

**National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU)**  
**International Ph.D. Program in Photonics (University System of Taiwan)**  
**Academic Regulations for the Doctoral Program**

2025

**1. Admission Requirements**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan and the NYCU Regulations for Admission of International Students to Degree Programs and Credit Course Selection, international students who are expecting or hold a master's degree or above from a domestic or foreign institution may apply for the International Ph.D. Program in Photonics.

**2. Study Period**

- (1) The term of study for full-time students is 2 to 7 years. Part-time students may extend this period to 9 years.
- (2) Students who apply to suspend their studies must receive the approval of their advisor and the program director. The study may be suspended for 1 semester or 1 academic year at a time, up to the total of 4 semesters (2 years).

**3. Credit Structure and Course Requirements**

- (1) Complete and fulfill the following four course requirements:

- Complete 18 credits (minimum) of professional courses from the University System of Taiwan.
- Doctoral students are required to take at least two of the following five courses: geometric optics, solid state physics, laser principles and ultrafast optics, introduction to optical systems, and optical fiber communication.
- Doctoral students in their first and second years of study must take Seminar and Independent Study courses every semester (the credits do not count toward graduation requirements). Students must take and pass 4 Seminars (minimum) and 4 Independent Studies (minimum) before graduation.
- Complete 2 courses or at least 4 credits of Chinese Language courses. Students who pass Chinese proficiency tests may waive up to 2 courses or 4 credits.

- (2) Before registering courses, students in their first and second years of study must ask their advisor or the program director to approve their course selection.
- (3) Before the end of the first semester after enrollment, a student must submit an Advisor Agreement Form with three selected qualifying subjects approved by the advisor.
- (4) Students who seek transfer of credits taken outside the University System of Taiwan must apply for credit transfer with the approval of their advisors and the program director.

- (5) Transfer students from other departments in the University System of Taiwan may apply for credit exemption with the approval of their advisors and the program director.
- (6) Students should complete the course of Academic Research Ethics Education and Gender Equality Education before the end of first semester. Students who fail the course test may not apply for the doctoral degree examination.

#### 4. Qualifying

- (1) Students must, with the approval of their advisors, select three courses as their qualifying subjects. If there is a special reason to change the qualifying subjects, students must apply for approval from their advisors and the program director.
- (2) Students are considered to pass the qualifying subjects if their grades are A<sup>-</sup> (80 points) or above.
- (3) Students must pass all 3 qualifying subjects within 3 years after enrolling in the doctoral program. Any student who fails to meet this requirement will be expelled from NYCU.
- (4) Transfer students from other departments in the University System of Taiwan may, with the approval of their advisor and the program director, apply for qualifying subject exemption. Qualifying subject exemption is limited to one subject with a score of A<sup>-</sup> (80 points) or above.

#### 5. Dissertation

- (1) Within the first semester of enrolling in the doctoral program, students must select an advisor who will provide guidance on matters related to study and research.
- (2) The advisor must be a full-time assistant professor or above at the University System of Taiwan and who has published papers in internationally renowned journals.
- (3) To change the advisor, a student should follow the "National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Guidelines for the Interaction between Thesis Advisor and Graduate Students", as well as submit the Application for Changing Advisors. The application must be made at least 1 year before graduation.
- (4) A student must pass the dissertation proposal oral exam within 5 years after enrolling the doctoral program. Any student who fails to meet this requirement will be expelled from NYCU.
- (5) The doctoral dissertation examination should follow relevant procedures of the department or institute to which the advisor belongs (in the case of joint-advisors, refer to the procedures of the department or institute of the main advisor).
- (6) As of Academic Year 2019, students who conduct the doctoral dissertation examination shall first complete the "thesis originality check" and the similarity should equal or be less than 20%. If the similarity is more than 20%, students should provide clarifications signed by the advisor before applying for the doctoral dissertation examination.
- (7) If the advisor wants to terminate the mentoring relationship that should follow the "National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Guidelines for the Interaction between Thesis Advisor and Graduate Students", and submit a written document to the conference for review.

## 6. Graduation

- (1) A student may apply for doctoral dissertation examination with the advisor's recommendation after he/she has completed the required course credits, passed the qualification subjects, and fulfilled the publication requirements set by his/her advisor's department or institute. A Ph.D. degree will be conferred after he/she passes the doctoral dissertation examination.
- (2) The score of the doctoral dissertation examination is determined by the average of the scores given by the committee members. The average score should be at least B<sup>-</sup> (above 70 percent) for a pass, and A<sup>+</sup> (100 percent) shall be the full credit. The examination shall be failed if more than one-third of the committee members give scores below B<sup>-</sup>. Those who fail the doctoral dissertation examination and their extended period of study has not expired may apply for a re-examination between the next semester and the end of study period. The re-examination is limited to once. Those who fail the re-examination will be expelled from NYCU.

## 7. School Leaving Procedures

After passing the doctoral dissertation examination, the abstract and full text of the dissertation should be filed online and submitted (one volume for display in the library of the university and one volume for collection by the Ministry of Education) and Thesis Format Form. The school-leaving procedure form should be completed to fulfill the requirements for leaving school.