4.2.2 Degree Requirements

PhD Programme

- A good Master’s degree in a relevant discipline; or
- A relevant Bachelor’s degree with at least a Second Upper Class Honours or its equivalent;
- The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS); and
- The ability to pursue research in the candidate’s proposed field of advanced study.

Other Requirements

TOEFL/IELTS

As the medium of instruction is English, applicants whose native tongue and medium of university undergraduate instruction are not English must submit TOEFL scores as evidence of their proficiency in the English Language. The minimum TOEFL score required is 580/237/85 for the paper-based, computer-based and internet-based tests respectively. Exemptions will be given to applicants with distinctions in the Cambridge GCE ‘O’ level examination English Language Paper 1119.

For IELTS, the minimum score required is 6.5.

The TOEFL/IELTS scores are valid for 2 years from the test date.

GRE

Applicants (except NUS & NTU graduates from relevant disciplines) must also submit GRE scores to support their applications. A minimum total GRE score of 320 for the verbal and quantitative sections and of 3.5 for the analytical section is required.

The GRE scores are valid for 5 years from the test date.

Curriculum Structure and Requirements

Candidates admitted to the graduate programme will undertake research under the supervision of staff members from the Institute for their period of candidature, leading to the submission of a thesis to a Board of Examiners. In addition, candidates are required to fulfil a coursework component comprising the following:

PhD : A total of 24 modular credits comprising four core modules + 2 elective modules (at Level- 5000 & 6000)
To be confirmed a PhD candidate, a student is required to pass a PhD qualifying examination within two years from the date of admission.

Candidates deemed weak in English by the School would also have to sit for the Diagnostic English Test and take additional English Language courses conducted by the Centre for English Language Communication.

All PhD candidates are required to take ES5002 (Advanced Level Writing) regardless of their performance in the Diagnostic English Test.

**Residency Requirements and Candidature**

**Residency requirements**

All candidates must spend a minimum period of residence in Singapore as follows:

PhD : 18 months (three semesters)

Residency Requires:

a) Payment of fees (not applicable to full-time candidates)
b) Satisfying all curricular requirements of the programme of study
c) Satisfying other departmental requirements such as teaching assistance

Periods of study leave and overseas fieldwork do not count toward residency. In addition, PhD candidates must be resident during the semester in which they submit their thesis for examination.

**Candidature**

The following maximum candidature periods are inclusive of periods of approved study leave and leave of absence.

PhD : 60 months

**Laboratory Rotation Scheme**

All full-time candidates will be subjected to laboratory rotation scheme to identify a suitable supervisor. This scheme requires candidates to participate in a minimum of two to a maximum of three laboratory rotations before choosing a supervisor. Each rotation will last two months. Candidates should confirm a supervisor by the end of the laboratory rotation scheme.

To achieve an even distribution of students among the labs, each supervisor in CSI Singapore will only be
allowed to take in one full-time candidate per intake. As such, candidates may not be able to join the lab of their choice.

**Continuation and Graduation Requirements**

**Continuation**

For continuation of candidature, candidates have to meet the following CAP set for coursework:

**PhD** : CAP should not fall below 3.00 for two consecutive semesters or 3.60 for three consecutive semesters

Termination of candidature would result if a student fails to maintain the minimum CAP as stipulated above.

A PhD student with a CAP falling below 3.60 (but ≥ 3.00) will be issued an academic warning. If the candidate’s CAP again falls below 3.60 in the following semester, he/she will be placed on probation. If the student’s CAP remains below 3.60 for a third consecutive semester, the candidate will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar and denied re-admission.

PhD candidates whose CAP falls below 3.00 for two consecutive semesters will be placed on probation for the first semester, followed by dismissal in the second semester.

A student may also be issued a warning or placed on probation or be issued a letter of termination for poor performance in the PhD qualifying examination, research thesis, or other program requirements.

**Graduation Requirements**

- Pass all prescribed core and elective modules with a minimum CAP of 3.60 for the prescribed modules
- Pass the Qualifying Examination
- Pass the PhD Thesis and Oral Examination
- A minimum grade of C+ for all levels of English course(s), where applicable

**Leave of absence**

The University policies on leave of absence shall apply.

**Examination rules**

The University policies on examination rules shall apply.