National Taiwan Normal University

Graduate Institute of Environmental Education

Doctoral Program Guidelines

Adoption and Amendment History

Adopted at the 3rd Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 95 (ROC) on March 5, 2007.

Amended and approved at the 6th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 96 (ROC) on May 5, 2008.

Amended and approved at the 6th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 97 (ROC) on May 18, 2009.

Amended and approved at the 8th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 99 (ROC) on June 9, 2011.

Amended and approved at the 8th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 100 (ROC) on May 12, 2012.

Amended and approved at the 1st Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 102 (ROC) on September 9, 2013.

Amended and approved at the 7th Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 103 (ROC) on May 26, 2014.

Amended and approved at the 1st Institute Affairs Meeting of Academic Year 105 (ROC) on August 16, 2016.

Article 1

These Guidelines are established under the relevant rules to govern doctoral studies at the Institute.

Article 2

Within one month of admission (by October 31 or March 31), doctoral students must complete the online academic research ethics course and pass its assessment before they may formally begin writing their dissertation.

Article 3

Doctoral courses are grouped into five areas. The minimum elective credits for each area are as follows:

1. Environmental Education and Philosophical Thought. Develop foundational core competencies. Minimum elective credits: 6.

2. Environmental and Sustainability Science. Study the physical, biological, and social environments to build a solid theoretical foundation in environmental knowledge and develop analytical judgment. Minimum elective credits: 6.

3. Environmental Education Methods. Develop the skills to teach, interpret, and communicate effectively in environmental education, including theory, planning, design, implementation, and reporting. Required credits: 3. Minimum elective credits: 9.

Doctoral students without an environmental education background must first take "Research in Environmental Education." Its credits do not count toward graduation.

4. Research Methods. Learn the theories and techniques of research methodology needed for environmental education research. Required credits: 4. Minimum elective credits: 6.

5. Practical Competence. While pursuing the doctoral degree, students gain experience and develop skills by participating in environmental education planning, design, implementation, and evaluation. No credits are prescribed. This professional practice is an experiential learning requirement before graduation.

Article 4

Doctoral students must complete at least 36 credits to graduate. The dissertation is counted separately.

Article 5

Application for selection of a dissertation advisor:

1. Doctoral students must submit the Application for Selection of a Dissertation Advisor by the end of their second semester after admission. At least one advisor must be a full-time faculty member of the Institute at the rank of associate professor or above. If needed, one additional full-time or part-time faculty member from the Institute, or a faculty member from another department or university, may serve as co-advisor.

2. If a change of advisor is necessary for exceptional reasons, both the outgoing and incoming advisors must sign their consent. The signed consent must be submitted to the Institute Director for the record. If necessary, the Director may convene an Institute Affairs Meeting to help resolve the matter.

Article 6

1. Upon admission, the Institute Affairs Meeting determines whether a new doctoral student must take the master's-level course "Research in Environmental Education" as supplementary coursework. Supplementary credits do not count toward the doctoral graduation credit total.

2. New doctoral students must submit a course plan around the midpoint of their first semester (late May or late November). The Institute Director shall convene all Institute faculty to review it and keep it on record.

Article 7

The minimum and maximum credit loads per semester for doctoral students are governed by the Academic Regulations of National Taiwan Normal University.

Article 8

Doctoral students must pass the doctoral candidacy qualifying examination and the dissertation proposal oral examination before applying for the degree examination.

Separate rules govern the doctoral candidacy qualifying examination and the doctoral dissertation proposal oral examination.

Article 9

The doctoral candidacy qualifying examination covers "Specialized Knowledge of Environmental Education and Research Methods" and "Specialized Knowledge in the Candidate's Research Area."

"Specialized Knowledge of Environmental Education and Research Methods" is a required examination subject.

Before applying for the doctoral candidacy qualifying examination, doctoral students may obtain an exemption from "Specialized Knowledge in the Candidate's Research Area" if, while enrolled at the Institute, they have published one scholarly work as first author or corresponding author in one of the following journals:

- Journals indexed in SCI, SCIE, SSCI, EI, or TSSCI.
- Canadian Journal of Environmental Education (CJEE)
- Australian Journal of Environmental Education (AJEE)
- Applied Environmental Education and Communication
- International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education
- Journal of Science and Technology Policy
- Journal of Interpretation Research
- Environmental Communication
- Journal of Environmental Education Research

This amendment applies to students applying for the doctoral candidacy qualifying examination from the first semester of Academic Year 100 (ROC) onward.

Article 10

To graduate, doctoral students must pass the degree examination and publish at least two scholarly works during their enrollment as first author or corresponding author in journals listed in Article 9. A paper used to obtain an exemption from "Specialized Knowledge in the Candidate’s Research Area" does not count toward this requirement.

Separate procedures for administering the degree examination shall be established in accordance with the relevant regulations.

This article applies to doctoral candidates who have yet to apply for the degree examination, except for doctoral students admitted in Academic Year 106 (ROC) or later.

Article 11

Applicants must submit the following with their degree examination application:

1. A dissertation originality report from the online plagiarism detection system (the similarity score after excluding references and direct quotations must be 15%).

2. A signed undertaking for the dissertation examination application.

Article 12

These Guidelines take effect upon approval by the Institute Affairs Meeting. The same procedure applies to amendments.

Article 13

The Institute Affairs Meeting may review and amend these Guidelines. Any amendment shall specify its scope of application and effective date.

Article 14

Matters not covered by these Guidelines shall be handled in accordance with the relevant rules of the University and the Institute.