

NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY

Regulations Governing Direct-Entry Doctoral Degree Programs

May 25, 1995	Passed by the 2 nd Academic Affairs Meeting, spring semester, Academic Year 1994–95
January 06, 2017	Amended and passed by the 2 nd Academic Affairs Meeting, fall semester, Academic Year 2016–17
March 17, 2017	Amended and passed by the 1 st Academic Affairs Meeting, spring semester, Academic Year 2016–17
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March 23, 2018	Amended and passed by the 1 st Academic Affairs Meeting, spring semester, Academic Year 2017–18
June 06, 2025	Amended and passed by the 2 nd Academic Affairs Meeting, spring semester, Academic Year 2024–25
June 11, 2025	Promulgation of amended Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 14
Dec. 19, 2025	Amended and passed by the 2 nd Academic Affairs Meeting, fall semester, Academic Year 2025–26
Dec. 30, 2025	Promulgation of amended Article 5

Article 1 National Taiwan University (NTU or “the University”) formulates the NTU *Regulations Governing Direct-Entry Doctoral Degree Programs* (“the Regulations”) in accordance with Ministry of Education’s *Regulations for Direct-Entry Doctoral Degree Programs*, to encourage outstanding students to pursue continuous learning and shorten the time required to obtain a doctoral degree.

Article 2 Each department, graduate institute, or degree program (collectively, academic program) of NTU that offers doctoral programs may admit direct-entry doctoral degree program students (“direct-entry Ph.D. students”) in accordance with the Regulations.

Article 3 Current undergraduate students graduating in the current academic year and master’s students having completed at least one semester of study in the National Taiwan University System who demonstrate outstanding research potential may, with the recommendation of two professors (assistant professors or above) from their associated academic program, apply for entry into a direct-entry doctoral degree program (“direct-entry Ph.D. program”) provided that one of the following conditions is met:

1. A cumulative GPA in the top third of the student’s associated academic program over the period of studies completed: Each academic program may rank students according to their average grade in required courses rather than their overall academic grade or set more rigorous requirements.
2. Outstanding academic achievement as recognized by the admitting academic program with justifiable cause

Article 4 Student rankings shall be based on the total number of students in the entire academic program, or in the event that academic program division has been formally approved by Ministry of Education, the number of students in the division may be used instead.

Article 5 The number of direct-entry Ph.D. students (including intercollegiate admissions) admitted by each academic program may not exceed 40% of the total Ph.D. When calculating the number of admission slots, the decimals shall be rounded to the nearest integer. However, this restriction does not apply to programs that receive redistributed direct-entry Ph.D. admission slots from other academic programs within the same college.

After each academic program has completed all external admissions channels for doctoral programs in a given academic year, any unfilled admission quotas may be reallocated for use as quotas for direct-entry Ph.D. programs within the University. Following such reallocation, the total number of admission quotas for direct-entry Ph.D. programs shall not exceed 40% of the total number of doctoral admission quotas approved by Ministry of Education for the University in that academic year

After the reallocation described in the preceding two paragraphs, no academic program may admit only direct-entry Ph.D. students for all its approved admission slots. However, the following cases are exempt from this restriction:

1. The academic program has only one approved Ph.D. admission slot.
2. The admission is part of a talent cultivation program or special project approved by Ministry of Education.

The admission slots mentioned in the preceding three subparagraphs shall be included in the total number of Ph.D. admission slots approved by Ministry of Education for the University in the academic year.

The number of intercollegiate direct-entry Ph.D. students admitted by the University may not exceed 5% of the Ph.D. admission slots approved by Ministry of Education. (Each academic program may admit 1 intercollegiate direct-entry Ph.D. student if the calculation result is less than 1.)

Article 6 For undergraduate students applying to a direct-entry Ph.D. program, the first admission period shall be held during the Ph.D. admissions through screening and test, and the second period during the Ph.D. entrance examination.

For master's students applying to a direct-entry Ph.D. program, the first admission period shall be held during the Ph.D. entrance examination, and the second period during the Ph.D. admissions through screening and test.

Each academic program may set a different application timeline to process admissions in advance.

Article 7 A direct-entry Ph.D. applicant may be admitted to a direct-entry Ph.D. program by submitting an application with the following documents to the admitting academic program for review, which shall then be submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President for approval:

1. One copy of direct-entry Ph.D. program application form
2. One copy of transcript of academic record for undergraduate coursework or at least one semester of master's degree coursework
3. Recommendations from two professors (assistant professors or above)
4. Other documents required by the admitting academic program

A student's status at their home university shall be revoked upon admission to a direct-entry Ph.D. program at another university.

Article 8 Undergraduate students admitted to a direct-entry Ph.D. program shall obtain their bachelor's degree in the current academic year and enroll in the direct-entry Ph.D. program in the following academic year. Students shall be ineligible for the retention of student status.

Undergraduate students described in the preceding paragraph with outstanding academic achievement who graduate one semester early may enroll in the direct-entry Ph.D. program in the semester after receiving their bachelor's degree.

Article 9 Students admitted to a direct-entry Ph.D. program in any of the following situations may be allowed to transfer or return to the corresponding master's degree program after passing a review by their associated academic program and being approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs:

1. Suspension of doctoral studies for a given reason after completing at least one academic year of doctoral coursework
2. Failing the Ph.D. qualifying examination
3. Failing the doctoral degree examination and not qualifying for the conditions set forth in Article 10.

A direct-entry Ph.D. student, as stipulated in the preceding paragraph, who completes all required master's coursework, submits a master's thesis, and passes the master's degree examination held by a degree examination committee shall be conferred a master's degree. The period of doctoral studies shall be excluded from the period of study as a master's student.

A student may not apply to a direct-entry Ph.D. program again after transferring or returning to a master's program.

Article 10 A master's degree may be conferred to a direct-entry Ph.D. student who passes the Ph.D. qualifying examination and subsequently fails the degree examination, but whose dissertation is considered to be on par with a master's thesis by the examination committee.

Article 11 A master's student approved by the University to pursue a doctoral degree may not take the degree examination held by their original master's program unless they apply to revoke their status as a direct-entry Ph.D. student.

Article 12 The direct-entry Ph.D. program application form shall be formulated by the Office of Academic Affairs. Recommendation letters shall be formulated by each graduate institute.

Article 13 If there are any matters not covered in the Regulations, they shall be handled in accordance with the relevant regulations of Ministry of Education and the University.

Article 14 The Regulations shall be passed by the Academic Affairs Meeting and then implemented on the date of promulgation.