4.1.2 Degree Requirements

Admission Requirements

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

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) or
- The degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery and
- The ability to pursue research in the candidate’s proposed field of advanced study.

Other Requirements

TOEFL
As the medium of instruction is English, applicants whose native tongue and medium of undergraduate instruction is not English must submit TOEFL scores as evidence of their proficiency in the English Language. Exemptions will be given to applicants with distinctions in the Cambridge GCE ‘O’ level examination English Language Paper 1119. The minimum TOEFL score required is 580/237/85 for the paper-based, computer-based and internet-based tests respectively. For IELTS, the minimum score required is 6.5.

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

Credit Transfer and Exemptions

Credit transfer and exemption are allowed subject to the following conditions:
- There is no limit to the transfer of credits for relevant modules that have not been used towards another degree at NUS or elsewhere.
- For relevant modules that have been credited towards another degree elsewhere, up to 50% of the modular credits (MCs) required in the coursework component of the NUS graduate research programme into which the candidate seeks admission may be exempted.
- For relevant NUS modules that have been credited towards another degree at NUS, on a case-by-case basis and subject to approval, more than 50% of the MCs required in the coursework component of the NUS graduate research programme may be allowed credit and grade transfer.
- Only graduate modules at Level-5000 and above which are relevant to the degree programme to which the candidate seeks admission at NUS can be considered for credit transfer or exemption. In addition,
only modules that have substantially the same learning objectives, content, and level of sophistication as the corresponding NUS module can be considered for credit transfer/exemption.

- Credit transfer and exemption is allowed only for modules that are taken less than ten years before the date of admission.
- Applications for credit transfer or exemptions must be submitted within the first month of study, preferably within two weeks of the start of the semester.

**Curriculum Structure and Requirements**

Candidates admitted to the graduate programme will undertake research under the supervision of staff members from the School for their period of candidature, at the end of which, they submit a thesis that is examined by a Board of Examiners. In addition, they are required to fulfil a coursework component comprising the following, to graduate either with a MSc or a PhD degree:

- **MSc**: A total of 16 modular credits comprising two core modules + elective modules (at Level-5000)
- **PhD**: A total of 24 modular credits comprising two core modules + 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:

- **MSc**: 6 months (one semester)
- **PhD**: 18 months (three semesters)

**Residency Requires:**

a. Payment of fees  
b. Satisfy all curricular requirements of the programme of study  
c. Satisfy other departmental requirements such as teaching assistance

Periods of study leave and overseas fieldwork do not count toward residency. In addition, MSc and 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.

MSc : 36 months
PhD : 60 months

Continuation and Graduation requirements

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

MSc : CAP should not fall below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters or 3.00 for three consecutive semesters
PhD : CAP should not fall below 3.00 for two consecutive semesters or 3.50 for three consecutive semesters

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

For any semester in which the MSc candidate’s CAP falls below 3.00 (but ≥ 2.50), he/she will be issued an academic warning. If, in the following semester, the candidate’s CAP again falls below 3.00, he/she will be placed on probation. If the candidate’s CAP remains below 3.00 for the third consecutive semester, the candidate will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar and denied re-admission.

MSc candidates with CAP below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters will be placed on probation for the first semester, followed by dismissal in the second semester.

A PhD candidate’s whose CAP falls below 3.50 (but ≥ 3.00), will be issued an academic warning. If the candidate’s CAP again falls below 3.50 in the following semester, he/she will be placed on probation. If the student’s CAP remains below 3.50 for a third consecutive semester, the student 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 programme requirements.

Graduation Requirements
MSc
- Pass all prescribed core and elective modules with a minimum CAP of 3.00 (B-) for the prescribed modules
- Pass the Master’s Thesis
- A minimum grade of C+ for all levels of English course(s), where applicable

PhD
- Pass all prescribed core and elective modules with a minimum CAP of 3.50 (B) 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.