

## A Note on the Status of Off-Campus PhD Theses

For various administrative and legal reasons and also owing to the large number of students and the complex evaluation process involved in the case of PhD, the processing of off-campus PhD at Dravidian University (DU) has been irregular over the year. DU has always been putting efforts to process the theses timely and also tried to ensure the quality of theses by introducing various measures from time to time. According to the existing UGC and Dravidian University M.Phil/PhD regulations, PhD students get a maximum of 5 years to submit their theses with an extension of up to 5 years only (it may be noted that the extension is a grace period). Accordingly, acceptance of off-campus M.Phil/PhD theses from those who registered on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009 has been stopped on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

Dravidian University has stopped the off-campus PhD admissions in the year 2009 itself and has **not admitted** any off-campus PhD students after the UGC M.Phil/PhD regulation, 2009 came into force.

**At present**, Dravidian University in order to ensure good standard in PhDs (regular as well as the remaining cases of off campus) insists on following stringent rules that are put into place both by UGC and Dravidian University (see the circular Dt. 4/4/2019). While insisting on such requirements DU also proposes to follow the schedule given below to speedup the processing of pending off-campus PhD theses that are submitted to Directorate of Distance Education, Dravidian University.

Status of the Thesis	Timelines
Notifications pending after completion of Viva	Would be dispatched by post (can check the status on DU website).
Thesis examiners' reports received and Viva to be conducted	Students would be contacted soon requesting them to submit two papers published in refereed journals. Viva would be scheduled up on receiving the papers. (Can check the status on DU website)
Thesis for which some examiner's (some out of 3) reports are awaited	Process of getting the examiner's reports would be expedited (and if the long pending examiners doesn't respond to the fresh reminder within 15 days a necessary alternative action would be taken)
Thesis that are submitted in 2019 after making synopsis presentation (a new quality assuring initiative as per UGC	Theses are accepted after successful synopsis seminar and submission of two published papers. Such theses are being examined for plagiarism check and the successful ones are processed further and the failed theses are sent back to students for resubmission.

regulation)	
Earlier submitted theses that are failed in plagiarism/failed to verify guides/failed to submit CD for Plagiarism check/ rejected by the examiners etc.	Such students have already been informed. Further, a final intimation would be sent to the students.

Note: The status of student's thesis would be updated on the University website every Saturday. Candidates may check the University website for the status of their thesis and be refrained from calling DDE office at Dravidian University as it is difficult to attend a large number of calls every day. Your cooperation in sorting out this long pending issue would be highly appreciated.

**Director, DDE**  
**6<sup>th</sup> July 2019**