

NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY
Standards of Conduct between Thesis/Dissertation Advisors
and Graduate Students

October 20, 2023– Approved by the 1st Academic Affairs Meeting of the 1st Semester of Academic Year 2023–24
October 26, 2023–Promulgated Articles 1,3,7,8,9,10 and 11

Article 1 National Taiwan University (hereinafter referred to as NTU or “the University”) has formulated the following standards of conduct between thesis/dissertation advisors and graduate students (hereinafter, standards).

Article 2 Graduate students shall select a thesis/dissertation advisor (hereinafter, advisor) and submit a written thesis/dissertation advisor agreement form to register their choice of advisor with the office of their department, graduate institute, or degree program (hereinafter, “academic division”) within the time frame stipulated. Spouses or relatives (by blood or marriage) within the third degree of kinship to a master’s or doctoral student may not serve as the student’s thesis/dissertation advisor.

Article 3 If a graduate student is unable to select an advisor or in accordance with Article 5 or Article 6 terminate the student-advisor relationship with the advisor or their advisor is no longer able to carry out advising duties due to illness, resignation, or death, the student’s head of academic division should be active in providing guidance or referral and provide the necessary assistance before the student select a new advisor.

Article 4 Graduate students who plan to change advisors, assuming consent has been granted by their current advisors, shall submit the following documents for the office of their academic division. Applications for a change of advisor deemed to be in compliance with the regulations of the academic division shall become effective ten days after submission.

1. A written statement from the graduate student stating that the student shall not incorporate the results of any research projects conducted under the instruction of their original advisor into their own thesis/dissertation without their original advisor’s written consent.
2. A written agreement signed by both parties stating that the results of the original research project(s) may be co-published by both parties or that the results of the original research project(s) may only be published by one of the parties with the original advisor’s consent.
3. A completed thesis/dissertation advisor agreement form from the graduate student’s new advisor.

Three original copies of the aforementioned documents are required. One copy shall be kept by the graduate student’s original advisor; one copy shall be filed at the office of the student’s original academic division; and one copy shall be kept by the student.

In cases where a graduate student has two advisors and only wishes to terminate the student-advisor relationship with one advisor, the provisions of Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 3 shall not submit.

Article 5 An advisor who wishes to terminate the student-advisor relationship with a graduate student, he/she and the graduate student should sign an agreement stating that the results of the original research project(s) may be co-published by both parties or that the results of the original research project(s) may only be published by one of the parties and submit the agreement to the office of the academic division. Termination of student-advisor relationship shall become effective ten days after submission.

Article 6 Provided that a case in which a graduate student is sexually assaulted, sexually harassed or sexually bullied by his/her thesis/dissertation advisor is regarded as a gender equity incident by NTU Gender Equity Education Committee (hereinafter referred to as GEEC), the graduate student may require GEEC to send an official document to his/her academic division by keeping it confidential in order to terminate the student-advisor relationship.

The student-advisor relationship shall be immediately terminated once the academic division receives the official document mentioned in the preceding paragraph from GEEC. The academic division shall take immediate action to coordinate the student and advisor to sign an agreement on clarifying whether the original research results may be presented by both of the student and advisor or merely one of them; coordination results shall be made, and the academic division shall notify both sides in writing and forward a notification to its college within one month.

When coordinating both sides in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the academic division shall not only act in the way that graduate students may accept, but in the spirit of article 23 to 25 of Gender Equity Education Act, and article 12 of NTU Directives for the Prevention of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Bullying on Campus. Meanwhile, latent unequal power relations shall be strictly prohibited.

Article 7 A graduate student who has changed advisor shall submit one copy of his/her thesis/dissertation to the original advisor by personally delivered, delivered by the academic division, or sent by registered with advice of receipt ten days prior to the student's thesis/dissertation defense. The advisor shall sign for it in person. Thesis/dissertation sent by registered with advice of receipt, the date of advice of delivery considered as date of signature. If the original advisor has any reason to dispute the written statement, they shall file an appeal with the responsible academic division five days prior to the student's thesis/dissertation defense.

Once an appeal has been filed, the student's thesis/dissertation defense shall be suspended until a decision has been reached by the responsible department, institute, or degree program in a meeting held within one month of the appeal filing. The decision shall be notified in writing to the graduate student, original advisor, and the College for reference.

Article 8 A graduate student may file a request with his or her academic division to hold a mediation meeting, provided that one of the following circumstances applies:

1. The graduate student has filed a request to change his or her advisor, but the advisor has not granted his or her consent.
2. The graduate student has received a notification from his or her advisor

stating the latter's wish to terminate their student-advisor relationship, but the graduate student objects to the proposed termination.

3. The graduate student who has changed advisor intends to continue using research results produced during the period of supervision by the original advisor but the original advisor does not agree.
4. The graduate student has reached the minimum program length and has been qualified for a thesis/dissertation defense by the criteria set by his or her academic division but is unable to receive his or her advisor's consent to proceed with the thesis/dissertation defense.
5. The graduate student has passed the thesis/dissertation defense and has come to the conclusion that he or she has revised his or her thesis/dissertation based on the suggestions and opinions of the members of the degree examination committee, but has failed to secure the final approval of his or her thesis/dissertation from the advisor and the members of the examination committee.
6. The graduate student is unable to contact his/her advisor for two months.

After receiving the student's request for mediation, the head of the responsible academic division shall convene a mediation meeting to be attended by the advisor, at least four faculty members in relevant disciplines, and the graduate student and may invite one student representative from the academic division or graduate student association to attend. In the event that the head of the student's academic division is his or her advisor, then the dean of the College shall appoint another full-time faculty member as the convener of the mediation meeting.

The academic division shall communicate the results of the mediation to the advisor, the student, and the College for reference in writing within one month of receiving the student's request for mediation.

Article 9 If the graduate student does not accept the decision or mediation made by the academic division in accordance with standards, he or she may file an appeal with the NTU Student Grievance Committee, pursuant to the NTU Guidelines for Student Grievances, within ten days of receiving official notification of the results of the academic division mediation.

Article 10 In the event that a graduate student changes advisors at their own discretion without following these standards, the grade they receive for their thesis/dissertation defense shall not be recognized.

Article 11 These standards shall take effect upon approval of the Academic Affairs Meeting.

March 18, 2002–Approved by the 1st Academic Affairs Meeting of the 2nd Semester of Academic Year 2001–02
June 8, 2007–Approved by the 2nd Academic Affairs Meeting of the 2nd Semester of Academic Year 2006–07
October 15, 2010–Approved by the 1st Academic Affairs Meeting of the 1st Semester of Academic Year 2010–11
June 10, 2011–Approved by the 2nd Academic Affairs Meeting of the 2nd Semester of Academic Year 2010–11
October 16, 2015–Approved by the 1st Academic Affairs Meeting of the 1st Semester of Academic Year 2015–16
January 8, 2021– Approved by the 2nd Academic Affairs Meeting of the 1st Semester of Academic Year 2020–21
March 17, 2023–Approved by the 1st Academic Affairs Meeting of the 2nd Semester of Academic Year 2022–23
March 24, 2023–Promulgated Articles 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, and 9