

# **Principles for Internal Direct Admission to Doctoral Programs at I-Shou University**

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Amendments to Articles 1-3 and 5-11 adopted by the University Academic Council on June 14, 2023, and promulgated with the consent of the President dated July 4, 2023

Amendments to Articles 1 and 11, as well as the title, adopted by the University Academic Council on June 19, 2024, and promulgated with the consent of the President dated December 2, 2024

Amendments to Article 3 adopted by the University Academic Council on December 22, 2025, and promulgated with the consent of the President dated January 2, 2026

Article 1     The Principles for Internal Direct Admission to Doctoral Programs at I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as “the Principles”) are established by I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as “the University”) in accordance with the University Act and the Regulations Governing Student Enrolment in a Doctoral Degree Program Without Holding a Master’s Degree, as promulgated by the Ministry of Education.

Article 2     Students in the final year of a bachelor’s degree program and students who have

completed at least one year of study in a master's program may apply for internal direct admission to a doctoral program, provided that they meet all of the following requirements:

1. Having been ranked within the top one-third of their class based on average semester grades during their studies at the University;
2. Demonstrating strong potential for academic research and being recommended by at least two faculty members at or above the rank of assistant professor from relevant departments (programs or degree programs), graduate institutes, or colleges (hereinafter collectively referred to as "departments, institutes, or colleges"); and
3. Meeting the admission requirements for internal direct admission to doctoral programs as established by the respective departments, institutes, or colleges.

Applicants may enroll in their intended doctoral programs upon approval of their applications by the relevant departmental, institute, or college councils or committees, and final ratification by the President.

Article 3 The number of doctoral students admitted through internal direct admission by each department, institute, or college in a given academic year shall not exceed 40 percent of the admission quota for doctoral students allocated to that department, institute, or college by the Ministry of Education for the same academic year. However, exceptions may be permitted if the internal direct admission quota is transferred from other departments or institutes within the same college.

Upon completion of doctoral student admissions through all external recruitment channels by departments, institutes, or colleges in a given academic year, any remaining vacancies may be transferred to the internal direct admission channel. The total quota for internal direct admission after such transfer shall not exceed 40 percent of the admission quota for doctoral students allocated to the University by the Ministry of Education for the same academic year.

Following the transfers specified in the preceding two paragraphs, departments, institutes, or colleges shall not admit their entire doctoral student intake through internal direct admission. Notwithstanding the foregoing, exceptions may be permitted under either of the following circumstances:

1. The approved admission quota for the doctoral program is one student; or
2. The admission is part of a talent cultivation program or project approved by the

Ministry of Education.

The internal direct admission quotas specified in the preceding three paragraphs shall be counted toward the total admission quota allocated to the University by the Ministry of Education for the same academic year.

Article 4 Students seeking internal direct admission to doctoral programs shall submit an application to the Registration Section of the Office of Academic Affairs within the announced period. Late applications will not be accepted.

Article 5 Students seeking internal direct admission to doctoral programs shall submit the following documents:

1. A completed application form;
2. The academic transcript of all semesters enrolled while studying at the University;
3. Reference letters from at least two faculty members at or above the rank of assistant professor from the applicant's departments, institutes, or colleges, or relevant departments, institutes, or colleges; and
4. Any other documents required by the respective departments, institutes, or colleges.

Article 6 Applicants in the final year of a bachelor's degree program who have been approved for internal direct admission to a doctoral program shall obtain their bachelor's degrees before enrollment; otherwise, their admission shall be denied.

Article 7 If doctoral students admitted through internal direct admission discontinue their studies during the first semester for any reason, their departments, institutes, or colleges may, during the winter vacation, accept applications for internal direct admission to the doctoral programs to fill the resulting vacancies. Before the beginning of the second semester, the departments, institutes, or colleges shall submit the meeting minutes, application forms, and other supporting documents to the President for ratification, following review of the applications by the relevant departmental, institute, or college councils or committees. Successful applicants shall complete the enrollment process for their doctoral programs within two weeks of the first day of school, and their student status shall be changed accordingly.

Article 8 Doctoral students admitted through internal direct admission are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits, excluding credits for the doctoral dissertation. Matters related to required courses, the prescribed duration of study, and academic performance assessment shall be governed by the regulations and rules applicable to first-year

doctoral students as established by the respective departments, institutes, or colleges. Departments, institutes, or colleges may determine whether to recognize credits earned by such doctoral students during their first year of master's study.

Article 9 If doctoral students admitted through internal direct admission do not meet the criteria for expulsion from the University and fall under one of the following circumstances, they may apply, upon approval by the relevant departmental, institute, or college councils or committees and ratification by the President, to transfer in the following semester to a master's program in the department, institute, or college in which they previously studied, or to a master's program offered by a relevant department, institute, or college.

1. Discontinuing doctoral studies for any reason;
2. Failing to pass the doctoral qualifying examination; or
3. Failing to pass the doctoral degree examination and failing to meet the requirements specified in Article 10 of the Principles.

Such doctoral students may be conferred a master's degree, provided that they have completed all required courses, submitted a master's thesis, and passed the master's degree examination. The time spent studying in the doctoral program shall not be counted toward the maximum allowable period of study for master's programs.

Article 10 A master's degree may be awarded to a doctoral student admitted through internal direct admission who has passed the doctoral qualifying examination but subsequently failed the doctoral degree examination, provided that the doctoral degree examination committee determines that the student's doctoral dissertation meets the standard for a master's degree.

Article 11 The Principles become effective on the third day of promulgation after being adopted by the University Academic Council and ratified by the President.

*Note: In case of any disputes or misunderstanding regarding the interpretation of the language or terms of the Principles, the Chinese language version shall prevail.*