

# National Tsing Hua University Doctoral Degree Exam Statutes

September 30, 1996: Ministry of Education, Taiwan (85) High (2) letter No. 85082940, filed for review  
June 13, 2002: Amended in 2001 academic year's 5<sup>th</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 8, 2002: Ministry of Education, Taiwan (91) High (2) letter No. 91096395, filed for review  
June 3, 2004: Amended in 2003 academic year's 4<sup>th</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 13, 2004: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 0930091930, filed for review  
December 29, 2005: Amended in 2005 academic year's 2<sup>nd</sup> academic affairs meeting  
February 22, 2006: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No.0950024203, filed for review  
October 27, 2010: Amended Article 11 during the 2010 academic year's 1<sup>st</sup> academic affairs meeting  
December 8, 2010: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 0990210257, filed for review  
June 2, 2011: Amended Article 4 during the 2010 academic year's 7<sup>th</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 1, 2011: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No.1000107662, filed for review  
December 20, 2011: Amended Article 5 during the 2011 academic year's 3<sup>rd</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 13, 2012: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 1010131566, filed for review  
October 16, 2014: Amended in 2013 academic year's 1<sup>st</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 14, 2015:Ministry of Education, Taiwan High(2) letter No. 1040093288, filed for review  
October 25, 2018: Amended Article 4 during the 2018 academic year's 1<sup>st</sup> academic affairs meeting  
March 14, 2019: Amended Article 1, 4, 6, 14-2, 15 and 16 during the 2018 academic year's 3<sup>rd</sup> academic affairs meeting  
June 20, 2019: Amended Article 14-1 and 17 during the 2018 academic year's 4<sup>th</sup> academic affairs meeting  
September 9, 2019: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 1080103384, Article 1, 4, 6, 14-2, 15, 16 and 17 filed for review  
September 27, 2019: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 1080103384, Article 14-1 filed for review  
June 18, 2020: Amended Article 4, 4-1 7 and 8 during the 2019 academic year's 4<sup>th</sup> academic affairs meeting  
July 22, 2020: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 1090094261, filed for review  
December 22, 2022: Amended Article 2, 12 and 17 during the 2022 academic year's 2<sup>nd</sup> academic affairs meeting  
March 10, 2023: Ministry of Education, Taiwan High (2) letter No. 1120006385 for approval

Article 1 These bylaws have been established in accordance with “University Act” Article 26 and “Degree Conferral Act”.

Article 2 A graduate student that meets the following criteria may become a doctoral degree candidate:

- (1) Completed all of the courses required for the doctoral degree program
  - (2) Passed the Ph.D. qualifying examination
  - (3) Passed the foreign language ability verification examination
  - (4) Fulfilled other requirements established by his/her department (college) of study
- The Ph.D. qualifying examination and the foreign language ability verification examination are established by the respective departments (colleges) and will be announced on the website.

Article 3 Each department (college)'s Ph.D. qualifying examination should be held at least once a year. Those whom have passed the exam will be registered by the department (college). A doctoral graduate student who is unable to pass the qualifying exam within a timeframe (typically within three years of enrolling) established by the department (excluding leave of absence periods) will be expelled. The number of times a doctoral graduate student may take the qualifying exam is established according to each department (college)'s own policies. For the semesters that passed during a graduate student's leave of absence, the

number of qualifying exams taken, as well as the exam results, remain applicable.

Article 4

Doctoral graduate students who have completed at least two academic years of study (or three academic years for graduate students in direct pursuit of Ph.D. degree) and who have received doctoral candidacy may apply for doctoral degree examination upon receipt of approval from their doctoral advisor, who shall verify if the student's dissertation is related to the field of study of the student's department, graduate institute, or degree program. An application for doctoral degree examination is filed by submitting one copy of each of the following documents to the applicant's department, graduate institute, or degree program:

- (1) Draft of the dissertation (including an abstract)
- (2) Academic transcript
- (3) Application form for the doctoral degree examination
- (4) Report of the dissertation originality check

The standards for the dissertation originality check shall be determined by the respective department, institute, or degree program of the applying student and supplied to the examination committee for reference.

Once approval to take the doctoral degree examination is granted by the department (institute or degree program) chair, the applying student's department (institute or degree program) shall affix a list of the doctoral degree examination committee members to the application form and submit the processed form to the Division of Registration for secondary approval, after which the examination may be scheduled.

In addition to satisfying the requirements set forth in the preceding paragraphs, doctoral students admitted in or after the 2015 academic year must enroll in and pass the NTHU Online Academic Research Ethics Education Course before applying to their respective departments (institutes or degree programs) for the doctoral degree examination in accordance with the Implementation Guidelines for the NTHU Academic Research Ethics Education Course.

At the end of each semester, the Division of Registration shall compile degree examination committee member lists for all applying students and forward them to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval and filing for future reference.

Article 4-1

International students who have enrolled in NTHU in or after the 2020-2021 academic year shall complete the required credit hours of Mandarin courses in accordance with the Mandarin Course Requirements for NTHU International Students before they can graduate.

The graduation date for international students who are unable to graduate in the same semester they completed the dissertation review due to their enrollment in the aforementioned Mandarin courses may be extended, but may not exceed the maximum period of study permitted.

Unless otherwise stipulated by academic programs, the credit hours received for the Mandarin courses do not count toward the credit hours required for graduation.

- Article 5 A doctoral degree examination committee is comprised of five to nine members, of which at least 1/3 need to be external university members (i.e., from other universities or institutions outside of university). External and internal university examination committee members are appointed by the university president based on nominations from the department (college) chair. The advising professor serves as an *ex officio* member (dual degree programs in cooperation with overseas academic institutions are not bound by this.), but he/she cannot serve as the chair; instead, the attending committee members must nominate a chair of the committee.
- A doctoral graduate student's spouse or third-degree relatives by blood or by marriage cannot serve on the doctoral degree examination committee.
- At least 1/3 of the external university committee members must be attendance for the examination to be held.
- Article 6 Doctoral degree examination committee members, in addition to possessing research expertise on the doctoral degree candidate's dissertation topic, must meet at least one of the following criteria:
- (1) Currently serving or having served as a professor or associate professor
  - (2) Appointed to academicianship at Academia Sinica OR currently serving or having served as a researcher or associate researcher at Academia Sinica
  - (3) Holding a doctoral degree AND with notable academic achievements
  - (4) Having notable academic or professional achievements in a rare or highly specialized academic field
- The specific standards for subparagraphs 3 and 4 in the preceding paragraph shall be determined in the General Meeting of the degree-awarding department (institute or degree program).
- Article 7 Students who have been approved to take the doctoral degree examination should follow the "Graduate Student Graduation Dissertation Format Regulations" document to complete the formal draft of the dissertation (including the abstract) and submit it, alongside the advising professor's recommendation letter, to the department (college). Said department (college) will then forward these documents to the degree examination committee members for review; only then can the examination date be scheduled.
- Article 8 The doctoral degree dissertation (including the abstract) should be written in Chinese or English.
- Any dissertation used to obtain another degree cannot be submitted again.
- Article 9 The doctoral degree examination date is scheduled based on the start and end dates of the university's academic calendar. Each department (college) schedules the date and location of the exam.
- Those who have applied for early registration may conduct the doctoral degree examination after the end of the semester and before the registration date of the next semester.
- Article 10 The doctoral degree examination includes a dissertation exam and a dissertation review.

The dissertation exam is a publicly held oral exam, and when deemed necessary, an additional exam is held separately in another format.

Article 11 The doctoral dissertation examination results are comprehensively evaluated by the content of the dissertation and oral examination (and other examinations). A doctoral degree examination's grade is based on an average of all the attending committee members' anonymous assessment scores. The evaluation may only be taken once (see below for details.). A score of 70 points (or an equivalent of a B-) is considered passing. However, if more than 1/3 of the committee members ruled that the candidate did not pass, a failing grade will be instead given.

Article 12 The dissertation itself will not be graded separately. Instead, the examination committee members who attend the dissertation examination will sign an "Examination Committee Member Verification Form" to complete the dissertation review. The grade of the dissertation examination will be the grade for the degree examination (i.e., examination + dissertation review).

In instances where the dissertation examination committee requests a revision, the candidate should revise the dissertation and submit it for review by the examination committee again. Those who cannot revise the dissertation and complete the review process prior to the next semester's registration date will have said examination nullified. Students must submit the Thesis/Dissertation Affidavit to the department, institute, or degree program for the record before obtaining the Thesis Oral Defense Form. Those who have not signed and submitted the affidavit will not be eligible to receive their degree certificates. In the case of thesis fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, outsourcing to others for writing, or other fraudulent activities, the university will handle the matter in accordance with the Guidelines for Processing Currently Enrolled Students in Violation of Ethical Standards for Academic Research.

Article 13 For those who did not pass the degree examination, prior to reaching the maximum study period (typically seven years), he/she may apply to take a re-examination during the next semester or next academic year. If the student fails a second time, he/she will be expelled.

Article 14 Once the student has passed the dissertation examination and dissertation review, each department (college) should submit each graduate student's dissertation examination grade, a copy of the "Examination Committee Member Verification Form" and a dissertation to the Office of Academic Affairs.

For those who did not pass the doctoral degree examination, the grades must also be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs within two weeks for filing.

Article 14-1 Doctoral candidates may be awarded a doctoral degree upon completing the required period of study, receiving the required course credits, satisfying graduation requirements, completing a doctoral dissertation, and passing the doctoral degree examination.

Doctoral students in a fine arts, applied science or technology, or sports field may submit a collection of work or proof of achievements along with a written report, or a technical report instead of a traditional doctoral dissertation for degree consideration. The

aforementioned fine arts, applied science or technology, or sports field shall be defined by the General Meeting (or similar) of their respective colleges and approved by the NTHU Academic Affairs Meeting before these rules are applied.

The specific scopes of recognition, formatting, contents, required items, and other rules governing eligible works, proof of achievement, written reports and technical reports for the aforementioned programs shall be stipulated by the Ministry of Education.

Article 14-2 Dissertations, works, proofs of achievement, written reports, and technical reports that have been used to acquire an academic degree at another institution, domestic or abroad, shall be excluded from degree consideration as described in Article 14-1. However, the preceding limitation shall not extend to projects conducted under domestic academia-industry collaboration programs or international dual degree programs (dissertations written under the co-supervision of NTHU and a foreign institution with each institution issuing a degree).

Article 15 Doctoral candidates having received the doctoral degree but whose dissertation, collection of works, proof of achievement, written report, or technical report has been proven to be falsified, tampered with, plagiarized, ghostwritten, or otherwise fraudulent shall be dealt with in accordance with NTHU *Guidelines for Processing Doctoral Dissertations and Master's Theses Violating Ethical Standards for Academic Research*.

Article 16 Pursuant to NTHU Academic Regulations, graduate students in direct pursuit of a doctoral degree who fail to advance to doctoral degree candidacy, who suspend their pursuit of the doctoral degree for any reason, or who fail the doctoral degree examination while not meeting the conditions set forth in Paragraph 2 of this Article, may apply to transfer back to the corresponding master's degree program by submitting an application form, which shall be reviewed by the General Meeting (or similar meetings with authority) of the relevant departments, institutes, colleges, or degree programs and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the President of NTHU before taking effect.

Graduate students in direct pursuit of a doctoral degree who meet the conditions described in the preceding paragraph and who have reached the maximum period of study and advanced to doctoral degree candidacy but failed the doctoral degree examination, and whose doctoral dissertation is determined by the doctoral degree examination committee to meet the requirements of a master's thesis, may be awarded a master's degree instead.

Article 17 Matters unaddressed herein shall be processed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of NTHU and the Ministry of Education. These bylaws shall come into effect upon ratification at the subsequent Academic Affairs Meeting, after which they shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education for review.