Kaushalya – The Skill University

(Established by Labour, Skill Development and Employment Department, Government of Gujarat)

Block-3, VGEC Campus, Nigam Nagar, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad – 382424, Gujarat, India

Ph.D. Admission 2026–27 (Phase-II)

(STUDENT GUIDELINES)

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These guidelines are issued by Kaushalya-The Skill University (KSU) for Ph.D. Admission 2026–27 (Phase-II) aligned with the university Ph.D. manual and the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022. All figures below are subject to change; candidates must regularly check www.kaushalyaskilluniversity.ac.in for the final admission notification.

General Guidelines

1. Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Criteria – I (Admission after Master's Degree)

- Candidates who have completed a 1-year/2-semester Master's degree after a 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's degree, OR a 2-year/4-semester Master's degree after a 3-year Bachelor's degree, with at least 55% marks in aggregate (or equivalent grade on the UGC 10-point scale), shall be eligible.
- Equivalent qualifications from foreign educational institutions, accredited by recognized assessment agencies and certified by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), are also accepted.
- A relaxation of 5% marks (from 55% to 50%) shall be allowed for SC/ST/SEBC (Non-Creamy Layer)/Differently-Abled/EWS candidates.
- Candidates holding a Postgraduate Diploma in Management (2-year full-time) with ≥ 55% marks, certified by AIU as equivalent to an MBA, and CA/CMA/CS-qualified candidates with ≥ 55% marks, shall also be eligible.

Eligibility Criteria – II (Direct Admission after 4-Year Graduation – NEP 2020)

- Candidates who have completed a 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate (or equivalent grade) are eligible for direct admission as full-time research scholars only.
- A relaxation of 5% marks (from 75% to 70%) shall be allowed for SC/ST/SEBC (Non-Creamy Layer)/Differently-Abled/EWS categories.
- Such candidates shall be required to complete coursework of 24–32 credits, as specified in Section 13.

Eligibility Criteria – III (M.Phil. Holders)

- Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate (or equivalent grade) are eligible for Ph.D. admission.
- A relaxation of 5% applies for SC/ST/SEBC (Non-Creamy Layer)/Differently-Abled/EWS candidates.
- For foreign candidates not holding a Master's degree from an Indian university, a minimum of 55% or equivalent grade in the Master's degree is mandatory.

Scholar Categories

- Full-Time Research Scholar
- Part-Time Research Scholar (working professional; employer No Objection Certificate mandatory)
- Full-Time Sponsored Research Scholar (deputed by employer with full relief from duty)

2. Important Dates

The following dates are tentative and subject to change. Candidates must regularly check the official KSU website for updates.

Sr. No.	Milestone	Tentative Date
1	Ph.D. Admission Announcement	18/11/2026
2	Online Application Portal Opens	18/11/2026
3	Last Date for Submission of Online Application	02/12/2026
4	Announcement of Entrance Test / Exempted Candidate List	05/12/2026
5	KSU Common Entrance Test (CET) – if applicable	10/12/2026
6	Personal Interview (PI)	14/12/2026
7	Declaration of Merit List / Result	19/12/2026
8	Last Date for Payment of Admission Fees	24/12/2026
9	Commencement of Semester – 1	December 2026

3. Ph.D. Seat Matrix

The seat matrix, as approved by the Ph.D. Admission Committee-2026, KSU is as follows:

Discipline / Subject	UR	SEBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total Vacant Seats
Computer Science	2	2	–	1	1	6
English	–	2	–	1	1	4
HR & Labour Relations	–	–	–	1	–	1
Life Science	–	2	1	–	1	4
Management	1	3	1	1	1	7
Mathematics	2	1	–	1	–	4
Psychology	1	–	–	–	–	1
Total	**6**	**10**	**2**	**5**	**4**	**27**

Candidates applying under reserved categories shall upload valid caste/category/disability certificates along with the application form. EWS candidates shall upload a valid Income and Asset Certificate issued by the competent authority. Candidates must also produce the original documents at the time of the Personal Interview (PI) for verification. Failure to submit the required documents with the application or to produce the originals during the PI shall result in the candidate being considered under the General (Unreserved) category, and no reservation benefits or relaxations shall be granted.

Note: *The above seat matrix is provisional and the number of seats in any discipline may be increased, decreased, or cancelled by the University without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of the Hon'ble Director General shall be final and binding on all concerned in this regard.*

4. Admission Process (As per UGC Regulations 2022)

As per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, KSU follows the routes below.

Route A – UGC-NET / CSIR-NET / GATE / GPAT Based Admission (Priority Route)

- UGC has directed that NET/JRF scores shall be used for Ph.D. admissions from the 2024–25 session onward. This is the preferred and priority route at KSU.
- Category 1: Eligible for Ph.D. admission with JRF and for appointment as Assistant Professor.
- Category 2: Eligible for Ph.D. admission without JRF and for appointment as Assistant Professor.
- Category 3: Eligible for Ph.D. admission only; must apply within one year of qualifying UGC-NET.

- GATE/GPAT/NATA/CAT score of 75 percentile or above is also accepted under this route

Route B – KSU Common Entrance Test (CET)

- Candidates without a valid NET/JRF/GATE/GPAT score shall appear in the KSU Common Entrance Test (CET).
- CET shall be MCQ-based with negative marking of 0.25 marks for every wrong answer. No marks shall be awarded or deducted for un-attempted questions.

Paper	Details	Time	No. of Questions	Minimum Qualifying Marks
Paper I	Research Methodology and Aptitude (Common for all disciplines)	1 hour	50	Counted toward the 50% aggregate across Papers I & II (5% relaxation for SC/ST/SEBC-NCL/Differently-Abled/EWS)
Paper II	Subject-Specific	1 hour	50	Counted toward the 50% aggregate across Papers I & II (5% relaxation for SC/ST/SEBC-NCL/Differently-Abled/EWS)

Paper structure (two papers of 50 MCQs each, 1-hour, negative marking of 0.25 marks for every wrong answer, 50% aggregate qualifying across Papers I & II)

Discipline-wise Syllabus of the Common Entrance Test

Sr. No.	Subject / Discipline	Syllabus Reference
1	Research Methodology (Common for all)	Research Methodology_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
2	Computer Science	Computer Science_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
3	English	English_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
4	HR & Labour Relations	HR and Labour Relations_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
5	Life Science	Life science_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
6	Management	Management_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
7	Mathematics	Mathematics_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf
8	Psychology	Psychology_KSU PhD CET 2026.pdf

5. Exemption from the Entrance Test (CET)

The following candidates are exempted from appearing in the KSU Common Entrance Test:

- Candidates who have qualified UGC-NET / CSIR-NET / SLET-SET or other equivalent tests conducted by central government bodies.
- Candidates with valid GATE / GPAT / NATA / CAT score of 75 percentile or 75% and above.
- Candidates applying through Ministries of Government of India / State Government, or under the Cultural Exchange Scholarship Programme of Government of India.
- Candidates granted a fellowship/scholarship from State/Central Government agencies for Ph.D. (e.g., DBT/ICMR/JRF category holders).
- Teacher Fellowship holders.
- State Government employees (Class I & II) who have qualified through GPSC/UPSC and served a minimum of 5 years after confirmation in service. (As per point (vii) of Section 10.5.2 of the KSU Ph.D. Manual)

Exempted candidates may opt out of the exemption if they wish to appear in the CET. All exempted candidates must submit valid documentary proof of their qualifying score/status at the time of application. Exempted candidates are still required to appear in the Personal Interview (Section 6).

6. Personal Interview (PI)

- The PI shall carry a maximum of 50 marks, distributed as: 20 marks for the candidate's competence for the proposed research; 15 marks for the suitability of the research work at the school/institute and available infrastructure; and 15 marks for the contribution of the proposed research to new/additional knowledge in the field.
- PI shall be conducted separately for each subject/discipline/stream by a committee constituted by the respective School.
- Candidates are expected to discuss their proposed research interest, area, and research proposal content in the PI.
- A brief Research Proposal (approx. 1,000–1,500 words) outlining objectives, methodology, and significance is encouraged to be submitted/presented during the PI.
- A candidate who remains absent for the scheduled Personal Interview (PI) shall have their candidature cancelled.

7. Preparation of Merit List

Candidates Appearing in CET

- CET: 70% weightage of marks obtained.
- PI: 30% weightage of marks obtained.

NET/JRF/GATE/GPAT-Exempted Candidates

- For candidates exempted from CET, the 70% CET-equivalent component shall be computed as per the equivalence table given below:

Sr. No.	Percentage of Marks obtained in Post Graduate Degree Examination	Marks (70% of the following)
1	45% to 49%	25
2	50% to 54%	30
3	55% to 59%	35
4	60% to 64%	40
5	65% to 69%	45
6	70% to 74%	50
7	75% to 79%	55
8	80% to 84%	60
9	85% to 89%	65
10	90% to 100%	70

- The candidate exempted from CET will be required to obtain equivalency proof for the above calculation of marks if he has the result of PG in the form of any other parameters e.g., CPI, letter grade or any other parameter.

Merit List Tie-Breaking

- Higher marks/CPI/CGPA in the Post-Graduate degree examination shall rank higher.
- If still tied, higher marks in the Bachelor's degree examination shall be considered.
- If both criteria are equal, the candidate senior in age shall rank higher.

Category-wise Eligibility for Admission

- General / UR candidates: Must score ≥ 50% in the consolidated merit list.
- SC/ST/SEBC/EWS/PwD candidates: Must score ≥ 45% in the consolidated merit list.

8. Confirmation of Admission

- Admission shall be offered based on the merit list and available seats in each category.
- Part-time Ph.D. scholars must submit a valid No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer at the time of admission and must ensure regular access to the university for research purposes.
- Candidates shall pay the prescribed fees within 10 days from the date of publication of the merit list to confirm admission.
- Failure to pay fees within the stipulated time shall result in the seat being allotted to the next eligible candidate on the merit list.
- Admitted candidates must complete the document verification process within the timeline specified in the admission notification.

9. University Research Scholarship (Full-Time Scholars)

- All Full-Time Research Scholars of the University who are not in receipt of any government or non-government fellowship/scholarship (such as SHODH Fellowship) shall be paid a consolidated fellowship of ₹12,000 per month for the first two years, subject to fulfilling all requirements.
- Fellowship is subject to Government of India Income Tax Rules and applicable deductions.

Teaching Assistantship (Mandatory for Scholarship Recipients)

- All full-time candidates availing the scholarship/fellowship shall mandatorily perform duties as Teaching Assistants.
- The teaching load shall be decided by the Head of the respective School but shall not exceed 12 hours per week, with a minimum of one subject per semester (including labs and classroom teaching).
- Separate remuneration for Teaching Assistantship shall be paid as decided by the University.

Contingency Allowance

- A Contingency Grant of ₹10,000/- per annum is available to each Full-Time Research Scholar. Unused amounts shall lapse at the end of each financial year.
- The grant may be utilized for purchase of books, publication of research articles, software, equipment, and attendance at workshops/conferences/seminars (with prior approval, not exceeding 15 special casual leaves per academic year).
- All expenditure must be supported by valid proof and reimbursed in the University's prescribed format.
- Books, software, and equipment purchased through the contingency grant shall become the property of the respective School upon completion of the Ph.D. programme.

10. Fee Plan

Timeline	Refundable	Non-Refundable
At the Time of Application	–	Application Fee: ₹1,500/- (UR Category), ₹1,250/- (Reserved Categories), USD 30 (Foreign Candidates)
Beginning of Semester – 1	Caution Money: ₹1,000/-; Library Deposit: ₹2,000/-	Tuition Fee (1st Instalment): ₹7,500/- (Full-Time Indian Scholar), ₹10,000/- (Part-Time Indian Scholar), USD 250 (Foreign Scholar)
After 3 Months of Admission	–	Tuition Fee (2nd Instalment): ₹7,500/- (Full-Time), ₹10,000/- (Part-Time), USD 250 (Foreign)
At the Time of Registration	–	Ph.D. Registration Fee: ₹2,000/- (Indian Scholar), USD 50 (Foreign Scholar)

Timeline	Refundable	Non-Refundable
Beginning of Semester – 2	–	Tuition Fee (3rd Instalment): ₹7,500/- (Full-Time), ₹10,000/- (Part-Time), USD 250 (Foreign)
After 3 Months of Semester 2	–	Tuition Fee (4th Instalment): ₹7,500/- (Full-Time), ₹10,000/- (Part-Time), USD 250 (Foreign)
At Synopsis Submission	–	Synopsis Submission Fee: ₹5,000/- (Indian Scholar), USD 100 (Foreign Scholar)

Note: For any conflict, the Ph.D. Rules and Regulations of Kaushalya – The Skill University, Ahmedabad shall be reviewed, and the decision of the Hon. Director General shall be final.

11. Tentative Semester-Wise Work Plan

Semester	Admitted after Master's Degree	Admitted after 4-Year Graduation (NEP 2020)
1	Provisional Registration, Supervisor Allocation, Topic Finalization through RAC, Coursework (12–16 credits)	Provisional Registration, Supervisor Allocation, Coursework begins (24–32 credits)
2	RAC Progress Review, Comprehensive Examination, Formal Registration	Topic Finalization through RAC, Coursework continued
3	RAC Progress Review (6-monthly)	RAC Progress Review, Comprehensive Examination, Formal Registration
4	RAC Progress Review (6-monthly)	RAC Progress Review (6-monthly)
5	RAC Progress Review (6-monthly)	RAC Progress Review (6-monthly)
6	RAC Progress Review, Synopsis Submission & Presentation	RAC Progress Review, Synopsis Submission & Presentation
7	Thesis Writing & Submission	Thesis Writing & Submission
8	Pre-Submission Seminar, Final Defense Viva	Pre-Submission Seminar, Final Defense Viva

The above table shows the minimum time duration; extension beyond this period is subject to UGC norms and university regulations. The RAC shall meet at least once every six months from the date of registration, as mandated by Clause 8 of UGC Regulations, 2022. External RAC members may join meetings online, as permitted.

12. Ph.D. Coursework Credits & Comprehensive Examination

Coursework is mandatory for all Ph.D. scholars as per UGC Regulations, 2022, and covers Research Methodology and Research & Publication Ethics.

Sr. No.	Category	Min – Max Credits
1	Admission after Master's Degree	12 – 16 Credits
2	Direct Admission after 4-Year Graduation (NEP 2020)	24 – 32 Credits

- Coursework must normally be completed within 12 months from the date of registration.
- Minimum attendance of 80% in each subject during coursework is mandatory to be eligible for examination.
- Passing criteria as KSU PhD Manual: Minimum 45% marks in each subject, with an aggregate of 50% across all subjects. Scholars failing to secure minimum marks shall re-appear in the next academic year or as per alternative arrangements by the University.

- After successful completion of coursework, scholars must appear in the Comprehensive Examination: Part A – Written Examination (minimum 30% weightage) + Oral Examination (minimum 30% weightage), with a combined minimum passing mark of 50%; Part B – Thesis Proposal Seminar, evaluated by the RAC.
- If a candidate fails to qualify the Comprehensive Examination, their registration for the Ph.D. programme may be cancelled.

13. Duration of Ph.D. Programme

Mode	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
Full-Time (Post-Master's)	3 Years (6 Semesters)	6 Years (+2 years extension in exceptional cases)
Full-Time (Post-Graduation – NEP)	4 Years (8 Semesters)	6 Years (+2 years extension in exceptional cases)
Part-Time (Post-Master's)	4 Years (8 Semesters)	6 Years (+2 years extension in exceptional cases)

- Women scholars and Persons with Disabilities (over 40% disability) are entitled to an additional two years of extension beyond the maximum duration.
- Women scholars may additionally avail maternity/child-care leave of up to 240 days during the Ph.D. programme.
- Extension beyond the maximum duration requires approval by the Doctoral Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Note: These guidelines are indicative in nature. In the event of any conflict or ambiguity, the Ph.D. Rules and Regulations/Ph.D. Manual of Kaushalya – The Skill University, Ahmedabad shall prevail. Any amendments or revisions to the Ph.D. Rules and Regulations/Ph.D. Manual issued by the University from time to time shall automatically form part of these guidelines and shall be binding on all candidates. The decision of the Hon'ble Director General, Kaushalya – The Skill University shall be final and binding in all matters relating to Ph.D. admission. Candidates are advised to regularly visit the University's official website for the latest notifications, updates, and instructions.

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