

## **Regulations for the Admission and Study of the Ph.D. Program of the College of Life Science, National Tsing Hua University**

Q1: How many ways for Ph.D. student enroll into the Ph.D. program of the College of Life Science?

1. Entrance examination: Stage 1–personal information review and written examination. Stage 2 – oral examination.
2. Transfer from the NTHU bachelor degree program to the Ph.D. program: Only for the top one-third academic achievers among the NTHU undergraduate students showing significant potential for research.
3. Transfer from the NTHU master’s degree program to the Ph.D. program: Only for students who have studied in the NTHU master’s degree program for more than one year and are recommended by their supervisors.
4. Direct application: Only for international students with admission based on the pertinent regulations of the Office of Global Affairs.

Q2: When the enrolled PhD student must select a Ph.D. thesis advisor?

A Ph.D. student must select a thesis advisor within a month of enrollment.

Q3: How long for the period of Ph.D. study?

Two years to a maximum of seven years.

Q4: How many credits for Ph.D. graduation?

1. A student needs to complete 18 credits (not including the thesis) with no less than 12 of these from the courses offered by the College of Life Science, NTHU.
2. A student who has been transferred to the Ph.D. program from a master’s degree program needs to complete 30 course credits (excluding the thesis, but including the courses taken in the master’s degree program) with no less than 24 of these credits from the courses offered by the College of Life Science, NTHU.

Q5: What are the regulations for credits transfer from previous taken courses?

1. Up to two thirds of the required credits (i.e. 12credits) (with a minimum score of 70 (B-)) for graduation are exempted for courses at the Ph.D. level (or equivalent)

taken previously in the College of Life Science, NTHU. The director of the institute must approve the credit transfer. However, as per the regulation, “no less than 12 credits from the courses offered by the College of Life Science” and only 6 credits acquired from outside the Life Science College are transferable.

Q6: What are the required courses for Ph.D. students?

The mandatory requirements to be completed by the Ph. D. students include:

1. Four seminar (journal club) courses (one per semester) to be completed within three years of enrollment with at least one course taught in English
2. Four colloquium courses (one per semester)
3. Writing the Thesis
4. Passing at least one of the four qualification examination courses if they choose the written examination as their qualification examination.

Q7: When and How the Ph.D. qualification examination performed?

1. Ph.D. students must pass the qualification examination within the first three years of enrollment (not including years of suspension, if any) to become Ph.D. candidates. If a Ph.D. student fails to pass the qualification exam within the first three years, he or she will be dismissed from the program.
2. Students can choose from three options to take the Ph.D. qualification examination: take the written examination, take up two assigned courses, or take up one assigned course along with an oral examination.

Q8: How the written-based Ph.D. qualification examination performed? Which subjects are included in the written-based Ph.D. qualification examination?

1. The written examination to qualify as a Ph. D. candidate is set on one of the following four subjects: advanced biochemistry, advanced cell Biology, advanced molecular biology, and physical biochemistry. Students can take this examination only after successfully passing the core course of the same subject(with a minimum score of 70 (B-)). The written qualification examination is for 3 hours, and it is held toward the end of March and October.
2. The outcome of the qualifying examination is “pass” or “fail.”
3. A master’s degree student from the College of Life Science, NTHU, can take the

written qualification examination. On passing the master's degree examination, the result will be applicable to the Ph.D. qualifying examination record if the student has enrolled for a future Ph.D. program.

Q9: How the taking course-based Ph.D. qualification examination performed? Which subjects are included in the written-based Ph.D. qualification examination?

Based on the assigned courses that students have chosen, they can write the qualification examination on two of the following four subjects: advanced biochemistry, advanced cell Biology, advanced molecular biology, and physical biochemistry. They should gain a minimum score of 70 (B-) in the examination to become qualified Ph. D. candidates.

Q10: How the taking one assigned course along with oral examination-based Ph.D. qualification examination performed?

Students who opt for taking up one assigned course along with an oral have to write an examination on one of the following four subjects (advanced biochemistry, advanced cell Biology, advanced molecular biology, and physical biochemistry) and gain a minimum score of 70 (B-)to qualify as Ph. D. candidates. This should be followed by submitting a non-thesis proposal for approval by the non-thesis proposal committee.

O11: What is the function and organization of the Ph.D. Dissertation Committee? And its relationship with Ph.D. candidates?

1. Ph.D. students' research proposal should be approved by the Dissertation Committee within the first four years of enrollment.
2. Dissertation Committee comprises three or more professors (assistant professor level or above) or research fellows (assistant researcher level or above) with at least one committee member from the Institute to which the student belongs and one from any other Institute. When a student conducts her/his thesis study outside the college, her/his co-adviser, who is not a full-time employee of the college, must be on the committee.
3. The duties of the Dissertation Committee include:  
Helping the student select the topic of the thesis and offering guidance in course

work and research.

Overseeing the progress of the student in becoming a Ph.D. candidate and completing the study within the allowed period.

Evaluating a Ph.D. student's thesis work to check whether the manuscript is ready for publication.

Q12: What is the English qualification for Ph.D. student graduation? What kind of English proficiency tests are recognized by the College of Life Science, NTHU?

Before taking the final Ph.D. degree examination, the candidates must have passed one of the following English proficiency tests:

1. TOEFL with a passing score of PBT550, CBT 213, and IBT 80.
2. General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) of Taiwan at the High-Intermediate level.
3. IELTS above 6.0
4. TOEIC above 750
5. Students with the following scores on the English proficiency test, TOEFL:PBT above 533, CBT above 200, and IBT above 72; General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) of Taiwan first test for the High-Intermediate level; IELTS: above 5.0; or TOEIC: above 700 will be considered as having passed the English Proficiency test if, along with these tests, they have earned three credits from NTHU courses including "Technical English Writing," "Academic Writing," or some other reading or writing courses in English, with their final scores being more than 70 points (B-) (or equivalent).
6. Any student with an exceedingly excellent performance can be recommended by her/his advisor to the Institute Faculty Meeting and then to the College Curriculum Committee to be exempted from the English proficiency test requirement.

Q13. How to apply the final Ph.D. degree examination? And its detail process?

**Step1 Intra-college investigation (inspection by the College Curriculum Committee)**

Students need to submit their documents (six items listed below) three weeks prior to the final Ph.D. degree examination to the Institute Office for investigation

(electronic documents required). This entire process takes approximately one week and the Institute office will inform the Ph.D. candidate once the investigation is complete.

1. Thesis manuscript
2. At least two papers published in peer-reviewed, international journals with the student being the first author and the advisor being the corresponding author of at least one of these papers. If the paper has just been accepted, the acceptance letter as well as the full manuscript is required.
3. A complete transcript of the Ph.D. program study (printed by the Academic Information System)
4. The English language proficiency certificate
5. Proof of passing the Ph.D. qualification examination
6. List of publications

### **Step2-1 Office of the Academic Affairs Investigation**

The Ph.D. candidates must fill in the application forms for the final Ph.D. degree examination through the Academic Information System. The application form processing requires another two weeks. Meanwhile, the Ph.D. candidates have to book the office for the final Ph.D. degree examination. In addition, the following documents have to be printed and submitted to the Institute office:

1. Application form for Ph.D. degree examination (Signature required)
2. List of the Ph.D. Degree Examination Committee (CVs are required for the examiner who does not belong to the College of Life Science, NTHU)
3. One hard copy of the complete transcript of Ph.D. program study(printable through theDivision of Registration)

### **Step 2-2Documents for the Ph.D. Degree Examination**

1. Advisor's recommendation letter for the Ph.D. Degree Examination (signature from advisor required)
2. Verification letter from the Oral Examination Committee
3. Five copies of the blank transcripts for the Oral Examination

4. Certificates for appointment of Oral Examination Examiner (it is strongly recommended that certificates be delivered to the examiners along with the thesis draft)

**Step 3 Notification of the time and venue of the Ph.D. degree examination** (The Institute Office will double check with the Ph.D. candidate before the announcement.)

The university will pay the investigation fees of the five Ph.D. degree examiners (NT\$1500each). The mode of commute of the examiners to reach the College of Life Science, NTHU, has to be known in advance. If the examiners prefer taking the high-speed train, the ticket price should be checked in advance and the Institute Office should be notified to prepare the travel fee. The high-speed train ticket receipts are required for reimbursement and the return tickets can be sent back to the Institute Office through a pre-paid envelope for reimbursement.

**Step 4 Wishing all the Ph. D. candidates the best of luck!**

Q14. Can the Ph.D. student transferred from the master's degree programs eligible to transfer back to master's programs?

1. Students who have taken a transfer to the Ph.D. program directly from the master's degree program and have met all the requirements for completing the Ph.D. study except for taking up the final Ph.D. thesis examination will receive their master's degree upon approval by the Ph.D. Degree Examination Committee.
2. These students can submit their application form anytime during the course of their study. Once approved by Institute Council meeting, the students can transfer back to master's program in the same semester. The application form can be downloaded from the following website:  
[http://registra.web.nthu.edu.tw/ezfiles/86/1086/img/64/phd\\_10.doc](http://registra.web.nthu.edu.tw/ezfiles/86/1086/img/64/phd_10.doc)

Q15. What kind of scholarships can be applied by foreign students?

1. Scholarships from the College of Life Science, NTHU: For master's students and Ph.D. students, the college offers NT\$ 2500 and NT\$ 8000, respectively.
2. Scholarships from the Center of Continuing Education: The application regulations for this can be found on the following website:

<http://exten.web.nthu.edu.tw/files/11-1154-9508.php?Lang=en>

3. Scholarship from the individual Principal Investigator.