

# National Yunlin University of Science and Technology

## Graduate School of Design Master's Program Academic Requirements

### Enforcement Rules

Approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2012 academic year on 9<sup>th</sup>, May, 2013

Approved by the 1<sup>st</sup> graduate school council in 2014 academic year on 13<sup>rd</sup>, August, 2014

Approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2014 academic year on 9<sup>th</sup>, June, 2015

Approved by the 4<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2016 academic year on 21<sup>st</sup>, December, 2016

Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2017 academic year on 28<sup>th</sup>, November, 2017

Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2018 academic year on 21<sup>st</sup>, February, 2019

Approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduate school council in 2020 academic year on 24<sup>th</sup>, December, 2020

Approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> graduate school council in 2022 academic year on 5<sup>th</sup>, January, 2023

Approved by the 1<sup>st</sup> graduate school council in 2023 academic year on 23<sup>rd</sup>, August, 2023

Approved by the 1<sup>st</sup> graduate school council in 2024 academic year on 2<sup>nd</sup>, September, 2024

Approved by the 2<sup>nd</sup> graduate school council in 2024 academic year on 8<sup>th</sup>, October, 2024

- I. Credit Requirements: Graduate students must complete a total of 36 credits within the prescribed period of study, including 16 compulsory credits (including 6 for the thesis) and 20 elective credits, to fulfill the credit requirements. The elective credits may include 6 credits of courses from other departments that have been approved both by the advisor and the chairperson.
- II. Coursework: In the first year of admission, graduate students must take a minimum of 7 credits and a maximum of 18 credits per semester. After the enrolling and dropping procedure of courses each semester, students must obtain the consent and signature from their advisor to confirm their course registration and send the lists of selected courses to the Graduate School Office (Course registration for each semester must be confirmed with the advisor's approval. If an advisor has not been chosen, the chairperson's approval is required.)
- III. Fast-Track Option: Graduate students who have completed at least one semester of study with outstanding performance, with the approval of the graduate school council, may apply for direct admission to the doctoral program, based on the regulations of "National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Doctoral Degree Regulations" and "Regulations for Direct Admission to The Graduate School's Doctoral Program".
- IV. Additional Undergraduate Credits: Graduate students from non-design related departments must, at the discretion of their advisor (or assigned by the chairperson if an advisor has not been chosen), complete one year of undergraduate core design courses and two related elective courses (**at least 5 credits**) to be eligible for graduation. However, these credits will not be included in the calculation of graduation credits. Students who have completed relevant courses or passed qualifying certificate exams may apply before the midterm exam of the first semester of the first academic year. **(Those who hold a Class A (advanced-level) technician certificate may waive two elective courses, while those with a Class B (intermediate-level) certificate may waive one elective course.)** Upon approval by the departmental affairs meeting, course

requirements may be reduced accordingly; however, core courses are not eligible for exemption.

V. Language Proficiency Requirement (Choose One):

- i. Pass the GEPT (General English Proficiency Test) at the high-intermediate level or above (equivalent scores from other language proficiency tests are acceptable) or achieve a TOEIC score of 550 or higher.
- ii. Pass the GEPT at the intermediate level or above (equivalent scores from other language proficiency tests are acceptable) or achieve a TOEIC score below 550 and complete 1 technical English course (2 credits). The English credits for these additional courses will not be counted as graduation credits.
- iii. Hold a degree from an overseas university recognized by the Ministry of Education.
- iv. Participate in an overseas study program or student exchange for one semester or longer.
- v. Native English speakers who do not meet the above conditions may study other languages as determined by the graduate school council.
- vi. Other equivalent language proficiency certifications should be recognized by the graduate school council.

VI. Qualification for Oral Defense: Master's students in our graduate school must meet the following requirements during their study period:

- i. Organize and fully participate in an international workshop hosted by our graduate school.
- ii. Present one paper in a foreign language at an international conference or present two papers in Chinese at conferences (these cannot overlap with the point system).
- iii. For students in the Practical Innovation Technology Report track, participation in competitions is mandatory; for students in the Academic Thesis track, presentation at conferences is mandatory.
- iv. Accumulate at least 1 point in the point system before being eligible to apply for the oral examination.

VII. Point Scoring Explanation:

i. Practical Innovation Technology Report Scoring:

Choose any of the following to accumulate a total of 1 point for graduation threshold:

1. Receive 3 points for a top three placement in international competitions (e.g., IF, Red Dot, Braun), 2 points for selected and excellent awards, and 1 points for being shortlisted. National Competition Awards: Points are awarded as follows: 2 points for first, second, or third place; 1 point for selected entries or honorable mentions; 0.5 points for finalists; and 0.25 points for participation. Only one entry per competition per year will be counted, and this rule is applied retroactively. If the winning work is co-authored by multiple graduate students (including undergraduate students), the points will be divided by the number of participating students (Points/Number of students).
2. Receive 1 point for an industry design internship of 320 hours.

ii. Academic Thesis Scoring:

1. Receive 1.5 points for presenting a research paper in foreign language orally at an international design-related conference or 1 point for presenting at a domestic conference. For papers with multiple student authors (including undergraduate students), the points would be divided by the number of co-authors (Points/Number of Authors).
2. Receive 1 point for an industry design internship of 320 hours.

VIII. Application for Oral Defense: Graduate students in our program must complete their proposal one semester prior to applying for the degree examination. They should submit a thesis or practical innovative technical report to the Proposal Committee (composed of at least two faculty members, including the advisor) for review. The content must demonstrate a certain degree of completion (preliminary research results for the academic thesis track; completed sketches for the practical innovative technical report track) and should be publicly presented. After completing the thesis qualification proposal and passing the qualification review, students may then apply for the thesis oral defense. Those who pass the oral defense and meet the required credit hours will be awarded a master's degree from our program.

IX. Oral Examination Committee: The master's qualification examination committee shall be composed of the advisor and 2-3 additional scholars or experts from within or outside the university, selected based on the student's area of specialization. The committee will conduct the examination. Students who fail the examination may apply for a re-examination in the following semester. Those who fail to complete the examination within the prescribed study period will not be eligible for graduation.

X. Oral Defense Regulations:

- i. When applying for the oral defense, students must complete a draft of their thesis. After submitting it to the department office for verification, the advisor will recommend at least one internal and one external examiner. The department head will then report to the university president to officially appoint these committee members.
- ii. The thesis examination shall be conducted by an examination committee formed in accordance with the National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Graduate Degree Examination Regulations and the Detailed Rules for Master's Degree Examination of the Graduate School of Design.
- iii. The master's degree examination should, in principle, be conducted as a public oral defense. The time, location, and thesis title must be announced in advance.
- iv. Technical report students are required to hold a solo exhibition of their design practice work at least once during their study period. Collaborative works with classmates are not counted toward this requirement. The exhibited works must be displayed at the same location as the degree examination. The number of works should be sufficient to fully convey the creative concept of the technical report, and must be approved by the advisor and oral committee members prior to the degree examination application.

- v. After passing the oral defense, students must complete revisions to their thesis based on the committee's comments before leaving the university. They should submit both an electronic version of the thesis and official hard copies (in addition to those required by the university, two additional copies should be submitted to the department office for archiving).
- XI. Graduate students who have applied for the degree examination but are unable to complete it within the same semester should request the university to withdraw their application before the end of the semester as specified in the university calendar. Those who neither withdraw their application nor take the examination by the deadline will be considered as having failed the examination once.
- XII. These regulations shall be implemented after being approved by more than half of the attendees at a department meeting where at least two-thirds of the members are present. The same procedure applies to any amendments to these regulations.