

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## 1) When did KTU commence registration for PhD scholars?

Registration for PhD under KTU commenced with 2015-16 academic year odd semester admissions

## 2) How many times are applications invited for PhD registration every academic year?

Applications are invited twice yearly – for odd semester admission, in the first week of June and even semester admission in the first week of December.

## 3) What are the types of PhD registrations in KTU?

Full time and Part time.

## 4) What are the scholarships for fulltime PhD study in KTU?

KTU scholarship and Higher education scholarship of Govt of Kerala for three years of study. There are currently **10** scholarships (Rs 25000/-per month) per year by the University. Details of Higher education scholarships (Rs 20000/- per month) of Govt of Kerala will be specified in the notification for PhD admission.

## 5) What is the selection procedure for PhD registration?

There are two levels of screening – a written test and an interview. The written test is of objective type. Based on the performance in the written test, a subject area interview is conducted. The selection is based on the total marks obtained for the written test and interview. Candidates seeking admission for either full time or part time PhD have to clear both the eligibility test and interview. Candidates selected under QIP programme of AICTE and candidates with UGC fellowship for PhD (JRF) need not attend the eligibility test and interview.

## 6) Is course work compulsory for PhD ? How many subjects should a scholar study for course work? What are the learning and evaluation procedures?

Yes. Minimum two core and two elective courses. Research methodology is a compulsory core course for those scholars who have not studied it earlier. Such scholars need to take one more core and 2 electives. Those who have studied it earlier shall take another core course in place of research methodology. A total of 4 courses need to be taken. Pattern of learning and evaluation is same as that for MTech programmes. The scholars have to undergo the courses along with MTech students.

## 7) What is the minimum grade required in course work?

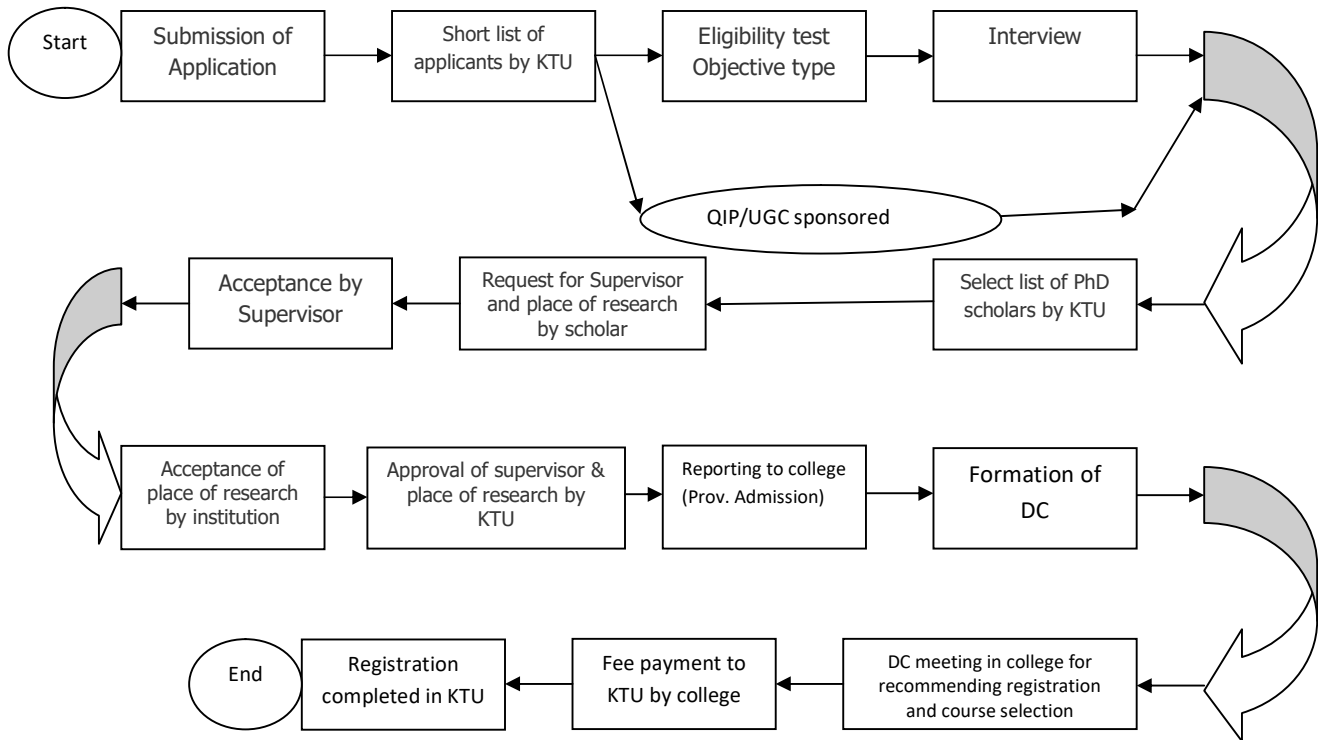
Grade C (ie range of marks 50-59). Minimum grade for those scholars secured admission prior to 2017-18 academic year is P grade (Same as M.Tech, P grade).

## 8) What is residential period?

It is mandatory for part time PhD scholars to reside at the place of research for a duration of 180 days in a single spell or two by availing eligible leave. This period is called residential period.

**9) Does getting selected by eligibility test and interview ensure registration?**

Clearing eligibility test and interview alone will not ensure PhD registration. The candidate has to choose supervisor and place of research. There will be a doctoral committee (DC) for every scholar and the DC has to recommend the registration. The online process of registration is as shown below:



**10) Is comprehensive viva compulsory in PhD research? How many chances?**

Yes. Two chances within six months after first year. If the scholar is not able to clear in two chances, the registration will be cancelled.

**11) What is the pattern of conduct of comprehensive viva?**

Comprehensive viva is conducted by the comprehensive viva committee constituted by the DC of the scholar. This consists of a written examination of 3 hr duration and 100 marks maximum. Scholars qualifying the written examination will have a viva of 1hr duration with maximum of 100 marks. Pass minimum is 50% for each.

**12) What is the minimum period of PhD study?**

3 years.

**13) What is the maximum period of PhD study?**

5 years for full time PhD and 6 years for part time PhD. DC may grant one year extension for Full time PhD in special cases. A relaxation of two years is allowed to women and physically disabled persons (with more than 40% disability).

**14) How many PhD scholars can a supervisor retain at a time?**

5 under KTU. In the transition stage, if the supervisor is already having students in other Universities, the total number of PhD students can go up to 8.

**15) Is a faculty in affiliated college allowed to take new PhD scholars in any other University?**

No.

**16) Is co-supervisor compulsory in KTU?**

No.

**17) What is the University fee structure for PhD studies?**

University fee per semester is Rs 7000/- (Rs 4000/- University component+Rs.3000/- college component). The fee is revised from 2019-20 academic year to Rs.10000/- per semester (Rs.4000/- University component +Rs.6000/- college component) which is applicable to all existing and new scholars. Onetime fee while submitting the thesis is Rs 15,000/-. The semester fee shall be remitted at the time of registration and subsequently on every 1st January and 1st July. All fee to the University are to be remitted online through KTU web portal by the college. Any other fee or deposits as per the prevailing rules of the College may be remitted as directed by the Principal of the place of research.

**18) What are the eligibility conditions for a faculty to be a Supervisor?**

Those faculty members with one research publication in Science Citation Indexed (SCI) expanded or Social Science Citation Indexed (SSCI) journal (for Management )during or after PhD in addition to two years post PhD teaching experience are eligible to supervise PhD research.

**19) What are the eligibility conditions for a faculty to be a Co-supervisor?**

Those faculty members having two years teaching experience and satisfying the publication requirements of a supervisor as above are allowed to co-supervise PhD research. Reputed Scientists/academicians with the required academic qualification and publication profile as stipulated by KTU, but without affiliation are also allowed to co-supervise PhD research.

**20) What are the steps involved in enabling a faculty as research Supervisor/Co-supervisor?**

A tutorial illustrating the steps involved in enabling a faculty as a research supervisor is available in the faculty login of the KTU portal. After completing data entry as described in the tutorial, a scanned copy of PhD and experience certificates duly attested by the head of institution shall be mailed to deanresearch@ktu.edu.in.

**21) What are the leave rules of Research scholars?**

Research Scholars are entitled for a maximum period of 30 days of leave in a year in addition to public holidays. Women candidates are eligible for maternity leave of 240 days at full rates of KTU fellowship (if applicable) once during the tenure of their award. However the fellowship will not be granted for more than 36 months. Research Scholars are not entitled to any other vacation. If a research scholar receives any funding/fellowship from an external agency, the leave rules of that agency will be treated as the leave rules.

**22) What is thesis proposal ?**

It is the first seminar of the scholar, conducted in the subsequent DC meeting falling after the successful completion of comprehensive viva. The meeting is open to all and in the meeting, along with the research proposal, title of the thesis is also approved. The scholar will get another chance for finalizing the title before submission of the thesis, if required. The meeting is expected to be convened within two years from the date of registration.

### **23) What are the eligibility conditions of place of research?**

Academic departments of the constituent colleges of the University and affiliated colleges, where post graduate programs in Engineering are successfully carried out for at least TWO batches are eligible to offer doctoral program. Institutions with no student admitted in the academic year, shall not be considered as a place of research for registering fresh scholars. Scholars already allocated to such institutions may be allowed to continue their research.

### **24) What is the minimum CGPA at PG level for securing PhD admission?**

Minimum CGPA at PG level for general candidates is 6.5 (60% marks) and that for SC/ST/Non Creamy Layer - OBC and differently-abled persons is 5.5 (50% marks) in 10 point scale.

Dean (Research)

## **FAQ on KTU-CERD funding schemes**

### **1) When was Centre for Engineering Research and Development (CERD) established?**

CERD was established in January 2010 by Government of Kerala. As per the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University Act 2015 of the Government of Kerala, CERD was dissolved and brought under the University. Since then, the centre is acting as the research arm of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.

### **2) What are the activities of CERD?**

- Provide research seed money to faculty
- Provide financial support to innovative student projects
- Assist innovators to obtain patents for their intellectual property.
- Organize technical training, conferences, seminars, symposia etc. in thrust areas
- Provide incentives to faculty for technical journal publications
- Provide assistance for technical paper presentations
- Conduct programmes to impart training in the emerging areas of Science and Technology.
- Establish Centres of Excellence in thrust areas
- Organize annual Kerala Technological Congress in the State KETCON
- Give away attractive awards to best researchers.

### **3) Where are CERD Centres situated?**

The hub centre of CERD is situated in KTU at College of Engineering Trivandrum Campus and Satellite centres are functioning in all Government Engineering Colleges of the State.

### **4) What is Kerala Technological Congress (KETCON)?**

The annual Kerala Technological Congress (KETCON) is organized to attract the researchers from all over the country and abroad to congregate in the State. The KETCON and technical exhibition of B.Tech students TEKON

(earlier TECHFEST) are conducted as twin events in one of the affiliated colleges of KTU in the month of January or February. From 2015 onwards these events are organized in association with KSCSTE.

**5) Is there any web portal for CERD?**

Details of CERD are available in the web site <https://ktu.edu.in/> under the title "Research"

**6) Is there any programme for supporting Student Projects by CERD?**

Yes, students can take up student projects through CERD. Financial assistance is provided to under graduate students of Government/ Government-Aided/ Government-Controlled/ NBA accredited Private Self Financing Engineering Colleges affiliated to KTU for under taking innovative projects. A maximum assistance of Rs.50,000/- is provided for a project.

**7) How can one apply for financial assistance for a Student Project?**

The guidelines for applying for financial assistance for a Student Project are:

- The application for financial assistance in the prescribed format should be submitted to the Dean (Research), APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, College of Engineering Trivandrum campus, Thiruvananthapuram - Pin 695 016.
- Third and fourth year undergraduate students can apply
- The applications should be forwarded by the guide through the Head of the institution.
- The proposals are scrutinized and recommended by an expert committee, for funding.

**8) What is Research Seed Money Scheme?**

The objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to initiate research in frontier areas of Engineering and Technology. Faculty members in Government/ Government-Aided/ Government-Controlled/ NBA accredited Private Self Financing Engineering Colleges affiliated to KTU can apply for financial assistance under this scheme. The investigators may submit a detailed proposal in the prescribed format. The proposals are scrutinized and recommended for funding by a screening committee consisting of experts from institutions of national repute. Maximum support of Rs. 2 Lakhs will be provided for one project. This fund can be availed only once during the career of a faculty.

**9) Is there any financial support scheme to attend international conferences abroad?**

Yes. Financial assistance is given to faculty in Govt Engineering Colleges with two SCI/SSCI journal papers for technical paper presentations in International Conferences abroad. The maximum assistance is limited to Rs 1.5 Lakhs per person.

**10) Is there any financial support scheme to attend conferences in India?**

Yes. Financial assistance is given to faculty in Govt Engineering Colleges with one SCI/SSCI journal paper for technical paper presentations in International/National conferences in India. The maximum assistance is limited to Rs 40,000 per person.

**11) Are there any incentives for researchers?**

Yes. Annual KTU Researcher of the Year Award and incentive for research publications aim to motivate researchers in Government Engineering Colleges.

The KTU Researcher of the Year award consists of citation, gold medallion (worth Rs.25,000/-), and cash award of Rs. 25,000/-. The recipient of the award will be considered for financial assistance of Rs 15 lakhs to continue research. Contributions of the researcher during last five years is considered for deciding KTU researcher of the year.

In order to promote research publications, an incentive of Rs. 10000/- is given to faculty who publish their work in Science Citation Indexed (SCI) expanded /Social Science Citation Indexed (SSCI) journals. Maximum one incentive is sanctioned to the corresponding author of the paper in a calendar year.

**12) Is there any financial support scheme to students for presenting paper in international conferences abroad?**

Yes. This scheme envisages promotion of research activity by providing financial support to full time students in KTU affiliated engineering colleges to present technical papers in International conferences of repute. The assistance is meant for travel expenses as per government rules. The maximum assistance under this scheme is limited to Rs. 50,000/-for meeting expense towards travel, VISA, registration and insurance. Accommodation charges shall not be paid.

Dean (Research)