



MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KERALA

Abstract

Ph.D. Programme - Directive of the UGC to include Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) to Course Work and Recommendations of the University Research Committee - Approved - Orders issued.

ACADEMIC A 10 SECTION

No. 1299/AC A 10/2020/MGU

Priyadarsini Hills, Dated: 06.03.2020

Read:-(1) D. O. Letter No. F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) Dated December 2019.

(2) Item No. OA 4 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Research Committee held on 20.01.2020.

ORDER

The University Grants Commission, vide the letter read as (1) above, informed that its 543rd meeting held on 9th August 2019 approved two Credit Courses for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled "Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)" to be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students for Pre-Registration Course Work undertaken in Universities from the forthcoming academic session.

The University Research Committee held on 20-01-2020 considered the matter and resolved, vide the minutes read as (2) above, to recommend to

- include the course, "Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)" to the Course Work Programme, from 2019 Admission onwards, as Course IV, as detailed below.
- conduct University level Workshops or encourage students to participate in online course in this regard.
- permit scholars who had been granted registration under part time mode, to undergo Course Work Programme in two spells (Course I and Course II in the first spell, Course III and Course IV in the second spell).

Details of Course IV:-

COURSE TITLE

- **Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**

COURSE LEVEL

- 2 credit course (30 Hrs.)

ELIGIBILITY

- M.Phil, Ph.D. students and interested faculty members (It will be made available to post-graduate students at later date)

FEES

- As per University Rules

FACULTY

- Interdisciplinary Studies

QUALIFICATION OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE COURSE

- Ph.D. in relevant subject areas having more than 10 years' of teaching experience

COURSE CODE

- CPE-RPE

OVERVIEW

- This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of Philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands on sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

Pedagogy:

- Class room teaching, Guest Lecturers, group discussions and practical sessions.

Evaluation

- Continuous assessment will be done through tutorials, assignments, quizzes and group discussions. Weightage will be given for active participation. Final written examination will be conducted at the end of the course.

Course Structure

- The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

Modules	Unit Title	Teaching Hours
Theory		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
Practice		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Database and Research Metrics	7
Total		30

SYLLABUS IN DETAIL

Theory

- RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3hrs)**

1. Introduction to Philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
2. Ethics: Definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions.

- RPE 02: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5hrs.)**

1. Ethics with respect to science and research
2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP)
4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

- RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)**

1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
2. Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc.
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Publication misconduct: Definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
7. Predatory publishers and journals

Practice

- **RPE 04: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING (4hrs.)**

1. Open access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder/journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

- **RPE05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4 hrs.)**

A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

B. Software tools (2 hrs.)

1. Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

- **RPE 06: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS (7 hrs.)**

A. Databases (4hrs.)

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus etc.

B. Research Metrics (3hrs.)

1. Impact factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

The above said recommendations of the University Research Committee, vide the minutes read as (2) above, have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor, by exercising powers of the Academic Council, under Section 3.10(17) of Mahatma Gandhi University Act 1985.

Orders are issued accordingly.

SURESHBABU K

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR IV
(ACADEMIC)
For REGISTRAR

Copy To

- (1) The Heads of all research centres
- (2) PS to the Vice-Chancellor
- (3) PS to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor
- (4) PA to Registrar
- (5) PA to Controller of Examinations
- (6) PA to Director, College Development Council
- (7) Director of Research
- (8) JR II (Admn), DR I (Acad), AR IV (Acad), JR I (Exams), AR XXI (Exams)
- (9) Ac A II, Ac A XI, Ac A VI, P&D II, EB X, EB XIV Sections
- (10) Content Management Section (to upload in the website)
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- (13) File No. 2499/AC A10-4/2020/AC A 10

Forwarded / By Order

Section Officer