



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

**UTTARAKHAND OPEN UNIVERSITY**

The curriculum implemented under NEP 2020 for B.A. 5th Semester

**BAEL(N)-PR-331**

**(Course Code: BA – 23)**

**Outline of Research Project and guidelines for  
Research Project Work for BAEL (N)-PR-331, fifth  
semester of BA-23 course conducted under National  
Education Policy-2020**

## Committee for preparing research project guidelines

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## Guidelines for Project Work (July-December, 2025)

### Guidelines for Learners

- B.A. Fifth Semester learners must seek guidance from the faculty of **English** for the preparation of their dissertation proposals and the completion of their dissertation. They are required to consult their assigned supervisors regularly to obtain appropriate guidance, feedback, and support throughout the research process.
- Learners of BA fifth semester who have opted for the research project are hereby informed that, under the **July- December 2025** session, learners currently enroll in the fifth semester must write an original research project by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**. This project must be submitted to the university's Department of English and Foreign Languages, School of Humanities, either in person or via registered post.
- Learners must first prepare their dissertation proposal and submit it to the university via email at **doen@uou.ac.in**
- The Department of English will review the submitted dissertation proposals and provide necessary guidelines and suggestions. The reviewed proposals, along with feedback, will be **uploaded on the university website one week after the final submission date** of the dissertation proposals to the university.

- Learners whose dissertation proposals are rejected by the university will be required to revise their proposals as per the suggested corrections and resubmit the **soft copy** to the university within **one week**.
- Under no circumstances will a dissertation be accepted by the university if its corresponding dissertation proposal has been rejected or has not received formal approval.
- Learners should commence their dissertation work **only after receiving formal approval** of their dissertation proposal from the university.
- Learners must attach a **bio-data of their supervisor (facilitator)** along with their dissertation proposal. Proposals submitted without this will **not be accepted** by the university.
- Dissertation proposals submitted to the university **will not be returned** to the learners.
- Learners are expected to conduct their dissertation work **independently**. Plagiarized or copied work will **not be accepted** under any circumstances.
- If the university finds that two learners have submitted dissertations with **identical or substantially similar topics and content**, or if one student submits a dissertation **translated or adapted from another student's work**, the dissertation will be **rejected and cancelled**.
- No fee will be charged for guidance provided in connection with the dissertation work.
- Your dissertation work should be prepared in **English** using **double spacing, font size 12**, on **A4-size paper**.
- After typing the dissertation, learners must carefully proofread it and correct any typographical or formatting errors. **Page numbers** must be included throughout the dissertation.
- The dissertation must be **bound with a hard cover**.
- On the **first page** of the dissertation, the student's **name, enrollment number, full address of the study center**, and the **full name of the supervisor (facilitator)** must be clearly mentioned. A format for this is provided at the end of this guideline booklet.
- Learners are required to fill in and attach the **three proformas** provided at the end of this booklet along with their dissertation.
- The dissertation work must be based on **primary data and/or secondary sources**.
- It is essential to **review and study the literature related to the research topic**. This will not only deepen your knowledge of the subject but also improve the quality of your research work.

- Learners are expected to **prepare three copies** of their dissertation – **one for the university, one for the research supervisor, and one for personal use.**
- For titles and subtitles, a **font size of 16–18 (Times New Roman)** may be used, while the main content should be in font **size 12**. If the font size is too small or too large, the study may be rejected.
- The dissertation must have a minimum of **100 pages**, and it must be hard bound.
- A research work submitted **without a bibliography/reference will not be accepted** under any circumstances.
- The research **proposal/outline must be approved by the research supervisor** and then submitted to the English Department of the university (**with original signatures of both the student and supervisor**) either **in person or by registered post** within the prescribed deadline. Failure to do so will lead to non-acceptance of the proposal, and the student will be held responsible.
- Only teachers holding a **Ph.D. degree** and serving as permanent, temporary, or contractual faculty in a university or college—under any designation—are eligible to act as research supervisors, provided they have a minimum of **two years' experience** in research supervision or project guidance; however, this **two-year experience requirement does not apply to English faculty members working at Uttarakhand Open University.**
- The dissertation carries a total of **100 marks, out of which 70 marks are allotted for the dissertation and 30 marks for the viva-voce (oral exam). To pass, learners must score at least 50% marks in the dissertation.** Only then they will be eligible for the viva exam. If a student scores less than 50%, they will be considered failed and will have to re-submit the project in the next academic session by filling out the backlog examination form.
- As per UGC norms, a minimum of **10% limit for plagiarism is acceptable**. The dissertation must be checked for plagiarism using reliable software, and the plagiarism certificate must be attached to the project. If plagiarism exceeds 10%, the dissertation will not be accepted.
- Research supervisors will **be paid honorarium** as per university rules based on the number of learners guided.
- Examiners evaluating the dissertation will also be paid honorarium as per university guidelines.
- In addition to the topics mentioned in the format, the list of research topics may be modified at the departmental level for each session.

## Important Dates

- The important dates related to the dissertation will be available on the official university website.
- Learners are required to submit their dissertation proposal to the designated email ID: **doen@uou.ac.in**.
- Dissertation work submitted **after the prescribed deadline** will not be accepted under any circumstances by the university.
- Any dissertation submitted **after the deadline** will only be considered in the **subsequent semester through the back paper examination**.



## **Introduction**

Learners of English are expected to utilize the knowledge acquired through the curriculum by engaging with fieldwork, textual analysis, and interdisciplinary research methods. The primary objective is to cultivate in learners a deeper interest in English Studies, while sensitizing them to the practices of exploration, documentation, and critical inquiry within the discipline.

Particularly, we expect learners to observe and analyze works of literature and cultural expressions in their local as well as global contexts. This includes tracing the interconnections of literature with history, society, culture, and collective memory—domains that are often overlooked in mainstream discourses but play a vital role in shaping identities and social structures. This module therefore inspires undergraduate learners to explore and document English literature and its engagements within their surroundings—be it their region, state, or the broader national and international contexts.

In addition, the dissertation work aims to encourage research in diverse aspects of English Studies, such as literature across genres and periods, critical and cultural theories, translation studies, postcolonial literature, gender studies, trauma and memory studies, ecocriticism, and intersections of literature with philosophy, history, psychology, and media. By doing so, learners will not only understand the methodological frameworks of English Studies at multiple levels but also learn to value lived experiences as literary evidence. The emphasis is on engaging with traditional perspectives while simultaneously adopting new methodologies that prioritize contemporary research concerns and everyday realities.

This activity intends to develop in learners innovative research practices, interdisciplinary approaches, and community-based engagement. The dissertation process thereby strengthens critical thinking, research skills, and an inclusive outlook towards English Studies. For this purpose, each learner is required to undertake a dissertation as an essential academic exercise. The process involves selecting a research title, preparing a **Dissertation Proposal**, and upon its approval by the university, completing the dissertation under proper guidance.

For preparing both the dissertation proposal and the dissertation itself, learners are advised to remain in close contact with their **Academic Facilitator**, who will assist in selecting a suitable supervisor and provide continuous support throughout the research journey. Your facilitator will be your primary guide in completing the dissertation successfully; therefore, it is essential to maintain regular communication and benefit from their academic advice and suggestions.

## **Purpose**

The inclusion of the dissertation in the English curriculum is intended to familiarize learners with the diverse concepts, methodologies, and dimensions of English Studies. It offers learners the opportunity to engage deeply with literature, language, and culture, while also applying critical and research-oriented approaches. Learners may select topics aligned with their academic interests and future specialization, thereby enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the field.

Through the study of different genres, periods, and theoretical frameworks in English, learners have already gained a foundational understanding of the subject. The dissertation provides them with a platform to apply this knowledge to contemporary issues and debates in English literature, language, and criticism, thereby strengthening both academic engagement and research competence.

## **Main Objectives of Dissertation**

### **1. Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge**

- To generate new insights into different aspects of English literature, culture, and language.
- To identify and analyze previously unexplored texts, perspectives, or interpretations.
- To reinterpret and critically evaluate theories and literary traditions.
- To recognize problems or gaps in English Studies and propose meaningful solutions.
- To deepen the understanding of human values, identities, and histories as reflected in English literature.
- To connect local or regional cultural contexts with broader global literary traditions.

### **2. Training in Research Methodology**

- To equip learners with skills in the use of primary and secondary sources, including manuscripts, archival material, oral histories, and digital texts.
- To train learners in digital and non-digital research tools relevant to literary and linguistic study.
- To familiarize them with citation practices, bibliographic methods, and ethical standards in research.

### **3. Promoting Critical Thinking**

- To analyze the role of ideology, memory, and bias in literary and cultural narratives.
- To develop an awareness of how representations in literature are shaped, contested, and reinterpreted across time and space.
- To encourage independent and original thought in examining texts and contexts.

#### 4. Encouraging Innovation

- To foster creative ways of presenting research in English Studies, such as digital storytelling, performative adaptations, or multimedia dissertations.
- To explore the interdisciplinary connections of English literature with fields such as history, philosophy, psychology, cultural studies, gender studies, and media.

### **Topics for Research Dissertation**

Learners are required to select their dissertation topic from the broad themes suggested by the Department. However, the topics are **not limited** to the ones provided in the list. Learners are encouraged to propose original research ideas within the wider field of English Studies, provided the topic is academically sound, relevant, and approved by the Department.

### **New Literatures In English**

- Writing Back to the Empire: A Study of Identity in Postcolonial Literatures in English.
- Cultural Memory and Storytelling in African Writing in English with reference to the works of Chinua Achebe.
- The Idea of “Home” in Indian Diaspora Literature.
- Women’s Voices in New Literatures in English.
- Indigenous Voices in New Literatures in English.
- Negotiating Hybridity and Cultural Transition in Caribbean Literature in English.
- Trauma, Displacement, and Resistance in South African Literatures in English.
- Myth, Memory and Modernity in Australian Aboriginal Writing in English.
- Language, Power, and Identity in Canadian First Nations Literature.
- Environmental Concerns and Ecocritical Perspectives in New Literature in English.

### **Women’s Writing In English**

- Redefining Womanhood: Feminist Perspectives in Modern Women’s Poetry in English.
- Confessional Writing and Emotional Catharsis in the works of Sylvia Plath and Kamla Das.
- The Politics of Space: Domestic Confinement and Patriarchy in the Yellow Wallpaper.
- The Subaltern Speaks: Silenced Voices of Domestic Maids in Postcolonial Women’s Writing.
- The Body as Battlefield: Violence and Agency in Mahashweta Devi’s Draupadi.
- Subaltern Women and State Violence Reading Mahashweta Devi’s Tribal Narratives.

- The Interplay of Narrative Voice and Silence: Power Dynamics in Women's Autobiographical Literature.
- Intersectionality as Literary Method: Representing Race, Gender, and Class in Women's Narratives.
- Psychoanalysis and the Female Subject: Rethinking Freud, Kristeva, and Cixous through Women's Texts.
- Écriture Feminine: The Language and Forms of Women's Writing.

## **Guidelines for Beginning Dissertation/Thesis Work**

### **1. Selection of Research Topic**

- Begin by identifying a topic of genuine interest, ensuring it aligns closely with your coursework and the Department's academic focus.
- Consider the relevance, suitability, availability of study materials, timeframe, and potential expenses for the chosen topic.
- Select a research site or sources that are accessible and convenient to minimize unnecessary expenditure of time and resources.

### **2. Consultation with Academic Facilitator**

- Seek guidance from your assigned academic facilitator or supervisor from the initial stage.
- Discuss the appropriateness and scope of your chosen topic, receiving feedback on direction and feasibility.

### **3. Obtaining Facilitator's Recommendation**

- Secure formal consent and a recommendation from your facilitator before proceeding.
- Revise and refine your topic and proposal based on their input.

### **4. Conducting the Study**

- Undertake the research according to the plan, regularly engaging with current scholarly material and incorporating feedback.
- Manage your time and resources efficiently throughout the study phase.

### **5. Preparation of the Report**

- Draft the dissertation or thesis following departmental formatting and submission guidelines.
- Organize content logically: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Analysis, Conclusion, and References.

### **6. Ongoing Supervision and Guidance**

- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor for advice and progress review.
- Remain receptive to feedback and make necessary improvements at each stage.

### **Important Considerations for Topic Selection**

- The first step in any research is careful topic selection in accordance with the curriculum and your academic interests.
- Confirm the topic's scope, contemporary relevance, resource availability, practicability within set timelines, and availability of materials.
- Choose a research site or resources considering both convenience and adequacy for your research goals.
- Learners may select any topic from the provided list or choose a subject aligned with their own research interests, ensuring it relates to the overarching themes mentioned above.

### **Additional Recommendations**

- **Maintain Flexibility:** As you delve deeper into your research and encounter new information, be prepared to refine and adjust your topic accordingly.
- **Balance Interest with Practicality:** While enthusiasm for the topic is important, ensure that it is manageable and supported by sufficient resources for study.
- **Think Beyond Grades:** Choose a topic that not only fulfills academic requirements but also contributes to your personal growth and enhances your understanding of the subject.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can select a thesis topic that is engaging, impactful, and academically rewarding.

### **Research Dissertation Proposal Guidelines**

Your dissertation proposal should be approximately 8-10 pages long and present a clear conceptual framework reflecting the nature of the research problem. It must comprehensively address the following elements:

#### **1. Selection of Topic**

Begin by selecting a precise and relevant research topic that will be the title of your dissertation.

#### **2. Formation of Hypothesis**

Develop a hypothesis based on the research problem.

#### **3. Selection of Topic**

Begin by selecting a precise and relevant research topic that will be the title of your dissertation.

#### **4. Formation of Hypothesis**

Develop a hypothesis based on the research topic that will be the title of your dissertation.

## 5. **Relevance and Justification of the Study**

Clearly explain why the chosen topic is significant and how it will contribute to the field of study.

## 6. **Objectives of the Study**

State the specific objectives you intend to achieve through this research.

## 7. **Methodology**

Describe in detail the research methods you will employ, explaining the procedures and techniques necessary to carry out the study.

## 8. **Research Design**

Explain the overall research framework and structure that supports your study's aims and nature.

## 9. **Techniques of Data Collection**

Describe both primary and secondary data collection methods:

- *Primary Methods:* Observation, archives, questionnaires, interviews, personal study, etc.
- *Secondary Methods:* Data gathered through books, journals, newspapers, articles, and other publications.

## 10. **Tabulation, Analysis, Interpretation, and Report Writing**

Outline the planned methods of data tabulation, how you will analyse and interpret the data, and organise the findings for reporting.

## 11. **Chapterisation of Research Study**

Specify the proposed chapter structure of your dissertation and indicate the key content to be included in each chapter.

Prepare the proposal under these headings and submit it to your supervisor for approval. Upon receiving consent, you may proceed with your dissertation research.

**Performa for Submission of Dissertation Proposal in the discipline of English for Approval from Facilitator**

Enrollment No:.....

Title of the Dissertation:.....

Date of Submission:.....

Name of the Study Center:.....

Name of the Regional Center.....

Name of the Facilitator :.....

Signature.....

Name & Address of the

Facilitator:.....

.....  
.....

Phone No.& Mail Id:.....

Name & Address of the Student.....

.....  
.....

Phone No.& Mail Id :.....

Approved /not approved (with remarks).....

Date and Place:.....



## Declaration

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled.....

.....  
.....

(Write the title in Block Letters) Submitted for partial fulfilment of the BA- Vth semester to Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) is my original work and has not been submitted earlier to any other institution to fulfil the requirement for any other programme of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

Date :

Place :

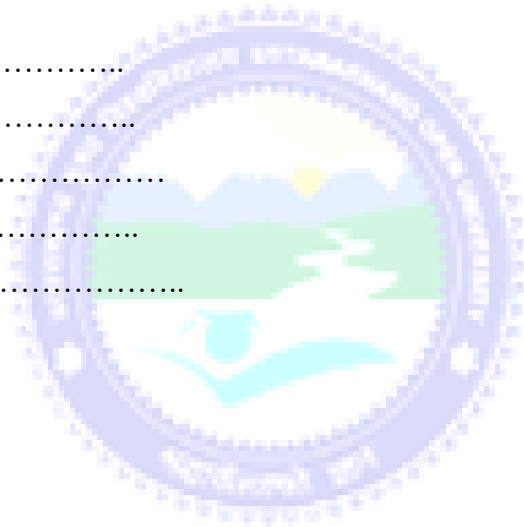
Signature:.....

Enrolment no.....

Name :.....

Address:.....

.....



## Certificate

This is to certify that Mr./Ms. ....A student of BA  
Vth semester from Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) Haldwani was working under my supervision and guidance  
for his/her Dissertation for the course BA.His/Her Dissertation  
entitled.....

.....

...

Which he /she is submitting, is his /her genuine and original work.

Signature:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone no. & mail id.....

(To be filled by Facilitator)

Date:

Place:

