



RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GRADUATE STUDIES

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PROFILE

VISION

A world class technology driven University in learning and practice.

MISSION

To provide quality and innovative higher education through teaching, research and community service.

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Professionalism
Innovation
Equity
Social responsibility

BACKGROUND OF THE UNIVERSITY

Rongo University was awarded Charter on 7th October 2016 by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. Formerly, Rongo University College, the institution was established as a Constituent College of Moi University through Rongo University College order 2011 (Legal Notice No. 70, of 17th June, 2011). It was inaugurated and handed over to the University Council on 23rd July, 2012 by the then Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology. This was after five years of collaboration between Moi University and Moi Institute of Technology (MIT), within which time, Moi University was offering some degree and Diploma programs in MIT as a satellite campus.

The University is strategically located at a serene high land of Kitere Hills situated in the South Western part of Kenya bordering Tanzania. It is located in Rongo Sub-County, Migori County, Kenya. The University is 11 kilometres from Rongo Town, and 2.5 kilometres off Rongo– Migori- Highway. It is located in a gold mining and high Agricultural potential area. It is readily accessible by road, and air.

Table of Contents

PROFILE	2
BACKGROUND OF THE UNIVERSITY	3
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	6
DEFINITION OF TERMS	7
1.0 INTRODUCTION	8
2.0 THE BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES (BGS)	8
2.1 Membership of the Board of Graduate Studies	8
2.2 Meetings of the Board of Graduate Studies	8
3.0 GRADUATE FACULTY (GF).....	9
3.1 Membership of the GF	9
3.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of the GF	9
4.0 DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (DGSC)	9
4.1 Membership of DGSC	10
4.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of DGSC	10
5.0 SCHOOL GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (SGSC)	10
5.1 Membership of the SGSC	10
5.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of SGSC	10
6.0 SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES	11
6.1 Deferment/Suspension of Studies	12
6.2 Re-admission.....	12
6.3 Extension of Studies.....	12
6.4 Registration of Admitted Students	13
7.0 TITLES OF GRADUATE QUALIFICATION	13
7.1 Degree Titles	13
8.0 CONDUCT OF STUDIES, COMMON RULES AND REGULATIONS	13
8.1 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (PGD)	13
PROGRAMMES.....	13
8.2 Eligibility for the PGD Programme	13
8.3 Duration of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme	14
8.4 Postgraduate Project/Practicum	14
8.5 Examination of Courses and Projects for PGD.....	14
8.6 Recommendations for the Award of the PGD	15
9.0 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMMES.....	15
9.1 Eligibility for the Masters Degree Programmes.....	15
9.2 Duration of the Masters Programme	16
9.3 Examination and Assessment of Courses at Masters Degree Level	16
9.4 Grading System for Masters' degree Coursework and Thesis.....	17
9.5 Recommendation for the Award of the Master's Degree	17
10.0 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.).....	17
10.1 Eligibility for Admission into Ph.D. Programmes	17
10.2 Registration for a Ph.D. Programme	17
10.3 Duration of the Ph.D. Programme.....	18
10.4 Examination of Courses for Ph.D. Programmes	18
10.5 Grading System for Ph.D. Coursework.....	19
11.0 PROCESSING OF EXAMINATION RESULTS.....	19
11.1 Appeals for Assessment of Examinations	19
12.0 CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND SUPERVISION	20
12.1 General.....	20
12.2 Appointment of Supervisors	21

12.3	Replacement of Supervisors.....	22
12.4	Supervision of Research and Theses.....	22
12.5	Responsibilities of Supervisors:.....	23
12.6	Responsibilities of Graduate Students:	24
13.0	EXAMINATION OF MASTERS AND DOCTORAL THESIS	24
13.1	Submission of Thesis for Examination	24
13.2	Plagiarism.....	26
13.3	The Oral Defense	26
13.4	Final Submission of Thesis	28
13.5	Restrictions on Supervision and Examination of Theses	29
14.0	VERIFICATION OF THE FINAL LIST OF GRADUATE DEGREE AWARDS	29
15.0	CREDIT TRANSFER.....	30
16.0	ENROLMENT	30
17.0	DE-REGISTRATION	30
18.0	EXEMPTIONS FROM THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GRADUATE STUDIES	31
19.0	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.....	31
20.0	ETHICAL ISSUES	32
21.0	COMPLAINTS	32
21.1	Informal Complaints	32
21.2	Students' Formal Complaints.....	32
21.3	Graduate Faculty Staff Formal Complaints	33
22.0	COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS	33
23.0	AMENDMENTS AND VARIATIONS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS	33
24.0	RESEARCH PERMIT	33
	APPENIDICES	34
	Appendix I: RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT.....	34
	Appendix II: GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THESIS	35
	Appendix III: AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) REFERENCING.....	38

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AcA	Academic Adviser
BGS	Board of Graduate Studies
DGSC	Departmental Graduate Studies Committee
DVC (ASA)	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Students' Affairs)
GF	Graduate Faculty
HND	Higher National Diploma
HoD	Head of Department
M.A	Master of Arts
M.Ed.	Master of Education
M.Sc.	Master of Science
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
PDF	Portable Document Format
PGD	Post Graduate Diploma
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
RRGGS	Rules and Regulations Governing Graduate Studies
RU	Rongo University
RUIPP	Rongo University Intellectual Property Policy
SGBE	School Graduate Board of Examiners
SGS	School of Graduate Studies
SGSC	School Graduate Studies Committee.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Adviser:	Expert who gives advice in a particular field.
Deferment:	Postponement of registration or study.
External Examiner:	A thesis examiner appointed by Senate from other institutions and not an academic/research member of the University.
Board of Graduate Studies:	The Board that oversees all matters pertaining to graduate studies in schools and reports directly to Senate.
Internal Examiner:	An academic member of the University who is appointed as a thesis examiner.
Plagiarism	Using the ideas or writings of another as one's own, or using the author's previous work without acknowledgement.
Postgraduate Programme:	A Postgraduate Diploma, a Masters or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme.
Project:	A document submitted in support of candidature of a graduate student registered in a programme offered through coursework and project.
Senate:	A university organ established by the University Act of 2012 to give directions on instruction, research, examination, and award and conferment of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions.
Supervisor:	An academician appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 8.3 in this document to supervise a graduate student pursuing a Masters or Ph.D. degree programme.
Thesis:	A document submitted as a requirement for fulfillment for all programmes requiring research.
Board of Examiners:	A board appointed to undertake the examination of a thesis in an oral defence.
Viva Voce:	An oral examination, especially in reference to a thesis defence as part of thesis examination requirement.
Graduate Faculty:	All members of full time academic staff who teach graduate courses or supervise graduate research.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mandate of the School of Graduate Studies

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS), which has developed these rules and regulations, is mandated to perform the following functions:

- i) Admission of graduate students
- ii) Co-ordination and regulation of graduate study programmes
- iii) Administration of graduate scholarships and research grants
- iv) Ensuring effective supervision of graduate students
- v) Administration and processing of graduate research theses.
- vi) Verifying the final list of graduate degree awards.
- vii) Carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Senate from time to time.

In performing the functions, the School shall have the responsibility of ensuring that:

- i) Rules and regulations governing graduate studies as provided in this document are adhered to at all times.
- ii) Graduate programmes are initiated and maintained
- iii) Qualified students are attracted and admitted into the programmes
- iv) High level research at graduate level is maintained
- v) Studies are completed in the stipulated time
- vi) Research findings are disseminated to users so that they are of benefit to Kenya and the rest of the world.
- vii) Matters pertaining to graduate students' welfare are adequately addressed and ensure that a conducive atmosphere exists for their studies.

2.0 THE BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES (BGS)

There is the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) through which the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) shall perform her functions.

The Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) shall be responsible to Senate on all matters pertaining to graduate studies at Rongo University.

2.1 Membership of the Board of Graduate Studies

- i) Dean, School of Graduate Studies (Chairperson)
- ii) One Representative from each School elected by the School Board who shall be the Chairperson of School Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC). Such persons shall be designated as School Graduate Studies Coordinators.
- iii) University Librarian
- iv) Two Senate Representatives elected/nominated by the Senate

2.2 Meetings of the Board of Graduate Studies

- i) The Board of Graduate Studies shall meet at least once a month or as otherwise stipulated in the University Calendar.

- ii) Notice of BGS regular meetings shall be given at least 14 days in advance with published agenda.
- iii) A special meeting of the Board may be called by the Chairperson, and the agenda of such a meeting shall be the only business of the day.
- iv) An emergency meeting of the Board may be called following a written request to the Vice Chancellor, by at least four members of the Board. The purpose of such a meeting shall be the only business of the day.
- v) The quorum for the transaction of any business during regular meetings shall be at least 50% plus one of the total membership of the BGS present.
- vi) The BGS, may at its own discretion, invite other persons to attend any of its meetings in an advisory capacity. Such persons shall be listed "in attendance" and shall not have the power to vote.

3.0 GRADUATE FACULTY (GF)

All full time academic staff who teach graduate courses and/or supervise graduate research constitute the "Graduate Faculty". Heads of teaching departments are required to submit to the Chairperson, BGS, through their respective Deans, lists of their GF which shall be in the BGS approved supervisors' register. These lists shall be updated at the beginning of every academic year.

3.1 Membership of the GF

Membership of the GF shall comprise the following:

- i) Full Professors.
- ii) Associate Professors.
- iii) Senior Lecturers with PhD.
- iv) Lecturers with PhD and relevant university teaching and research experience and who are engaged in productive research as evidenced by refereed publications.

3.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of the GF

- i) Teach graduate programmes.
- ii) Supervise and advice graduate students.
- iii) Serve on examination panels for graduate students.
- iv) Hold consultative meetings on matters affecting graduate students in the Schools.
- v) Co-ordinate and promote graduate research activities within the University.
- vi) Engage in research and extension activities at the University.

4.0 DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (DGSC)

Each academic department at RU shall have a DGSC. At the beginning of every academic year, all Heads of Departments (HoDs) shall be required to submit to the BGS, through their respective Deans, names of members of their DGSCs.

4.1 Membership of DGSC

- i) The Head of Department.
- ii) All teaching staff in the department who are designated members of GF.
- iii) A Chairperson, who shall normally not be the Head of Department, and who shall be elected by the academic members of the department in a meeting convened by the Head of Department. The Chairperson of the DGSC shall be a Ph.D holder at the level of Senior Lecturer.

4.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of DGSC

The Departmental Graduate Studies Committee shall:

- i) Initiate and co-ordinate graduate programmes in the department.
- ii) Collaborate, whenever necessary, with other departments in the School and in the University in running inter-disciplinary graduate programmes.
- iii) Review applications for graduate admissions and make recommendations through Deans of Schools to the BGS.
- iv) Recommend the appointment of Supervisors, Internal Examiners and External Examiners to the BGS.
- v) Organize two (2) seminars for Masters and three (3) for Ph.D students in every academic year.
- vi) Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the BGS.

5.0 SCHOOL GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (SGSC)

Each School at RU shall have a SGSC. At the beginning of every academic year, all Deans shall submit to the BGS, names of members of their SGSCs.

5.1 Membership of the SGSC

- i) All Chairpersons of DGSCs in that School.
- ii) One representative of the GF from each Department in that School.
- iii) One representative of graduate students in the School. The registration of the Student Representative must remain valid during the academic year in which the student is a representative. The students' representative shall be asked to leave the meeting when matters pertaining examinations are tabled.
- iv) The Dean of the respective school.
- v) A Chairperson, who shall normally be the School Graduate Studies Coordinator, elected by the respective School Boards.

5.2 Terms of Reference and Functions of SGSC

The SGSC shall be responsible to the BGS on matters pertaining to graduate students in their schools. The SGSC shall:

- i) Recommend to BGS all graduate academic programmes in the School.
- ii) Recommend to BGS all candidates for admission to graduate studies.

- iii) Recommend to BGS candidates for the award of scholarships, fellowships and grants.
- iv) Communicate to BGS problems facing graduate students in their School.
- v) Recommend to BGS the award of higher degrees and diplomas to graduate students in their Schools.
- vi) Carry out any other functions assigned to them by the BGS.

6.0 SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE

STUDIES.

- i) Advertisements for graduate studies shall be done at least twice a year by the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.
- ii) Three sets of application forms for graduate studies shall be issued by the Dean, School of Graduate Studies (SGS)
- iii) Completed application forms, plus copies of Secondary School Certificates, Degree Certificates, Official Degree Transcripts and any other relevant Testimonials shall be submitted to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies who will record all the forms for statistical purposes.
- iv) The Dean, SGS shall then forward the completed application forms to the relevant Departments concerned for short-listing.
- v) The shortlist of applicants, together with minutes of the DGSC meeting, shall be tabled in the School Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) for further consideration and processing.
- vi) Chairpersons of School Graduate Studies Committees shall forward, through their respective Deans, names of shortlisted candidates recommended for admission, minutes of SGSC meeting and all the processed application forms to the Dean, SGS.
- vii) The BGS shall scrutinize all shortlisted applicants for graduate studies and make appropriate recommendations to Senate for approval.
- viii) The BGS shall also make recommendations for award of the University scholarships and grants when such awards are available.
- ix) Before recommending a candidate to Senate for admission and registration, the BGS shall satisfy itself that:
 - a. The candidate meets the minimum entry requirements for that programme.
 - b. The proposed field of study can be pursued under the supervision of the university academic staff.
 - c. The candidate has adequate opportunities for consulting his/her supervisor(s) at least once a month.
 - d. The candidate can obtain access to material relevant to the area of study and/or research.
 - e. The candidate has adequate facilities for practical work, where applicable.

- x) A Department which does not have sufficient GF to teach, supervise and examine its own graduate students shall not be allowed by Senate to admit/register students in that particular academic year.
- xi) The Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall send provisional letters of admission and or registration to all successful applicants within two weeks of the Board of Graduate Studies' and Chair of Senate's administrative approval. Such letters shall be copied to the Registrar (ASA), Dean of the teaching School, Head of Department and the Finance Officer. The admissions shall then be presented to Senate for ratification.
- xii) Following ratification by the Senate and registration by the candidate, the Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall within two weeks issue a substantive letter of admission to the candidate.
- xiii) Registration into a current academic year for both Masters and Ph.D. candidates shall normally close on the date designated by the Senate. The beginning of the academic year for graduate students shall normally be synchronized with the undergraduate semesters.
- xiv) Applications for admissions to graduate studies at RU shall be received and processed throughout the year.

6.1 Deferment/Suspension of Studies

- i) A candidate may in exceptional cases be allowed for good academic and personal reasons to suspend his/her studies for a specific period of time.
- ii) Requests for deferment/suspension should be addressed to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies (SGS) through the Head of Department stating acceptable/justifiable grounds and the period of deferment.
- iii) The BGS shall consider the requests and recommend to Deans Committee and the Senate to approve the deferment/suspension of studies for a period not exceeding one academic year.

6.2 Re-admission

- i) At the expiry of an approved period of deferment/Suspension of studies, the Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall re-admit or advise the student to resume studies. The Registrar, Academic and Student Affairs and the Head of Department shall be notified of the student's resumption of studies by the Dean, SGS.
- ii) A student who suspends studies for a period exceeding one academic year may reapply for fresh admission.

6.3 Extension of Studies

- i) A candidate who is unable to submit a Masters or Doctoral thesis within the stipulated time may apply for extension of studies. Such application shall be addressed to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies through the candidate's supervisors and Head of Department, clearly stating the reasons for extension and provide sufficient evidence.

- ii) Extension of studies shall be granted for such a period as to enable the candidate complete studies within the maximum allowed duration as specified for Masters and Doctoral students by these rules and regulations.

6.4 Registration of Admitted Students.

- i) All admitted students shall be required to register with the Registrar, Academic and Student Affairs within the first two weeks of the semester.
- ii) A candidate shall not be allowed to sit for a University Examinations for a given unit if he /she has not fulfilled the condition in article 6.4 (i) above.
- iii) A candidate shall be required to register for University examinations at least four weeks before the start of semester examinations.

7.0 TITLES OF GRADUATE QUALIFICATION

7.1 Degree Titles

- i) The University offers the following degrees:
 - a) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
 - b) Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)
 - c) Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)
 - d) Master of Arts (M.A.)
 - e) Master of Business Management (MBM.)
 - f) Master of Education (M.Ed.)
 - g) Master of Science (M.Sc.)
 - h) Postgraduate Diploma (PGD)
- ii) Departments/Schools/Institutes may propose new degrees giving justification for consideration for approval by Senate.

8.0 CONDUCT OF STUDIES, COMMON RULES AND REGULATIONS.

8.1 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (PGD)

PROGRAMMES

8.2 Eligibility for the PGD Programme

Applicants for the PGD programmes must be:

- i) Holders of a bachelors degree of Rongo University or any other recognized university.
- ii) In addition to (i) above, each programme may have further requirements for admitting applicants to meet specific programme needs and relevance.

8.3 Duration of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme

The PGD programme shall consist of one academic year covering a minimum of 26 units, and a maximum of 30 units of course work, examination and project distributed over two consecutive semesters as follows:

First Semester:	Coursework	12 units minimum
	Project	2 units
Second Semester:	Coursework	6 units minimum
	Project	6 units

Candidates shall choose courses and topics for their projects in consultation with GF in their departments. All candidates are required to participate in all the seminars arranged by departments.

8.4 Postgraduate Project/Practicum

- i) Respective schools may design Masters programmes to be done by course work and Project/practicum. The units of each programme shall be in compliance with university regulations.
- ii) The outcome of a project/practicum include a more knowledgeable and skilled practitioner, contribution to professional and scholarly knowledge, and some body of work or change in practice.
- iii) A postgraduate project/practicum will be presented by the candidate to either individual examiners or to a panel as may be determined by the particular schools together with:
 - a. An appropriate durable record of the project/practicum,
 - b. Such documentation as may be appropriate, and
 - c. A declaration signed by the candidate certifying that the project:
 - (i) Represents the work of the candidate alone except where due acknowledgement has been made,
 - (ii) Has not been submitted, either in whole or in part, for any other academic award, and
 - (iii) Represents work undertaken during the period of candidature.
- iv) Specific information and advice shall be obtained from the supervisor or the postgraduate coordinator of the appropriate school.

8.5 Examination of Courses and Projects for PGD

- i) Candidates enrolled for PGD programmes will be required to pass in all courses they registered for and in their projects. The pass mark shall be 50%.
- ii) Assessment at the end of a course shall consist of:
 - a. A written examination, which shall normally constitute 60% of the total marks in each course.

- b. Continuous assessment based on essays, laboratory assignments and such other tests as may be prescribed by the department. This will normally constitute 40% of the total marks.
- iii) A candidate who fails up to 25% of the prescribed course units in a given semester shall be eligible to do a supplementary examination at the end of that semester. A candidate who fails a supplementary examination shall be discontinued.
- iv) A candidate who fails more than 25% of the prescribed course units in any semester shall be discontinued.
- v) The project shall be assessed by two examiners who shall be appointed by a given School. The examiners of the project shall not be the student's supervisor. The mark to be assigned to the project shall be the arithmetic mean of the two scores from the examiners.
- vi) The project will be assessed from a maximum of 100 marks. A candidate who fails in a project shall be given four months to resubmit the project. A candidate who fails to submit his/her project after four months shall be discontinued.
- vii) A candidate who for understandable and verifiable reasons such as sickness, fails to sit for an examination, shall be allowed to sit for a special examination. Medical cases must be supported by written documents from the University Medical Officer.
- viii) A candidate must pass both coursework and project to be awarded the PGD. The award of the PGD, based on the mean mark obtained in coursework and project, shall be graded as follows:

<u>Percentage Marks</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	
75 - 100	A	Distinction
65 - 74	B	Credit
50 - 64	C	Pass
Below 50	D	Fail

8.6 Recommendations for the Award of the PGD

The Chairperson of the respective SGSCs shall forward names of candidates who have met their coursework examination and project requirements to the Board of Graduate Studies. The Board shall deliberate on the results and recommend the successful candidates to the Senate for the award of the respective Diplomas.

9.0 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMMES

9.1 Eligibility for the Masters Degree Programmes

- i) Applicants with any of the following qualifications may be eligible for admission into Masters programme:
 - a. First Class Honors Bachelors degree of Rongo University or other recognized institutions.

- b. Upper Second Class Honors Bachelors degree of Rongo University or other recognized institutions or a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00.
 - c. Lower Second Class Honors Bachelors degree or a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 on a scale of 4.00 with additional relevant training, evidence of research capability either through research, paper presentations or peer reviewed publications and relevant working experience.
 - d. Relevant postgraduate diploma
- ii) In addition to producing evidence of eligibility for admission, candidates for the Masters degree may be required to appear for an interview by the various Departments.

9.2 Duration of the Masters Programme

- i) The Masters programme in all departments shall normally extend over a period of two years distributed over four semesters of full time attendance, or a maximum of five years of part-time attendance from the date of registration and shall consist of coursework, examination and thesis.
- ii) The Masters Programme in any department shall consist of a minimum of fifty four (54) units of coursework and thesis distributed over four semesters as follows:

First Semester: Coursework:	18 units minimum
Second Semester: Coursework:	18 units minimum
Third Semester: Research only:	9 units
Fourth Semester: Research/Thesis:	9 units.
- iii) The length of a Masters thesis shall normally be at least 20,000 words.

9.3 Examination and Assessment of Courses at Masters Degree Level

- i) Candidates shall be required to pass in all the prescribed courses in a given programme. The pass mark shall be 50%.
- ii) Assessment at the end of the course work shall consist of:
 - a. A written examination which shall constitute 60% of the total marks in each course.
 - b. Continuous assessment tests shall constitute 40% of the total marks awarded in each course.
- iii) A candidate who fails two (2) prescribed courses in the first year shall be eligible to take supplementary examinations. The CAT marks shall not count towards supplementary. A candidate who fails in three or more courses will be discontinued.
- iv) A candidate who fails a supplementary examination shall be discontinued.
- v) A candidate who has been discontinued from a Master's degree programme may be considered for the award of a PGD.
- vi) A candidate who, for verifiable reasons such as sickness, fails to sit an examination shall be allowed to sit a Special Examination. Medical cases must be supported by documents which shall be verified by the University Head of Health Services.

- vii) Students are free to take extra courses over and above the minimum required number of units and shall be given a grade which shall be reflected on their transcripts. Students are also free to audit courses. Students shall not be required to take continuous assessment tests and examinations in the courses they audit.
- viii) A candidate who fails an examination in (an) extra course(s) shall not be penalized as long as he/she has passed examinations in the prescribed course units.
- ix) The procedure for submission and examination of thesis shall be as outlined in Section 14.1 of these Rules and Regulations Governing Graduate Studies.

9.4 Grading System for Masters’ degree Coursework and Thesis

<u>Percentage Marks</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
75 - 100	A Distinction
65 - 74	B Credit
50 - 64	C Pass
Below 50	D Fail

9.5 Recommendation for the Award of the Master’s Degree

Names of candidates who shall have submitted their theses in CDs and in bound copies, together with evidence of raw data and minutes of the respective oral presentations shall be tabled before BGS. The BGS shall inspect the CDs and the bound theses, and once satisfied, shall recommend to Senate the conferment of the respective Master’s degrees to the candidates, provided that other requirements in respect of coursework have been fully met. Master’s theses shall be bound in Navy Blue colour.

10.0 COMMON REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSPHY (Ph.D.)

10.1 Eligibility for Admission into Ph.D. Programmes

To qualify for admission into a Ph.D. programme, a candidate shall be:

- i) Holder of a relevant Masters degree from a recognized University/Institution,
- ii) In addition to the Masters degree, the candidate shall normally have a relevant Bachelors degree.

10.2 Registration for a Ph.D. Programme

- i) The Doctor of Philosophy programme in any department shall normally consist of course work and thesis. The minimum units of coursework for a Ph.D. programme shall be 24, and the maximum shall be 30. All coursework shall be done in the first year of study.

Year 1, Semester 1 - 9 units of coursework and
3 units of research.

Year 1, Semester 2	-	9 units of coursework and 3 units of research.
Year 2, Semester 1 & 2	-	15 units Research
Year 3, Semester 1 & 2	-	15 units Research/Thesis.

- ii) The length of a Doctoral thesis shall normally be at least 50,000 words.
- iii) A candidate admitted into a Ph.D. programme must submit to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, through his respective DGSC and SGSC, a research proposal within nine months after provisional registration.
- iv) If a research proposal is found to be satisfactory, the BGS shall recommend to Senate that the candidate be registered. The date of registration shall be backdated to the date of provisional registration.
- v) The DGSC and SGSC shall decline to approve a research proposal if:
 - a. The research is unsuitable in itself
 - b. The research cannot be conducted under the supervision of the university.
 - c. The conditions under which the candidate proposes to work are unsatisfactory or unavailable.
- vi) Registration for the Ph.D. will not be recommended if a candidate fails to submit an acceptable research proposal within the stipulated period. A candidate who does not qualify for registration at the material time shall normally be discontinued.
- vii) Enrolment into the Ph.D. programmes at RU shall normally be done once in an academic year.

10.3 Duration of the Ph.D. Programme

A candidate may be registered as a full-time student for the Ph.D. degree for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of five (5) years. A candidate may be registered as a part-time student for the Ph.D. degree for a minimum of four (4) years and a maximum of six (6) years. Registration will be reviewed from time to time by SGSC. Continuance of registration will depend on evidence of satisfactory progress.

10.4 Examination of Courses for Ph.D. Programmes

- i) Candidates shall be required to pass in all the courses for which they are registered. The pass mark shall be 50%.
- ii) Assessment at the end of the coursework shall consist of:
 - a. A written examination which shall constitute 60% of total marks in a course.
 - b. Continuous assessment tests shall constitute 40% of the total marks.
- iii) A candidate who fails more than one prescribed course in a given semester shall be discontinued.
- iv) A candidate who fails one semester course shall be eligible to take a supplementary examination provided that the mark obtained in the failed course is not below 40%. The CAT marks shall not count towards supplementary.
- v) A candidate who fails in any supplementary examination shall be discontinued.

- vi) A candidate who, for verifiable reasons such as sickness, fails to sit an examination shall be allowed to sit a special examination. Medical cases must be supported by documents which shall be verified by the University Head of Health Services.

10.5 Grading System for Ph.D. Coursework

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
75 - 100	A Distinction
65 - 74	B Credit
50 - 64	C Pass
Below 50	D Fail

11.0 PROCESSING OF EXAMINATION RESULTS

- i) Unless otherwise stated, ‘Regulations for the Conduct of Examinations’ as outlined in Common Rules and Regulations for Undergraduate Examinations shall apply.
- ii) The teaching department in which a student was taught shall process graduate examination results. The Head of the department shall forward externalized coursework examination results for all its registered candidates to the School Graduate Studies Board of Examiners (SGSBE) for deliberations.
- iii) The SGSBEs shall consist of all members of Graduate Faculty in the School. The SGSBEs shall be chaired by the Dean of that School.
- iv) The Deans of Schools shall forward examination results and appropriate recommendations to Senate within one month after the end of the academic year in which the courses were taught and examined.
- v) The Deans of Schools shall send a copy of the coursework examination results to Senate and copy to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, for record purposes.
- vi) The Deans of Schools shall release provisional coursework examination results within seven days from the time the SGSBEs deliberated on them.

11.1 Appeals for Assessment of Examinations

- i) After the release of provisional coursework examination results by the Deans of Schools, a candidate may appeal within a period of one month for remarking, giving reasons.
- ii) The letter of appeal shall be addressed to the Dean of School and copied to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, DVC (ASA) and Head of teaching department.
- iii) On making the appeal, a candidate will pay a non-refundable fee to be determined by the Senate from time to time.
- iv) The Dean of the School, in consultation with the BGS shall appoint either an Internal or External Examiner to remark the examination paper(s) in question. The Examiner so appointed shall be someone who has not taught or examined the candidate in that particular semester.
- v) The mark obtained after remarking any paper shall be the official mark. This mark shall be communicated by the Examiner to the Dean of the School, copied to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies for processing and onward transmission to Senate for approval.

12.0 CONDUCT OF RESEARCH AND SUPERVISION

12.1 General

- i) A student registered in accordance with these Rules and Regulations shall be required to pursue a programme of study and follow supervision by GF members appointed in that capacity by Senate to guide them write their research work.
- ii) At the beginning of the first semester, each Masters student shall be assigned an Academic Adviser (AcA) by the DGSC drawn from among the staff constituting GF in the department.
- iii) The AcA shall advise the student on matters pertaining to the selection of taught courses.
- iv) The AcA will not necessarily be the student's thesis Supervisor.
- v) The student thesis supervisor shall be appointed at the beginning of the Second Semester and shall advise the student on identification of a suitable research area.
- vi) Towards the end of the second semester, each student will be required to submit a research proposal to the DGSC. The proposal shall be accompanied by a single spaced, one page Abstract. Both the proposal and its abstract must be duly signed by the student and the proposed supervisor(s).
- vii) The student shall make a presentation of the research proposal to DGSC.
- viii) The DGSC and SGSC shall discuss and make recommendations to Senate on the suitability of supervisors and proposed thesis topics. Supervisor(s) for each candidate shall be appointed according to the procedure outlined in Section 12.2 of these Rules and Regulations Governing Graduate Studies.
- ix) Each candidate shall normally have at least two supervisors who will be appointed by the Senate on the recommendations of the SGSC and BGS.
- x) At least one of the supervisors must be a staff member in the department where a candidate is registered. Unless otherwise stated, the procedure for the appointment of supervisors provided in Section 13. 2 of this document shall apply.
- xi) To qualify as supervisor for a Ph.D. student, a member of staff must have a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification, and shall be at the level of senior lecturer and above.
- xii) To qualify as a supervisor for a Masters student, a member of staff must have a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification and shall be at the level of lecturer and above.
- xiii) Supervisors shall submit to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies either individually or jointly, academic reports on the progress of each candidate every three months through the respective Chairpersons, DGSC. Such reports shall be copied to the DVC (ASA).
- xiv) Where a candidature has issues (e.g. non-submission of progress report, disappearance of candidate) the supervisors shall write a report, which will be discussed by the DGSC. Where the DGSC cannot resolve the issues raised they will pass on the report to SGSC for further consideration. The report on the resolution of such an issue shall be copied to the DVC (ASA) and the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.

- xv) Ph.D. candidates shall be required to submit academic reports endorsed by the supervisors every three months to the School of Graduate Studies. Such reports shall be copied to the DVC (ASA).
- xvi) Where the progress of a given candidate is found to be unsatisfactory, such a candidate shall be given a written warning by the Dean, School of Graduate Studies to the effect that unless the candidate shows signs of improvement within six months, the candidate will be de-registered. The warning letter shall be copied to the respective Chairpersons of the DGSC and SGSC, the HoD, Dean of School and DVC (ASA).
- xvii) A recommendation for de-registration shall be made to Senate by the Dean, School of Graduate Studies only after the procedure given in Section 12.1 (xvi) has been complied with.
- xviii) When the report of a student is adverse on a supervisor (s), the Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall constitute a committee comprising Deans, Chairpersons of departments, Registrar, Academic and Student Affairs to investigate and make recommendations.
- xix) The Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall in consultation with the Deans and Chairpersons of the departments ensure the effective supervision of the students.
- xx) All students shall be required to consult their supervisors at least once a month based on a schedule worked out between the student and the supervisor.
- xxi) During such consultations, monthly consultation forms shall be duly filled and signed by both the student and the supervisor (s) in triplicate and a copy forwarded to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies for record purposes.

12.2 Appointment of Supervisors

It is the intention of the University to ensure that the ratio of graduate students to supervisors shall be small enough to ensure effective interaction and supervision of students.

- i) Programmes shall identify supervisors for the students not later than the middle of second semester of the first year of their study.
- ii) Students shall be allowed to suggest their supervisors, but the DGSC shall make the decision.
- iii) Recommendations on the appointment of supervisors shall be processed by the DGSC in consultation with SGSC and forwarded to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.
- iv) The Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall convene a Board of Graduate Studies meeting to consider and approve the recommended supervisors within one month.
- v) The BGS shall make recommendations to Senate on the suitability of supervisors, based on acceptable research proposals from the candidates.
- vi) Before recommending the appointment of any supervisor, the BGS shall certify itself that the proposed supervisors are competent in the subject areas in which the candidate proposes to work. All internal supervisors must be members of the GF as defined in Section 3.1 of this document.

- vii) Each candidate shall normally have two supervisors designated as first and second supervisor. The first supervisor shall be a member of the teaching department in which the student is registered or whose specialty is closest to the student's field of research.
- viii) Where an additional supervisor is recommended for appointment from outside the University, such a person shall show evidence of competence in the area of study through publications produced since obtaining his/her higher degrees. Such a person shall also submit current CV to be examined by the Senate before formal appointment is made.
- ix) The designation of first or second supervisor for a candidate is not necessarily determined by seniority in the university hierarchy.
- x) All persons approved by the Board of Graduate Studies as supervisors shall be informed in writing of their appointment within two weeks by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (ASA). Such letters shall be copied to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (AFP), the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Deans of teaching Schools and Heads of Departments. The appointments shall then be presented to Senate to ratify.

12.3 Replacement of Supervisors

- i. Where the DGSC is not satisfied the supervision of a particular candidate is effective, they shall recommend a replacement to BGS through the SGSC.
- ii. Minutes of the DGSC and SGSC meeting specifying reasons/justification for the recommended replacement shall be attached.
- iii. The BGS shall consider such recommendation and give direction on the matter.
- iv. The Dean, SGS, shall recommend replacement of a supervisor where in his/her opinion the DGSC and the SGSCs have not effectively discharged their duties as provided in Section 12.3 (i) above and in his/her consideration such an action would be in the best interest of the student and that of the University.
- v. Where a supervisor is deceased or incapacitated, another supervisor shall be appointed if the supervision has not been done to an advanced stage. However, if supervision was at an advanced stage, the department shall recommend appointment of a thesis advisor who shall normally not sign the thesis.

12.4 Supervision of Research and Theses

- i. The supervisors shall be responsible for guiding the candidate in the conduct of the research for thesis writing.
- ii. In the absence (at least 2 months) of the first supervisor, the second supervisor and/or HoD shall be responsible for ensuring that the candidate complies with the University regulations and procedures, including matters of supervision.
- iii. The first supervisors shall be on the schools' approved supervisors' register. All supervisors must have a copy of these rules and regulations governing graduate studies.
- iv. If the research programme is pursued at another approved organization, then a second supervisor associated with the organization in which the research is carried out shall be appointed.

- v. If a supervisor ceases to meet these requirements or cannot supervise a candidate for a period exceeding three months, the HoD shall immediately nominate a replacement supervisor for a specified period for approval under the relevant School process.
- vi. A maximum period of one month shall be allowed for supervisors to respond to students' work on proposals and theses.
- vii. The maximum load for a supervisor shall normally be five (5) Masters and three (3) Ph.D. candidates.
- viii. In exceptional circumstances, Senate may approve a higher load for a first supervisor, but in no circumstances shall the load exceed twelve (12) candidates. Under such exceptional circumstances the first supervisor's other duties such as teaching and administration shall be reduced.

12.5 Responsibilities of Supervisors:

- i. Being the leading source of research advice to the student.
- ii. Facilitating the candidature by offering expert guidance, direction and constructive criticism at all stages and in particular:-
 - a. Guiding the student to develop a research proposal, conduct research, analyze data and write thesis at least as detailed as that required for approval by the School.
 - b. Guiding the student to maintain the progress of work in accordance with the approved program.
 - c. Providing constructive feedback on drafts of the thesis promptly, with appropriate criticism to allow the candidate to achieve and maintain a scholarly standard in the thesis within the period of official/normal registration.
 - d. Inspecting the raw data collected by the student.
- iii. Mastering of the University Rules and Regulations Governing Graduate Studies and other relevant University rules such as Plagiarism, Student Discipline, Student Complaints, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment.
- iv. Raising problems or difficulties with the candidate, HoD or appropriate academic authority.
- v. Ensuring the candidate complies with the University ethical requirements.
- vi. Preparing supervisors' reports on the candidate's progress and submitting them to the HoD and Dean, School of Graduate Studies within one month.
- vii. In the event of acute or persistent deficiencies in the candidate's performance, such that the candidate is unlikely to meet the requirements of the degree by the end of the prescribed period, the supervisors shall:-
 - a. Advise the candidate and the HoD with a copy to the Dean on the deficiencies.
 - b. Advise, as required, on remedial action on the deficiencies.
 - c. Recommend to the HoD or appropriate academic authority that a candidature be terminated if the deficiencies persist.

- viii. Advising the candidate and the HoD or appropriate academic authority on applications for leave of absence.

12.6 Responsibilities of Graduate Students:

- i. Ensuring that fees is paid in full and on time
- ii. Ensuring that all the prescribed courses are taken and examinations in the courses sat and passed.
- iii. Developing research proposals on time and presenting them to the DGSC as scheduled.
- iv. Conducting research, analyzing data and writing theses/projects as required.
- v. Working closely with the supervisors during proposal and thesis/project writing.
- vi. Keeping monthly appointments with supervisor(s) during candidature.
- vii. Writing and submitting progress reports through the supervisors to the SGSC once every three months.
- viii. Taking initiative to raise problems or difficulties faced during supervision with the HoD, DGSC and BGS, in that order.
- ix. Being responsible for proposal and thesis writing and ensuring that plagiarism is avoided.
- x. Complying with RU ethical requirements.
- xi. Ensuring that Rules and Regulations Governing Graduate Studies are adhered to.
- xii. Participating in all seminars arranged by their departments.

13.0 EXAMINATION OF MASTERS AND DOCTORAL THESIS

13.1 Submission of Thesis for Examination

- i. Only candidates who have completed fee payment shall be allowed to submit their theses for examination.
- ii. Any thesis submitted for examination must be original work of the candidate.
- iii. At least four weeks before the date of submission, a candidate shall fill and submit the Form of Intent to Submit a Thesis to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies through the Head of Department and Dean of the teaching School.
- iv. The Dean, SGS shall recommend to the BGS one Senate representative to sit in the Board of examiners.
- v. Two weeks after the Notice of Intent has been given, a candidate shall present the findings of his/her research to the respective School Graduate Studies Committee in the form of a seminar. The Chairperson of the SGSC shall prepare a report of the seminar of each candidate with appropriate recommendations.
- vi. The CVs of external examiners shall be submitted to the Dean, SGS for consideration by the BGS, if the examiners are being appointed for the first time.
- vii. Within two weeks of BGS consideration and approval, the Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall send the thesis to the external examiner.
- viii. Members of Rongo University shall be required to submit their CVs after every two years as evidence of continuous academic development.

- ix. All Examiners for Ph.D. theses must have D.Phil., or Ph.D. qualifications, and must be at the level of senior lecturer or above.
- x. The Senate shall, on the recommendation of the BGS appoint in respect of each candidate presenting a thesis, a Board of Examiners for Oral Examination consisting of:
 - a. Dean of the teaching School or his representative - (Chairperson)
 - b. Dean, School of Graduate Studies
 - c. One Senate representative
 - d. The School representative in the BGS
 - e. The External Examiner, to be present if available, unless he/she failed the candidate in their examination report.
 - f. One Departmental representative,
 - g. The two (2) Internal Examiners,
 - h. One School representative,
 - i. The supervisor(s) - In attendance,
 - j. Secretariat by Dean School of Graduate Studies (In attendance).
- xi. There shall normally be a representative of all the above categories for any defense to continue except for the external examiner.
- xii. Each candidate shall normally submit through the HoD, six spiral bound copies of his/her thesis to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies. The thesis must be prepared according to the format approved by the Senate, and must be signed by the student and the Supervisor(s) and bear the date of submission.
- xiii. Copies of the thesis shall be sent by the School of Graduate Studies to the Internal and External Examiners by Priority Mail.
- xiv. The Internal Examiners and the External Examiner shall be required to assess the thesis and submit detailed reports to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies within four weeks of receipt of the thesis.
- xv. Reports from the external and internal examiners shall normally be circulated to members of the Board of examiners at the oral defense.
- xvi. An honorarium shall be paid to the Examiners subject to submission of satisfactory reports in time and attendance of oral defense. Each Examiner shall indicate within his/her detailed report:
 - a. Whether or not the thesis is adequate in form and content,
 - b. Whether or not the thesis reflects an adequate understanding of the subject or adds new knowledge in the subject area,
 - c. Whether or not the thesis needs minor or major revision or corrections or needs thorough overhaul,
 - d. A grade- Pass/Fail subject to the candidate fulfilling other University requirements.
 - e. The mark to be assigned to the thesis and justification for the same in a prescribed mark/grading form.
 - f. Whether the candidate should be awarded the degree or not.

- xvii. When an Examiner's report is delayed for more than one month, a reminder shall be written by the Dean, SGS and the examiner shall be requested to submit the report within two weeks. Failure to submit the report after the reminder shall lead to the appointment of a new examiner for the thesis.

13.2 Plagiarism

- i. Rongo University does not allow plagiarism.
- ii. Acknowledgement must be made of the use of other people's work or ideas or own previous work.
- iii. Plagiarism or falsification of research data shall result in the withdrawal of the candidature of the graduate student.
- iv. Any cross-referencing and citations from a single source exceeding 2% or a mean overall of 15% for all the other references shall not be accepted for submission of thesis and dissertations for examination or presentation in case of a research proposal.
- v. All theses submitted for examination shall be subjected to plagiarism test by the School of Graduate Studies in conjunction with the University Library. A candidate shall submit a soft copy of their thesis to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies for the test before examination.
- vi. Graduate proposals and projects will be subjected to plagiarism tests by the Chair of the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee (DGSC) to ensure compliance with standards set out in these rules and regulations on plagiarism. A candidate shall submit a soft copy of their proposal or project to the Chairperson, DGSC for the test in conjunction with the University Library before presentation and defense respectively.

13.3 The Oral Defense

- i. After the receipt of all Examiners' reports, the Dean, School of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Dean of School shall set a date for the oral defense. Such a date shall normally be within three (3) weeks of the date of receipt of the last report.
- ii. Any form of plagiarism detected during an oral defence exceeding the standards set out in clause 13.2 iv above shall cause the Board of Examiners to invoke clause 13.2 iii of these rules and regulations.
- iii. The candidate's oral defence shall be open to the public. However, only members of the Board of Examiners shall pose questions to the candidate.
- iv. The duration of the oral defence for Masters candidates shall normally be a maximum of two (2) hours, consisting of 40 minutes of candidate's presentation and 80 minutes question and answer session.
- v. For Ph.D. candidates, the duration shall normally be a maximum of three (3) hours, consisting of 60 minutes of candidate's presentation and 120 minutes question and answer session.
- vi. Assessment after the oral defence shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. Each member of the Board, with the exception of the Chairperson, Supervisors and the Secretariat shall be required to assign a mark not exceeding 20% to the

oral defence. The mean of all the scores shall be the final mark for that defence, and shall be designated mark Y.

- b. The Chairperson of the Board of Examiners shall calculate the mean score from the three Examiners' reports and designate it as mark X. The overall Mark for the thesis shall then be calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{Thesis Mark} = (0.8X + Y) \%$$

- c. A candidate must pass the Oral Presentation and the Written Thesis to be declared pass overall. The pass mark in either case shall be 50%. Total overall mark, should be 50% and above to be declared passed.
 - d. A thesis must be given to the Board of Examiners prior to the defense.
 - e. An examiner must award a mark in either case to show whether he has passed or failed a candidate.
 - f. The overall assessment and decision of the Board of Examiners on a thesis presented in oral defense shall prevail.
- vii. After the completion of the oral defence, the Board of Examiners shall decide:
- a. Whether the candidate defended the thesis adequately and whether the candidate should be declared pass outright, thus assigning a grade to the thesis, and recommending the award of the degree subject to the candidate fulfilling other requirements in respect of course work.
 - b. Whether the thesis needs minor revision and/or corrections over and above the recommendations contained in the examiners' reports, thus assigning a grade to the thesis, and recommending submission of the final revised thesis within one month, duly certified by the supervisors.

Minor revisions/corrections shall take the form of:

- i. The correction of typographical, spelling and grammatical errors
- ii. Limited revision of material in the thesis/project that the examiners specify in detail and which in their judgment is necessary for the thesis to reach an acceptable standard.

The latter category can include limited revisions not central to the thesis, omissions and improvements to the argument which do not materially alter the conclusions. The examiners must agree that the candidate will be able to achieve the revisions/corrections within one month after the defence.

- c. Whether the thesis needs major revision and corrections, and recommending re-submission of the thesis within three months for fresh assessment by one of the internal examiners. Should the candidate still fail at this stage, the candidate must submit a revised thesis within six months for fresh assessment by all the three examiners and appear for a second oral defence thereafter. A candidate who defends his/her thesis a second time shall be asked to pay a re-examination fee. A thesis shall however, not be defended more than twice.

Major revisions/corrections shall take the form of:

- i. Re-writing some sections of the thesis/project either to strengthen the argument or improve on the flow of work.
- ii. Further data analysis
- iii. Re-organization of the thesis/project for better presentation.

Major revisions/corrections shall not normally require further data collection or shifting the research focus.

- d. Whether the thesis needs a complete overhaul, including collection of more data and/or change of methodology, and recommending re-submission within nine (9) months for fresh assessment by all the three examiners and a second oral defence thereafter.
- e. Whether the thesis is unacceptable for the award of the respective degree, and declaring the candidate having failed outright.
- viii. A thesis cannot be defended more than twice.
- ix. A Master's degree candidate who fails overall after the oral defense
- x. shall not be awarded the Masters degree. Such a candidate may, however, be considered for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, as long as the candidate meets the necessary requirements for such an award, otherwise the candidate shall be discontinued.
- xi. Members of the Board of Examiners and the secretariat shall be paid a honorarium immediately after a student's defense of his/her thesis. The list of those who shall be paid honorarium is as follows:
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Dean, School of Graduate Studies
 - c. Senate representative
 - d. The School representative
 - e. The Departmental representative
 - f. School representative at the BGS
 - g. Secretariat

The honorarium shall be paid from the funds paid as examination fees by the student. The rate of payment shall be proposed by BGS and approved by Senate. Senate may review this honorarium from time to time.

13.4 Final Submission of Thesis

- i. Once a candidate has incorporated into the thesis all the recommendations of the Board of Examiners, the designated supervisor shall check the thesis and then write to the Dean School of Graduate Studies certifying that all corrections and amendments suggested by the Examiners have indeed been incorporated. This communication shall be copied to the respective SGSC, HoD and Dean of School. The thesis shall be prepared according to the format approved by Senate. A Correction Form shall be filled by the candidate indicating sections in the thesis where corrections/revisions have been made as per the recommendations contained in the examination reports and those of the Board of examiners.

- ii. Seven hard copies and 3 CD soft copies of every thesis shall be submitted to School of Graduate Studies after revision.
- iii. The seven hard copies shall be bound in boards with navy blue buckram for masters and maroon for PhD theses. The bound copies shall be lettered in gold on the spine with the following information: Name of the candidate, degree and the year of final submission, in that order. Soft copies shall be submitted to the BGS in Portable Document Format (PDF).
- iv. The hard cover shall be lettered in gold with the following information: Title of the thesis, name of candidate with the year of final submission at the bottom.
- v. At least seven hard bound copies signed by supervisors and 3 CD (soft) copies (1 CD to go to the library, department and BGS) shall be submitted to the Dean, SGS together with a certificate from the University Librarian indicating that the seven theses have been bound according to the format approved by Senate.
- vi. One copy of the bound theses shall be deposited in the University Library and one in the relevant department and School, one each to supervisors and student and one deposited with the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. One soft copy shall be given to the SGS and one copy each to the Library and Department.
- vii. Before the award of a Ph.D. degree a candidate shall show proof of acceptance for publication of at least two (2) articles in peer reviewed journals. Masters candidates are encouraged to publish at least one article from their theses.

13.5 Restrictions on Supervision and Examination of Theses

- i. A holder of a Masters Degree who is registered as a Ph.D. candidate shall not serve as a supervisor for any Master's thesis until after a successful defence of his/her Ph.D. thesis.
- ii. Supervisors shall not engage in personal/unethical/sexual relationships with student(s) under their supervision.
- iii. A holder of a Masters Degree who is registered as a Ph.D. candidate may be appointed an Internal Examiner for a Master's thesis only after successful defence of his/her Ph.D. thesis.
- iv. A member of staff shall not supervise his/her immediate family members.
- v. Supervisors shall be paid for supervision after the student has defended his/her thesis.
- vi. Field work, supervision, computer, examination, activity and laboratory fees shall be remitted directly to the University as running costs.

14.0 VERIFICATION OF THE FINAL LIST OF GRADUATE DEGREE AWARDS

- i. Before presenting to Senate, names of candidates to be approved for conferment and award of graduate degrees and diplomas respectively, the Deans of schools in which such candidates are registered shall forward the names together with the Senate approved consolidated mark sheets to the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.
- ii. The Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall upon receipt of the names and consolidated mark sheets convene a Board of Graduate Studies meeting and table before BGS the names and the consolidated mark sheets within two weeks for

verification that the candidates have met all the requirements in respect of course work.

- iii. Names of candidates who shall have submitted their theses/projects in CDs and in bound copies, together with minutes of the respective oral defences shall be tabled before BGS by the Dean, School of Graduate Studies.
- iv. The BGS shall inspect the CDs and the bound theses/projects, and verify that the candidates have complied with all the relevant provisions for final submission of the theses/projects and met all the other requirements in respect of the degree or diploma. Master's theses shall be bound in Navy Blue colour whereas PhD theses shall be bound in maroon colour.
- v. Ph.D candidates shall show proof of publication of at least two (2) articles from their theses in peer reviewed journals before oral defense of the respective theses.
- vi. Masters candidates shall show proof of publication of at least one (1) article from their theses in peer reviewed journals before oral defense of the respective theses.
- vii. Once satisfied, the Board of Graduate Studies shall recommend to Senate the conferment or award of the respective Masters or PhD degrees and PGD to the candidates respectively.
- viii. The Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall then compile and submit to the Senate within two weeks, a list of names of successful candidates for the conferment of degrees or award of diplomas.

15.0 CREDIT TRANSFER

- i. In line with the existing Rongo University admission requirements, credit transfers shall only be accepted from accredited institutions and programmes.
- ii. Credit transfers may be permitted up to a maximum of 49% of the total coursework units for similar programmes at the same level.
- iii. In addition, the candidate will be required to develop and defend a research proposal under the guidance of supervisors approved and appointed by Rongo University.

16.0 ENROLMENT

- i. Graduate students shall be required to enroll once every academic year.
- ii. Any extra semester enrolled in beyond the prescribed maximum duration must be paid for.
- iii. Graduate students shall be required to register/sign a nominal roll at the beginning of every semester.

17.0 DE-REGISTRATION

Senate shall de-register a graduate student if:

- i. The student fails to live up to the academic requirements stipulated in Sections 8.5, 9, 10.3, and 11.4 of these Rules and Regulations.
- ii. The candidate's conduct is contrary to the University Rules and Regulations.

- iii. The candidate or the candidate's sponsor fails to remit funds to the University for the conduct of studies.
- iv. The candidate has not completed the prescribed studies after:
 - a. Three years since the date of registration for full time candidates or after five years for part-time candidates in a Masters degree programme.
 - b. Five years for full-time or six years for part-time studies since the date of registration in a Doctoral degree programme.
- v. The tuition and supervision fee beyond the regular time of registration shall not have been paid by the candidate.
- vi. The candidate has not submitted the final revised thesis after the prescribed time decided during the oral presentation.

18.0 EXEMPTIONS FROM THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GRADUATE STUDIES

- i. Requests for exemptions from the application of these rules and regulations governing graduate studies may be submitted to the BGS by the Chairperson of a SGSC with reasons. The BGS shall consider such requests and make appropriate recommendations to Senate.
- ii. In making such recommendations, the BGS shall take into consideration the overall impact such an exemption may have on the Graduate Studies in the University.
- iii. Only Senate, on the recommendations of the BGS, may grant exemptions from these Rules and Regulations.

19.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- i. Rongo University shall normally claim ownership rights in the intellectual property which results from research in any programme. This shall be done in accordance with the approved University Intellectual Property Policy (RUIPP).
- ii. Should there be need, availability of a thesis may be restricted for a period of up to three years from its receipt by the BGS for reasons of commercial confidentiality or industrial security. In such circumstances, the HoD or appropriate academic authority must apply to the BGS before the thesis is examined, requesting that:
 - a. The examiners be required to sign a confidentiality agreement approved by the DVC (ASA) before examining the thesis.
 - b. Each examiner be required to return his/her copy of the thesis after examination within one month.
 - c. No examiner is permitted to copy or circulate the thesis.
 - d. The bound copies of the thesis be held by RU for three years before release to the Library and the candidate's department.
- iii. Any departures from normal practice must be recommended by BGS to Senate. In exceptional circumstances, the maximum three-year period may be

extended by Senate on the recommendation of BGS or as stipulated in the Intellectual Property Right Policy of Rongo University.

20.0 ETHICAL ISSUES

- i. Rongo University Ethics Policy shall apply.
- ii. RU shall establish the Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC). When the programme includes experimentation on animals, it must comply with the Code of Practice and other Kenyan Laws on research. Research applications, which include such experimentation, shall be approved by the IREC.
- iii. When the research programme includes experimentation involving humans, it must conform to the requirements of the National Health and Medical Research Council and Kenyan Laws. Research applications, which include such experimentation, shall also be approved by IREC.
- iv. Plagiarism is not acceptable. The use of another person's work or ideas must be duly acknowledged.
- v. Extracts from work (thesis, papers) presented to university should be acknowledged. Supervisors and examiners are prohibited from publishing work that they supervise or examine without authority of the student and the University respectively.

21.0 COMPLAINTS

Students and staff have the right to have complaints and disputes addressed and resolved within a reasonable time (normally five working days).

21.1 Informal Complaints

Students and supervisors shall attempt to resolve conflicts informally. Students and staff have the right to have a support person present at any time during this process. The involvement of other members, including the chairpersons of the departments and deans of schools and BGS might also be appropriate where necessary. If the dispute is not resolved then formal procedures shall be followed.

21.2 Students' Formal Complaints

- i. Students who have a reason to believe that the outcome of the informal process is not satisfactory, and may be detrimental to their candidature, should submit their complaints in writing to the HoD, and copy to Dean of School, Dean Graduate Studies and DVC (ASA).
- ii. The HOD shall take the necessary action and communicate to the student.
- iii. A student may be allowed to propose change of supervisor(s) to the DGSC. The final decision however, rests on the BGS.
- iv. All Graduate students' complaints should be resolved at the DGSC or SGSC levels. If not, then they shall be forwarded to BGS for further advice.

21.3 Graduate Faculty Staff Formal Complaints

All GF staff complaints shall be dealt with at the SGSC. If not resolved then the Dean, School of Graduate Studies shall contact DVC (ASA) for intervention.

22.0 COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations shall be read together with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Examinations of Rongo University. Senate shall take appropriate action against any person who does not comply with any of these Rules and Regulations.

23.0 AMENDMENTS AND VARIATIONS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rongo University shall amend these rules and regulations governing graduate studies from time to time.

24.0 RESEARCH PERMIT

- i. No graduate student is allowed to conduct research without research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. It is the responsibility of the student to apply and obtain research permit from the Commission before commencing field work. A copy of the permit must be put in the Appendices of the thesis.
- ii.
- iii. The School of Graduate Studies, on confirmation from departments shall write to NACOSTI, introducing the student(s) recommended for commencement of field work after successful presentation of their thesis proposals at the School/Departmental levels for issuance of a research permit.
- iv.

End

APPENDICES

Appendix I: RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT

<u>DECLARATION</u>	
<u>DEDICATION</u>	
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</u>	
<u>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</u>	
<u>ABSTRACT</u>	
<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION.....

- 1.1. Background of the Study**
- 1.2. Problem Statement
- 1.3. Objectives of the Study**
- 1.4. Research Questions/Research Hypotheses
- 1.5. The Scope of the Study**
- 1.6. Justification of the Study
- 1.7. Significance of the Study**
- 1.8. Theoretical Framework/ Conceptual Framework
- 1.9. Operational Definition of Terms**

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Ethical Considerations

References

Appendices

Work Plan and Budget

Appendix II: GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THESIS

THESIS FORMAT

Preamble

A thesis is a presentation of original research carried out by the author. The results and findings of thesis research may be of significance and in demand for many years after the thesis is written. It is important that the thesis be well presented and in a durable form.

Thesis presentation for examination should be in their final form, only awaiting binding. They are normally written in English. Requests for permission to write in some other language pertinent to the research can be granted upon justification to Senate through Departmental or School Graduate Committees. It should indicate the availability of faculty members competent in the language and field, and who are willing to serve as supervisors and on the Examination Board. In these cases, the abstract, detailed summary and conclusion must be submitted with the thesis in English.

Introduction

The American Psychological Association (APA) writing style, format and referencing system shall be used in theses preparation. Candidates are advised to use the latest edition of APA Manual. The Manual can be downloaded from the internet.

Contents of the Thesis

Preceding the main contents of the thesis, preliminary information should be in the following sequential order:

1. Preliminaries
 - i. Cover Page
 - ii. Title Page
 - iii. Declaration Page
 - iv. Dedication
 - v. Acknowledgements
 - vi. Abstract
 - vii. Table of Contents
 - viii. List of Tables
 - ix. List of Figures
2. Main body of the Thesis
3. References
4. Appendices

Format of Thesis

- (i) All theses shall be typed in double spacing between lines on good quality paper (minimum 80 grams) of A4 size, and preferably in Microsoft Word Times New Roman font size 12.
- (ii) Margins shall be of at least 35mm on the left-hand side, 25mm on the right hand side and on the top and bottom of each page. Tables and figures must also conform to these margin requirements even when headings are taken into account. Text and graphics are to be kept together on the same page.

- (iii) Each figure and its captions should appear on the same page. This also applies to tables, though they may be continued on subsequent pages.
- (iv) Long tables and maps that do not fit two pages shall normally be confined to the appendices.
- (v) Page numbers should appear on the bottom right hand corner.
- (vi) Theses shall be submitted in the first instance for examination loosely bound (e.g. spiral binding). Subsequent to the examination and final acceptance, theses shall be bound in boards, covered in **navy blue** buckram for Masters and **Maroon** for Ph.D. theses. The bound copies shall be lettered in gold on the spine with the following information; "Surname of author and initials, degree and year" in that order. On the outside front cover of the bound theses shall appear the following information: "Title of thesis, full name of author, and year" in that order.

Example: 1.

1. Cover Title

LANGUAGE ATTITUDES, USE AND PROFICIENCY: A SOCIAL LINGUISTIC STUDY

OF

ENGLISH IN KENYA

BY

KEMBO-SURE, EDWARD 1996

On the Spine of Thesis:

KEMBO-SURE, E. DPhil 1996

1. Title Page

STUDIES OF MAIZE, KESSES DIVISION, UASIN GISHU DISTRICT, KENYA

MWANGI WA KAMAU

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology of the Department of Zoology, Rongo University

1991

2. Declaration Page

Declaration by the Candidate

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University. No part of this thesis may be reproduced without the prior written permission of the author and/or Rongo University.

3. Dedication

The author of the thesis may wish to dedicate the thesis to person(s) of his/her choice that may have inspired the accomplishment of the thesis directly or indirectly.

4. Acknowledgements

Individuals and institutions that may have contributed to the execution of the work should be properly acknowledged.

5. Abstract

The abstract should give a synopsis of the work carried out, the significant results obtained and the major conclusions of the thesis. The maximum length of the abstract should be 500 words in single space and normally unstructured.

6. Table of Contents

This indicates the pages in which the various chapters of the thesis as well as major subsections can be found.

7. List of Tables

This indicates the pages in which the various tables are to be found. The titles appearing here should be exactly the same as those in the text. The table number and its captions should be placed two spaces above the top line of the table.

8. List of Figures

This indicates the pages in which various figures are to be found in the main body of the thesis. The title appearing here should be exactly the same as the figure captions. The figure number and its caption should be placed two spaces below the last line or the bottom edge of the figure. All broadside material should be placed so that the top of the table is nearest to the binding. The placement of the table or figure either vertically or horizontally does not change the position of the page number.

9. Body of the Thesis

The detailed arrangement of this will vary from one field of research to another, although it would be expected that the thesis would contain:

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion (or interpretation of the results)
- Summary (or conclusions)

Appendix III: AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) REFERENCING

(Examples; See Latest Edition of APA Manual for more details)

Article in a Journal with volume

Ghosh, S. (2013). Improved sludge gasification by two-phase anaerobic digestion. *Journal of Environmental Engineering*, *113*, 1265-1283.

Vickery, B. C. (1997). Knowledge discovery from databases: An introductory review. *Journal of Documentation*, *53*, 107-122.

Article in a Journal with volume and number

Nereida, C., & Jarvis, H. (1993). The challenge of building an international union catalog: The Vietnamese experience. *Asian Libraries*, *3*(2), 36-43.

Article in a Journal with more than seven authors

Gilbert, D. G., McClermon, J. F., Rabinovich, N. E., Sugai, C., Plath, L. C. Asgaard, G., ... Botros, N. (2004). Effects of quitting smoking on EEG activation and attention. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, *6*, 249-267.

Article in a Journal with DOI

Herbst-Damm, K. L., & Kulik, J. A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology*, *24*, 225-229. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

Article Journal from Educational Resources Information Centre (ERIC) on CD-ROM:

Kim, A. C. (1997). How college faculty evaluate second language writing (Abstract). *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education*, *14*(1), 35-48. [ERIC. CD-ROM] SilverPlatter. EJ557280.

Book by a single author print version

Adams, R. (1990). Communication and delivery systems for librarians. *New York: Random.*

Shotton, M. A. (1989). *Computer addiction? A study of computer dependency.* London: Taylor & Francis.

Book by two or more authors print version

Harrison, S. W., & Wright, B. R. (1994). *Movies in the twentieth century.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Peabody, C. T., Robert, N. J., & Sylvia, W. S. (1993). *Ernest Hemingway: The early years* (Rev. ed.). New York: St. Martin's.

Book with second or subsequent edition

Robson, W. (1997). *Strategic management and information systems: An integrated approach (2nd ed.)*. London: Pitman Publishing.

Book, online

McAllister, J. (2000). *Nathaniel Hawthorne's neighborhood*. Salem, MA: Salem Tales. Retrieved from <http://www.salemweb.com/tales/hawthorne1.html>

Book in print and electronic/online version

Sandburg, C. (1916). *Chicago poems*. New York: Holt. Retrieved from <http://www.bartleby.com/165/index.html>

Shotton, M. A. (1989). *Computer addiction? A study of computer dependency* (DX Reader version). Retrieved from <http://www.ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/html/index.asp>

Book by corporate author

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

World Bank. (1988). *Education in Sub-Saharan Africa: Policies for adjustment, revitalization and expansion*. Washington, D.C: Author.

Book chapter with one author and one editor

Ginman, M. (1992). Information culture and business performance. In B. Cronin (Ed.), *The marketing of library and information services* (pp. 103-116). London: Sage Publishers.

Book chapter with one author and two editors

Hybron, D. M. (2008). Philosophy and the science of subjective well-being. In M. Eid & R. J. Larsen (Eds.), *The science of subjective well-being* (pp. 17 – 43). New York: Guilford Press.

Conference paper

Misigo, B. L. (2012, August). *Qualities of effective secondary school teachers in Kenya*. Paper presented at the seventh Moi University international annual conference, Eldoret, Kenya.

Conference poster

Schwartz, B. M., Tatum, H. E., Coffey, C. C., & Mandarakas, A. (2010, August). Classroom interactions: The influence of professor gender and gender of student. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Diego, CA.

Conference Proceedings

Raitt, D. I. & Jeapes, B. (Eds.). (1994, December). *Online Information 94*. In proceedings of the 18th international online information meeting, London, UK.

Dictionary with an editor

VandenBos, G. R. (Ed.). (2007). *APA dictionary of psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Dictionary without editor

Webster's third new international dictionary, unabridged. (2002). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

Doctoral thesis, from an institutional database

Adams, R. J. (1973). *Building a foundation for evaluation of instruction in higher education and continuing education* (Doctoral thesis). Retrieved from <http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd/>

Doctoral thesis, online

Bruckman, A. (1997). *Moose crossing: Construction, community, and learning in a networked virtual world for kids* (Doctoral thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Retrieved from <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/-ash/thesis/>

E-mail message

Stoker, D. (1997, January 20). Email to Tim Cullen. Re. Funding proposal.

In-press Journal article

Briscoe, R. (in press). Egocentric spatial representation in action and perception. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Magazine Article, online monthly

Kurzweil, R. (2000, January). Live forever: Uploading the human brain. *Psychology Today*. Retrieved from <http://www.psychologytoday.com/features3.html>

Map in print

Lewis County Geographical Information Services (Cartographer). (2002). Population density, 2000 U.S. Census [Demographic map].

Map retrieved online

Lewis County Geographical Information Services (Cartographer). (2002). Population density, 2000 U.S. Census [Demographic map]. Retrieved from http://www.co.lewis.wa.us/publicworks/maps/Demographics/census-pop-dens_2000.pdf

Newspaper Article with no author

Gambia joins African queue to pull out of ICC after S. Africa, Burundi. (2016, October 27). *Daily Nation*, p. 26.

Mijikenda and Kiswahili. (1999, August 14). *Herald*, p. 29

Newspaper article with an author

James, R. F. (1997, July 22). New trends in health. *New York Times*, p. 3.

Ongiri, I. (2016, October 27). Search for a fresh polls team starts. *Daily Nation*, p. 5.

Newspaper article on discontinuous pages

Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.

Newspaper article, online

Brody, J. E. (2007, December 11). Mental reserves keep brain agile. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

Personal communication

Personal communication does not provide recoverable data, it should not be included in the reference list. Cite personal communication in text only. Give the initials as well as surname of the communicator, and provide as exact date as possible e.g.: D. K. Korir (personal communication, October 27, 2016); or (H. O. Okero, personal communication, September 28, 2015)

Photograph, online

McAllister, J. (2000). *House of the Seven Gables* [Photograph]. Salem, Massachusetts: Salem Tales. Retrieved from <http://www.salemweb.com/tales/hawthorne1.html>

Symposium

Tatum, H. (2007, August). Barbie, Golilocks, and other stories for the psychology of gender. In B. M. Schwartz (Chair), *Using stories from our personal lives to teach psychological theories and concepts*. Symposium presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, San Diego, CA.

Unpublished Master's thesis

Kodero, H. M. N. (1991). *Self-monitoring: A cross cultural study* (Unpublished M.Ed. thesis). University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

Unpublished Ph.D. thesis

Walaba, A. A. (1998). The teaching of Christian religious education in Kenyan teachers' training colleges and secondary schools from 1920 to 1989: A historical perspective (Unpublished D.Phil. thesis). Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.