

It is requested that all communications should be addressed to The Registrar, Thiruvalluvar University and not to any person.

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திருவள்ளுவர் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
THIRUVALLUVAR UNIVERSITY
(NAAC Accreditation 'B' Grade)
(State University)
SERKKADU, VELLORE - 632 115.

Dr.V.PERUVALLUTHI, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.,
REGISTRAR i/c.

No.TVU/R/Two Credit Courses-Ph.D./2019/ 7613

Date: 30.12.2019

To

**The Principals of all Arts and Science Colleges
affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University /
Heads of the University Departments /
University Colleges of Arts and Science /
P.G. Extension Centre (w.e.)**

Sir/ Madam,

Sub: Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore -UGC - Approved two Credit Courses for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled "Research and Publication Ethics" (RPE) for Ph.D. students - Reg.
Ref: From the Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi Letter D.O.No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) dated December 2019

With reference to the UGC letter cited above, I am by direction to inform that University Grants Commission in its 543rd meeting held on 9th August 2019 has approved two Credit Courses for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled "**Research and Publication Ethics**" (RPE) to be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students for pre-registration course work from the forthcoming academic session **(attached as Annexure)**.

Accordingly, to implement the above resolution of the UGC, a meeting of the Board of Research Studies was held on 27.12.2019 in the University Premises and resolved as follows:

"1. The Board of Research has unanimously resolved that the two credit courses approved by the UGC for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled "**Research and Publication Ethics**" (RPE) to be made compulsory for all M.Phil/Ph.D. students for pre-registration course work to be adopted in this University from the forthcoming academic session."

Hence, you are requested **to implement the above Resolutions of both UGC and the University from the forthcoming academic session.**

Kindly treat this as **most immediate.**

Yours faithfully,

V.M. 30/12/19
REGISTRAR i/c.

Copy to:

1. The Controller of Examinations, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore
2. P.A. to VC / Registrar

ANNEXURE

Course Title:

- **Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**-Course for awareness about the publication ethics and publication misconducts.

Course Level:

- 2 Credit course (30 hrs.)

Eligibility:

- M.Phil., Ph.D. students and interested faculty members (It will be made available to post graduate students at later date)

Fees:

- As per University Rules

Faculty:

- Interdisciplinary Studies

Qualifications of faculty members of the course:

- Ph.D. in relevant subject areas having more than 10 years' of teaching experience

About the course

Course Code: CPE- RPE

Overview

- This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands-on-sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

Pedagogy:

- Class room teaching, guest lectures, group discussions, and practical sessions.

Evaluation

- Continuous assessment will be done through tutorials, assignments, quizzes, and group discussions. Weightage will be given for active participation. Final written examination will be conducted at the end of the course.

Course structure

- The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

Modules	Unit title	Teaching hours
Theory		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
Practice		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Databases and Research Metrics	7
	Total	30

Syllabus in detail

THEORY

- RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)**
 - Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
 - Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions
- RPE 02: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5hrs.)**
 - Ethics with respect to science and research
 - Intellectual honesty and research integrity
 - Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
 - Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
 - Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data
- RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)**
 - Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
 - Best practices / standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
 - Conflicts of interest
 - Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
 - Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
 - Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
 - Predatory publishers and journals

PRACTICE

- RPE 04: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING(4 hrs.)**
 - Open access publications and initiatives

2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

• **RPE 05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4hrs.)**

A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

B. Software tools (2 hrs.)

Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

• **RPE 06: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS (7hrs.)**

A. Databases (4 hrs.)

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

B. Research Metrics (3 hrs.)

1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics
