

National Cheng Kung University Directions of NSTC Doctoral Research Scholarship Pilot Program

Approved in the 844th Meeting of Chief Administrators on April 24, 2024

Amended and approved in the 848th Meeting of Chief Administrators on March 26, 2025

Amended and approved in the 849th Meeting of Chief Administrators on June 11, 2025

1. National Cheng Kung University (hereinafter referred to as “NCKU”) has established scholarships under the “Doctoral Research Scholarship Pilot Program of the National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as “NSTC”)” in an effort to foster and cultivate outstanding doctoral students with research potential in fundamental scientific disciplines, and formulated the Directions are as follows:
2. Scholarship quota: Divided into “NSTC Selection” and “NSTC Allocation”. The number of scholarships shall be determined based on the NSTC's announcement.
3. Reward targets: Doctoral students who have registered and enrolled in the program. However, students who meet any of the following conditions are not eligible for this scholarship:
 - A) Engaged in full-time paid work at a public or private institution or apply for admission as an in-service student.
 - B) Enrolled as a student from Hong Kong, Macau, or Mainland China.
 - C) Took a leave of absence, reserved their enrollment status, or did not complete registration after admission.
 - D) Already received funding of the same nature as a scholarship from a government agency.
4. Scholarship amount and duration: Doctoral students shall receive a monthly stipend of NT\$40,000 (same as above) for a maximum of three years. Students who complete their doctoral studies within 3 years shall continue to receive the scholarship until the month of their graduation.
5. Allocation of scholarship quotas:
 - A) NSTC selection quota: The NSTC shall select outstanding students to receive scholarships.
 - B) NSTC allocation quota:
 1. The Office of Research and Development shall establish a committee with five to seven members. The President shall appoint the Vice President to serve as the convener, and the remaining members shall be composed of the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean of Research and Development, and faculty members from the University.
 2. Based on the research funds for research projects of each college in

the previous four years, quotas shall be calculated proportionally. After review by the committee, the Office of Research and Development shall notify each college of their allocation for the current year. Research project funds in the humanities field shall be calculated with a 150%.

3. If any college has an insufficient number of award-winning doctoral students or other special circumstances, the committee shall adjust the allocation of quotas.

6. Application methods:

A) NSTC selection quota: Doctoral students can apply for the NSTC selection quota by following the NSTC's announcements and submitting their applications online through the NSTC system.

B) NSTC allocation quota: Doctoral students who meet any of the following qualifications may apply to their department or institute:

1. Outstanding academic performance conforming to any of the following:
 - (1) First-year students: During their undergraduate studies, students must have achieved an average GPA of 80 or higher or be ranked in the top 20% of their class or major in each academic year.
 - (2) Students in second year or above: In addition to meeting the above criteria, they obtained no grade lower than 80 in any course during their doctoral studies each semester.
2. Exceptional research achievements: Students who have been recognized by their NCKU advisor for exceptional achievements in their field must submit a recommendation letter from their advisor.

7. Review procedures:

A) NSTC selection quota: Reviewed by the NSTC.

B) NSTC allocation quota:

1. Each college and its affiliated departments shall consolidate the applications and conduct the review. The list of approved applicants must include at least one first-year student. The review results shall be submitted to the Office of Research and Development for approval by the University's President and subsequently announced.
2. Each college shall establish its own review mechanism, which must be approved by the relevant university meeting and submitted to the Office of Research and Development for record.
3. Scholarship selection criteria:

- (1) Students who have received awards in national or international academic paper competitions.
 - (2) Students who have published international journal papers, obtained patents, or demonstrated other academic research achievements.
 - (3) Other documents that demonstrate outstanding performance, such as books, presentations at major international academic conferences, or papers.
8. Periodic evaluation mechanism for award-winning doctoral students:
 - A) Each college should evaluate the academic performance of award-winning doctoral students (including those receiving the NSTC Selection Quota and NSTC Allocation Quota) one month before the completion of each full year of their scholarship. This evaluation will determine whether they may continue receiving this scholarship. The evaluation items and standards, in addition to the scholarship selection criteria in Article VII, shall be determined by each college.
 - B) Award-winning awarded doctoral students fail the evaluation, the following procedures shall apply:
 1. NSTC selection quota: The eligibility for the scholarship for the following year shall be revoked. The Office of Research and Development shall formally notify the National Science Council, and no replacement shall be made.
 2. NSTC allocation quota: The scholarship eligibility for the following year shall be revoked. Each college may, in accordance with the review procedures stated above, reassign the scholarship. The scholarship duration shall be limited to the remaining period of the original awardee, the evaluation for continued scholarship shall follow the starting month of the original awardee.
9. Each college shall regularly track the academic achievements of award-winning doctoral students, including the following items:
 - A) The number of years it takes for award-winning doctoral students to complete their studies.
 - B) The impact factor of the journals in which award-winning doctoral students publish their papers.
 - C) The number of top domestic and international journal articles published by award-winning doctoral students.
 - D) The number of domestic and international academic conferences attended by award-winning doctoral students.

- E) The whereabouts of award-winning doctoral students within 3 years of graduation.

The awardee shall not reject the follow-up on the effect posed by the award for academic achievements referred to in the preceding paragraph.

10. Termination of award-winning doctoral students' scholarship eligibility:

- A) Suspended or dropped out of school.
- B) Engaging in full-time work at a public or private institution
- C) Already receiving other NCKU doctoral scholarships that are not eligible for receiving duplicate funding. However, special circumstances may be considered and approved upon review.
- D) Publishing domestic or international journal articles or reports that are deemed to violate academic ethics.
- E) Receiving a major demerit or worse for violating University rules, and the disciplinary action is finalized.
- F) No longer subsidized based on other circumstances determined by relevant NCKU meetings.

The vacancy resulting from the revocation of scholarship eligibility in the preceding paragraph shall be handled as follows:

- A) NSTC selection quota: The Office of Research and Development shall notify the NSTC, and the slot will not be reassigned.
- B) NSTC allocation quota: Each college may reassign the scholarship in accordance with the review procedures outlined in Point 7. The starting month of the scholarship for the replaced awardee shall be determined by the College. The scholarship duration shall be limited to the remaining period of the original awardee, the evaluation for continued scholarship shall follow the starting month of the original awardee.

- 11. If it is discovered that an award-winning doctoral student has falsified or misrepresented information in their application materials, their scholarship eligibility shall be revoked. Any scholarship funds already received must be returned, and the student may be held accountable for their actions depending on the severity of the offense.
- 12. All funding required for the implementation of these Directions shall be borne by the NSTC.
- 13. Individuals involved in the review, selection, and evaluation of this scholarship who have any of the following relationships with an applicant must recuse themselves:
 - A) Once advisors of the applicant's doctoral and master program papers.
 - B) Spouse, ex-spouse, relatives within the fourth degree of kinship by blood,

or now or once relatives within the third degree of kinship by marriage of the applicant.

C) Co-researchers or co-authors who have released papers or research results together with the applicant in the most recent three years.

D) Co-workers with the applicant, or study coordinator, in the same research project during the selection or assessment procedure.

14. Matters not covered by the Directions shall be handled according to the NSTC Doctoral Student Research Scholarship Pilot Program and relevant NCKU provisions.

15. The Directions shall be implemented after approval by the supervisor and the President. The same applies to any revisions to the Directions.