

## Press Note

In view of the prevailing discussions over the 2016 UGC Regulations related to admission into M. Phil and PhD programmes of the university, the Steering Committee of Admission of JNU met on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 to discuss the relevant portions of new regulations and its impact on the current practices of the university.

The main concerns of the students were related to the weightage given to written tests and viva voce; status of constitutional provisions on reservations given to the deprived sections of the society in the admission process; impact of the new UGC regulations on the deprivation points given to socially deprived sections of the society; difficulty that may arise because of introduction of Research Methodology as part of the qualifying entrance test; the policy to be adopted towards implementing UGC regulations regarding upper limits of scholars faculty can supervise; and the pattern of test that may be adopted for students applying directly for the university's PhD programmes.

The Steering Committee deliberated in detail all the above issues, among many others, and arrived at the following consensus:

1. The admission policy would adhere to all constitutional provisions related to reservation system.

2. Current practice of deprivation points given to relevant students in the final selection for admission should continue.
3. The revised policy on quartile points, designating 36 more districts, on the basis of a four point formula should be adopted.
4. There should be a three-tier entrance test consisting of a qualifying test (OMR type) where all students need to get 50% for moving on to the next stage of descriptive type written test and Viva Voce. The ratio of weightage for descriptive type written test and viva voce should be 80:20. (Legal opinion should be taken on applying reservation system at the first qualifying test [OMR type] where the qualifying marks is 50%)
5. The questions related to Research Methodology and domain knowledge would be part of the first qualifying test [OMR type]. Course outline of Research Methodology and relevant books on it should be prescribed for the benefit of the candidates.
6. As far as the student intake for admission is concerned, multiple suggestions were made.

While several members were in favour of phased implementation of a policy that would lead to adoption of the UGC Regulations – based student intake, student representatives expressed their opposition to any reduction in the intake.

In any case, all the above issues will be taken up with the UGC officials before finalizing the admission policy.