

Announcement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation
Subject: Graduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565

By virtue of provision of Clause 21 of Ministerial Regulations on Higher Education Program Standards B.E. 2565, regarding the meeting No. 6/2565 (special meeting), on 30th June B.E. 2565, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation passed a resolution and shall hereby announce as follows:

1. This Announcement is called “Announcement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation: Graduate Program Standard Criteria B.E. 2565”.

2. This Announcement is prescribed for all major fields in the graduate diploma program (the post-bachelor's degree study), the high vocational diploma program (the post-graduate diploma study or the graduate degree), the master's degree program, and the doctor's degree program; and for a new program to open and a modified program to be offered by the university, both public and private. This Announcement shall be enforced after the provision of the Announcement of Government Gazette and on 27th September B.E. 2565, onwards.

3. In this Announcement:

“MHESI” means the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Research, and Innovation;

“full-time faculty member” means a person who takes a position as a lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor or professor and other equivalent positions in the university as prescribed by the University Council, or a person in an external organization who, under a co-production agreement, is responsible for the higher education mission and who recognizes higher education qualifications standards;

a full-time faculty member whom the university recruits from the effective date of this Standard Criteria shall hold English proficiency test scores meeting the criteria determined by the University Council;

“program faculty member” means a full-time faculty member who holds qualifications corresponding or related to the major fields in the program that have been approved by the University Council; who teaches and conducts research in the major fields as mentioned; and who can be a program faculty member simultaneously responsible for several programs;

“qualifications related to the major fields of program” means the qualifications in compliance with major field standards. In case that any major fields are not included in the major field standards or that the announcement of major field standards does not prescribe such qualifications, thereby meaning the qualifications in relation to academic or professional degree program or other qualifications with recognized, direct experience related to the program to enhance students' learning outcomes as prescribed in the program through teaching and learning in accordance with the curriculums of major fields. The qualifications related to the major fields of program are in the University Council's consideration;

“faculty member responsible for the program” means a program faculty member whose duties are on managing and developing curriculums and instruction ranged from planning, quality control, monitoring and evaluation, to curriculum development. The faculty member responsible for the program shall be involved throughout the implementation of the program and shall not be simultaneously responsible for more than one program. Nevertheless, in exception, the faculty member responsible for the program can be responsible for the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary program, but not more than two of the faculty members can take this exceptional case;

Regarding the graduate program and the doctoral program offering the same major fields, the same set of the faculty members responsible for the program can take responsibility;

“part-time lecturer” means the instructor who is not a full-time faculty member;

“full-time researcher” means a person holding a research position in a university offering such program, responsible for academic research and operating full-time duties;

“co-production agreement” means an arrangement of official agreement established by the university and an external organization, for curriculum development and management, approved by the University Council and the external organization;

“external organization” means a domestic or overseas university accredited by a unit responsible for education of the country, or a department of government agency or equivalent, or a state enterprise, or a public organization, or a private company listed in the Stock Exchange of Thailand only;

In the event that the private company is not registered in the Stock Exchange of Thailand, under consideration by the University Council, the company shall perform its potential and readiness to co-produce graduates and meet quality requirements in compliance with the higher education standards.

4. Diploma Title and Degree Title

4.1 Graduate diploma is fully entitled “Graduate Diploma” and the abbreviated title is “Grad. Dip.” followed by a major field, respectively.

4.2 Higher graduate diploma is fully entitled “Higher Graduate Diploma” and the abbreviated title is “Higher Grad. Dip.” followed by a major field, respectively.

4.3 Regarding a master's degree and a doctoral degree, the university that has enacted the Royal Decrees on the full title of degree and the abbreviated title of major field shall comply with the Royal Decrees. Nevertheless, in case that a title of degree has not been included in the Royal Decrees or that the university has no enactment of Royal Decrees stating a full title of degree and an abbreviated title of major field, the title of degree shall be named in accordance with the degree title designation criteria prescribed by MHESI.

5. Philosophy and Objectives

5.1 Graduate Diploma Program and Higher Graduate Diploma Program focus on the development of academics and professionals who have advanced knowledge and skills in the field of study and apply the knowledge for work improvement in accordance with the national higher education development plan, higher education philosophy, University philosophy, academic and professional standards.

5.2 Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree Program focus on the development of academics and professionals who have advanced knowledge and skills in several fields of study through the research process to search and discover a new body of knowledge independently, including the ability to continually create academic advancement linking and integrating into various fields in accordance with the national higher education development plan, higher education philosophy, University philosophy, academic and professional standards.

Hence, the Master's Degree program focuses on students' knowledge and understanding of the process of generating and applying new knowledge for work and society development while the Doctoral Degree Program focuses on students' ability to do research to generate new body of knowledge or innovations beneficial to the development in respects of work, society, country and global community.

6. Educational Management System

- The semester system consists of 2 semesters per academic year with not less than 15 weeks per semester.
- A summer session may be organized with the number of hours and credits equivalent to the proportion of the regular semester.
- The university that offers other education systems count the duration of study comparable to the bi-semester system as regulated by the University Council. The university is required to clearly provide details of education management system in the curriculum consisting of the following: duration of learning module equivalent to the course credits of the bi-semester system, theoretical and practicum courses, internship or field work, projects and other assigned activities, thesis, independent study, all of which are aligned with the education management system regulated by the University Council.

7. Credit Value in the Bi-semester System

7.1 Theoretical Course

Not less than 15 hours of lecture/ discussion per regular semester = 1 credit

7.2 Practical Course

Not less than 30 hours of practice/experiment per regular semester = 1 credit

7.3 Internship/ Field work

Not less than 45 hours of internship/ field work per regular semester = 1 credit

7.4 Project/ Other assigned activities

Not less than 45 hours of projects/ assignments per regular semester = 1 credit

7.5 Independent Study

Not less than 45 hours of independent study per regular semester = 1 credit

7.6 Thesis/ Dissertation

Not less than 45 hours of research and study per regular semester = 1 credit

7.7 Other assigned activities

Total hours of the activity in a semester = 1 credit of semester system accordance with the requirement set by the University Council

Other systems may be used in the university that does not offer the bi-semester system by calculating duration of study and course credits comparable to the bi-semester system as regulated by the University Council.

8. Curriculum Structure

8.1 Graduate Diploma and Higher Graduate Diploma Program

- Total number of credits not less than 24 credits

8.2 Master's Degree Program

- Total number of credits not less than 36 credits

Plan A: Academic Program focuses on learning to do research by conducting a thesis to initiate a new body of knowledge in the field of study. Hence, the proportion of credits for a thesis and course works is in accordance with the standards set by the University Council. The program may require either only research part or research and course works with total of 12 credits for the thesis. However, studying only course works is not acceptable.

Plan B: Professional Program focuses on course works and applied independent study in the professional field. The program requires at least 3 credits for the independent study, not exceeding 6 credits.

8.3 Doctoral Degree Program

Two types of the programs are offered to focus on the research for developing advanced level of academics and professionals.

Type 1:

- Focus on research through dissertation implementation to initiate a new body of knowledge
- The University may set the additional non-credit courses or activities, but the learning achievements are to be assessed in accordance with the standards set by the university as follows:

Type 1.1 For Master's degree holder

Dissertation 48 credits (at least)

Type 1.2 For Bachelor's degree holder

Dissertation 72 credits (at least)

Type 2:

- Focus on high quality research through dissertation implementation which through contributes to academic and professional advancement.

Type 2.1 For Master's degree holder

Dissertation 36 credits (at least)

Courses 12 credits (at least)

Type 2.2 For Bachelor's degree holder

Dissertation 48 credits (at least)

Courses 24 credits (at least)

9. Qualifications, Attributes and Number of Instructors

9.1 Graduate Diploma

9.1.1 The program faculty member holds at least a master's degree or equivalent and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is at a minimum of one research article.

9.1.2 At least 3 faculty members responsible for the program hold a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent, and own the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is, at a minimum, one research article.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, the university that owns the program shall arrange at least 2 program faculty members to act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary for a major field unable to arrange number of the faculty members responsible for the program as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

9.1.3 The lecturer is possibly a full-time or part-time lecturer who holds at least a master's degree or equivalent in the major field or related field of study or the course on duty in the major field; and who has teaching experience and owns the academic works that are not the parts of graduation requirements and that have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for a minimum of one academic article in the past 5 years.

In the event that the part-time lecturer holds no aforementioned qualifications, the lecturer shall be deemed a distinguished expert who owns well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to take responsibility in collaboration for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

9.1.4 The new lecturer who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent but holds no academic works after graduation can be a lecturer, mutatis mutandis, in the higher graduate diploma program. In this case, taking a duty as a program faculty member and a faculty member responsible for the program, the new lecturer, after graduation, shall own academic works at a minimum of one article within 2 years, or two articles within 4 years, or three articles within 5 years.

9.2 Higher Graduate Diploma

9.2.1 The program faculty member holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been

published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is a research article, at a minimum.

9.2.2 At least 3 faculty members responsible for the program hold a doctoral degree or equivalent, or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of professor or equivalent; and own academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is a research article, at a minimum.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, the university that owns the program shall arrange at least 2 program faculty members to act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary for a major field unable to arrange number of the faculty members responsible for the program as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

9.2.3 The lecturer is possibly a full-time or part-time lecturer who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent, in the major field or to a related field of study or the course in the major field; and who has teaching experience and owns the academic works that are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for a minimum of one academic article in the past 5 years.

In the event that the part-time lecturer holds no aforementioned qualifications, the lecturer shall be deemed a distinguished expert who owns well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to take responsibility, in collaboration, for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

9.2.4 The new lecturer who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent but holds no academic work after graduation can be a lecturer, *mutatis mutandis*, in a higher graduate diploma program. However, taking a duty as a program faculty member and a faculty member responsible for the program, the new lecturer, after graduation, shall own academic works at a minimum of one academic article within 2 years, or two articles within 4 years, or three articles within 5 years.

9.3 Master's Degree

9.3.1 The program faculty member holds at least a master's degree or equivalent and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 academic articles in the past 5 years, one of which is a research article, at a minimum.

9.3.2 At least 3 faculty members responsible for the program hold a doctor's degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and own the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 academic articles in the past 5 years, one of which is a research article, at a minimum.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, the university that owns the program shall arrange at least 2 program faculty members to act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary for a major field unable to arrange number of the faculty members responsible for the program as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

9.3.3 The thesis adviser can be divided into two categories as follows:

1) The thesis major adviser shall be the faculty member of the program who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is a research article, at a minimum.

2) The thesis co-adviser (if any) shall hold qualifications and attributes as follows:

The thesis co-adviser is the program faculty member or the full-time faculty member or the full-time researcher who holds the qualifications and the academic work as the thesis adviser does.

The external expert who acts as the thesis co-adviser shall hold a doctoral degree or equivalent and shall own, in a journal listed in a recognized journal database, a minimum of 5 published academic works corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic.

The external expert who holds no aforementioned qualifications and academic works but who possess well-qualified knowledge, expertise and recognized high experience corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic can act as the thesis co-adviser under an approval of the University Council.

9.3.4 The thesis examiners include the program faculty member and the external expert. There may be the full-time faculty member or the full-time researcher as part of the examination, totaling not less than 3 persons. In this regard, the chairperson of examination shall not be the thesis major adviser or the thesis co-adviser; the thesis examiners shall hold qualifications, attributes, and academic works as follows:

1) The program faculty member or the full-time faculty member or the full-time researcher holds a doctoral degree or the equivalent qualifications or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic

works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years, one of which is, at a minimum, a research article.

2) The external expert holds a doctoral degree or equivalent and owns, in a journal listed in a recognized journal database, a minimum of 5 published academic works corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic.

An external expert who holds no aforementioned qualifications and academic works but who possess well-qualified knowledge, expertise and recognized high experience corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic can act as the thesis co-adviser under an approval of the University Council.

9.3.5 The lecturer shall be the program faculty member or the part-time lecturer who holds at least a master's degree or equivalent in the major field or related field of study or the course on duty in the major field; and who owns teaching experience and the academic works that are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for a minimum of one academic article in the past 5 years.

In the event that the part-time lecturer holds no aforementioned qualifications, the lecturer shall be deemed a distinguished expert who owns well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to hold responsibility, in collaboration, for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

9.3.6 The new lecturer who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent but holds no academic work after graduation can be a lecturer, mutatis mutandis, in a master's degree program. However, in case of taking a duty as the program faculty member, the faculty member responsible for the program, the thesis adviser, and the thesis examiner in a master's degree, the new lecturer shall own academic works of at a minimum of one article within 2 years, or two articles within 4 years, or three articles within 5 years.

9.4 Doctoral Degree

9.4.1 The program faculty member holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years.

9.4.2 At least 3 faculty members responsible for the program hold a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of professor or equivalent; and owns academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements,

categorized as research articles, published in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years.

In light of the co-production agreement with an external organization, the university that owns the program shall arrange at least 2 program faculty members to act as the faculty members responsible for the program.

In the event that it is deemed extremely necessary for a major field unable to arrange number of the faculty members responsible for the program as prescribed, the university shall propose the amount and the qualifications of the available faculty members responsible for the program to MHESI for case-by-case consideration.

9.4.3 The thesis advisor can be divided into 2 categories.

1) The thesis major adviser shall be the program faculty member who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements, categorized as research, published in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years.

2) The thesis co-adviser shall be on duty in collaboration with at least one program faculty member or one full-time faculty member or one full-time researcher for the advising. The program faculty member or the full-time faculty member or the full-time researcher holds the same qualifications and the same academic works as the thesis major adviser does.

The thesis co-adviser who is the external expert shall hold a doctoral degree or equivalent and shall own, in a journal listed in a recognized journal database, a minimum of 10 published academic works corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic.

In the event that the external expert holds no aforementioned qualifications and academic works, the external expert shall possess well-qualified knowledge, expertise and recognizably very high experience corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic under an approval of the University Council.

9.4.4 The thesis examiners shall comprise the program faculty members, including, possibly, the full-time faculty member, or the full-time researcher, and at least 2 external experts, totaling more than 5 persons. The chairperson of thesis examination shall be the external expert. All the thesis examiners are required to hold the qualifications, attributes and academic works as follows:

1) The program faculty member, or the full-time faculty member, or the full-time researcher holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent; and owns the academic works which are not the parts of graduation requirements and have been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least 3 articles in the past 5 years.

2) The external expert holds a doctoral degree or equivalent and owns, in a journal listed in a recognized journal database, a minimum of 10 published academic works corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic.

In the event that the external expert holds no aforementioned qualifications and academic works, the external expert shall possess well-qualified knowledge, expertise and recognizably very high experience corresponding or related to a student's thesis topic under an approval of the University Council.

9.4.5 The lecturer shall be the full-time faculty member or the part-time lecturer who holds a doctoral degree or equivalent or at least a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent in the major field or the related field of study or the course on duty in the major field; and who owns teaching experience and the academic works that are not the parts of graduation requirements and that has been published, in compliance with the academic title appointment criteria, for at least one article in the past 5 years.

The part-time lecturer who holds no aforementioned qualifications shall be deemed an expert with well-qualified knowledge and recognized experience corresponding or related to the course under the approval of the University Council. In case of a necessity for a part-time lecturer required for a course, the full-time faculty member is deemed to hold responsibility, in collaboration, for teaching and learning process and student development throughout teaching and learning of the course.

9.4.6 The new lecturer who holds a doctoral degree but holds no academic work after graduation can be a lecturer, *mutatis mutandis*, in the doctoral program. However, in case of taking a duty as the program faculty member, the faculty member responsible for the program, the thesis adviser, and the thesis examiner in a doctoral degree, the new lecturer shall own academic works at a minimum of one article within 2 years, or two articles within 4 years, or three articles within 5 years.

10. Thesis and Independent Study Supervision's Load

10.1 One program faculty member can act as the thesis major adviser of students in the graduate program and the doctoral program in accordance with the following criteria.

1) In the event that the program faculty member holds a doctoral degree or equivalent and owns academic works in accordance with the criteria, the program faculty member can act as the thesis adviser of students, totaling at a maximum of 5 students per semester, both in the graduate program and the doctoral program.

2) In the event that the program faculty member holds a doctoral degree or equivalent and is academically entitled as an assistant professor or equivalent or higher, or holds a master's degree or equivalent, with the academic title of associate professor or equivalent or higher; and owns academic works in accordance with the criteria, the program faculty member can act as the thesis adviser of students, totaling at a maximum of 10 students per semester, both in the graduate program and the doctoral program.

3) In the event that the program faculty member holds a doctoral degree or equivalent but finds a necessity of the advising to students for more than the specified number, the program faculty member shall notify the necessity to the University Council for consideration. Regarding this case, a maximum of 15 students per semester can be under the advising. However, in case of the necessity of the advising for more than 15 students, a request for a case-by-case approval of the Commission shall be made.

10.2 One program faculty member can act as the independent study adviser for a maximum of 15 students in a master's degree.

In the event that the program faculty member acts as the adviser on both of thesis and independent study, the calculation on the proportion of the number of students are deemed necessary; that is, one student implementing one thesis is equivalent to three independent study students, but the total must not exceed 15 students per semester.

10.3 The faculty member responsible for the program shall be on duty as the thesis adviser and/or the thesis examiner and/or the lecturer in the program.

11. Qualifications of the applicants

11.1 Graduate Diploma Program

- Holding bachelor's degree or equivalent

11.2 Higher Graduate Diploma Program

- Holding Graduate Diploma or a master's degree or equivalent

11.3 Master's Degree Program

- Holding bachelor's degree or equivalent

11.4 Doctoral Degree Program

- Holding bachelor's degree or equivalent with an excellent academic performance record or holding a master's degree or equivalent, and the English Proficiency Test result in compliance with the criteria prescribed by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Innovation

12. Registration Guidelines

- Number of registered credits, the duration of study in each program, and degree level to be in accordance with the standards set by the University Council

13. Graduation Criteria for all graduating students

13.1 Graduate Diploma and Higher Graduate Diploma Program

- Have completed all the courses and numbers of required credits in the program.
- Have obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00.

- Have achieved the learning outcomes in accordance with graduate qualification standards

13.2 Master's Degree

13.2.1 Plan 1

- Have completed all the courses and numbers of required credits in the program (if any).
- Have obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 or equivalent.
- Have proposed a thesis and passed the final oral thesis defense and achieved the learning outcomes in accordance with graduate program qualification standards.
- The oral thesis defense is proceeded by the Committee of Oral Defense appointed by the university in accordance with component 9.3.4.
- The oral defense is open to the public.
- Have the thesis or part of the thesis published or at least have it published in form of academic article or innovation or invention or other academic works/papers which can be searched from the database set by the University Council.

13.2.2 Type 2

- Have completed all the courses required in the program and obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 or equivalent
- Have passed the written or oral comprehensive examination in the field of study and proposed the thesis topic, passing the final oral defense to achieve the learning outcomes in accordance with graduate qualification standards
- The oral defense is proceeded by the Committee appointed by the University Council in accordance with the component set by the University Council.
- The oral defense is open to the public.

13.3 Doctoral Degree

13.3.1 Type 1

- Have passed the qualifying examination to the right to request for implementing and proposing the dissertation topic and pass the final oral dissertation defense to achieve learning outcomes in accordance with graduate qualification standards.
- The final oral defense is proceeded by the Committee appointed by the University Council in accordance with the component 9.4.4 which included both internal and external experts.
- The final oral defense is open to the public.
- The achievement criteria consist of the body of new knowledge considered in respect of the statement of initiative and insightfulness through the student's dissertation

- At least 2 publications of dissertations or parts of a dissertation are published or at least accepted for publication in a recognized international journal as announced by MHESI.

- At least one publication or at least one patent is required in form of innovation or creative work that can be beneficial in the commercial, social, and economic sector.

- If the dissertation is innovation or creative work, it is required to be assessed by at least 3 external experts who have expertise and experience related to or in line with the topic of student's thesis. The external experts are required to get an approval from the University Council.

- PhD students in Social Science and Humanities fields are allowed to have the dissertation published in a recognized national journal as announced by MHESI.

13.3.2 Type 2

- Have completed all the courses required in the program and obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 or equivalent.

- Have passed the qualifying examination to the right ranged from requesting for implementing, proposing the dissertation topic, passing the final oral dissertation defense to achieve learning outcomes in accordance with graduate qualification standards.

- The final oral defense is proceeded by the Committee appointed by the University Council in accordance with the component 9.4.4 which included both internal and external experts.

- The final oral defense is open to the public.

- The achievement criteria consist of a new body of knowledge considered in respect of the statement of initiative and insightfulness through the student's dissertation.

- The dissertation or part of the dissertation shall meet one of these criteria:

- o Have published or have obtained an acceptance of its publication in a recognized international journal in accordance with the announcement set by MHESI

- o Get a patent.

- o Innovation or creative work that can be used in the commercial, social and economic sector.

- If the dissertation is innovation or creative work, it is required to get published or at least accepted for publication in a recognized international journal as announced by MHESI or get patent or innovation or creative work that can be beneficial in the commercial, social, and economic sector.

- If the dissertation is innovation or creative work, it is required to be assessed by at least 3 external experts who have expertise and experience related to or in line with the topic of student's thesis. The external experts are required to get approval from the University Council.

- PhD students in Social Science and Humanities fields are allowed to have the dissertation published in a national journal set by the MHESI.

13.4 Termination of Student Status without graduation in a graduate school shall be in accordance with the requirements set by the University Council.

14. Degree and Academic Performance Record

To issue a degree certificate and an academic performance record, title of the degree, the major field and all the completed courses must be specified to exactly match with all the program documents that MHESI approved of. Moreover, the topic of the thesis or independent study aligned with the major field shall be specified.

15. Program Quality Assurance

Every program is required to set up the quality assurance system according to the requirements from the University Council.

16. Program Development

Every program must update and develop the curriculum by program evaluation and a performance report every academic year. The results could be used for program modification in accordance with the periodical program rotation or every 5 years.

17. In case the program fails to follow the mentioned guidelines, or it is necessary to act beyond the requirements in this Announcement, MHESI takes the case into consideration and MHESI's decision is final.

