Guide to Handling Assessment of Doctoral Theses at Doctor Course,
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

(Enacted on April 1, 2020)
(Last revised on June 24, 2026)

(Purpose)

Article 1. This Guide stipulates the matters necessary for the assessment of doctoral theses pursuant to Article 47 of the Degree Regulations: Detailed Regulations for Doctor Course of Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as the "Detailed Regulations").

(Related Publications)

Article 2. Related Publications, among the application forms mentioned in Articles 6, 12, 28, and 34 of the Detailed Regulations shall consist of any related publications that are included in the List of Publications (research papers that form the basis of the doctoral thesis), in addition to Reference Publications (research papers that are not directly related to the doctoral thesis but will be used as references during the assessment).

(Application Period for Preliminary Assessment)

Article 3. The application period for the preliminary assessment mentioned in Articles 7 and 29 of the Detailed Regulations shall be the period from the first day of the month until the 20th day of the month, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. However, if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the final day shall be on the 21st (if the 21st is also a holiday, then on the 22nd; if the 22nd is also a holiday, then the final day shall be on the 19th).

(Application Requirements for Course Doctorates)

Article 4. The preliminary assessment committee mentioned in Article 9 of the Detailed Regulations shall assess whether applicants fulfill the requirements as provided in Article 5 of the Detailed Regulations, in addition to the criteria listed below. In such cases, the Committee shall be able to request the submission of additional documents when deemed necessary.

i. The doctoral thesis must be original, created based on research papers published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system, or research papers deemed to be equivalent to the above.

ii. The Related Publications (research papers that form the basis of the doctoral thesis) must be, in principle, research papers that have already been published or accepted for publication at the time of application. If a Related Publication has neither been published nor accepted for publication at the time of application, the applicant must submit documentary evidence that it has been submitted. In addition, the applicant must submit documentation confirming that the publication has been published or accepted for publication no later than seven days (excluding holidays) prior to the doctoral thesis defense prescribed in Article 16 of the Detailed Regulations.

iii. The Related publications must fulfill the following criteria.

Course	Criteria Pertaining to Number of Related Publications
Information Systems Design and Data Science Course Physics and Materials Science Course Mechanical, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Course Earth Science Course Environmental and Sustainability Sciences Course Chemistry Course Architectural Design Course	At least two of the related publications must be peer-reviewed. The degree applicant must be the first author or equivalent of at least one of these papers, and deemed to have written the said research paper after entering the Doctor Course of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology.
Mathematical Sciences Course Life Sciences Course	At least one of the related publications must be peer-reviewed. The degree applicant must be the first author or equivalent, and deemed to have written the said research paper after entering the Doctor Course of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology.

In addition to the above, the Related Publications must also satisfy the criteria prescribed in the Appended Table.

iv. Pertaining to co-authored papers among the Related Publications, the applicant must have taken the principal role in the research, and the paper must not have been submitted to any university as a doctoral thesis by any of the co-authors.

(Application Requirements for Thesis Doctorates)

Article 5. The thesis preliminary assessment committee mentioned in Article 31 of the Detailed Regulations shall assess whether applicants fulfill the eligibility requirement as provided in Article 25 of the Detailed Regulations, in addition to the criteria listed below. In such cases, the Committee shall be able to request the submission of additional documents when deemed necessary.

i. The doctoral thesis must be original, created based on research papers published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system, or research papers deemed to be equivalent to the above.

ii. The Related Publications (research papers that form the basis of the doctoral thesis) must be, in principle, research papers that have already been published or accepted for publication, at the time of application. If a Related Publication has neither been published nor accepted for publication at the time of application, the applicant must submit documentary evidence that it has been submitted. In addition, the applicant must submit documentation confirming that the publication has been published or accepted for publication no later than seven days (excluding holidays) prior to the doctoral thesis defense prescribed in Article 37 of the Detailed Regulations. At least two of the Related Publications must be research papers that have been evaluated by credible peer review, and the applicant must be the first author or an equivalent author. In addition, the Related Publications must also satisfy the criteria prescribed in the Appended Table.

iii. Pertaining to co-authored papers among the Related Publications, the applicant must have taken the leading role in the research, and the paper must not have been submitted to any university as a doctoral thesis by any of the co-authors.

(Consent of Co-authors)

Article 6. As confirmation of the provisions of Article 4, Paragraph 1, Item iv and Article 5, Paragraph 1, Item iii, a letter of consent of all the co-authors shall be submitted (Appended Form No. 1), in addition to Abstract of Co-authored Paper (Appended Form No. 2). In such cases, if the co-author(s) already possess a doctoral degree, the Co-author Consent Form may be substituted for a letter of confirmation (Appended Form No. 3) filled by degree applicants' academic advisor or research supervisor.

(Application Period for Doctoral Thesis Assessment)

Article 7. The application period for the Doctoral Thesis Assessment mentioned in Articles 13 and 35 of the Detailed Regulations shall be the period from the first day of the month until the 20th day of the month, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. However, if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the final day shall be on the 21st (if the 21st is also a holiday, then on the 22nd; if the 22nd is also a holiday, then the final day shall be on the 19th).

(Decision)

Article 8. The decision mentioned in Article 21, Paragraph 2, and Article 42, Paragraph 2 of the Detailed Regulations shall be carried out by means of a secret ballot.

Supplementary Provisions

This Guide shall be enforced from April 1, 2020.

Supplementary Provisions (partially revised on December 23, 2020)

This Guide shall be enforced from January 1, 2021.

Supplementary Provisions (partially revised on October 26, 2022)

This Guide shall be enforced from October 26, 2022.

Supplementary Provisions (partially revised on June 24, 2026)

This Guide shall be enforced from June 24, 2026, and shall apply as from April 1, 2026.

Appended Table

Criteria Pertaining to Related Publications for Respective Course

Course	Criteria Pertaining to Related Publications
Mathematical Sciences Course	Related Publications must be research papers that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system or the proceedings of an international conference.
Information Systems Design and Data Science Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters) that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system or the proceedings of an international conference.
Physics and Materials Science Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters) that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system or the proceedings of an international conference.
Mechanical, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters) that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system or the proceedings of an international conference.
Earth Science Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters and notes [short communications]), or scaled geological maps with appended explanatory notes, that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system. Proceedings of international conferences are not eligible.
Environmental and Sustainability Sciences Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters and notes [short communications]) that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system, or the proceedings of an international conference.
Chemistry Course	Related Publications must be research papers (including letters and notes [short communications]) that are published in a scientific journal with a credible peer review system. Proceedings of international conferences are not eligible.
Architectural Design Course	Related Publications must be peer-reviewed research papers (including technical reports) that are published by an academic society related to architecture, with a credible peer review system, or in the proceedings of an international conference. Depending on the field of research, these may include prize-winning works entered into design competitions that are deemed to exceed the established criteria.
Life Sciences Course	Related Publications must be research papers (not including letters or notes [short communications]) that are published in a scientific journal with impact factor. Proceedings of international conferences are not eligible.