

**Academic Regulation for
International Ph.D. Program in Environmental Science and Technology
(University System of Taiwan) at National Central University**

- Article 1 These regulations are provided in accordance with Article 2 of the *NCU Rules Governing the Master's and Doctoral Degree Qualifying Exam and These Defense*.
- Article 2 Admission Requirement
International students with a master's degree from a college or university recognized by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in Taiwan are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. programs. The application qualification should abide with the "*MOE Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan*," and the "*NCU Regulations for Admission of International Students to Degree Programs and Credit Course Selection*."
- Article 3 Doctoral students are expected to complete their course of study in **two-to-seven** academic years.
- Article 4 Credit Hours
- I. Completion of **18** credit hours is required, including credit hours of compulsory courses besides the Seminar.
 - II. Students have taken and passed the related doctoral courses can be waived in accordance with the Regulation of Credit Waiver of the program.
- Article 5 Curriculum
- I. Compulsory courses: Students are required to take courses from **two out of the following three courses**: Special Topics on Environmental Science and Technology (3 credits), Special Topics on Environmental Pollution and Health Risk (3 credits), Special Topics on Environmental Monitoring and Analysis (3 credits); and Seminar for four semesters.
 - II. Elective courses: Students must take 12 or more credits from courses related to their field of study. Elective courses shall follow the graduate curriculum announced each semester at the University System of Taiwan.
- Article 6 Advisor
- I. Each doctoral student must have a mutually-agreed-upon primary advisor, who is a current faculty in the University System of Taiwan. Co-advisor is permitted and indeed encouraged. The advisor is responsible for the student's research, including but not limited to the Qualifying Exam, thesis proposal and dissertation, as well as academic progress through the program's other requirement.
 - II. The primary advisor must be the faculty of the program or other supporting departments/institutes at the National Central University. Doctoral students

should submit the “Confirmation Form for Thesis Advisor” by the end of first academic year of enrollment. Doctoral students may not change advisor without the original advisor’s approval.

Article 7 Qualifying Exam

- I. Eligibility: Doctoral students must complete coursework and credit requirements.
- II. Doctoral students must sit for their Qualifying Exam by **the end of their third academic year**; otherwise, shall be asked to withdraw from the University. A doctoral student who did not complete the Qualifying Exam by the required deadline due to pregnancy, serious illness or incidents may file for extension.
- III. A Doctoral student who fails the Qualifying Exam on the first attempt will be given an opportunity to retake the second attempt by the designated deadline. A doctoral student who fails the Qualifying Exam for the second time will be required to withdraw from the PhD program.
- IV. The application, revocation, or results submission of Qualifying Exam are complied in accordance with the University regulation.
- V. Qualifying Exam Committee
 - A. The Qualifying Exam committee is assembled by the student in consultation with his/her advisor and composed of the advisor and at least four other members. The program director will approve and nominate a Chair for the exam (The committee chair may not be the student’s advisor).
 - B. All committee members’ qualifications are in accordance with the “*NCU Rules Governing the Master’s and Doctoral Degree Qualifying Exam and Thesis Defense.*”
- VI. Examination
 - A. The **Comprehensive Exam (written)** consists of two subjects: compulsory and professional. The exam will be offered once a semester; students should apply and notify the program office in the beginning of semester. The total score is 100 percent for each exam, and the passing score is 70 percent. Each exam will be created by at least two professors (or the Qualifying Exam Committee members). The topic of each exam is as following:
 1. Compulsory: Special Topics on Environmental Monitoring and Analysis
 2. Professional: The topics will be assigned by the committee members
 - B. The **Proposal Defense (Oral)**: Doctoral students shall take their proposal defense after successfully completing the comprehensive exam. The examination date and time will be determine by the committee members,

and doctoral students are responsible for submitting the application to the program office at least one month prior to the scheduled oral examination date. The written proposal should be submitted to the committee members at least one week prior to the oral examination.

C. Only students who successfully pass the qualifying exam may refer to themselves as PhD candidates.

Article 8 Degree Examination

I. Students who have obtained the approval of their thesis advisor and program director should submit the following documents to the Office of Academic Affairs within the deadline specified in the academic calendar: a copy of the student's official transcript, a copy of the completed draft of the student's thesis along with a thesis abstract, a recommendation letter from the student's thesis advisor, as well as an Application Form for the Degree Examination (Dissertation Defense). Once the application has been appraised by the Office of Academic Affairs and approved by the President of the University, the student may be permitted to defend the thesis.

II. Other criteria

A. To apply the Degree Examination (Dissertation Defense), a PhD candidate should attach the verification documents of published Journal articles, or manuscripts that have been accepted for publication. The subjects of the articles should be related to the PhD candidate's dissertation.

B. PhD candidates are required to publish (or have been accepted for publication) at least two papers in SCI or SSCI journals and the affiliation should be the program (the graduated institute). The student should be the first author in at least one paper.

III. The Degree Examination Committee

A. All committee members' qualifications are in accordance with Article 4 of the "*NCU Rules Governing the Master's and Doctoral Degree Qualifying Exam and Thesis Defense.*"

B. Doctoral students may not change the committee member without the advisors' approval.

IV. Dissertation Defense

A. The dissertation must comply with the NCU Regulation of Thesis Format and with the advisors' approval. PhD candidates are required to submit one hard copy and electronic copy of the dissertation to each committee member at least two week prior to the scheduled degree examination date.

B. The grade for the dissertation defense shall be the average of all the grades given by the committee members. However, if one-thirds of the members

of the Degree Examination Committee give the examinee grades lower than 70 points, the examinee shall be deemed as having failed the defense.

- C. The highest grade possible for the dissertation defense is 100 points; the lowest passing grade is 70 points.
- D. No student may defend his or her dissertation more than once during a semester; those who fail to pass their Dissertation Defense and who have not exceeded their maximum period of study shall file for a second defense in the following semester or academic year. Moreover, a PhD candidate is required to reapply for the Degree Examination in conformity with the deadline date stated in the school calendar. A PhD candidate who fails the Degree Examination for a second time will be required to withdraw from the PhD program.
- E. In order to complete the Degree Examination, a PhD candidate, who is conditionally passes the exam, should fulfill all conditional requirements by the committee's approval.

Article 9 Matters not mentioned herein, if any, should be conducted in accordance with the relevant regulations of the MOE or the University.

Article 10 The aforementioned academic regulations shall be implemented and entered into force upon approval by a meeting of the CSRSR Committee and appraisal and ratification by the Academic Affairs Committee of NCU. The same procedure applies to any amendment of these academic regulations.