

UGC to recognise 'outstanding' Ph.D. research with award

R. Sujatha

CHENNAI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has instituted a Ph.D. excellence citation to recognise original research work by scholars every year.

"The UGC took the decision in its October 3 meeting to recognise outstanding Ph.D. research work in Indian universities," UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said. The guidelines will be released soon.

The decision was made based on a study by the UGC of Ph.D.s awarded between 2011 and 2018 which found that the overall admission had grown at a rate of 10% annually and the number of Ph.D. admissions doubled from 77,798 in 2010-11 to 1,61,412 in 2017-18, he said. Science (30%), engineering and technology (26%) and social sciences (12%) accounted for the largest pool of Ph.D.s awarded during the period.

For the award, State, Central, private and deemed universities, recognised under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act and accredited by NAAC, are eligible for participation.

For a Ph.D. thesis to be considered for the citation,

A study by the UGC found that the overall admission for Ph.D. had grown at a rate of 10% annually

the criteria include uploading the thesis on Inflibnet and the award of the degree, in accordance with UGC regulations, between January 1 and December 31 of the year in which it is recommended for recognition.

A university may nominate five theses, one each from five disciplines - sciences (including agricultural, medical sciences); engineering and technology; social sciences (including education and humanities), Indian languages, and commerce and management.

Two theses will be selected from each discipline for the award. The selection committee for the streams will be constituted by the UGC and each committee will select two candidates from their respective streams, Mr. Kumar said.

The UGC will call for nominations from universities in January and the awards will be distributed on September 5.