

Principles for 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 from 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 from the President dated December 2, 2024

Article 1 The Principles for Direct Admission to Doctoral Programs at I-Shou University (hereinafter referred to as “the Principles”) are made 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 under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

Article 2 Students who are in their final year of a bachelor’s degree program and students who have studied at a master’s program for at least one year may apply for direct admission to a doctoral program provided that they satisfy all the following requirements:

1. having been ranked among the top one-third of all students in his/her class in terms

of the average semester grades while studying at the University;

2. having great potential for academic research and being recommended by at least two faculty members at or above the level of assistant professor from relevant departments (programs), graduate institutes, or colleges (hereinafter collectively referred to as “departments, institutes, or colleges”); and
3. satisfying the admission requirements for direct admission to doctoral programs established by respective departments, institutes, or colleges.

Applicants may enroll in their intended doctoral programs after their applications have been approved by the relevant councils of respective departments, institutes, or colleges and ratified by the President.

Article 3 The number of doctoral students admitted through 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 by the Ministry of Education to the department, institute, or college in the same academic year. However, exceptions may be permitted if the admission quota for direct admission is transferred from other departments and institutes within the same college.

As a general rule, not all doctoral students of the departments, institutes, or colleges mentioned above shall be admitted through direct admission. Notwithstanding the foregoing, exceptions may be permitted under either of the following circumstances:

1. The approved admission quota for a doctoral program is set at one student; or
2. The admission is under an MOE-approved talent cultivation program or project.

The admission quota for direct admission defined in the preceding two paragraphs shall be included in the total admission quota allocated by the Ministry of Education to the University in the same academic year.

Article 4 Students who want to apply for direct admission to doctoral programs shall file an application to the Registration Section of the Office of Academic Affairs within the announced period. Late applications will not be considered.

Article 5 Students who want to apply for direct admission to doctoral programs shall submit the following documents:

1. one completed application form;
2. one academic transcript of all semesters while studying at the University;
3. reference letters offered by at least two faculty members at or above the level of assistant professor from their or relevant departments, institutes, or colleges; and

4. other documents required by respective departments, institutes, or colleges.

Article 6 Applicants in their final year of a bachelor's degree program who have been approved for direct admission to a doctoral program shall obtain their bachelor's degrees before enrolling in the doctoral program. Those who fail to do so will be disqualified from admission.

Article 7 If "direct admission" doctoral students discontinue studies in the first semester of the doctoral programs for some reason, their departments, institutes, or colleges may, during winter vacation, accept applications for direct admission to the doctoral programs to fill the vacancies. The departments, institutes, or colleges shall, before the beginning of the second semester, submit the meeting minutes, application forms, and other supporting documents to the President for ratification after the applications are reviewed by the relevant councils of the departments, institutes, or colleges. Successful applicants shall then complete the enrollment process for the doctoral programs within two weeks of the first day of school and have their student status changed.

Article 8 "Direct admission" doctoral students are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits, excluding credits for doctoral dissertations. Matters relating to required courses, the prescribed duration of study, and academic performance assessments shall be subject to the regulations and rules applicable to first-year doctoral students made by respective departments, institutes, or colleges. Departments, institutes, or colleges may decide whether to recognize the credits earned by "direct admission" doctoral students in their first year of master's programs.

Article 9 If "direct admission" doctoral students do not satisfy the requirements for expulsion from the University, and one of the following situations occurs, they may apply to transfer to a master's program of the department, institute, or college they previously studied at or to a master's program offered by a relevant department, institute, or college in the following semester after their applications are approved by the relevant councils of respective departments, institutes, or colleges and ratified by the President.

1. discontinuing studies at the doctoral program for some reason;
2. having failed the doctoral qualifying examination; or
3. having failed the doctoral degree examination and not satisfying the requirement specified in Article 10 of the Principles.

The aforesaid students may be conferred a master's degree after having completed all required courses, submitted a master's thesis, and passed the master's degree

examination. The duration of studying at doctoral programs will not be included in the maximum allowable period of studying at master's programs.

Article 10 A master's degree may be awarded to a "direct admission" doctoral student who has passed the doctoral qualifying examination but subsequently failed the doctoral degree examination, provided that the doctoral degree examination committee decides that his/her 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.