National Taiwan Normal University
Graduate Institute of Sustainability Management and Environmental Education
Academic Year 2023-2024
Operating Standards for the "Pilot Program for NSTC Subsidies to Universities for Cultivating Outstanding Doctoral Students"

Approved at the 4th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 2023-2024 (October 12, 2023)

I. **Purpose:** These Operating Standards are established to reward outstanding doctoral students of the Institute who demonstrate research potential, and to support them in pursuing their studies with financial stability and focusing on research.

II. **Basis:** The University's Implementation Guidelines for the "Pilot Program for NSTC Subsidies to Universities for Cultivating Outstanding Doctoral Students."

III. **Sources and Amount of Scholarship Funding:**

(1) The scholarship is jointly funded by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), National Taiwan Normal University, and matching funds from the Institute.

(2) Students in the first through fourth years shall receive NT$40,000 per month. In the first and second years, the NSTC provides NT$30,000 per month, the University provides NT$5,000, and the Institute provides NT$5,000. Beginning in the third year, the NSTC provides NT$20,000 per month, the University provides NT$10,000, and the Institute provides NT$10,000.

(3) If the Institute is unable to provide the required matching funds due to insufficient funding, the Institute may return the scholarship allocation to the University.

IV. **Eligible Recipients:** First-year, full-time doctoral students of the Institute who are admitted and registered in the current academic year and hold Republic of China (Taiwan) nationality, including students admitted early in February.

V. **Quota:** Subject to the number of recipients allocated to the Institute by the University for the relevant academic year, with a maximum of one recipient.

VI. **Award Period:** From September 1 of the current year through August 31 of the fourth year, for a maximum of four years. If a recipient graduates within four years, the scholarship will be paid through the month of graduation, and the vacated quota will not be filled.

VII. **Application Period and Procedures:**

(1) Application Period: As announced for the relevant academic year.

(2) Application Procedure: Applicants shall submit the application form by the announced deadline, together with one copy of the degree thesis, three copies of the master's transcript, and three copies of other supporting documents demonstrating academic performance, to the Institute Office.

VIII. **Review Criteria and Procedures:**

(1) Review Criteria:

1. Academic performance during the master's program.
2. Academic journal/publication record.
3. Awards received for the master's thesis.

(2) Review Procedure: After the Institute Office accepts applications and completes the eligibility review, the applications shall be submitted to the Institute Scholarship Review Committee for resolution. If no applicant meets the eligibility requirements, the award may remain vacant. The Institute shall submit the review results to the Office of Academic Affairs for final review and disbursement.

IX. **Renewal Evaluation:** Beginning in the following academic year, each recipient must submit a complete report to the Institute by July 15 of each academic year to apply for renewal. Renewal eligibility is granted only after approval by the Institute Scholarship Review Committee and filing with the Office of Academic Affairs.

X. **Renewal Criteria:**

(1) The recipient's GPA for the preceding academic year must be 4.0 or above.

(2) During the preceding academic year, the recipient must have published at least one paper in an academic journal listed in the Institute's doctoral study regulations. The recipient must be the first author or corresponding author; an acceptance letter shall be considered sufficient proof.

(3) The recipient must participate in international academic activities and demonstrate outstanding performance.

Note: For renewal in the second year, the recipient must satisfy at least one of Items (1) through (3).

Note: For renewal in the third and fourth years, the recipient must satisfy Item (2).

(4) Applicants for fourth-year renewal must have passed the doctoral qualification examination.

XI. **Restriction on Concurrent Scholarships:** Recipients of this scholarship may not concurrently receive any other scholarship during the same academic year.

XII. **Termination of Eligibility:** If any of the following circumstances occurs during the award period, the recipient's eligibility shall be revoked. Payment shall terminate beginning in the month following the date on which the circumstance occurs and shall not be reinstated. The vacancy shall be filled from the alternate list submitted by the Institute; if no alternate is available, the quota shall be returned to the University:

(1) The recipient engages in full-time employment at a public or private institution.

(2) The recipient applies for a leave of absence or withdraws from the University.

(3) A student admitted directly to a doctoral program transfers into or returns to a master's program.

(4) The recipient is not recommended by the Institute for continued funding.

XIII. **Matters Not Covered:** Any matters not covered by these Operating Standards shall be handled in accordance with the relevant regulations of the University.

XIV. **Implementation and Amendments:** These Operating Standards shall take effect after review by the Institute Scholarship Review Committee and approval by the Institute Affairs Meeting. The same procedure shall apply to any amendments.