

National Chengchi University College of Social Sciences: International Master's Program of Applied Economics and Social Development (IMES)

Program Regulations

Approved by the IMES Program Committee 1st meeting, 10.25.2014

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1. Objective

The International Master's Program of Applied Economics and Social Development (IMES) at National Chengchi University, located in Taipei, is the first English-taught program in studies of applied economics in Taiwan. IMES provides students with rigorous economic reasoning skills and solid knowledge on statistical methods. The program places a special emphasis on the combination of theory and practice. IMES graduates are equipped with the tools to analyze public policy and social development using the economic approach.

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 IMES Program Committee.

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

3. Program Regulations

- (1) Credits: A minimum of 33 credit hours of graduate course work, including 9 credits for required courses and 24 credits for elective courses. A thesis is required for the IMES Program.
- (2) Specialized Tracks: A total of 24 credits are offered in four (4) major areas of specialization consisting of 'Economic Policy Analysis and Evaluation', 'Public Finance and Financial Market', 'Land Economy and the Environment' and 'Regional Development Studies'. Students may select courses from the mentioned above area of specialization.

- (3) Grading: Scale 1-100.

The highest grade for each course is one hundred (100) points. A grade of seventy (70) is the minimum passing grade.

- (4) 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 (thirty-three hours) are exempted from this rule.

- (5) Degree duration: Students must finish the program within six years. This includes any periods of withdrawal from school (maximum of two years).

* Non-degree seeking students or credit students need to fulfill the class requirements set by IMES and maintain official student status for at least three semesters before obtaining their degree.

4. Taking Courses from Other Departments

IMES students can take up to three (3) graduate-level courses taught in English from other departments/programs at NCCU or University System of Taiwan (abbreviated as UST). However, students taking IMAS/IDAS courses, can take up to four (4) courses, including the inter-departmental courses or UST courses.

If IMES students need to take specialized courses taught in Chinese due to considerations within their field of expertise, they must obtain prior approval from the IMES Director. They are limited to a maximum of two (2) courses, and these courses should be included in the calculation of the maximum number of elective courses from other departments/programs and relevant courses within the UST, as mentioned in the preceding section.

5. Credit Transfer

- (1) Degree program students can transfer up to six credits from another Master's program taught in English. These courses must be related to IMES studies.
- (2) Transferred credits must have been received with a score of eighty (80) points or above in accordance with Taiwan's grading system or with a B in accordance with international grading systems. In addition, the courses need to be approved by the IMES Program Committee.

- (3) Transferred credits must have been obtained within the last five years in order to qualify for transfer.
- (4) Any issues not included in the present regulations will be decided by the IMES Program Committee.

6. Thesis Oral Defense and Other Regulations

- (1) Application date: Students may apply for the Thesis Defense upon approval of their completed thesis by the supervisor. The application should be submitted between the time of registration for the current semester and the deadline for semester withdrawal, as specified in the academic calendar. The application for the thesis oral defense must be submitted TWO WEEKS before the day of the thesis defense.
- (2) Date for thesis oral defense: Anytime during the semester.
- (3) Eligibility: The candidate must have fulfilled the required credit hours of coursework and present a completed thesis approved by the advisor in order to apply for the thesis defense.
- (4) Master's thesis defense committees shall consist of three (3) to five (5) members. At least one member should be a full time professor from the College of Social Sciences. External committee members accounting for no less than one third of the committee.
- (5) A minimum score of seventy (70) is required to pass, 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.
- (6) 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 counter a failed oral defense.
- (7) Scores and results of defenses will be officially recorded. A student who fails their second thesis oral defense must withdraw from the university.
- (8) 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 Thesis Searching System.

In addition, two copies of the thesis must be submitted to the NCCU Library. One copy of the thesis should be submitted to the IMES Office. Either hard copy or soft copy is allowed for final submission.

- (9) 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 the final graduate degree examination.
- (10) Any issues not stated above will be resolved in compliance with NCCU Rules and Regulations and/or MOE Degree Conferral Law.

7. Thesis Advisor Qualifications

Thesis advisors need to be full-time or joint appointment faculty members of NCCU. Adjunct professors, professors from other schools or assistant professors may be accepted under approval by the IMES Director and the Dean of the College of Social Sciences.

8. Degree Completion

Students are required to comply with the IMES Graduate Degree Program Regulations before the Master's degree can be granted.

9. Program admission, course attendance, and degree granting rules are followed in accordance to the NCCU regulations.

10. The Regulations are implemented once approved by the Program Committee. Any revisions of this document must be reviewed and approved by the same Committee.