The Apollo University

Research Regulations and Policy Committee (RRPC)

Formulation of Comprehensive Guidelines for Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Admissions

1. Policy Title - Policy on Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Admissions

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a transparent, objective, merit-based, and uniform framework for admission into Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programmes at The Apollo University.

The policy aims to:

- Promote interdisciplinary research addressing complex societal, industrial, healthcare, technological, and environmental challenges.
- Ensure fairness and consistency in admission procedures across all Schools and Departments.
- Define eligibility, evaluation, selection, supervision, and monitoring mechanisms.
- Align admission practices with the latest UGC Regulations-2022, NEP-2020, and national research priorities.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Full-Time Ph.D.
- Part-Time Ph.D.
- Industry-Sponsored Scholars
- Working Professionals
- International Students
- Joint Supervision Programmes
- Interdisciplinary Research Centres

4. Background and Justification

Modern scientific problems cannot be solved through a single discipline.

Examples include:

Research Area	**Disciplines Involved**
Precision Medicine	Medicine + AI + Biotechnology + Statistics
Digital Health	Computer Science + Public Health
Climate Change	Environmental Science + Economics
Biomedical Engineering	Medicine + Engineering
Health Informatics	Medicine + Computer Science
Drug Discovery	Pharmacy + Bioinformatics + AI
Genomics	Biology + Data Science
Medical Robotics	Mechanical Engineering + Surgery

Traditional admission procedures often restrict students based on their previous degree.

This policy removes unnecessary barriers while maintaining academic rigor.

5. Objectives

The policy seeks to:

1. Encourage interdisciplinary research.
2. Increase collaboration among Schools.
3. Promote innovation.
4. Improve national and international research ranking.
5. Ensure transparent admission.
6. Standardize evaluation criteria.
7. Improve research quality.
8. Facilitate industry collaboration.
9. Promote translational research.
10. Improve employability of doctoral graduates.

6. Definition of Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

An Interdisciplinary Ph.D. is a doctoral programme in which:

- Research integrates two or more disciplines.

OR

- Candidate possesses qualification from one discipline but conducts research in another.

OR

- Supervisory committee consists of faculty from multiple disciplines.

7. Eligibility

7.1 General Eligibility

Candidate shall satisfy UGC Regulations-2022.

Minimum qualification:

- Master's Degree
- Four-year Bachelor's Degree (Hounours with research)
- M.Phil. (if applicable)

Minimum Marks

Category	**Minimum**
General	55%
SC/ST/OBC (NCL)/PWD	As per UGC norms-2022

7.2 Interdisciplinary Eligibility Matrix

Previous Qualification	**Eligible Research Area**
Biotechnology	AI in Healthcare
Computer Science	Bioinformatics
Mechanical Engineering	Biomedical Engineering
MBBS	Medical AI
Pharmacy	Molecular Biology
Statistics	Public Health

Physics	Medical Imaging
Mathematics	Systems Biology
Chemistry	Biochemistry
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Medical Physics Imaging Informatics Biosensors and Bioelectronics
All Allied Health Sciences Professionals	AI In Health Care

8. Admission Process

The admission process consists of six stages.

Stage 1

Online Application

Candidate submits

- Academic records
- Research proposal
- Statement of Purpose
- Publications (if any)
- Experience
- NOC / Recommendation letters

Stage 2

Eligibility Screening

Conducted by

Departmental Admission Committee

Checklist includes

✓ Eligibility

✓ Subject relevance

✓ Documents

✓ Research area

Stage 3

Research Compatibility Evaluation

Candidate's background is matched with proposed research.

Compatibility score is calculated.

Example

Academic Match - 40%

Experience in the field - 30%

Statement of Purpose - 20%

Publications - 10%

Minimum Compatibility Score - ≥60%

Stage 4

Written Entrance Examination

Stage 5

Interview

Panel consists of

- Dean
- Research Expert
- Proposed Supervisor
- Interdisciplinary Expert

Stage 6

Final Merit List

Prepared using weighted score.

9. Comprehensive Admission Evaluation Framework

Component	Weightage
Academic Performance	25
Entrance Examination	30
Research Proposal	15
Interview	20
Publications/Experience	10
Total	100

10. Academic Performance Calculation

Formula

Academic Score (CGPA/Maximum CGPA) × 25

Example CGPA = 8.4 Maximum = 10 Academic Score 8.4/10 ×25 =21.0

11. Supervisor Allocation

Every scholar shall have:

- One Primary Supervisor
- One Co-Supervisor from another discipline

Where required

Additional Industry Mentor

12. Composition of Research Advisory Committee (DAC)

Member	Role
Primary Supervisor	Chair-person
Co-Supervisor	Member
External Expert	Member
Internal Expert	Member
Dean Nominee	Member

13. Reservation Policy

Admissions shall follow

- University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022
- Government Reservation Rules – Article 46, Part 4 of Constitution of India
- University Policy - TAU Ph.D. Regulations, 2023

14. Conflict of Interest

Members shall disclose:

- Family relationship
- Financial interest
- Collaborative research conflicts

Such members shall recuse themselves from evaluation.

15. Transparency Measures

- Anonymous coding of written examination papers.
- Standardized evaluation rubrics.
- Digital documentation of scores.
- Signed interview score sheets by all panel members.
- Merit list approved by the Research Regulations and Policy Committee before publication.
- Record retention for a minimum of five years for audit and grievance redressal.

16. Grievance Redressal

Candidates may submit an appeal within 15 working days of publication of results.

The appeal shall be reviewed by an independent Research Admission Review Committee, whose decision shall be final.

17. Expected Outcomes

Implementation of this policy is expected to:

- Increase interdisciplinary Ph.D. enrolment.
- Improve fairness and transparency in admissions.
- Enable participation of candidates from diverse academic backgrounds.
- Strengthen cross-disciplinary collaboration among Schools.
- Enhance research quality, innovation, patents, and externally funded projects.
- Align doctoral admissions with national priorities under NEP 2020 and UGC regulations – 2022 while maintaining academic excellence and institutional accountability.

Prepared By

S. No.	Name of the Member	School/Institute	Designation in the Committee	Signature
1	**Prof. R. Satyanarayana**	School of Health Sciences	Chairperson	
2	**Dr. C. Priyanka**	School of Health Sciences	Member	
3	**Dr. Rupasree Peruru**	Apollo Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Member	
4	**Dr. Praneeth K. R.**	School of Management	Member	
5	**Dr. Shahanaz D.**	School of Management	Member	
6	**Dr. J. Marriam Arockia Dass**	School of Technology	Member	
7	**Dr. Manju A. B.**	School of Technology	Member	
8	**Dr. A. Kabilan**	School of Health Sciences	Convenor	