National Taiwan Normal University
Graduate Institute of Sustainability Management and Environmental Education
Regulations Governing the Doctoral Student Qualification Examination

Amended and approved at the 2nd Institute Affairs Meeting of the 1st Semester, Academic Year 109, on November 7, 2020
Amended and approved at the 9th Institute Affairs Meeting of the 2nd Semester, Academic Year 111, on May 16, 2023

I. Applicable Academic Years

(1) These Regulations apply to doctoral students who had not yet applied for the qualification examination as of the first semester of Academic Year 112.

(2) Doctoral students admitted in Academic Year 112 or earlier may choose either the Regulations Governing the Doctoral Candidate Qualification Examination applicable in their year of admission or these amended Regulations.

Note: “Completion of the qualification examination” under these Regulations means completion and successful approval of a full doctoral dissertation proposal.

II. Examination Method

Doctoral students of the Institute must present a complete doctoral dissertation proposal to the Qualification Examination Committee and pass the examination.

III. Composition of the Qualification Examination Committee

The Qualification Examination Committee shall be the Doctoral Advisory Committee, as prescribed in the Institute’s Regulations Governing Doctoral Study.

IV. Definition and Evaluation Principles for a Complete Doctoral Dissertation Proposal

(1) Definition: The doctoral dissertation proposal shall identify a clear research topic in a field related to sustainability management and environmental education. Through literature review and analysis, it shall formulate clear research questions and corresponding research methods, and shall describe interim findings as well as expected results and conclusions.

(2) Length: The proposal, including the main text, references, figures, tables, appendices, etc., shall not exceed 30,000 words.

(3) Required components: The doctoral dissertation proposal shall include at least the following sections and contents:

1. Abstract: Chinese abstract and English abstract.
2. Introduction: research background, research motivation, research objectives, research questions, and definitions of terms.
3. Literature Review and Analysis: major developments in the relevant issues, key theories, relationships among the literature, research objectives, and research questions, and the contribution of the dissertation.
4. Research Methods: research framework, research procedures, research instruments, research participants, research schedule, data collection, data analysis methods, and measures to ensure reliability and validity.
5. Results and Discussion: preliminary results, expected results, and the schedule and progress plan for future work.
6. References: APA style shall be used, with in-text citations included in the main text.

(4) Evaluation: Each member of the Qualification Examination Committee shall evaluate the proposal and determine one of the following outcomes: “Pass,” “Conditional Pass,” “Fail,” or “Not Passed Due to Suspected Violation of Academic Ethics.”

(5) Preparation prior to application: When applying for the qualification examination, the doctoral student shall submit the full electronic version of the proposal together with an originality report generated by the “Online Plagiarism Detection System.” After excluding the student’s own published works, references, and directly quoted material, the similarity rate shall not exceed 15%.

(6) Consequence of failure: A student who fails the qualification examination twice shall be dismissed from the program.

V. Completion Deadline

Doctoral students shall complete the qualification examination no later than the end of the sixth semester while maintaining enrolled status. A student who fails to complete the qualification examination by the deadline shall be dismissed from the program.