NIRMA UNIVERSITY
NAAC ACCREDITED 'A+' GRADE

NU/AC/AC-130925/9/25- 125
Date: 14.10.2025

NOTIFICATION

Read: **Resolution No. 9 – Academic Council meeting – 13.09.2025**

Sub: **Introduction of 'Dual-degree' scheme- M.Tech. plus Ph.D. for the students to be admitted in M.Tech. programmes**

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the Academic Council in its meeting held on 13.09.2025 under resolution No. 9 has resolved to approve introduction of dual-degree scheme - **M.Tech. plus Ph.D.** for the students to be admitted in M.Tech. programmes from academic year 2025-26 onwards as per ***Appendix*-A** attached herewith.

Executive Registrar

Encl.: Appendix-A [Pages 1 to 3]

To,
1. All Heads of Institute
2. Dean, Faculty of Doctoral Studies & Research
3. Dy. Director (IQAC)
4. All Heads of Department (IT)
5. Chief Accounts Officer
6. Dy. Registrar (Exam)

Copy to,
1. Asst. Registrar/OS (IT)
2. Publication Officer
3. Establishment Section
4. P.A. to ER

c.f.w.cs to: i. Vice President; ii. Director General

Appendix-A
Noti. No. NU-125
Acad.Cou.mtg. – 13.09.25

Nirma University
Ahmedabad

Introduction of a Dual Degree Scheme: M.Tech. plus Ph.D.

1. Background and Rationale

In line with the flexibility and integration encouraged under the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020*, and to attract talented postgraduate students into research careers at an early stage, it is proposed to introduce a **Dual Degree Scheme** wherein eligible M.Tech students may migrate to the Ph.D programme during the second year of their Master's degree. Under this scheme, students will begin their doctoral research work while completing the requirements for the M.Tech degree, thereby enabling them to earn both an M.Tech degree as well as a Ph.D degree within a minimum four-year period. This will help in optimising academic progression, providing early research exposure, and enhancing the quality and quantity of research outcome from the University.

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2. Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must possess a **4-year undergraduate degree** in a relevant discipline with a minimum **75% aggregate marks** (or equivalent CGPA).
- Students must be enrolled in the **first year of the M.Tech programme** at the University.
- Admission to the dual degree scheme will be **provisional**, subject to achieving a **minimum of 60% aggregate marks** in the first year of M.Tech programme, and eventually, a **minimum of 55% aggregate marks** in the M.Tech programme.

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3. Admission Process

- At the end of the first year of the M.Tech programme, **expressions of interest** will be invited from eligible students.
- Selection will be based on a **written test** and viva voce / interview / presentation of research proposal. The written test comprises of:
    - 50% – Research Methodology
    - 50% – Subject Specialisation
- Candidate shall secure minimum 50 % marks to be eligible to get shortlisted for viva voce / interview / presentation of research proposal.
- The candidates who qualify the GATE and similar national level test with the valid score in terms of cut-off marks and duration shall be exempted from appearing in the written test and deemed to be qualified for viva voce / interview / presentation of research proposal.
- Shortlisted candidates will be required to present a preliminary research proposal.
- The final merit will be computed applying weightage of 70 % to written test and 30 % weightage to viva voce / interview / presentation of research proposal.
- Final selection will be approved by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

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4. Programme Structure

Phase I: Second Year of M.Tech

- Selected students will be **allocated a Ph.D guide** at the time of commencement of the second year.
- Students will **prepare and submit a Ph.D research proposal** under the guide`s supervision.
- The **first phase of the research work** will:
    - Contribute towards fulfilment of the M.Tech degree requirements (as thesis / dissertation).
    - Formulate the initial part of the Ph.D research work.
- Students will complete the **Ph.D coursework** in parallel during this phase.
- During this period, students will be **considered as Ph.D students** for administrative and research purposes. However, the Ph.D Stipend commences from the 3rd year for a period of maximum 3 years.
- The stipend, as applicable, for the M.Tech will be continued in this duration (i.e., during the second year of M.Tech).

Phase II: Full-time Ph.D Work

- After successful completion of the M.Tech degree requirements, students will continue with the Ph.D programme, carrying forward the research initiated in the Phase I.
- The remaining duration will be devoted entirely to Ph.D research, culminating in submission and defence of the doctoral thesis.

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5. Duration

The scheme is designed to enable completion of **both degrees within a minimum period of 4 years:**

- Years 1–2: M.Tech (with migration to Ph.D during the Year 2)
- Years 3–4: Ph.D research completion [can be extended for one more year with Ph.D stipend]

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6. Fees

- The student will be paying fees for the **M.Tech programme in the first two years**. Subsequently for the remaining all the years, the student will be paying the fees for the **full-time Ph.D programme**.

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7. Benefits of the Scheme

- **Time efficiency**: Students save up to 2 years compared to pursuing M.Tech and Ph.D sequentially.
- **Early research exposure**: The scheme encourages innovative research at an earlier stage in the academic journey.
- **Enhanced research output**: Provides longer total engagement with the research topic.
- **Alignment with NEP**: Supports flexibility and integration across academic levels.

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