

15國立中央大學學生逕修讀博士學位辦法

Guidelines Governing Direct Admission into Doctoral Programs at National Central University

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Article 1

Guidelines Governing Direct Admission into Doctoral Programs at National Central University (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines) were stipulated per the Ministry of Education's Guidelines Governing Direct Admission into Doctoral Programs.

Article 2

Undergraduate students who are in their final year of study (including students granted early graduation) and master's students who have been enrolled in a graduate program for at least two semesters (including part-time students and students enrolled in in-service programs) with exemplary academic performance and potential for research may be directly admitted into a doctoral program if they have received recommendations from two faculty members with a rank of or higher than assistant professor at their department, graduate institute, in-service program, degree program, or any teaching unit of relevant fields, have gained approval from a relevant committee of the department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program they are applying for, and have acquired the ratification of the president of National Central University (NCU).

Undergraduate students who are in their final year of study (including students granted early graduation) and whose applications for direct admission into a doctoral program have been accepted must obtain their bachelor's degree before enrolling in the doctoral program. Those who fail to do so shall have their qualification for direct admission into a doctoral program canceled.

Students admitted into a doctoral program through direct admission are first-year doctoral students. The regulations governing doctoral students were stipulated per relevant regulations of NCU and relevant rules of each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program.

Students admitted into a doctoral program through direct admission shall not apply for a deferral of their admission.

Article 3

The standards for determining whether an applicant's academic performance is exemplary are as follows:

- I. Undergraduate students in their final year of study (including those granted early graduation) who meet any of the following criteria shall be deemed as having demonstrated exemplary academic performance:
 - i. Ranking in the top one-third of their department, class, departmental division (one that has been approved by the Ministry of Education), or undergraduate degree program and showing research potential;
 - ii. Having other exceptional performances judged by their department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program as exemplary and showing research potential.
- II. Master's students who have earned at least 16 credits of required graduate courses (excluding the credits of undergraduate-level make-up courses) and have met any of the following criteria shall be deemed as having demonstrated exemplary academic performance:
 - i. Ranking in the top one-third of their department, graduate institute, class, departmental division (one that has been approved by the Ministry of Education), or graduate degree program and showing research potential;
 - ii. Having other exceptional performances judged by their department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program as exemplary and showing research potential.

An applicant's potential for research should be fully explained in the recommendation letters written by the applicant's referees.

The exceptional performances of an applicant with the qualification specified in Article 3-I-ii or Article 3-II-ii must be fully explained in the minutes of the meeting in which the applicant's application was approved.

Should a department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program have stricter standards for determining an applicant's academic performance than those described in the Guidelines, the stricter standards shall apply.

Each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program that has established its own standards for determining the academic performances of the applicants for direct admission into doctoral programs of the next academic year must submit those standards to the Office of Academic Affairs by March 20 each year.

Article 4

Students applying for direct admission into a doctoral program must present the following documents to the department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program to which they are applying:

- I. An application form for direct admission into a doctoral program;
- II. A copy of an official transcript issued within one month after their application; the transcript must include the applicant's accumulative ranking and the overall average of grades;
- III. At least two letters of recommendation from faculty members with a rank of or higher than assistant professor;
- IV. A research proposal;
- V. All other documents required by the department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program to which they are applying;
- VI. An on-the-job training agreement (for applicants who are on-the-job training students). After the review and upon approval of relevant committees of the department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program to which an applicant is applying, the abovementioned documents, together with the minutes of relevant committees' meetings,

shall be compiled and forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs and then to the president of NCU for final approval.

Article 5

The quota of doctoral students admitted by each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program through direct admission into a doctoral program (ie. the total quota for the first and second rounds of the admission process) should not exceed 40 percent of the quota for each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program's admission of doctoral students permitted by the Ministry of Education for that academic year. However, this rule does not apply to a department's, graduate institute's, in-service program's, or degree program's quota that has been shared by the other departments, graduate institutes, in-service programs, or degree programs of the same college that the said teaching unit belongs to.

The doctoral student admission quota determined by each department, graduate institute, in-service program, and degree program cannot be filled entirely through direct admission into a doctoral program; however, the following conditions are the exceptions:

- I. The determined admission quota for doctoral students of a department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program is one.
- II. The unit admitting doctoral students is a unit executing a talent-cultivating project ratified by the Ministry of Education.

The quotas mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs must be included in NCU's total admission quota permitted by the Ministry of Education for the academic year.

Any unfilled admission quota from the first round of direct admission into a doctoral program may be reserved for the use of regular admission into the doctoral program (the reserved number of students should be approved by the Admission Committee of NCU); any unfilled admission quota remaining after the regular admission into the doctoral program may be reserved for the second round of direct admission into a doctoral program.

If any students admitted in the first round of direct admission into a doctoral program withdraw their schooling from the doctoral program for any reason after the admission list has been approved by the president of NCU, the remaining openings in the admission quota may be reserved for the second round of direct admission into a doctoral program.

Article 6

The timetables for the applications for direct admission into doctoral programs shall be established and announced by each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program. The names and specifics of students admitted in the first round of direct admission into doctoral programs shall be sent by each department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program to the Office of Academic Affairs by August 20, and those of students admitted in the second round, January 31. The Office of Academic Affairs will then compile and submit the names and specifics to the president of NCU for final approval.

Students admitted in the first round shall begin their study in the fall semester. Students admitted in the second round shall begin their studies in the spring semester.

Concerning the direct admission into doctoral programs following the regulations of any special project run by any government institute, the timetables of applications for this sort of admission should be announced at a time different from the times when the timetables of applications for other sorts of direct admission into doctoral programs are announced. The documentation that should be attached to the applications for this sort of direct admission is not restricted by Article 4, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph II.

Article 7

Master's students admitted into a doctoral program through direct admission may apply to return to their original master's program or transfer to a master's program in a department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program in a related field by submitting an application form to both the doctoral program in which they are enrolled and the master's program to which they seek to return or transfer if they terminate their pursuit of a doctoral degree for any reason or fail to pass their doctoral qualifying exam. Their application must be approved by both programs in relevant meetings and then by the president of NCU before the applicants are allowed to return to a master's program. The period for which the applicants have studied in their doctoral program and the record of their suspension of schooling during their doctoral years of study shall not be included in the calculation of the applicants' time limit of study in a master's program. Students returning to a master's program from a doctoral one shall be placed at the same grade level that they were at before their direct admission into a doctoral program and must comply with the regulations of the master's program to continue their pursuit of a master's degree. If the students return to their original master's program in the middle of a semester, that semester shall count towards their period of study in a master's program.

Article 7-1

Undergraduate students admitted into a doctoral program through direct admission may apply to transfer to a master's program in a department, graduate institute, in-service program, or degree program in a related field by submitting an application form to both the doctoral program in which they are enrolled and the master's program to which they seek to transfer. Their application must be approved by both programs in relevant meetings and then by the president of NCU so that the applicants may transfer to a master's program. The applicants whose applications are approved shall be placed at the first-year level. The period for which the applicants have studied in their doctoral program and the record of their suspension of schooling during their doctoral years of study shall not be included in the calculation of the applicants' time limit of study in a master's program. Students transferring from a doctoral program must comply with the regulations of the master's program to continue their pursuit of a master's degree. If the students transfer to a master's program in the middle of a semester, that semester shall count towards their period of study in a master's program.

Article 7-2

Once a student has returned to his or her original master's program or has transferred to a master's program, he or she cannot re-apply for direct admission into a doctoral program.

Article 8

Direct-admission doctoral students who passed their qualifying exam but failed to pass their doctoral thesis defense by the end of their final year of study shall be granted a master's degree, providing that their theses, works, or certifications of achievements along with written reports or technical reports are deemed by their doctoral thesis examination committee to have met a standard appropriate for a master's degree.

The determination of the aforementioned types of works in place of a thesis should be conducted per National Central University Rules Governing Master's and Doctoral Degree Examinations.

Article 9

The Guidelines shall be implemented upon approval by the Academic Affairs Committee. The same procedure applies to any amendment to the Guidelines.