

National Tsing Hua University
Department of Economics
PhD Program Regulations

Adopted at the department meeting on April 6, 93.

Revised at the department meeting on September 14, 93.

Article 4 revised at the departmental meeting on April 18, 95.

Articles 6 and 7 revised at the department meeting on November 6, 96.

Article 9 revised at the department meeting on January 8, 97.

Article 7 revised at the departmental meeting on June 2, 98.

Articles 6, 9 and 10 revised at the department meeting on May 4, 99.

Article 9 revised at the department meeting on November 1, 100.

Article 10 revised at the department meeting on September 18, 101.

Articles 7 and 9 revised at the department meeting on November 5, 102.

Article 7 revised at the department meeting on April 3, 107.

1. The basis of this approach

This approach is based on the regulations of National Tsing Hua University, its regulations regarding master's degree students pursuing doctoral degrees, its regulations with respect to the recognition of previous education (credit waiving rules), its regulations regarding doctoral degree examination and graduate thesis format.

2. Enrollment

- a) Those who have a master's degree or equivalent qualification from a domestic or foreign university recognized by the Ministry of Education may apply and enroll for a doctoral degree after admission. The enrollment evaluation includes items such as written examination, oral examination and review.
- b) Master students currently enrolled in the master's program at the department of Economics who have already completed one year or more may proceed for a doctoral degree after their application is reviewed and approved. The length of study will start from when the transfer to the doctoral program takes place.

3. Time to completion

The length of study is two to seven years. Students may apply for a one-semester,

one-year or two-year suspension for some reasons, and the total should not exceed two academic years. Due to serious illness, military service or any other reason, a certificate is required for the leave to be extended and the extension is conditional on the application being approved at the department meeting and the approval of the department chairman. The cumulative number of years of school leave is at most four years. Failure to return to school or application for continued leave after this limit is reached will be considered as automatic withdrawal.

4. Transfer to the PhD program from the master's program

- a) Master students currently enrolled in the master program at this department with excellent grades and research potential may submit an application before May 20 each year. The application will be reviewed at the department meeting held in June. If approved, it will be sent to the Academic Affairs Office for approval by the chairman and reported to the Ministry of Education for reference. Applications for transfer students should be submitted to the "PhD Transfer at NTHU". The application should include full transcripts up to the application date, research papers if any, two letters of recommendation and other materials that the applicant believes will help his or her application.
- b) Recent graduates of the bachelor program in Economics with excellent grades and research potential may apply for a PhD degree. The application should be submitted to the department office within the designated time. After submission, it will be reviewed at the department meeting and, if approved, sent to the Academic Affairs Office to be signed by the chairman and reported to the Ministry of Education for reference. Applicants should also pay the appropriate fee; submit a copy of their full transcripts, two or more recommendation letters and other materials useful for review.

5. Transfer back to the master's program

PhD students who fail the doctoral degree qualification examination can go back to the master's class after being approved at the department meeting and by the chairman. PhD students who fail the doctoral degree examination may be awarded a master degree if the doctoral examination committee determines that they meet the master's degree standards.

6. Graduation requirements

To be eligible for graduation, PhD students at the department of Economics must have completed at least 33 credits of the doctoral program approved by the department. Transfer students from the master need to have completed at least 39 credits (these do not include the thesis). The maximum grade for each course is 100 points. Students who fail to reach 70 points in a course fail the course and no credits will be given.

7. Course regulations

The compulsory subjects are Microeconomic Analysis I and Topics in Microeconomics, Macroeconomic Analysis, and Topics in Macroeconomics, Econometrics I and Topics in Econometrics and two specialization areas (at least 2 courses each).

PhD students must:

- (1) take the required courses within the first two years,
- (2) complete three semesters of the course “Seminar” before graduation,
- (3) complete one semester of “Teaching Practice” after passing the PhD qualification examination.

8. Credit Exemptions

PhD students who have completed required courses such as Topics in Microeconomics, Topics in Macroeconomics and Topics in Econometrics offered by the department of Economics as well as courses in the specialization areas at the master level can apply to have these credits counted as part of their PhD degree. The total number of credits that can be exempt is based on the two-thirds of the required graduation credits needed.

9. PhD Qualification Examination

- a) The qualification examination includes mandatory subjects and a professional elective subject. The score of each subject is based on a full score of 100 points with a passing score of 70 points. Those who get less than 70 may apply for re-examination only once. Mandatory subjects must be passed within two

years after enrollment (study suspension is not included in the number of years) and the professional subject exam must be passed within the next three years (school leave is not counted in the number of years). The compulsory subjects are two out of the three following courses: Topics in Microeconomics, Topics in Macroeconomics and Topics in Econometrics. The evaluation method of professional elective subjects is divided into two: written test and research paper.

- b) Written examinations for the qualification examination are held once every semester. The chairman or associate chairman invites two professors to serve as committee members for each subject of the examination, and at least one of the committee members should be a professor at the department.
- c) The written test of the qualification examination is set to be completed within the week preceding the start of each semester. Students must submit a written application before the last day of the final examination of the previous semester.
- d) For those who choose to write research papers in a professional elective subject, two professors will be assigned to serve as review members to evaluate the results. At least one review member should be a professor at the department of Economics. If a PhD dissertation advisor has already been selected, the research paper must belong to the specialization area of the advisor and the advisor should serve as one of the members of the review committee.
- e) Those who choose to write research papers in professional elective subjects must hold a public presentation. If a doctoral student submits an application towards the end of the semester, it can be postponed for one month during the next semester. The same holds for the written test.
- f) The test results will be announced within two weeks after the test.

10. For part-time doctoral students, the length of study period of compulsory courses and the examination period mentioned above in articles 7 and 9 respectively shall both be extended by one year.

11. PhD candidates

Doctoral students who meet the following conditions are eligible to be PhD candidates. These are as follows:

- a) Meet the requirements for graduation credits set forth in Article 6 and the requirements for course requirements in Article 7.
- b) Pass the doctoral qualification examination.
- c) Pass at least one of the following English proficiency tests:
 - The Intermediate and Advanced National English Proficiency Test,
 - TOEFL paper-based with a minimum of 550,
 - TOEFL IBT with a minimum of 79,
 - IELTS with a minimum of 6 or
 - TOEIC with a minimum of 750.

12. Guidance for PhD thesis

- a) After passing the qualification examination, the doctoral student must get the approval of his or her advisor before applying for the thesis examination at the department office. In order to change the advisor, an application for a new advisor must be submitted at the department office and the new advisor must approve the thesis project before the PhD candidate can apply for the thesis examination.
- b) The advisor or co-advisor should be a full-time, associate or assistant professor at the department of Economics.

13. PhD Qualification Examination

- a) PhD candidates must hold a presentation of their thesis project at least 6 months before applying for the thesis exam. The presentation is attended by advisors and others interested parties. For issues raised in the meeting in relation to the thesis, candidates must submit a reply and get the approval of the advisor to complete the process of submitting the thesis project.
- b) Before the formal thesis examination, doctoral candidates should present at least once in the academic seminar of the department.
- c) Before the formal thesis examination, doctoral candidates should write an essay on the main points of their thesis and publish it in an academic journal related to Economics with a review system or academic seminars

related to Economics.

14. PhD Examination

- a) Doctoral students who have studied for more than two years and are PhD candidates are required to apply for the PhD examination with the first draft and summary of the thesis, the transcripts of the past years, the application form for the doctoral examination and the approval of the advisor. Upon approval, the department shall prepare a committee to supervise the exam and information regarding the committee members and the PhD examination application are to be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs for approval and it is only after approval by the Office of Academic Affairs that the PhD examination can be held.
- b) The date of the doctoral examination shall be based on the date set in the school calendar. After the doctoral degree examination is approved, the graduate student should compile the draft and summary of the thesis in accordance with the regulations of the “Graduate Thesis Format Regulations”, submit it to the department office for review by the degree examination committee together with the approval of the advisor no later than two weeks before the examination to register the time and place. Those who register in advance after the end of the semester but before the registration of the next semester must take the doctoral examination.
- c) The Doctoral Degree Examination Committee shall comply with the following regulations:
 - 1) It shall have five to nine members with at least one third of them being external committee members. The advisor of the PhD candidate shall be an ex officio member, but shall not be the moderator. The moderator shall be elected by the members present at the examination. At least one third of the members from outside the school must be present before the examination can take place. Both internal and external committee members are chosen by the chairman of the department.
 - 2) In addition to research expertise on the subject of the thesis proposed by the PhD candidate, the doctoral examination committee members shall have one of the following qualifications:

- i. A former professor.
 - ii. Academician or former researcher of Academia Sinica.
 - iii. A former associate professor or associate researcher of Academia Sinica with academic achievements.
 - iv. Those who have obtained a PhD degree and whose research expertise (academic achievements) is relevant for the thesis of the PhD candidate.
 - v. Those who have expertise in a rare or special subject with proven academic or professional achievements in this subject. Admission as doctoral examination members for this group is conditional on the approval of the department meeting.
- d) The doctoral examination includes thesis examination and thesis review. The thesis examination shall be conducted in an open oral examination.
 - e) The scores of the doctoral dissertation examination are comprehensively evaluated based on the content of the dissertation and the oral examination results. The evaluation is based on the average of unregistered evaluation scores of the attending members. The examination can only be taken once and the passing grade is 70 out of 100. However, if more than one-third of the members give a grade below 70, the PhD candidate automatically fails the exam. Those who fail the thesis examination will be registered as failing the degree examination.
 - f) There is no separate score for the thesis review. Those who pass the thesis review will have the “Examination Committee Approval Letter” signed by the committee members present to complete the thesis review. For those who have completed the thesis review, the thesis test score is the degree test score. If the thesis is considered to be in need of revising after examination by the examination committee, it shall be revised and sent to examination committee for another review. Those who fail to complete the review before the start of the next semester will be invalid for the exam. Those who have plagiarized or committed academic malpractice are deemed to have failed the degree examination and relevant documents are sent to the Academic Affairs Office for further processing.
 - g) Those who fail the degree examination may apply for reexamination in the next semester or the following academic year before the end of their

studies. The reexamination is limited to one time. Those who still fail must withdraw from the school.

15. Degree revocation

After the PhD candidate is awarded the doctoral degree, if the university finds out that the doctoral dissertation is plagiarized or the data upon which the main points of the dissertation are based was falsified, the examination committee formed by the university will cancel the graduation qualification and revoke the PhD degree. Candidates for the PhD degree mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall not request to continue their studies even if they have not yet reached the end of their studies.

16. The above regulations will be implemented after being approved at the department meeting and the same will apply after they are revised.

P.S: In case of any discrepancies between the Chinese and English versions of this document, the Chinese version shall prevail.