

# National Chengchi University College of Social Sciences: International Master's Program in Asia-Pacific Studies (IMAS) Graduate Degree Program Regulations

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## 1. Objective

To comply with the Ministry of Education's plan for enhancing the international competitiveness of Taiwanese universities, the College of Social Sciences at National Chengchi University (NCCU) has established the International Master's Program in Asia-Pacific Studies (IMAS). The program will promote education and academic research in the field of Asia-Pacific Studies. Addressed topics include politics, economics, society, and culture. This graduate program will be governed by the Regulations of NCCU, IMAS Course Work Guidelines, Thesis Guidelines and Degree Requirements (**IMAS Guidelines and Requirements**) as well as other established regulations deemed necessary by the IMAS program committee.

## 2. Qualification for Admission

- Domestic students: Taiwanese nationals must pass the joint entrance examination administered by the university.
- International students: Prospective international student application materials will be reviewed by the IMAS program committee.

\*Admission eligibility for non-degree seeking international students is subject to NCCU's relevant regulations.

## 3. Regulation for Courses, Credit Hours, and Period of Study

- (1) Credits: A minimum of 33 credit hours and a thesis is required for the Master's degree in Asia-Pacific Studies.
- (2) Grading: 100-point scale  
The highest grade for each course is one hundred (100) points.  
A grade of seventy (70) is the minimum passing grade.
- (3) All students must be enrolled in at least one course each semester to maintain student status. Those who have already taken the required numbers of courses (33 credits) are exempted from this rule.

- (4) Degree duration: The program length is two years and can be extended to four years. Students may withdraw from the program for up to two years before returning to complete their degree. For special circumstances, please refer to NCCU's rules and regulations pertaining to deferring.
- (5) In the event that non-degree seeking students or credit students apply for and are accepted as degree students in the IMAS program, they are required to fulfill the class requirements set by IMAS and maintain official student status for at least three semesters in order to obtain their degree.

#### **4. Taking Courses outside the IMAS Program**

- (1) IMAS students can take up to **12 credits of** graduate-level courses taught in English from other departments and **count as graduation credits**. Classes from the IDAS and IMES programs will be considered in-program, therefore they do not count as outside courses.
- (2) **IMAS students selecting courses offered by other universities shall seek approval from the Director and count as graduation credits.**
- (3) If international IMAS students' research requires it, they may take up to **12 credits of** graduate courses not taught in English. Applications for these courses should be submitted one week prior to the add/drop course period and be approved by the IMAS Director.
- (4) Any further special coursework requested by the student requires prior approval by the IMAS program committee.
- (5) Elective courses are offered at schools listed in the University System of Taiwan, UST. Whoever selects an elective course should also comply with the program regulations and related provisions.

#### **5. Minimum Number of Students per Course**

The minimum number of students required for an IMAS Elective Course is ten students. If the numbers of students are fewer than 10, the courses could still be approved by the director.

#### **6. Guidelines for Credit Transfer**

- (1) Non-degree students or credit students can transfer up to nine credits counted towards their IMAS degree.
- (2) Degree program students can transfer up to six credits from another master's program taught in English. These courses must be related to Asia-Pacific Studies.
- (3) Transferred credits must have been received with a score of 80 points or above in accordance with Taiwan's grading system or with a B or above in accordance with international grading systems. In addition, the courses need to be approved of by the IMAS program committee.
- (4) Transferred credits must have been received within the last five years.
- (5) Any issue not included in these regulations will be decided on by the IMAS Program Committee.

#### **7. Thesis Proposal Examination**

- (1) Applications for thesis proposal examination can be submitted anytime during the semester.
- (2) The thesis proposal examination should be completed within the same semester in which the application was submitted.

- (3) Students can apply for the thesis proposal examination after they have completed eighteen 18 credits in the degree program and obtained approval from their thesis advisor.
- (4) Application Materials: Those applying for the thesis proposal examination must submit one copy of their proposal and a completed application form to the IMAS office.
- (5) The thesis proposal should include the following:
  - Title of the thesis
  - Purpose of the research
  - Literature review
  - Research method and theoretical framework
  - References
- (6) The thesis proposal will be reviewed through an oral examination.
- (7) The proposal examining committee shall consist of at least three to five members, including the thesis advisor and two other members recommended by the advisor. At least one member should be a full-time faculty member from the College of Social Sciences. External professors should account for no less than one third of the members.
- (8) A proposal is deemed passed only after all members of the proposal examining committee grant it a passing score. After the proposal has been given a passing score, the degree candidate may begin writing the thesis to complete the requirements for the IMAS degree.
- (9) A student who cannot be present at the scheduled oral examination should take a leave of absence in accordance with “NCCU Students leave of absence regulations.

## 8. Thesis Oral Defense and Other Regulations

- (1) Application date: Students may apply for the thesis defense upon approval of their completed thesis by their advisor.  
Deadline for submission of application for thesis oral defense  
Please refer to the school calendar.
- (2) Required materials for thesis defense application: Graduate thesis oral examination application form and completed draft of thesis.
- (3) The thesis defense must take place within the same semester in which the application was submitted.
- (4) Master’s candidates are eligible to defend their thesis **four** months after passing their thesis proposal examination. Candidates must present a completed thesis approved by the advisor in order to apply for the thesis defense. **(since the academic year 2023)**
- (5) Master’s thesis defense committees shall consist of three to five members, including the thesis advisor and two other members recommended by the advisor. At least one member should be a full-time faculty member from the College of Social Sciences. External professors should account for no less than one third of the members.
- (6) A minimum score of seventy (70) is required to pass the thesis defense, with one hundred (100) being the highest grade. Failing scores given by one half or more of master’s thesis defense committee members will result in a failed defense.
- (7) Students who fail the defense and are still within the valid duration requirements of their study may apply for a second oral defense in the following semester. Barring this, there are no extra opportunities to retake a failed oral defense.
- (8) Students who fail their second defense attempt will be expelled from the program.
- (9) Scores and results of defenses will be officially recorded. A student who fails their second thesis oral defense must withdraw from the university.
- (10) A second thesis defense requires a minimum of 70.
- (11) A draft of the completed thesis should be submitted to the thesis defense committee at least TWO WEEKS before the oral defense. After the thesis is defended successfully and

its revisions approved by the advisor, students must upload their thesis to the NCCU Electronic Theses and Dissertations System. In addition, two copies of the thesis must be submitted to the NCCU Main Library. One copy of the thesis should be submitted to the IMAS Office. Either the hard-bound or soft-bound thesis is allowed for final submission.

- (12) Any issue not stated above will be resolved in compliance with NCCU rules and regulations and/or MOE degree conferral law.
- (13) In order to ensure all students abide by a high standard of research ethics, starting from academic year 2016-2017, newly enrolled students (including those who have early enrollment before Fall 2016), must complete the research ethics coursework before the end of their first school year. A student is required to pass the research ethics course or receive explicit authorization for an exemption from the research ethics course before his/her application for taking final graduate degree examination.

**9. Thesis Advisor Qualifications**

In compliance with the MOE degree conferral law, thesis advisors must be full-time or joint appointment faculty members of NCCU. Adjunct professors or professors from other schools may be accepted upon approval by the IMAS Director.

**10. Granting of Degree**

Students are required to comply with the IMAS graduate degree program regulations before the Master's degree can be granted.

11. **The above-stated regulations are to be executed and amended with the approval of the IMAS program committee.**