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AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Master of Science by Research (MSR)

University Level Regulations

6th June 2017

1. ADMINISTRATION

1.1. The name "Amrita VishwaVidyapeetham" will be abbreviated as "the University" in this document. Master of Science by Research is abbreviated as MSR.

1.2. Each Faculty has a Dean of the Faculty, PGP Chair & Co-Chairs who have the primary responsibilities for all MSR Programs offered by the respective Faculty in the University.

1.3. The award of the MSR degree shall be in accordance with the regulations of the University and that of the Faculty. Each of the Faculties can adopt these regulations as is or may have their own additional requirements. Such requirements imposed by any Faculty should be in addition to University level regulations and should not in any way conflict with University level regulations and should be approved by the University.

1.4. A MSR student may appeal to the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs for a waiver/substitution of any requirement. The appeal should be in writing and supported by proper justification. If the appeal is denied, it may be escalated to Dean of the Faculty and then the PGP Dean and after that to vice Chancellor, whose decision is final and binding.

1.5. Amendments to the policies and procedures outlined in this document may be made with the approval of the vice Chancellor and subsequently ratified by the Academic Council and Board of Management.

2.   ADMISSION

2.1. Eligibility

Candidates who have completed at least three years of undergraduate study program are eligible.

Each Faculty can formulate its own additional restrictions on eligibility conditions including specifications on the degrees that are valid and percentage of marks or CGPA required in the qualifying examination for eligibility for admission to that Faculty.

Each Faculty shall evaluate, as needed, whether any other degree, including a degree from a foreign University, can be considered as equivalent to one of the above degrees for the purpose of admission. All applicants are expected to have strong academic records.

2.2.Application

Applications for MSR Program will be solicited through the University website (www.amrita.edu) and other means of advertisement.

Applications for the MSR program are submitted to the PGP Chair/Co-chairs of the Faculty, directly. Selection is based on the demonstrated research aptitude (e.g., publications) of the candidate.

2.3. Categories of MSR Students

A full-time MSR student is primarily focused on carrying out at the University all course-work, research, and other doctoral requirements.

A part-time MSR student typically has a full-time appointment (For example, Project Associate in a funded research grant) at the University or at another academic/R&D organization.

Transfer students: An exceptional student pursuing another degree here at Amrita University will be allowed to register for the MSR program subject to the requirement that he or she completes all the requirements of other advanced degree prior to submission of MSR thesis.

2.4. Selection

The PGP Chair/Co-Chairs shall coordinate the constitution of a selection committee that takes into account the number of available openings, the number of applications received and the research interests of the applicants. The Selection Committee may conduct an Entrance Test / Interview for all applicants.

Based upon prior academic record, research track record/potential, entrance test and interview performance, the committee shall give its recommendation to the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs who will finalize the admission with the approval of the Dean of the Faculty and PGP Dean and notify the selected applicants of the date of joining.

All prospective MSR Advisors are invited to participate in the selection process.

3. REGISTRATION

3.1. Faculty Categories

Students have to register under one of the available Faculties through the respective PGP Chair/Co-Chairs.

3.2. MSR Advisor & Co Advisor

Soon upon admission to the MSR Program, every student shall be assigned a MSR Advisor by the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs taking into account the student's interests, available Faculty and approvals from the Head of the school to which the thesis advisor belongs and the Dean of the Faculty in which the registration is being done..

The MSR Advisor must be a regular or emeritus full time Faculty member of the University with a Ph.D. degree and an established research record.   The MSR Advisor is primarily responsible for guiding the MSR student's research and ensuring that the student makes satisfactory and timely progress towards the MSR degree. A Faculty member from one campus of the University may serve as MSR Advisor for a MSR student in another campus.

Adjunct Faculty members of the University may serve only as Co-Advisors or as members of the MSR committee.

Occasionally, when it is desirable to have an external expert as Co-Advisor/ member, the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs through Dean of Faculty & PGP Dean shall recommend (to vice Chancellor) that the expert be appointed as an Adjunct Faculty of the University, and, subsequent to that appointment, shall appoint him or her to the MSR Committee.

3.3. MSR Committee

The MSR Committee for each MSR student will be formed by the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs. The MSR Committee consists of the MSR Advisor, the Co-Advisor (where applicable), and Faculty experts from within the University in the candidate's research area. The MSR committee shall have a total of three to four members. The MSR Committee is responsible for all academic matters connected with the doctoral student, including prescribing the course-work, monitoring research progress and conducting appropriate examinations.

3.4 Inter-disciplinary & International

Students can have MSR Advisor & Co Advisor from two different disciplines.

In order to promote international collaboration, MSR Co Advisor can be a Faculty member from a collaborating international university.

4. COURSES

The course-work for a MSR student is proposed by the MSR Advisor taking into account the student's background and preparation. The proposed coursework must be endorsed by the MSR Committee and approved by the PGP Chair/Co-Chairs.

Minimum number of course credits is 18.

In addition to regular courses offered by the University, three additional types of courses are permitted for MSR course work: transfer (external, internal) courses, on-line courses, and independent-study courses.

- An external transfer course is one that the student has completed in the recent past at another reputed international university. A course completed for the award of another degree either here at Amrita or at another university is not eligible for transfer.
- An internal transfer course is one that the student has completed in the recent past at our university.
- An on-line course is one that is offered through MOOCs such as Swayam or Coursera, and completed in recent past or after registering for MSR.
- An independent-study course is developed specifically for the student and may involve a combination of self-study and one-to-one instruction by a professor. A student taking an independent-study course is required to submit a publishable, preferably Scopus or PubMed indexed conference or journal paper as an outcome of the course.

For transfer and on-line courses approved to be counted towards MSR coursework, the grades earned will be listed in Amrita University transcripts issued to the student.

5. RESEARCH

In addition to course-work, the MSR student is expected to carry out creative and scholarly research leading up to the completion of a written Thesis. The quantum of time and effort for research should add up to a minimum of 36 credits.

MSR student is required to publish at least two scopus / pubmed indexed conference or journal papers, and should have successfully completed a bachelor's degree before submission of MSR thesis.

6. DURATION

Students may complete all requirements in anywhere between two to three years duration.

7. AWARD OF THE MSR DEGREE

Upon approval by the vice Chancellor and subsequent ratification by the Academic Council and the Board of Management of the University, the doctoral student will be presented to the Chancellor for award of the MSR Degree at the next Convocation of the University.

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