

Guidelines for the PhD admission process of RK University

Selection/Admission Process

The selection process for admission to the PhD programme of RK University will comprise the following two steps:

1. Research Aptitude Test (RAT)
2. Personal Interview

Candidates who have passed a national level test such as GATE/UGC-CSIR NET/SLET/GPAT/ or an equivalent test, will not be required to appear for the written entrance test (RAT) conducted by RK University, provided that the score of the examination is valid on the date of RAT.

RKU's RAT will have the following format:

1. Number/type of questions: 100 multiple-choice questions.
2. Maximum marks: 100.
3. Time duration: 120 minutes.
4. The question paper will have 2 sections.
5. Section 1: general questions (aptitude) – 60 marks.
6. Section 2: subject-specific questions – 40 marks.
7. Each question will have choices such as (a), (b), (c), & (d).
8. Each question would be worth 1 mark.
9. No negative marks for wrong answers.

Personal Interview:

RAT 2016 will be followed by a personal interview of each candidate, which would help us assess the research aptitude and research skills of the candidate. All PhD candidates are advised to prepare a temporary research proposal and present the same before the *Admissions Committee* at the time of the interview. Ideally, the research proposal presented at the time of the interview should be finally adopted for the doctoral work; but if a candidate so desires, he/she will be allowed to work on a different research project for their doctoral study after getting admitted to RKU's PhD programme. All candidates should bring with them, a soft copy of their presentation (in a pen drive) as well as a hard copy of the same (for submission). Candidates should also bring in their research papers and other documents related to research grants, funding schemes, awards, honors, credit certification, etc. for their personal interview.

The selection will be based on the RAT score (40% weightage) and on the interview performance (60% weightage). The result of the admission process will be declared on the RKU website (www.rku.ac.in) within 5 days of conducting RAT 2016. The PhD guides will be

allocated to selected candidates by RKU's *Guide Allocation Committee*, during the orientation programme. Only full-time PhD guides (employed at RK University) shall be allocated to the selected candidates, in accordance with the UGC guidelines.

Admission to the PhD program will be confirmed by the university upon receipt of the signed guide consent form, the first year fees, an NOC from the current employer, and after the official verification of all original documents and any other related documents.

The PhD admission interview will focus on the following areas:

1. Reason for pursuing a PhD: carrier enhancement/genuine interest in research
2. Any particular research field or topic in mind?
3. Choice of any particular guide.
4. Availability of a PhD guide in that particular research area.
5. Is the candidate employed or job-seeking?
6. Work permission from and environment in the present institute.
7. Job profile, field of work, and time that can be spared for research.
8. Facilities/technology available.
9. Knowledge of research methodology.
10. Knowledge in the chosen field.
11. Knowledge in statistical analysis.
12. Knowledge about publications: *Thomson Reuters Impact Factor/SJR/H-index*.
13. Knowledge about funding agencies/opportunities, patenting opportunities, etc.
14. Awareness about the current national and international research trends.
15. Qualification details: Institute, University, PG project, PG guide, etc.
16. GATE/UGC-CSIR NET/SLET/GPAT/ status.
17. Extra coursework related to the proposed research work.
18. Previous research projects, if any.
19. Funding application plans.
20. Personal financial capability for funding the proposed project.
21. Excessive social/family responsibilities that would act as an impediment in research.

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