Uttarakhand Open University

Ph.D. Admission Guidelines

(Based on UGC Regulations and UGC Letter No. 4-1(UGC-NET Review Committee)/2024 (NET)/140648 dated 27 March 2024)

1. **Eligibility for Admission to the Ph.D. Programme**

Admission to the Ph.D. programme of the University shall be governed by the Regulations issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other statutory bodies from time to time.

Admission shall be based on the score obtained in any of the following National Eligibility Examinations:

- UGC-NET
- CSIR-NET
- GATE
- ICAR-NET
- ICMR-NET
- or any other equivalent national examination recognized by UGC.

As per the UGC notification dated 27 March 2024, candidates qualifying the National Eligibility Test shall fall under the following categories:

Category	Eligibility	Ph.D. Admission
Category 1	Award of JRF and eligible for Assistant Professor	Eligible
Category 2	Eligible for Assistant Professor and Ph.D. admission	Eligible
Category 3	Eligible for Ph.D. admission only	Eligible

2. Basis of Selection

The NET result declared in percentile shall be used as the criterion for admission.

(A) Category 1 (JRF Candidates)

- Admission shall be based only on Interview.
- The interview shall carry 30 marks.
- JRF candidates shall be given 100% weightage to interview marks.
- Minimum qualifying marks in interview: 35% (i.e., 11 out of 30).
- JRF candidates shall be given priority in admission.

(B) Category 2 and Category 3 Candidates

Final merit list shall be prepared using:

- 70% weightage: NET percentile score (converted to equivalent marks)
- 30% weightage: Interview marks
- Minimum qualifying marks in interview: 35% (i.e., 11 out of 30).

Final merit shall be calculated up to two decimal places.

The validity of NET score for Ph.D. admission under Category 2 and 3 shall be one year.

3. Interview Procedure

A duly constituted Interview Committee shall evaluate the candidates. The interview shall be conducted out of 30 marks and shall consist of:

1. Concept Note Writing
2. Research Proposal Presentation (PPT)
3. Personal Interview (Viva-Voce)

Candidates must obtain at least 35% marks (11/30) in the interview to be eligible for admission.

4. Evaluation Criteria

A. Concept Note Evaluation

Assessment shall be based on:

- Relevance of topic and clarity of research idea
- Logical organization and development of argument
- Academic language and grammatical correctness
- Coherence and continuity of ideas
- Originality, analytical ability and critical thinking

B. Research Proposal Presentation (PPT)

Evaluation parameters:

- Communication skills
- Relevance and quality of content
- Clarity of research objectives
- Problem formulation
- Structure and organization of presentation slides

C. Personal Interview (Viva-Voce)

Assessment of:

- Research orientation and methodology awareness
- Subject knowledge and conceptual depth
- Motivation and initiative
- Analytical and decision-making ability
- Planning and organization skills

The committee shall also evaluate:

1. Suitability of the candidate for the proposed research
2. Feasibility of conducting research at the University
3. Potential contribution of the research to new knowledge

5. Preparation of Merit List

- Final merit shall be prepared by combining NET score and interview marks (for Category 2 & 3).
- Marks shall be displayed up to two decimal places.
- Admission shall be strictly based on the final merit list.
- The University may limit the number of candidates called for interview based on available seats.

6. Seat Allocation and Admission Rules

- Seats shall be allotted according to merit and applicable reservation policy of the Central/State Government and the University.
- If a selected candidate does not take admission within the prescribed date, the next candidate in the merit list shall be offered admission.
- Vacant reserved seats shall be filled as per University reservation rules and policies.
- Admission shall comply with UGC regulations and other statutory norms.

7. Ph.D. Programme-wise Vacant Seats

Ph.D. programmes are offered in multiple disciplines such as Tourism, Social Work, Chemistry, Development Studies, Management, Commerce, Education, Hindi, Computer Science & Applications, Jyotish, Journalism, Economics, Botany, Mathematics, Physics and Home Science.

Seat distribution is subject to reservation categories (General, SC, ST, OBC, EWS and special categories such as Ex-Servicemen, Orphan, PH, etc.).

In case of any discrepancy in reservation allocation, the University's adopted policy shall prevail.