The permitted attempts shall be completed within a maximum period of 6 years from the first of the month which follows the month in which the registration was done.

12. Conferment of the Degree

No candidate shall be eligible for the conferment of the M.Phil. Degree Programme unless he / she is declared to have passed both course work and dissertation.

13. Re-Registration

- a) The candidates shall be permitted for Re-Registration based on the merit of individual cases.
- b) The Re-registered candidates are required to submit the dissertation not earlier than three months and not later than one year after the date of re-registration. No further extension of time shall be given.

14. Refund of Fees

The Programme fees once paid shall not be refunded. However, if on scrutiny, the Applicant is found not eligible for admission to his/her Programme of choice, Registration fee of Rs.1,000/- shall be retained by the University and the balance amount shall be refunded to the Applicant.

15. Tuition Fee Exemption

As per G.O. Ms. No.429, Higher Education Department, dated 16.10.2008, differently abled persons are exempted from payment of tuition fee.

16. Fee Particulars

| S.No. | Fee Head | Amount Rs. |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Application Fee | 500 |
| 2. | Registration Fee | 1000 |
| 3. | Recognition Fee | 500 |
| 4. | Tuition Fee (per year) | 10000 |

Other fee will be prescribed from time - to - time.

Note: Any condition prescribed throughout this regulation regarding any issue, may be given suitable relaxation / modification by the Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Head of the School based on the merit of the individual case, if it is justified with relevant documents.