GUIDE · PUBLICATION RULES

Is paper publication *compulsory* for M.Tech and PhD?

No national rule makes it compulsory. For PhD, the **UGC PhD Regulations 2022 removed** the 2016 rule that a paper be published before thesis submission, but universities may set their own, and all four we checked do. For M.Tech there is no national rule: it depends on your university, and some have dropped theirs.

Last updated 2026-11-17

Below: the short answer for PhD and M.Tech, what the UGC 2022 regulations changed from 2016, the current publication rules from seven M.Tech rule books and four PhD rule books, each with its official document and clause, and what to do if your university asks for a paper.

KEY POINTS

- **PhD:** UGC's 2022 regulations have no paper requirement before thesis submission. The 2016 rule (one journal paper, two conference presentations) is gone.
- **Universities still decide.** IIT Madras, NIT Trichy, VTU and Anna University all ask PhD scholars for one or two journal papers.
- **M.Tech:** there is no national rule. JNTUH's R22 rules require a paper; its R25 rules, VTU and Anna University do not; KTU removed its rule in 2024.
- **Read the exact words** of your rule: submitted, accepted or published; journal or conference; which index; whose name comes first.
- **There is no UGC-approved journal list** since February 2025, so check every journal yourself.

Is it compulsory to publish a paper in M.Tech or PhD?

Not by any national rule, for either degree. Your university's own regulations decide, and they differ.

Is a paper compulsory? The answer by degree

DEGREE	NATIONAL RULE	WHAT THE UNIVERSITY RULES WE READ SAY
PhD	None since the UGC PhD Regulations 2022, which replaced the 2016 rule of one journal paper and two conference presentations	All four ask for one or two journal papers before the synopsis or thesis (Anna University also accepts a granted patent)
M.Tech / M.E.	None: UGC's PhD rules do not cover M.Tech, and AICTE's model curriculum sets no paper condition	One requires a paper, one gives extra marks for it, one encourages it, and four do not require one

So the honest answer to "is it compulsory?" is: check the current regulations of your university, for your admission year. The tables below show how much they differ.

What did the UGC PhD Regulations 2022 change about publication?

The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 were published in the Gazette of India on 7 November 2022 and replaced the 2016 regulations "and its amendments". The 2016 publication clause has no equivalent in them.

UGC PhD rules, 2016 and 2022 compared

REQUIREMENT	UGC 2016 REGULATIONS	UGC 2022 REGULATIONS
Paper before thesis submission	PhD scholars "must publish at least one (1) research paper in refereed journal" (Reg. 9.4)	No requirement

REQUIREMENT	UGC 2016 REGULATIONS	UGC 2022 REGULATIONS
Conference presentations	Two paper presentations in conferences or seminars, shown by certificates or reprints (Reg. 9.4)	No requirement
Presentation before submission	In the department, before the Research Advisory Committee, open to faculty and scholars (Reg. 9.3)	Before the Research Advisory Committee, open to all faculty members, scholars and students (Reg. 11(2))
Progress reviews	Before the Research Advisory Committee once in six months (Reg. 8.2)	Before the Research Advisory Committee each semester (Reg. 10(2))
Coursework	8 to 16 credits, with at least 4 for research methodology (Reg. 7.1, 7.2)	At least 12 credits, including a Research and Publication Ethics course and a research methodology course (Reg. 9(1))
Thesis examiners	The supervisor and at least two external examiners (Reg. 9.7)	The supervisor and at least two external examiners; the viva may be online (Reg. 11(5))
Supervisor's own papers	Professor: five in refereed journals; Associate or Assistant Professor: two (Reg. 6.1)	Professor or Associate Professor: five; Assistant Professor: three, in peer-reviewed or refereed journals (Reg. 6(1))

Sources, checked November 2026: the UGC PhD Regulations, 2022 (Gazette of India, 7 November 2022) and the UGC M.Phil./Ph.D. Regulations, 2016 (notified 5 May 2016, Gazette of India, 5 July 2016), both on ugc.gov.in.

"UGC removed it" does not mean you need no paper

UGC sets minimum standards. Universities add to them through their own ordinances, and all four PhD rule books in the table further down still ask for journal papers. Your university's current regulations, not UGC's, decide whether your thesis can be submitted.

The journal list changed too. UGC set up UGC-CARE (the Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics) in November 2018, and it went on to publish the UGC-CARE list of journals. UGC's public notice of 11 February 2025 announced that the Commission, at its 584th meeting on 3 October 2024, had decided to discontinue UGC-CARE listing of journals and develop suggestive parameters for choosing peer-reviewed journals instead. Some rules, such as JNTUH's R22 clause below, still say "UGC approved journal". Ask your department how it reads that line now; our UGC-CARE guide covers what replaced the list.

Do M.Tech students have to publish a paper? University rules compared

We read the current M.Tech regulations of five universities and one NIT. Each row quotes or paraphrases the clause, with a link to the official document.

M.Tech paper publication rules by university

UNIVERSITY	PROGRAMME AND RULES	WHAT THE RULE SAYS	SOURCE	CHECKED
JNTUH, Hyderabad	M.Tech R22, students admitted from 2022–23; affiliated and non-autonomous constituent colleges	**Required.** The thesis is submitted "after submission of a research paper related to the Dissertation work in a UGC approved journal", and a copy is attached to the thesis (7.18)	R22 regulations (PDF)	Nov 2026
JNTUH, Hyderabad	M.Tech R25, students admitted from 2025–26; non-autonomous affiliated colleges	**Not required.** The thesis-submission clause (7.19) no longer mentions a paper	R25 regulations (PDF)	Nov 2026
APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU), Kerala	M.Tech 2022 Regulations, dissertation track (Track I)	**Removed in 2024.** A paper had been a condition for the Dissertation Phase II end-semester evaluation. The Academic Council (23 April 2024) resolved that "the requirement of publication is removed" and moved its 5 marks to the viva (U.O. No. 1362/2024/KTU, 8 May 2024)	KTU circular of 20 June 2024 with the U.O. (copy hosted by SCTCE)	Nov 2026
Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), Uttar Pradesh	M.Tech ordinance (CBCS, from 2018–19, revised), as listed on AKTU's website	**Expected, with marks.** Students are expected to aim for one SCI or Scopus indexed (non-paid) journal paper or two international conference papers; 30 or 50 extra marks are given for one or more indexed journal papers. Without them, an expert from an IIT, an NIT or another Institute of National Importance reviews the dissertation before the viva (20.2(ii), 20.2(iii))	AKTU M.Tech ordinance (PDF)	Nov 2026

UNIVERSITY	PROGRAMME AND RULES	WHAT THE RULE SAYS	SOURCE	CHECKED
VTU, Belagavi	M.Tech Regulations 2024, from 2024–25	**Not required.** The project-work clauses (24OMT5) cover submission, the plagiarism check and the two examiners, with no paper. Published papers appear only as one condition for moving to the integrated PhD (24OMT12.1). The 2022 regulations are the same on this point	2024 regulations (PDF)	Nov 2026
Anna University, Chennai	M.E./M.Tech Regulations 2021; affiliated non-autonomous colleges and university colleges of engineering	**Not required.** Project Work marks come from three reviews, the thesis evaluation and the viva (6, 6.1); no paper is listed	Regulations 2021 (PDF)	Nov 2026
NIT Tiruchirappalli	PG Regulations 2024, M.Tech from the 2024 batch	**Encouraged.** "Students are encouraged to have at least one publication in a reputed journal or conference before completing Phase II of the project work" (M.10.2(ii))	PG Regulations 2024 (PDF)	Nov 2026

Each rule book applies to the colleges it names. Autonomous colleges issue their own regulations, which can be stricter: JNTUH's own autonomous University College of Engineering, Science and Technology, Hyderabad lists "Publish a research paper in a UGC approved journal" among its conditions for final submission (**its R22 regulations**, 7.10(i)). If your university is not in the table, read its current M.Tech regulations and your branch syllabus, or ask your PG coordinator.

What about AICTE? AICTE's Model Curriculum for Postgraduate Degree Courses in Engineering & Technology (January 2018, Volume I) gives the dissertation a full year and strong weight in the curriculum, and expects the work to lead to patents. It sets no paper-publication condition. We found no other AICTE rule that makes a paper compulsory for M.Tech (checked November 2026).

Two things stand out. First, rules change between batches: JNTUH's R22 students need a paper and its R25 students do not, so read the regulations for your admission year. Second, "not required" is not "not useful": NIT Trichy's PhD merit list counts publications along with marks and the interview (P.4.2), and VTU names published papers, or patents, as one condition for moving from M.Tech to its integrated PhD.

How many papers are required for a PhD? University rules compared

UGC sets no number now. These four institutes do, and every one asks for at least one journal paper (Anna University also accepts a granted patent).

PhD paper publication rules by institute

INSTITUTE	RULES	PAPERS NEEDED, AND BY WHEN	SOURCE	CHECKED
IIT Madras	PhD Ordinances and Regulations, revised up to the 306th Senate meeting (updated 1 April 2024)	**One** paper published or accepted in a refereed journal acceptable to the Doctoral Committee, before the thesis-submission approval meeting. It must be part of the thesis, with the scholar as the primary contributor; the committee may recommend exceptions, which are reported to the Senate (PhD-R.13(b))	PhD ordinance (PDF)	Nov 2026
NIT Tiruchirappalli	Ph.D. Regulations 2024	**Two** publications in reputed indexed journals before synopsis submission. Accepted indexes: Web of Science Core Collection (SCI, SCIE, ESCI, SSCI, AHCI) and Scopus. Journals that publish conference proceedings do not count, and the rule asks for proof of the peer review process "to ensure journals are not predatory" (P.19.1)	Ph.D. Regulations 2024 (PDF)	Nov 2026
VTU, Belagavi	Ph.D. Regulations 2023, printed in VTU's PhD Manual 2024	**One** paper in a journal ranked Q1 to Q3, before the pre-submission colloquium, carrying the scholar's and supervisor's names; a reprint or acceptance letter is the evidence (23PHD 8.1.2)	PhD Manual 2024 (PDF, large file)	Nov 2026
Anna University, Chennai	Ph.D. Regulations R 2025, with amendments from 23 October 2025	**One** full-length research article published after joining, in a regular issue of a journal on the Centre for Research list, as first author (or second, after the supervisor), or one patent granted by the Indian Patent Office, before the synopsis. Submitting three months early needs two (16.1, 16.2)	R 2025 (PDF) and amendments (PDF)	Nov 2026

Rules change with each revision, and departments can add their own conditions. Check the version in force for your registration date.

Notice how different the details are: "published or accepted" at IIT Madras, "reprint or acceptance letter" at VTU, "published in the regular issue" at Anna University. A paper that is only accepted may satisfy one rule and not another.

Need a paper before submission?

Send your university, your level and your submission date. The consultation is free.

Message before 7 pm for a reply today.

Free consultation →

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If your university requires a paper, where should you publish?

Start from the words of your own rule, then choose the venue. Four questions settle most of it:

1. **Which stage counts:** submitted (JNTUH R22), accepted (IIT Madras, VTU) or published in an issue (Anna University)?
2. **Journal or conference:** some rules accept either (AKTU, NIT Trichy M.Tech), some want a journal.
3. **Which index or list:** Scopus, Web of Science, a quartile such as Q1 to Q3, or a university's own journal list?
4. **Whose name comes first:** Anna University wants the scholar as first author, or second after the supervisor; VTU wants both names.

Then pick the route:

- **A conference paper** suits a fixed deadline, because the dates are published in advance. Our list of Scopus indexed conferences in India shows how to check one before you submit.
- **A journal paper** suits rules that name an index or quartile. Our guide on where to publish a research paper walks through shortlisting, and what Q1 to Q4 mean explains quartiles.
- **A review (survey) paper** can grow from your literature survey; see our review paper format. Ask first whether it counts: Anna University's PhD rules count only full-length research articles reporting new findings.

- **A "UGC approved" requirement** needs your department's reading, because the list ended in 2025. Our UGC-CARE guide has UGC's replacement checklist.

Which journals should you avoid? Predatory and cloned journals

A deadline makes students easy targets. Two kinds of journal take the fee and give you a paper your university may refuse.

- **Predatory journals** are real titles that do little or no peer review. Warning signs: acceptance within days, no reviewer comments, fees that appear only after acceptance, and invitation emails praising your "recent work".
- **Cloned (hijacked) journals** are fake websites that copy a real indexed journal's title and ISSN. The Scopus record looks genuine because it belongs to the real journal. Reach the journal from its publisher's site, never from an email link.
- **"Scopus guaranteed" or "UGC approved" offers** are a red flag on their own: no one can guarantee acceptance, and there is no UGC-approved list now.
- **Discontinued titles:** a journal can lose its Scopus coverage. Check the current status, not a screenshot.

Universities check too. NIT Trichy, for example, asks PhD scholars for proof of the peer review process, its timeline and the journal's post-acceptance fee requests, "to ensure journals are not predatory" (P.19.1). Our guides show how to spot a cloned journal and a predatory one, and list the red flags to check before you pay.

How long does paper publication take?

There is no standard time. Review times vary from weeks to months by venue, and a paper may go through more than one round of revision. What you control is when you start and which milestone your rule needs.

- **Conferences** announce their submission deadline and notification date in the call for papers, so you know the dates before you submit.
- **Journals** differ widely. Many print received, revised and accepted dates on each article; a few recent papers show the journal's real pace.
- **Acceptance is not publication.** Proofs and the online or issue version come later. If your rule says "published", plan for that gap.
- **Work back from your submission date.** Start writing as soon as you have a result you trust, and leave room for at least one revision.

What should you confirm with your department before you start?

- The regulation that applies to your admission year, and its clause on thesis submission.
- Whether a paper is required, gives marks, or is only encouraged.
- Whether submitted, accepted or published counts, and what proof to attach.
- Journal, conference, or either, and which index or journal list.
- Whether a review paper counts, or only a research article.
- The author order, and whether your supervisor must be a co-author.
- How the department now reads "UGC approved" or "UGC-CARE", if your rule says it.

Need the paper itself? Our research paper writing and publication help works from your own results to a paper in the venue's format. For the degree as a whole, see M.Tech projects and PhD guidance, and for the thesis, the M.Tech thesis format and PhD thesis format guides.

Frequently asked questions

Is it compulsory to publish a paper in M.Tech?

There is no national rule, so it depends on your university and, if it is autonomous, your college. Of the rules we read, JNTUH R22 requires a paper to be submitted to a journal before the thesis, AKTU gives extra marks for one, NIT Trichy encourages one, and JNTUH R25, VTU, Anna University and KTU (since 2024) do not require one. See our M.Tech project help.

Is paper publication mandatory for PhD under UGC rules?

Not any more. The UGC 2016 regulations (Reg. 9.4) required one paper in a refereed journal and two conference presentations before thesis submission. The UGC 2022 regulations, which replaced them on 7 November 2022, have no such rule. Universities may still set their own, and the four we checked do. Our PhD guidance page covers the rest of the doctorate.

How many papers are required for a PhD?

UGC sets no number. The four institutes we checked ask for one or two journal papers: one at IIT Madras, VTU (in a Q1 to Q3 journal) and Anna University (or a granted patent), and two indexed journal papers at NIT Trichy. Your own university's current regulations decide. Our guide to checking Scopus indexed journals explains quartiles.

Does a conference paper count instead of a journal paper?

Only if your rule says so. AKTU's M.Tech ordinance treats two international conference papers as an alternative to one indexed journal paper, and NIT Trichy encourages either for M.Tech. JNTUH R22 asks for a journal, and NIT Trichy's PhD rule does not count journals that publish conference proceedings. See our list of Scopus indexed conferences in India.

Do I still need a UGC-CARE journal?

UGC discontinued the UGC-CARE list by a public notice of 11 February 2025, so no journal is UGC approved now. If your regulation still says UGC approved or UGC-CARE, ask your department in writing which journals it accepts. Our UGC-CARE guide explains what replaced the list.

Can The Ultimate Project World help me publish a paper?

Yes. Send your results, your university's rule and your submission date in the free consultation. We help write the paper from your work, format it to the venue's template, shortlist journals or conferences that meet your rule and prepare replies to reviewers. Acceptance is always the editors' decision. See our research paper writing and publication help.

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