Department of Political Science
University of Delhi

Notice for PhD Admissions, 2026-27 Phase-I

Dated: 07 October 2026

Eligibility for PhD Admission 2026-27 Phase-I:
Candidates are eligible to appear for interviews as per

(a) University Grants Commission (Minimum Standard and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulation dated 7 November, 2022.
(b) University of Delhi Ordinance VI of the University (Amendment to the Procedure for Award of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree, ECR 18-7/ dated 30.07.2026, notified vide CNC-II/093/1/EC-1283/2026/22 dated 20.08.2026.
(c) Eligibility as laid down in the "Bulletin of Information" dated 06.10.2026.
(d) UGC Notification No. F.4-1(UGC-NET Review Committee)/2024(NET)/140648 dated 27.03.2024
(e) PhD Admission Notification of the University dated 19.08.2025 (refer to pg. 8-9 of Annexure I of the Bulletin of Information).

The candidates are eligible for the interview, provided they apply through the University admission portal and upload relevant documents on the portal, including a research proposal.

Number of Seats:
Total number of seats available in PhD Program, 2026-27 Phase-I is **48**, excluding supernumerary seats.
(Seats are reserved as per rules and regulations governing reservation policy of the University).

Note:

1. It is **compulsory to register** on the University portal as per the admission schedule notified by the University: **https://phd2026.uod.ac.in/**
2. It is also **mandatory to upload research proposal** along with **relevant documents on the portal**. The proposal and documents uploaded on the portal will be considered final.
3. **Proposals for PhD Program must follow the attached guidelines.**
4. Proposals submitted in Hindi must be in **Unicode** Font only.
5. **The interviews** shall be conducted in **physical mode**, at the Department of Political Science, 2nd Floor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi, tentatively **in the third week of October 2026 onwards** in morning and afternoon slots in alphabetical order. Final interview schedule shall be displayed on the Department website (**https://polscience.du.ac.in/**).
6. Candidates are **required** to brings **three hard copies** of their proposals at the time of interview.
7. Refer to the **Bulletin of Information** **here** (See Annexure-I for revised Ordinance VI of the University).
8. Those candidates selected for admission, who have not done completed their MPhil, will be required to do the required course work in research method and other courses that the Department may consider necessary.
9. Candidates must periodically check the University website and the Department website regarding mandatory procedures and interview dates.

Wednesday, 07 October 2026

Sr. Prof. Rekha Saxena
HEAD
विभागाध्यक्ष / Head
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Indicative Guidelines for Research Proposal

07 October 2026

Components of the Proposal:

The research proposal needs to include the following components, preferably in the order listed here:

1. Introduction/background

'What', 'Why' and 'How' of your research.

§ What do you want to study/problematize/look at/examine?

§ Why are you interested in the topic of your choice? What is the relevance of your study? What is the value addition that you seek to provide?

§ How do you plan to examine the topic: stating your methodology and strategy.

2. Review of the literature and identification of literature gap

This would form the bulk of proposal. Please do not write a bibliographical essay. You need to review the existing literature and connect different scholarly works/other sources that make them relevant to your research question. Situate your arguments in and around the existing works. A thematic review is advisable. Cite all sources that you include even indirectly in your paper. Follow in-text citations and mention the last name of Author with Year in parentheses. Eg. (Sarkar, 1919).

Avoid footnotes and stick to in-text citation.

3. Definition, Rationale and Scope of the study

Define the study, provide working definition of key terms
Provide rationale/justification, identify gap and state the value addition
State the limitations – what the research is not able to do

4. Research Question and Hypothesis

- Statement of Research Problem
- Central Question
- Related Questions

There has to be one (or more) clear research questions and corresponding hypothesis (hypotheses). Your hypothesis is the tentative answer to your research question.

5. Research Methodology

Stating your methodology and strategy in detail. This can include your theoretical framework, and the type of source you want to consult. You can mention about the qualitative/ quantitative/narrative/theoretical approach that you seek to follow and explain it. If you plan to use case study/studies, justify the choice. This will depend on the work.

6. Tentative Chapterisation
Mention the headings of tentative chapters with a brief description of the content of each chapter.

7. Bibliography

Cite all sources in alphabetical order, last name first. You may either follow APA 7th edition or the below reference style for citation and reference list.
Refer to the examples below for specific source types:

Chapter in an Edited Volume
Shue, H. (2004), "Limiting Sovereignty", in J.M. Welsh (ed.), *Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations* (pp. 11-28). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Article in a Journal
Doyle, M.W. (1983), "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs", *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, *12 (3):* 205-235.

Book
Brown, C. (1992), *International Relations Theory: New Normative Approaches*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Newspaper Article
Chishti, S. (2014, November 29), "Biggest Caste Survey: One in Four Indians Admit to Practising Untouchability", *The Indian Express*, New Delhi, p. 5.

Government/Non-Government Organization Publications/ Acts

UN (March 2011), *UNSC Resolution 1973, UN Doc. S/RES/1973*. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1973(2011)

Government of India (1993), *The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, No.27 of 1993*. Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Legislative Department), New Delhi.

Internet Documents
Kak, S. (2018), "Indian Foundations of Modern Science". Retrieved from https://subhashkak.medium.com/indian-foundations-of-modern-science-72259046700f

Text style:
The main text should be in Times New Roman, Font size 12, 1.5 spacing, default black font.
Page margins should be 1.5 inch (3.81 cm) on left and 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all other sides.
Direct quotations should be single spaced, left indented and double quoted. Subheadings should be **bold** and level 2 subheadings should *italicised*.
Proposal has to be typed and not handwritten.
For Hindi proposals, use Mangal (or any Unicode) font.

Word Range:
4000 - 7000 words.

About plagiarism and AI:
High levels of plagiarism/similarity will invite penalty. Plagiarism implies using others' arguments without acknowledging the same. You need to use in-text citation in your paper even if you use others' arguments indirectly or paraphrase those arguments. In case of doubt, it is better to over-cite.
Use of AI must be limited to language support. Proposals generated by AI/LLM or showing high dependence on AI tools will invite penalty.