

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES::A.P::VIJAYAWADA - 520 008



**Revised Regulations for PhD Programme
with effect from 2018**

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada - 520008, A.P.

Revised Regulations for PhD Programme (w.e.f 2018)

PREAMBLE

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences is committed to promote research leading to PhD degree in both basic and applied fields of Health Sciences. These include modern Medicine (pre-clinical, para - clinical and clinical subjects), Dental Sciences, Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) courses, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Naturopathy and other Allied Health Sciences. The university encourages integrated and interdisciplinary research in Health Sciences for the award of PhD degree

I) Nomenclature of the Degree

a) The PhD degree be awarded by the University after fulfilling all the requirements for the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" by Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, The degree certificate shall include the title of PhD Thesis, the subject of specialty and name of the faculty. For example

"Doctor of Philosophy"

On the Thesis Topic entitled "-----"

SUBJECT -----

FACULTY -----

b) In case of interdisciplinary research, the PhD degree certificate will be issued specifically as 'Interdisciplinary PhD' in the concerned speciality of the candidate with the title of the PhD Thesis

II) Recognition of Centre for PhD Programme

The University shall recognize any of the institutes as 'Research Centres' after completing the formalities prescribed below.

a) Government organizations

Government Medical Colleges, National/State Research Institutes engaged in teaching and research in Modern Medicine, Dental, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Naturopathy and other allied subjects with good infrastructure and facilities in Biomedical Research with a proven track record of research achievements are eligible to be recognized as Research Centres.

b) Other organizations

- i) Affiliated colleges of Dr.NTR University of Health Sciences with good infrastructure facilities and the institutions having recognized PG courses.
- ii) Hospitals with ongoing recognized DNB Programme

c) Procedure for Recognition as Research Centers

The University shall not offer Ph.D programme unless the subject under consideration is taught at PG level (i.e. MD / MS / DNB / MDS /MD (Ayush courses.) / M.Sc (N) /MPT) and research is carried out in the concerned department of the institute. The PG degree must be recognized.

i) Government Colleges/organizations/Dr. NTRUHS affiliated Private Colleges

The departments of the Government/Private Colleges in Andhra Pradesh affiliated to Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences with recognised Post Graduate (MD / MS/MDS/ M.Sc etc.) courses in accordance with the norms of Central Councils like MCI/DCI /CCIM /INC/CCH etc., stand recognized for conducting Ph D programs. However, an amount of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) per subject is to be paid by the Private Colleges in every academic year towards the continuation of recognition.

ii) Private organizations

The private organizations, research centres and hospitals where the facilities for health research are available within Andhra Pradesh shall request Dr.NTR University of Health Sciences for recognition in the prescribed application by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs.20,000/- per subject towards the inspection.

The recognition fee per subject for the first time Recognition of a center is Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only). An amount of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) per subject is to be paid by the Institution in every academic year towards the continuation of recognition.

d) Procedure for inspection

- i. On receiving application from the organizations, the Vice-Chancellor will appoint a three member committee for each subject (one must be subject expert and one Dr.NTR UHS PhD committee member and one senior academician from affiliated colleges) to inspect the Department/Centre/ Organization and submit a report to the University.
- ii. After evaluation of the report, the University will recognize the Centre for conducting PhD programme in respective subjects by issuing a Letter of Recognition.
- iii. The recognition once accorded will be permanent unless the conditions are deviated or violated by the organization or otherwise decided by the Vice-Chancellor due to some unforeseen reasons.
- iv. The University reserves the right to re-inspect and withdraw recognition of the Centre at any time without any notice

e) Non -affiliated institutions to Dr.NTR UHS

Government /semi-government institutions or Deemed Universities offering recognised Post-graduate courses in Medical Health and Allied Sciences may be considered for recognition as PhD centers in selected subjects after mutual consent, and forming memorandum of understanding or issue of no objection certificate

III) Recognition of Research Guides/Supervisors/Co-guides/Co-Supervisors

- i) The faculty members in the cadre of Associate Professor / Reader and above in the concerned faculty with a total of 8 years teaching experience with a minimum of four original research publications in National or International peer reviewed and indexed journals and working in affiliated colleges are eligible. In exceptional cases/departments where there are no guides with four original research publications, the board may consider such applications on individual merit and decide accordingly. Persons working in state and central research institutes/state and central University departments within Andhra Pradesh are eligible as Research Guides/ Research Supervisors provided they have qualification as above. Review articles, Case Reports, correspondence, papers presented at conferences, seminars and symposia are not considered as publications.
- ii) The persons with PhD degree in Modern Medicine, Dental Sciences, AYUSH, Science and Allied Health Sciences and having 5 years post-doctoral teaching/research experience in the related subject, evidenced by his / her research work with at least 3 publications are eligible.
- iii) In specialties like Physiotherapy, Nursing and selected Allied Health Sciences, where there are limited or no guides available, the medical faculty members fulfilling the above criteria are eligible to guide Ph.D students in related subjects. The decision of the Ph.D admission committee is final with regard to subject and allotment of guide.
- iv) For getting recognition as Research guides, one has to apply for recognition in the prescribed application form to the University.
- v) The committee constituted by the University will scrutinize the applications from the teachers / scientists for recognition as research guides and will recommend to the University, if they are found suitable.
- vi) The maximum age limit to be recognized as a Research Guide is 70 years.

IV) Eligibility for Admission into PhD course at the recognized centres of Dr. NTRUHS

a) Ph.D. Full Time

- i. Master's degree (MD, MS, DNB /MDS /MD (Ayush Courses)/M.Sc(N)/MPT or MSc-Medical) in any subject allied to Medical Sciences of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences.
- ii. Master's degree from any other recognized University which is recognized as equivalent by this University, taking in to consideration the recognition of the Central Councils like MCI, DCI, CCIM, INC/CCH etc.,
- iii. Candidates with recognized Master's degree from science faculty related to Medical Sciences (Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Biotechnology etc.).

PhD Part-time

- i. Teachers with requisite qualifications mentioned above in (a) working in colleges or centers affiliated to Dr. NTR UHS.
- ii. Teachers/ Scientists/ Researchers working in State and National Research Institutes/Universities with 5 years of experience.
- iii. Ph.D. part time can be carried out at any center which is recognized by Dr. NTR UHS for the purpose of Ph.D. programme, provided the candidate should spend at least 45 days during every 6 months in that center and such attendance must be submitted through proper channel.
- iv. No Objection Certificate issued by the concerned Directorate should be submitted by the selected candidate before the admission.

b) Maximum Age Limit

There is no Maximum Age Limit for registering into PhD programme.

V) Types of PhD research Programme and facilities

The candidates seeking PhD admission can apply in any one of the following categories

a) Subject -wise PhD programme

An eligible candidate can apply in the subject of his/her specialty (e.g. Microbiology) to work under the guidance of a guide in the same specialty (e.g. Microbiology). If needed there can be one or two co guides in the same subject or related subjects, based on the nature of research work

b) Interdisciplinary PhD programme

A candidate can apply for interdisciplinary PhD programme with two or more related subjects in any one faculty (e.g. Modern Medicine, Ayurveda) or different faculties (e.g. Nursing and Physiotherapy). The candidate can apply from any recognized centre for at least one subject under a recognized guide, and at least one co guide in related subjects. The candidate, if selected has to appear for the pre PhD examination in two major subjects involved in interdisciplinary research. (Paper II, Part -A and Part -B -50 marks each). For interdisciplinary PhD research, involving two colleges/institutes, the Principals/ Heads of both colleges/ institutions have to certify permitting the candidates to do research work at both the places.

The decision of PhD Committee that looks after admission process will be final as regards the allotment of subject -wise or interdisciplinary PhD programme to the candidates

C) Facilities for Research

Normally, the requisite facilities for conduct of PhD work are expected to be available at the Centre(s) where a candidate registers for PhD work. However, if any specialized work is to be conducted for which facilities are not available at the said centre, then the

candidate may get permission to carry out the same at National/ State institutes or other colleges or hospitals or advanced centres. A written permission letter from the head of such centre should be enclosed along with the PhD application form. The candidate should obtain written permission from Dr.NTR UHS before proceeding to utilize the facilities at other centers. The guide should take the responsibility of overseeing the progress of the candidates work.

VI) Duration of Research

The minimum / maximum duration of working period to become eligible for submission of thesis is given in Annexure-I. And after the expiry of maximum period for completion of research, the following categories of research scholars may be allowed to extend by paying the prescribed fee specified in the fee schedule (Annexure-I).

- i. Candidates who wish to continue after the expiry of the maximum period of their earlier registration.
- ii. Candidate who could not complete his/her Ph.D. course even after the stipulated time given under extension his/her case can be considered only on a valid reason such as ill-health, etc. Such cases shall be recommended by the Guide and if it is a valid reason, the Vice-Chancellor may concede the request. With the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the candidate may be permitted to submit his / her thesis within one year by paying the prescribed fee. And if he/she fails to submit the thesis within one year, he/she shall not be granted any further extension.

VII) Change of Guide

- i. Once registered for PhD course, change of research guide is not normally allowed for any candidate. In exceptional cases, with no objection certificate from the research guide and willingness from the other recognized guide (of the same speciality) with both letters endorsed by the head of the institute, the University then may consider the change of guide, based on the recommendations of PhD Committee or Sub-Committee
- ii. If the Scholar has completed two years of his / her research programme and the guide is transferred to another area, the co-guide (if available) can guide the scholar with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.
- iii. If the Full time scholar is interested to move along with the guide in the event of the transfer of the Guide (to a recognized Ph.D center) the full time scholar will be allowed with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.
- iv. In the case of Guide leaving the Institution permanently or on deputation elsewhere or otherwise for a period of more than one year, the candidate may be permitted to change of guide with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.

VIII) Selection of topic for Research

The selection of the research project, the guide and co-guide will be governed by the consideration that necessary facilities for proposed study exist in the department concerned and the research guide/co-guide is capable of independently guiding the thesis work according to his/her own experience in the respective specialized field with some assistance from co-guide(s).

IX) Provision for Self guide

A faculty member with 10 years of Postgraduate teaching/research experience and 10 publications (5 publications as first author in Pubmed/Scopus indexed journals) with at least 5 years experience in the department in which the faculty member intends to do PhD can be a guide for himself/herself for PhD programme in the same speciality can be considered by the Vice-Chancellor. Case reports, review articles, any correspondence, papers presented at conferences, seminars and synopsis are not considered as publications

X) Number of candidates with each Research guide

Each supervisor shall have a maximum of 6 research scholars at any given time (whether full time or part time), with an intake of 2 scholars per year.

XI) Admission to the PhD programme

- i. Admission to the course for the award of PhD degree by the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences shall be made once in a year during July (or any other date to be notified) every year.
- ii. The candidates who are interested can apply for provisional registration along with the application fee of Rs.5,000/- for PhD programme by obtaining the prescribed application form from the University or downloaded from the website of the University with due recommendation from the guide, and co-guide (s) wherever applicable, and Head/Principal/Director of the organization where the candidate wishes to carry out his/her research work. In - service candidates should apply through proper channel. Part time Ph.D applicants should submit service certificates from the head of the College/Institution.
- iii. All the candidates who are applying for admission to Ph.D programme shall submit a detailed proposal of the research with time frame (cleared by Institutional Ethics Committees -human / animal, as applicable) to be carried out after obtaining the consent of a recognized guide approved by Dr.NTR UHS.
- iv. For any research work involving clinical trials, registration with Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI) is mandatory, and documentary evidence to this effect should be submitted along with the application
- v. If the candidate desires to work at a recognized center in a particular subject, he / she may also apply under a recognized guide working at other colleges/ institutions within Andhra Pradesh. For such candidates, the Heads of the Departments of the recognized centers (where the candidate proposes to

work) should give an undertaking to the Registrar stating that the work of the Ph.D student will be regularly monitored with full cooperation.

- vi. The candidates registering under guides working at other places should frequently interact with them and seek guidance. They may personally meet the guides frequently, not exceeding 30 days in a year.
- vii. The candidates should specify whether he/she wishes to be considered under subject - wise/ interdisciplinary research for PhD programme
- viii. After receiving applications, the University will constitute a committee for scrutinizing the applications and recommend the selected candidates to University for the grant of provisional registration to eligible candidates. Each candidate has to present of the proposed research work (15 minutes by power point) before the committee. The selection of the candidates will be based on quality of work, availability of facilities, subject knowledge, research design, planning, methodology, expected results, applications to human healthcare etc. The PhD admission committee, if necessary, may invite subject experts to evaluate PhD work proposal. The decision of the committee is final in the selection of candidates.
- ix. The candidates selected by the committee after due approval of the University and on payment of prescribed fee to the University as given in Annexure -I will be provisionally registered to the PhD programme.
- x. The colleges / institutions where the candidates (part time/full time) registers for PhD course may collect an annual fee of Rs 10,000 till the completion of course
- xi. For change of research topic for any reasons unavoidable, the candidate has to obtain prior approval by presenting the new topic before the committee within six months after the registration.
- xii. The Ph.D. candidates after completion of one year of research and part-I examination, will be granted permanent registration.

XII) Constitution of Doctoral Committee

For all the candidates accepted for provisional registration, a doctoral committee will be constituted by the guide for reviewing of the candidate's research work. The doctoral committee shall consist of the research guide/supervisor and two members from the panel of names submitted by the supervisor, and nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. The Doctoral committee shall review the work, and the candidate has to submit a report of research work done, once in six months to the University. The committee shall suggest the panel of names for evaluation of thesis

XIII) Part-I examination

- i. All the PhD scholars should be exposed to an orientation programme conducted by the University that includes research methodology, statistical methods and applications of computers and technology. The candidates are not eligible for Pre Ph.D Examination unless they attend orientation programme.
- ii. All the candidates admitted to PhD Programme shall appear for part-I examination (Pre PhD) conducted by the university after one year of their provisional registration. The doctoral committee will prescribe the course

content and syllabus for part-I examination, which consists of two theory papers (Paper I and II consisting of 100 marks each). Among the two papers of part-I examination, one must be related to research methodology and other related to the subject (e.g Microbiology) of research of the candidate.

- iii. The candidates admitted under the category of interdisciplinary PhD has to appear for two major subjects in Paper I (Part A - 50 marks; Part B - 50 marks) as decided by PhD Admission Committee
- iv. The valuation of paper-I and II will be done separately by both internal and external examiners (outside Andhra Pradesh) appointed by the University. The minimum passing marks will be 50% in each paper and marks will be awarded by taking the average of the first and second valuation and in case of difference in valuation by more than 15%, the paper will be re-valued by a third examiner as per the regulations of Dr. NTR UHS for other medical courses.
- v. A candidate who fails in Part-I examination may be permitted to reappear for the examination for a maximum of four occasions. All the candidates shall have to clear the part-I examination within three years from the date of registration. During reappearance, the candidates shall be exempted from appearing for the paper in which the candidate secured 50% or more marks.
- vi. A candidate who fails in the fourth attempt shall not be permitted to continue, and his/her provisional registration shall be cancelled. However, the candidate may be given two chances with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor and in such case, the maximum period for completion of Ph.D. programme is proportionately extendable.
- vii. The above revised regulations (v & vi) for pre-PhD examinations are applicable to previously registered candidates also.

XIV) Confirmation of Provisional Registration (Part-II)

The provisional registration of a candidate for the PhD degree shall be confirmed on receipt of the result of part-I examination conducted by the University and the candidate will be registered under part-II of the PhD programme.

XV) Duration of the course

The duration of the PhD course shall be a minimum of 3 years (full time) and 4 years (part time) for Post Graduates. (Annexure-I). And there shall be a gap of at least two years after passing the pre-PhD (part-I) examination for submission of the thesis. However, the Vice Chancellor may waive the time period for the candidates who have published their PhD thesis work (minimum 3 papers) in reputed and indexed journals

XVI) Conversion from full-time to part-time or vice-versa

Candidates from full-time to part-time and vice-versa of PhD programme will be allowed only in very special circumstances based on the merits of the case and on approval by the University. The candidate has to pay a prescribed status change fee of Rs.2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only).

XVII) Cancellation of the Registration

The registration is entitled for cancellation if the doctoral committee is under the impression that the candidate is unable to show any progress in research work, only after giving due opportunity to the candidate for defending his/her case. After the expiry of maximum period of registration, it is automatically liable for cancellation.

XVIII) Progress of the Ph.D. work

- i) Each scholar should present at least 10 seminars from the 2nd year onwards (minimum 3 per year) at the institute where they are working as part of the assessment (of academic, communication and presentation skills). A consolidated report on these seminars shall be sent to University by the concerned guide duly attested by the Head of the Institute.
- ii) Every Ph.D. scholar should have published at least two papers in a peer reviewed and indexed journals during the course of PhD programme. The candidates should specifically state in the research papers that the published work is a part of PhD Thesis of Dr. NTR UHS
- iii) Every Ph.D. scholar should have participated and presented papers in three conferences, of which at least one should be at national level.
- iv) The Ph.D. Standing Committee will meet once in a year specifically to monitor the progress of the work of the Ph.D. scholars. The candidates will have to personally come and present their progress of their Ph.D. work before the Standing Committee. If the progress reports of the registered candidate are not satisfactory, the Ph.D. committee may review such candidates and suggest guidelines to revise the work.

XIX) Submission of Synopsis

After successful completion of research work, the candidates are allowed to submit synopsis of their PhD thesis, three months before the final submission of thesis. The candidate should submit 10 copies of the synopsis of the thesis to the University with the prescribed thesis adjudication fee (Annexure-I). A change in the title of the thesis within the area of approved research is permitted, if desired, on the recommendation of the guide prior to submission of the synopsis of the thesis.

XX) Submission of PhD thesis

- i) After submission of synopsis, the candidate has to submit five copies along with a soft copy of his /her PhD thesis through his /her research guide, co - guides, head of the department/head of the institution. And one copy has to be submitted to the departmental library of the institution where the candidate has carried out his/her work.

- ii) Publications supporting to the candidate's thesis, if any to the knowledge of the subject that were published in journals or periodicals may also be included in the thesis as an annexure
- iii) Every candidate shall submit his/her thesis along with a certificate from the research supervisor under whom he/she worked, that the thesis submitted is a record of research work done by the candidate during the period of study and that the thesis has not been previously formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma, associateship, fellowship or other similar titles and that thesis represents independent work carried out by the candidate.

XXI) Evaluation of Thesis

- i. For evaluation of thesis, the research guide has to submit a panel of 8 examiners (4 from outside the University area and other states and four from outside the country). Out of the eight examiners, thesis will be sent to three examiners.
 - 2. Foreign examiner
 - 3. Outside University / Other State
 - 4. Research Guide
- ii. In case of a thesis submitted by scholar who is self guide, the guide cannot be an examiner; the third examiner should be from the outside the University area.
- iii. The Examiners who value the thesis shall report on the merit of the candidate for the PhD degree as "Highly commendable" or "Commendable" or to be "Revised "or "Rejected"
- iv. When examiners differ in their opinion, the majority opinion will be taken into consideration. Of the three examiners, if two examiners do not recommend, then the thesis is either rejected or has to be resubmitted as per the expert opinion.
- v. If the examiner/examiners insist on corrections to be made in the thesis, the same shall be made before appearing for the public viva-voce examination.
- vi. If the examiner/examiners suggest(s) a revision and re-submission, then the thesis has to be revised, and revised thesis duly certified by the Research guide shall be accepted and the candidate shall be allowed for viva-voce. Resubmission of the thesis should be made by the candidate not earlier than 6 months and not later than one year from the date of the communication by the University.

XXII) Public Viva-voce Examination

- i. The candidate whose thesis has been approved by the examiners and by the Vice-Chancellor, a public viva-voce examination will be conducted by the board of examiners appointed by the Vice-Chancellor which shall consist of one Indian examiner who has evaluated the thesis and the research guide and one co-guide (if applicable). The faculty members of the concerned subject where he/she conducted research and outside specialists, will be observers for public viva voce.
- ii. The Guide/convener shall fix the date and time of the viva-voce examination in consultation with the external examiner appointed by the University for conducting the viva-voce examination.
- iii. The University will pay TA, DA to the external examiners as per rules.

- iv. The public viva-voce examination shall be conducted to adjudge the general proficiency of the candidate in the subjects allied to the candidate's field of work and to defend his / her thesis.
- v. After conducting the viva-voce examination, the guide/convenor shall convey to the University, the results of such examination endorsed by the external examiner.
- vi. A candidate who is successful in the public viva-voce examination shall be declared to have qualified for the award of PhD degree.
- vii. A candidate, who is not successful at the public viva-voce examination, may be permitted to undergo the viva-voce examination a second time, within a period of two months. In the event of he/she failing again, his/her candidature for the PhD degree will be rejected.

XXIII) Consolidated Recommendation

After the viva-voce examination, board of examiners shall consolidate the recommendation for the award of the degree based on

- i. The reports of the examiners who adjudicated the thesis and
- ii. The evaluation of the candidate's performance in the viva-voce examination.

The Board shall then forward its consolidated recommendation to the University with the classification.

- i. HIGHLY COMMENDABLE (For placing the thesis under the HIGHLY COMMENDABLE category, it should have been so placed by all the examiners)
- ii. COMMENDABLE
- iii. Second viva-voce examination recommended along with such other documents as may be required, by the University for its consideration

XXIV) Award of the PhD Degree

The University will consider the reports and decide whether the candidate is worthy for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and take action in accordance with such a decision. Where the decision is to award the degree, the University shall cause the candidate's name to be published with the subject of his/her thesis and the titles of his/her published contributions if any, to the advancement of knowledge.

A PhD degree certificate under the seal of the university and signed by the Vice-Chancellor will be given to such successful candidates at the next convocation held for conferring degrees.

XXV) Finances for the PhD Programme

Financial Assistance will be provided to maximum of 10 full time PhD Scholars who seek such assistance. An amount of Rs. 10,000/- per year may be paid by Dr. NTRUHS, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- to full time PhD Scholars to meet research related expenditure. If there are more than 10 applicants, a Competitive Exam

(in Research Methodology and Biostatistics) will be conducted to select 10 candidates. The amount will be released only after submission of necessary bills.

XXVI) Discontinuation of Ph.D. Programme

Candidates joining Ph.D. course shall execute a bond on non-judicial stamp paper of value of Rs.100/- in the form specified in Annexure-II to complete the prescribed period or in default to pay Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) to Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada.

ANNEXURE-I

**Schedule of duration of Research and Fee for PhD programme
(With effective from 2017)**

Sl. No	Particulars	PhD Full-time		PhD Part-time	
		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
1.	Duration of Research	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	4 Yrs	6 Yrs
2.	Application fee	5,000/-		5,000/-	
3.	Admission and registration fee	25,000/-		35,000/-	
4.	Thesis Adjudication fee	10,000/-		10,000/-	
5.	Thesis re-submission fee	5,000/-		5,000/-	
6.	Extension fee after maximum permissible period	25,000/-		25,000/-	

ANNEXURE - II

(Non-Judicial Stamped paper for Rs.100/-)

I, Dr. _____ selected for Ph.D. course for the year _____ in the subject of _____ on _____ (Full-time or Part-time basis) at _____ College / Institution _____ do hereby undertake to complete the said course as per the requirement of the University. In the event of my leaving the studies in midterm, I Undertake to pay to the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only).

Date:

Signature of the candidate

Signed by the above bounden in the presence of:

WITNESS

1. Signature:

Name and address in full

2. Signature:

Name and address in full

SURETIES

1. Signature:

Name and address in full

2. Signature:

Name and address in full

2. Sureties should be two permanent Gazetted Officers of A.P Govt.

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