

# National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, College of Design, Graduate School of Design, Doctoral Program Study Guidelines

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## 1. Admission Procedure

- i. Those who have graduated from a public or registered private university or independent college, or a foreign university recognized by the Ministry of Education, with a master's degree or equivalent, and who have been admitted through the entrance examination of the doctoral program of Yuntech, may enroll in the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Design.
- ii. Matters related to the entrance examination shall be handled in accordance with the regulations of the university's admission.

## 2. Duration of Study

- iii. In accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Education, the duration of study for regular students is two years, which can be extended to seven years; for in-service students, the duration of study is three years, which can be extended to eight years.
- iv. The duration of study in the doctoral program is divided into the following two stages :  
First stage: From admission to passing the qualification examination. Second stage: From the passing of the qualification examination to passing the doctoral degree examination.

## 3. Coursework and Examinations

- v. The minimum graduation credit requirement for graduate students is 32 credits, including 14 compulsory credits (including 6 credits for the doctoral dissertation), and at least 18 elective credits. Students must choose at least 9 credits from one of the following research fields, and PhD courses from other departments approved by the advisor :

- (1) Design Theory and Education Research
- (2) Design Technology and Computation Research
- (3) Design Humanities and Art Research
- (4) Design Planning and Management Research

- vi. In the first academic year of admission, regular students must take no less than 8 credits per semester, and in-service students must take no less than 5 credits per semester. This does not apply to students retaking the program who have applied for credit exemption. Regular students may not hold full-time jobs within or outside the university during the first two years of study, and must spend at least four days per week on campus.
- vii. The courses taken by graduate students each semester must be confirmed with the approval of the advisor and the course list should be submitted to the Graduate School Office before the course registration deadline. If an academic advisor has not yet been selected, the chairperson's approval is required.
- viii. Those who have not taken design-related foundation courses should make up the subjects, which are the main courses of the master's program in the College of Design for one academic year. Those with 1 year of design-related work experience may apply for exemption from make-up courses. After the initial review by the advisor, the application must be submitted for approval by the doctoral program committee. (Only retroactive to students from academic year 2022 onwards).
- ix. After admission, students need to apply to participate in the three parts of the qualification examination: written examination, design research results presentation, and doctoral candidate qualification examination. The enforcement rules for the qualification examination are separately established.
- x. The qualification examination is held once per semester. Those who fail may retake the examination once. Those who fail the retake will be subjected to dismissal.
- xi. Students shall complete the qualification examination within four years of admission (including periods of leave of absence), and may not exceed four years.
- xii. Upon passing the doctoral candidate qualification examination and complying with the relevant regulations of the doctoral candidate qualification examination and degree examination of the university, the chairperson shall propose to the Office of Academic Affairs the student as doctoral degree candidate.

#### 4. Dissertation

- xiii. In the first semester of the first academic year of study, students should submit the advisor's consent form before the start of the course registration period announced by the university; their doctoral research dissertation should be related to design studies.
- xiv. Students should select a professor or associate professor with a doctoral degree from the full-time faculty of the College as the doctoral dissertation advisor. If there are special reasons, with the approval of the doctoral program committee, a professor or associate professor with a doctoral degree who is not from the College may be chosen as the advisor, but a full-time faculty member of the College with the above qualifications must be chosen as the co-advisor.
- xv. Students may change their dissertation topic and/or advisor with the approval of the doctoral program committee in the following situations:
  - (1) Due to a lack of data, there are major difficulties in completing the original

dissertation plan, and has been confirmed by the advisor.

(2) The advisor is unable to complete the guidance within the duration of study due to going abroad, taking a leave of absence, further study, or other accidents.

(3) Other legitimate reasons for needing to change the dissertation topic.

xvi. If students falls into one of the following situations, the advisor may stop guiding the student with the approval of the chairperson of Graduate School and the doctoral program committee, and the Graduate School will directly appoint another professor to take over the guidance:

1. The student does not follow the advisor's instructions for course selection or dissertation writing.
2. The student has been neglecting to keep in touch with the advisor for a considerable period of time without a legitimate reason.
3. The student holds a full-time job inside or outside the university without prior reporting and approval from the chairperson and the advisor.

## 5. Doctoral Degree Examination

xvii. Students who meet the following regulations may apply for the doctoral degree examination; the detailed rules for the degree examination are separately established.

(1) Those who have completed the subjects and credits required by the graduate school.

(2) Students who have obtained the qualification of doctoral degree candidate for at least one semester, and have published at least three papers (inclusive) in domestic or foreign related academic journals during their study period, at least one of which must be in a foreign language, published in an international journal; or two journal papers, one of which must be published in an SCI, SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI international journal, THCI or TSSCI first-tier core journal in English, and the other journal paper cannot be replaced by two international conference papers. The content should be related to their research field. With the approval of the advisor, they may apply for the degree examination. The papers published by the students in domestic or foreign related academic journals or international conferences should indicate the full name of the Graduate School of Design in the affiliation. At the same time, the paper should be co-authored by the advisor, and the graduate student should be the first author (or the advisor as the first author, the graduate student the second author; if there multiple advisors, authorship position of student's name can be further postponed), to be recognized as a paper published during the study period. The recognition method for related academic journals or international conferences is separately established.

(3) Students have acquired at least one of the following language proficiency tests:

- A. GEPT - Intermediate or above.
- B. TOEFL PBT 492 points (inclusive) or above.
- C. TOEFL CBT 167 points (inclusive) or above.
- D. TOEFL iBT 59 points (inclusive) or above.
- E. New TOEIC Test 650 points (inclusive) or above.
- F. IELTS Test 5 level (inclusive) or above
- G. Those who have studied at a university or graduated from a master's program where all courses are taught in a foreign language abroad.
- H. Other equivalent English proficiency certification recognized by the committee of the

graduate school.

- I. Those who have applied to study at a foreign university (excluding universities in China) that have agreement with the **graduate school** as exchange students, or have applied for government-sponsored international academic exchange programs (such as the **National Science and Technology Council** 's Thousand Talents Program), are required to reside in the host country for a minimum of six months (consecutive 180 days), and may accumulate this duration up to three times with different host **organizations**. the number of study outcome reports increases with accordance to the number of foreign studies. Those who apply for the equivalent foreign language proficiency recognition in this item must submit an overseas study plan application to the graduate school office for evaluation by the doctoral program committee. Upon returning to Taiwan, students must present a public report on their achievement and submit written reports in both Chinese and foreign languages (A4 size, at least 6 pages each) and submit it to the office. Once the reports are approved by the committee, the applicant can be recognized as having equivalent foreign language proficiency.
- J. In addition to the specified requirement of a minimum score of 650 on the New TOEIC test, the language proficiency passing threshold can be exempted, to a maximum of 200 points, through the following means:
  - (1) One paper published in SCI, SCIE, SSCI, or A&HCI journals can be recognized for an exemption of 100 points on the New TOEIC test. The same paper can be used to exempt 0.5 points on the IELTS. Other international journals recognized by the department can be used to exempt 75 points on the New TOEIC test, with no limit on the number of papers, applicable to all past and present doctoral students.
  - (2) Attending one conference recognized by the graduate school abroad can exempt 50 points on the New TOEIC test (up to a maximum of 4 conferences), and is implemented after the announcement (mainly after January 12, 2022). Online conferences are not counted.
  - (3) Taking courses in the English Elite Program offered by the university's Language Center, achieving a score of 70 or higher in the course, can exempt 50 points on the New TOEIC test. These course credits are not included in the graduation credits.

- xviii. Students who wish to apply for the degree examination should submit relevant application documents to the graduate school office. After review by the graduate school's doctoral program committee, upon review by the Office of Academic Affairs and approval of the President, the doctoral degree examination can be conducted. The detailed rules for the degree examination of the Graduate School of Design is separately established.
- xix. Students who fail the doctoral degree examination and whose extended duration of study has not yet expired may retake the examination. Those who fail may retake the examination once. Those who fail the retake will be subjected to dismissal.
- xx. Students who pass the doctoral degree examination will be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree by the university in accordance with the Degree Conferral Act. The graduation score of the doctoral degree includes the average grade of all courses taken in the doctoral program over the years and the degree examination scores.

## 6. Others

- xxi. No journal and conference papers submitted by graduate students may be reused.

- xxii. Matters not covered by these study guidelines shall be handled in accordance with the relevant regulations of the doctoral program of the university. These study guidelines shall be automatically amended due to changes in the relevant regulations mentioned in the previous items.
- xxiii. These study guidelines are to be implemented upon approval by the doctoral program committee and any amendments are subject to the same process.

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