

**UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT 1971**

**UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CONSTITUTION 2010**

**UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA  
(DOCTORAL DEGREE) RULES 2024**

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**UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT 1971**

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA CONSTITUTION 2010**

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
(DOCTORAL DEGREE) RULES 2024**

In the exercise of the powers conferred under subsection 37(1) of the Constitution of the University of Malaya 2010 [P.U. (A) 444/2010], the Board of Directors of the University of Malaya has formulated the following rules:

**PART I  
PRELIMINARY**

**1. Name, Commencement and Application**

- (1) These Rules may be cited as the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules 2024 and shall come into force from the 2024/2025 Academic Session.
- (2) These Rules shall apply to all candidates of the Doctoral degree programme admitted prior to and in the Academic Session 2024/2025 and thereafter.
- (3) Notwithstanding that provided in subrule (2), candidates admitted in Admission Session 2020/2021 and before will continue to be subject to the Academic Programme conditions and the Minimum and Maximum Duration conditions as prescribed in the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules 2019.
- (4) Notwithstanding that provided for under the (Doctoral Degree) Rules and Regulations, the implementation method of the Doctoral Degree that will be used by the University shall also be read concurrently with the fundamentals, policies, guidelines, procedures or other resolutions defined by the University from time to time.

**2. Interpretation**

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires an alternative meaning:

“academic programme” means a group of courses, training and research including a combination of such courses, or training and research, that are planned and offered for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements for the conferment of a Degree;

“academic programme by Clinical” means an academic programme as defined under subrule 3(1)(d);

“academic programme by Coursework” means an academic programme as defined under subrule 3(1)(c);

“academic programme by Mixed Mode” means an academic programme as defined under subrule 3(1)(b);

“academic programme by Research” means an academic programme as defined under subrule 3(1)(a); (rearrange alphabetically)

“Academic Session” means a duration of study of an academic programme which comprises two (2) normal semesters and a special semester where the date of commencement and the end date is determined by the Vice-Chancellor;

“Admission session” means a session where a candidate is admitted into a programme of study;

“Bursar” means an officer of the University as provided under section 14 of the Constitution;

“Calendar of studies” means the duration of study that consists of lecture week, revision week, examination week and break in any semester where the commencement and ending date are as prescribed by the Vice-Chancellor;

“Calendar Year” means a period of time in which the duration is twelve months (January -December);

“candidate” means a person who has registered to study for the Doctoral Degree programme of study;

“citizen” means Malaysian citizens;

“CGPA” means Cumulative Grade Point Average which is determined by dividing the total grade points earned by the number of credits taken from the first semester to the current semester;

“Committee of Examiners” means the committee established by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty to consider the results of examination of candidates and exercise such other powers granted to it pursuant to the provisions of these Rules or Regulations concerned;

“Common semester” means a semester system which uses 17 weeks of study. A semester system other than 17 weeks of study needs to determine the appropriate minimum credit amount; (LPU approval 08.04.2021)

“Constitution” means the Constitution of University of Malaya 2010 [P.U. (A) 444/2010];

“Consultant” means a person who is not a teacher from any university that has the expertise in the related field of study who is appointed by the Faculty to supervise a candidate in his programme of study;

“Co-Supervisor” means a person appointed by the Faculty from among Adjunct Professors, Honorary Professors, visiting lecturers, experts, industry practitioners, or research fellows appointed by the University and full-time teachers from University/ another university to supervise the candidate in his programme of study;

“course” means a unit of study, training or clinical training including but not limited to lecture, tutorial, electronic learning (e-learning), case study, presentation, visit, practical, internship, and academic exercises conducted over a prescribed period of time, which contributes to the credit or to the learning outcome of a programme of study;

“Course Coordinator” means a person appointed by the Dean of the Faculty from among the full-time teachers of the University to coordinate any academic programme;

"course exemption" means an exemption from registration and pursuing a course that is offered to a candidate, based on the course content that is equivalent to the course applied for with proof of knowledge and skill of the candidate. Should the course exemption result in the credit requirement for graduation being insufficient, the student shall take another course to replace the said course;

"credit" means the quantitative measurements representing the volume of learning or the burden of learning to achieve specific learning outcomes;

"credit counted" means a credit obtained by a candidate for any course studied in a programme of study where the grade obtained for that particular course is included in the calculation of the GPA and CGPA;

"credit obtained" means a credit obtained by a candidate for a course studied in a programme of study for the purpose of fulfillment of a degree;

"credit with grade" means transfer of credits together with the grade for courses from the same level of qualifications (horizontal) for candidates who are still in the programme of study;

"credit without grade" means transfer of credits without grade for courses from a lower level of qualification (vertical) and/or from the same level of qualification (horizontal) for candidates who have completed their studies or have not completed their studies (not including a candidate who was terminated from the programme of study) but has reached the level of competency in the course applied for;

"Dean of Faculty" means the Dean of a Faculty of the University and includes any Director or Head of any Academy, Centre, School or Institute, who has been appointed under subsections 24(4) and (5) of the Constitution;

"Degree" means a Doctoral Degree of the University;

"Department" means any department of study of the Faculty and includes any division of studies of the Faculty;

"Deputy Dean of Postgraduate Studies" means a person who is appointed by the University as a Deputy Dean including any Deputy Directors responsible for the management at the Academy, Faculty, Centre, School or Institute;

"dissertation" means original research document prepared and handed in by the candidate for the award of a Doctoral Degree by Coursework and by Clinical;

"examination room" means the premise for the conduct of an examination for a course or courses;

"External Examiner" means a person who is not a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the Senate to examine a course or thesis or dissertation of a candidate;

"Faculty" means any Faculty of the University and this includes any School, Centre, Academy or Institute of the University established under subsection 24(1) of the Constitution;

"Fast Track Admission" refers to the entry path for outstanding Bachelor's graduates to continue their studies directly to a Doctoral program by research with a CGPA of at least 3.70.

"field of study" means the specialization offered in an academic program.

Note:

The field of study shall refer to the field of specialization stipulated in the National Education Code (NEC).

"full-time study method" means studies pursued by the candidate with a minimum study of 14 credits in a common semester (60% of the total maximum credit in one (1) semester); (LPU approval 08.04.2021)

"GPA" means Grade Point Average which is determined by dividing the total grade points obtained by the total number of credits taken in a semester;

"Head of Department" means the Head of any Department of study of a Faculty including the Chairman of any division of study of any Faculty;

"Internal Examiner" means a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the Faculty to examine a course, a part of a course or thesis or dissertation of a candidate;

"Invigilator" means an invigilator and includes a chief invigilator appointed by the University from among full-time or part-time teachers of the University to invigilate an examination of an academic programme;

"Needs and Requirements" means the Requirements and Special Requirements for the Doctoral Degree Programme of the University Malaya to be read concurrently with the University Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules 2024 and University Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024;

"non-citizen" means non-Malaysians including those with permanent resident status;

"Normal Semester" means Semester I or Semester II as provided in the Calendar of Study;

"place of study" means the University including any other place approved by the University;

"part-time study method" means studies pursued by the candidate with studies less than 14 credits in one (1) common semester (less than 60% of the total maximum credit in a semester);

"Programme External Assessor / Programme External Examiner" means a person who is not a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the University for one or more academic programmes;

"Registrar" means an officer of the University as provided for under section 14 of the Constitution;

"semester" means a specific duration determined by the University in an academic session which constitutes normal semesters and special semesters;

"Senate" means one of the University's Authorities established under subsection 22(1) of the Constitution;

"Supervisor" means a person appointed by the Faculty from among the full-time teachers of the University and an Emeritus Professor of the University to supervise a candidate in his programme of study;

"Special Semester" means a semester with a shorter duration from a Normal Semester and offered after Semester II;

"Teacher" means a person appointed as a teacher in accordance with the Universiti Malaya Constitution, and includes senior professors, professors, associate professors, clinical teachers, fellows, assistant professors, readers, senior lecturers, lecturers, teaching assistants, and language lecturers.

"thesis" means the original research document prepared and submitted by the candidate for the award of a Doctoral Degree by Research and by Mixed Mode;

"University" means the University of Malaya;

Vice-Chancellor" means the chief executive officer and academic officer of the University appointed under subsection 12(1) of the Constitution;

"viva voce" means one of the components in the Doctoral Degree programme in the form of oral examination for the candidates to defend their thesis or dissertation. This component is held at the last stage of the programme of study after the candidates complete their research and submit their thesis or dissertation for the purpose of examination.

## **PART II** **ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **3. Academic Programme**

- (1) An Academic Programme offered by the University may be offered as full-time or part-time study. The academic programme shall be classified as follows :
  - (a) Doctoral Degree Programme by Research, that is, an academic programme that is conducted by full-time research leading to the production of a thesis;
  - (b) Doctoral Degree Programme by Mixed Mode, that is, an academic programme that is conducted by a combination of courses and research leading to the production of a thesis ;
  - (c) Doctoral Degree Programme by Coursework, that is, an academic programme that is conducted fully by courses and leading to the production

of a dissertation; and

- (d) Doctoral Degree Programme by Clinical, that is, an academic programme involving clinical expertise training and leading to the production of a dissertation.
- (2) Based on the mode of study of the programme as stated in the subrule (1) above, the normal duration for a full-time study is three (3) years whereas for a part-time study, the normal duration is four (4) years.

#### **4. Admission to the University's Programme of Study**

- (1) Each applicant who wishes to pursue a doctoral programme of study shall meet the following general requirements:
  - (a) obtain a Master's Degree recognized by the Senate or other qualifications considered equivalent to a Master's Degree accepted by the Senate;
  - (b) meet the requirements and special conditions for the University Malaya's doctoral programmes as specified in Schedule 1, University Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024;
  - (c) acknowledge receipt of the admission offer;
  - (d) verified by a Registered Medical Practitioner, Universiti Malaya Clinic that the applicant has a satisfactory level of health and is not suffering from any disease or any physical disability that could interfere with the study at the University; and
  - (e) fulfilled all immunization requirement specified for the academic programmes by clinical and non-clinical involving \*clinical activities; and  
  
\*in reference to the sub-rule (e) above, clinical activities are as specified in the Universiti Malaya Vaccination Policy. (LPU approval 12.08.2021)
  - (f) pay the specified fees.
- (2) In certain circumstances, the admission of an applicant is subject to the Senate's decision with the recommendation of the Faculty concerned and fulfils subrule (1)(c), until (f) above.
- (3) Admission to the programme of study usually is at the beginning of Semester I or Semester II of each academic session and the admission offer is for a semester and a particular session.

#### **5. Mobility Programme Candidate**

- (1) Mobility Programme Candidate refers to:
  - (a) Candidates from external universities/institutions approved to follow certain courses or conduct research for academic programs at the University, whether or not for the purpose of obtaining grades and/or credits. They are not University candidates.



- (b) University candidates who are approved to follow certain courses or conduct research for an academic program at an external university/institution, whether or not for the purpose of getting grades and/or credits subject to the regulations of the university/institution.
- (2) The admission of the mobility programme candidate shall be at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty.

### **PART III** **REGISTRATION**

#### **6. Registration as a Candidate**

- (1) Any person who has been offered a place by the University to pursue a programme of study and who accepts the said offer is required to register in accordance with the regulations under the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024.
- (2) Subject to subrule (3), any person registered pursuant to subrule (1) is a student of the University and shall be known as a candidate of a Degree programme of study. The name of the said candidate shall be entered into the student register of the University until such time as the candidate shall have completed his programme of study and the Senate has confirmed that the said candidate is qualified to be conferred the Degree or, for any specific reasons the candidate loses his status as a student of the University, whichever is the earlier.
- (3) Every candidate who is registered for a programme of study offered to him shall register on a continuous basis with the University.
- (4) Any candidate who fails to register continuously for a duration of two (2) semesters with the University shall cease to be a student and his name shall be removed from the register of students of the University.
- (5) Notwithstanding subrule (1) and subject to subrule (3), the Senate at its discretion may at any time terminate the registration of any candidate if it deems the candidate is not able to continue his programme of study. The name of the said candidate shall be removed from the register of students of the University and the candidate shall henceforth cease to be a student of the University. The Senate's decision made in accordance with subrule (5) is final.

### **PART IV** **PAYMENT**

#### **7. Fees and Other Payments**

A candidate shall pay all fees and other payments as determined by the regulations under the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024.

#### **8. Right to Revise Fees and Other Payments**

The University has the absolute right to revise the rate of the stipulated fees and other payments without prior notice to the candidate.

## **9. Duration to Settle Fees and Other Payments**

The candidate shall pay all fees and other payments within the duration specified by the University.

## **10. Failure to Settle Fees and Other Payments**

Failure to settle all fees and other payments within the duration specified by the University may result in the candidate being:

- (1) prevented from registering for the following semester and his status as a University student is terminated; and/or
- (2) prevented from getting examination results for the respective semester, academic transcripts and degree scrolls;
- (3) prevented from submitting a thesis / dissertation for examination; and/or
- (4) prevented from being awarded a degree in the Convocation Ceremony.

### **PART V**

#### **DURATION OF PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

## **11. Duration of Programme of Study**

A candidate shall pursue and complete his programme of study within the prescribed duration.

## **12. Minimum and Maximum Duration**

- (1) The minimum and maximum duration for the Doctoral Degree programme of study is as determined in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of these Rules.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subrule (1) in certain circumstances the Dean of the Faculty or any other officer as may be determined by the University may extend the duration of candidature beyond the maximum duration as prescribed in subrule (1) provided that such extension shall not exceed three (3) semesters.

## **13. Suspension of A Candidate's Programme of Study**

The duration of suspension of a candidate's programme of study where punishment has been imposed under the University of Malaya (Discipline of Students) Rules 1999 shall not be taken into account as part of the maximum duration of the programme of study.

### **PART VI**

#### **STRUCTURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMME**

## **14. Structure of Programme by Research and by Mixed Mode**

- (1) For an academic programme by Research, the candidate shall undertake full-time research fully resulting in the production of a thesis. Notwithstanding that, a candidate may be required to attend certain courses as may be prescribed by the University or the Faculty concerned.
- (2) For an academic programme by Mixed Mode, the candidate shall be required to follow the said programme based on the structure of the academic programme and produce a thesis as may be prescribed in the Regulations made under these Rules.
- (3) Programme External Assessors for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of a Special Committee appointed by the Senate as specified in the Regulations.

#### **15. Structure of Programme by Coursework**

- (1) For an academic programme by Coursework, the candidate is required to pursue an academic programme fully comprising of courses and produce a dissertation.
- (2) Programme External Assessor for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of a Special Committee appointed by the Senate as specified in the Regulations.

#### **16. Structure of Programme by Clinical**

- (1) For an academic programme by Clinical, the candidate is required to pursue the academic programme involving clinical expertise training and produce a dissertation.
- (2) Programme External Examiner for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Faculty as specified in the Regulations.

### **PART VII** **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **17. Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu Requirements**

- (1) A candidate who is a Malaysian citizen shall be required, before being conferred the degree, to possess at least a:
  - (a) pass grade in Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu at the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia level;
  - (b) level III in the Sijil Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu Universiti or at an equivalent level; or
  - (c) pass the Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu exemption assessment as set by the University.
- (2) A non-citizen candidate is required to attend at a satisfactory level a Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu course conducted by the University before being conferred the degree unless he obtains at least a:

- (a) pass grade in Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu at the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia level;
  - (b) level III in the Sijil Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu Universiti or at an equivalent level;
  - (c) pass grade in the Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu course as recognised by the University; or
  - (d) pass the Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu exemption assessment as set by the University.
- (3) Notwithstanding subrules (1) and (2), the *Bahasa Malaysia* or *Bahasa Melayu* requirement may be waived for a candidate who has pursued a programme of study and has been conferred a degree from a Local and Private Institute of Higher Learning where the medium of instruction used was the national language.

### **18. English Language Requirement**

- (1) A non-citizen applicant who intends to pursue a degree programme of study in the University and/or write his thesis or dissertation in English, and who obtained a degree from a university or an institution of higher learning where the medium of instruction is not English language for the degree concerned is required to fulfil the English language competency requirement set by the University from time to time.
- (2) A non-citizen applicant who pursues a programme of study and/or writing a thesis or dissertation in a language other than English, that is, Bahasa Malaysia or Arabic Language and other languages approved by the Senate related to his field of research, prior to graduation is required to fulfil the English language competency requirement as set by the University from time to time as stipulated in the Schedule 1 of the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024.

## **PART VIII** **ASSESSMENT METHOD**

### **19. Assessment**

- (1) In accordance to the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Regulations 2024, assessment shall be conducted for the following academic programmes:
  - (a) Research;
  - (b) Mixed Mode;
  - (c) Coursework; and
  - (d) Clinical.
- (2) An assessment carried out by the University may be *via* final examination and/or continuous assessment together with other assessment methods which have been approved by the Senate upon the recommendation of the Faculty.
- (3) For programs that have standards and/or requirements to comply with professional bodies, evaluation methods should be made according to the requirements set.

## **20. Committee of Examiners**

A separate Committee of Examiners shall be formed for every examination for every academic programme.

## **PART IX** **GRADUATION**

### **21. Graduation Requirements**

- (1) A candidate may be awarded the relevant degree subject to the candidate:
  - (a) has complied with all requirements of these Rules and any regulations made thereunder;
  - (b) has been recommended by the Committee of Examiners to be awarded the Degree and approved by the Senate; and
  - (c) has satisfied any other requirements prescribed by the Senate from time to time.
- (2) The University reserves the right to forfeit the conferment of the degree if the candidate fails to pay all fees and other payments prescribed by the University.
- (3) Notwithstanding any decision in relation to a candidate's graduation, the University reserves the right to forfeit the conferment of the degree of a candidate if the University is satisfied that it has been proven that the candidate has done the following:
  - (a) falsified information to meet the requirements for graduation; or
  - (b) committed an act of academic dishonesty that in the view of the University deems that the candidate does not deserve to be awarded the degree.

## **PART X** **GENERAL**

### **22. Termination of Candidature**

The Senate has the right to terminate the candidature of a candidate who is found to have provided false information in connection with admission to the University or commits an act of academic dishonesty other than those stated in the University of Malaya (Discipline of Students) Rules 1999 which in the view of the Senate is inappropriate and detrimental to the image of the University.

### **23. Power of the Senate to Formulate Regulations**

The Senate may generally make any regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out or enforcing the provisions of these Rules.

### **24. Exemption of Application**

Notwithstanding anything stated in these Rules and any regulations made thereunder, the

Senate may exempt the application of any provisions of these Rules.

**1. Compliance with Universities and University Colleges Act 1971, University of Malaya Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations**

Every candidate shall be subjected to the Universities and University Colleges Act, 1971, the Constitution of the University of Malaya, all other Statutes, Rules and Regulations currently applicable in the University including the University of Malaya (Discipline of Students) Rules 1999.

**2. Repeal**

Subject to the provisions of Rule 1(3), the Universiti Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules 2019 are hereby repealed.

Updated on 07.11.2024.

YBhg. Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar  
Pengerusi  
Lembaga Pengarah Universiti Malaya

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
(DOCTORAL DEGREE) RULES 2024  
SCHEDULE 1  
(Rule 12)**

**MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION FOR FULL-TIME STUDY**

1. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Philosophy**  
Minimum duration :4 Semesters  
Maximum duration :12 Semesters
  
2. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Medicine**  
  
Minimum duration :4 Semesters  
Maximum duration :10 Semesters
  
3. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Dental Public Health**  
Minimum duration :6 Semesters  
Maximum duration :12 Semesters
  
4. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Management**  
Minimum duration :6 Semesters  
Maximum duration :12 Semesters
  
5. **Duration of Study of Doctoral Degree by Clinical at the Faculty of Dentistry**  
Minimum duration : 6 semesters  
Maximum duration : 8 semesters

Note: The minimum and maximum duration of a programme of study according to mode may vary from that stated above and is subject to approval from the Ministry of Higher Education

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
(DOCTORAL DEGREE) RULES 2024**

**SCHEDULE 2  
(Rule 12)**

**MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION FOR PART-TIME STUDY**

1. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Philosophy**  
Minimum Duration: :6 Semester  
Maximum Duration :16 Semester
  
2. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Medicine**  
Minimum Duration :6 Semester  
Maximum Duration :14 Semester
  
3. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Dental Public Health**  
Minimum Duration :8 Semester  
Maximum Duration :16 Semester
  
4. **Duration of Study of Doctor of Management**  
  
Minimum Duration :8 Semester  
Maximum Duration :16 Semester
  
5. **Duration of Study of Doctoral Degree by Clinical at the Faculty of Dentistry**  
Minimum Duration :8 Semester  
Maximum Duration :12 Semester

Note: The minimum and maximum duration of a programme of study according to mode may vary from that stated above and is subject to approval from the Ministry of Higher Education.