

FAQs (Research Programmes)

Programme

1. What are the research areas in your School?

Communication-Related Research:

- Health Communication and Information
- Marketing Communication and Public Relations
- Media Arts and Cultural Studies
- Computer-Mediated Communication
- International/Intercultural Communication
- Communication Law and Policy
- Journalism
- Political Communication

Information-Related Research:

- Human Computer Interaction
- Games and Gamification
- Information Retrieval and Analytics
- Social Media
- Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing
- Information Behaviour and Literacy
- Knowledge Organisation
- Knowledge Management Applications and Practices

2. What is the candidature period for Master's & PhD students?

From AY2020, the candidature period will be revised as follows:

Programmes	Full-Time		Part-Time	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Doctor of Philosophy	2 years	5 years	3 years	5 years
Master's Degree	1 year	3 years	1 year	3 years

Note:

Students will pay fees at non-subsidised rates if they exceed the maximum candidature period as stated in the above tables.

3. Does Master's Research or PhD students have to take courses during their candidature?

In addition to the research project in which a student works under his or her supervisor, he or she is required to attend classes and pass 6 courses (for PhD students) or 3 courses (for Master's students). A Master's student has to maintain a TGPA and CGPA of 3.00 every semester while a PhD student has to maintain a TGPA and CGPA of 3.50 every semester.

4. What are the courses available for Master's research & PhD students?

The courses taken may be graduate courses offered by our School or approved courses from other schools. Core courses offered by the School are required to be taken by research students. Selection of courses is made after consultation with student's supervisor.

You may view our School's graduate courses at the following [link](#).

5. What is the difference between degree programmes by research and degree programmes by coursework?

For **programmes by coursework**, students follow a prescribed course of study comprising several courses and undertake a project on which a written dissertation is required. For most programmes, the dissertation can be replaced by a few extra courses. The course of study involves formal classes, lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory work and written examinations.

For **programmes by research**, students are required to pursue an independent but supervised research on an approved topic based on which a thesis must be submitted for examination. Students are also required to attend classes and pass the examinations in at least 4 to 8 courses.

Applications

6. What are the research programmes offered in the School?

The graduate programmes by research currently offered are:

- Master of Communication Studies programme;
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme

7. How many intakes in a year and when are the application periods?

There are two intakes per academic year, one in August and another in January.

- Application for August intake: 1 October to 15 November
- Application for January intake: 1 June to 31 July

For more information, please refer to this [link](#)

8. What are the minimum requirements for admission?

For Master's by research programme, a Bachelor's degree with Honours (Distinction) or a CGPA of 4.25/5.00.

For PhD programme, a Master's degree with GPA of 4.25/5.00 and above and a Bachelor's degree of Honours (Distinction) with GPA of 4.25/5.00

All applicants must also demonstrate competency in English and the ability to pursue independent research in the proposed field of advanced study.

9. What are the GRE and TOEFL requirements and cut-off?

GRE is not compulsory requirement from applicants.

Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit IELTS scores. Cut-off score is 7.0 (min sub-score is 6.5). TOEFL scores are not accepted in place of IELTS scores.

10. Are there any other entrance tests for admission?

The applicant, if shortlisted, will be required to sit for an interview (in person or Zoom). The selection committee will assess the applicant's English proficiency, research aptitude, attitude and other skills.

11. How do I go about applying?

You can submit your application online at this [link](#).

You must **upload electronic copies** of your supporting documents via the paperless portal. Do not send paper copies of supporting documents to the University or School.

12. What are the supporting documents required for submission?

Supporting documents required during application are:

- IELTS score sheet (for international applicants)
- Transcripts and educational certificates
- Academic results (if not officially graduated from Masters yet)
- English translation of transcripts and results (if original is not in English)
- Two academic referee email addresses
- Research Proposal (1,500 to 3,000 words)
- CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Samples of works (if any)

13. What are the requirements of a research proposal for application?

A research topic and proposal is required when you submit your application. You are free to propose any topic in the fields of communication and/or information studies. However, because the programme requires that the student works closely with the supervisor, you should ensure that your field of research tallies with the interests of your potential supervisor. You may visit our school's website to find out about the faculty's research publication/interest. You are encouraged to approach individual faculty professors to discuss your research topic and possible supervision.

The length of the proposal should be between 1,500 words (for Masters) to 3,000 words (for PhD). It usually contains the following:

- Statement of research question
- Significance of research question
- Literature review
- Methods
- References

14. Do I need to confirm a supervisor during application?

You do not need to indicate your supervisor if you have not found one during your application. Upon admission, you can decide on your supervisor(s) in consultation with faculty who are interested to supervise your project.

You can visit this [link](#) to find out more about our faculty's areas of specialization and research publication/interest.

15. When will I know the outcome of my application?

A period of 4-5 months will normally be required for processing of research applications. Failure to submit all necessary documents will result in rejection or a delay in the processing.

16. Can I apply for PhD when I am in my final year of my Masters or Undergraduate programme?

If you are an NTU student and in your final semester of your Masters or Undergraduate programme, you can submit your PhD application before completing your current programme of study. Please submit your latest academic results if your transcripts are not ready during application. Upon successful admission to our PhD programme, you can submit your conferment award letter during matriculation.

Scholarships

17. Can applicants apply for scholarships?

All local and international students seeking full-time candidature in our research programmes are eligible for research scholarships. Students should not be on paid employment or concurrently holding any other scholarship, fellowship, bursary or top-up allowance during the prescribed period of award.

18. What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship carries a monthly stipend and covers the annual tuition fees. The period of scholarship is 4 years for PhD students and 2 years for Master's by research students.

A monthly stipend as follows:

	For PhD candidates	For Master's candidates
Singapore Citizen	S\$2,800	S\$2,800
Singapore Permanent Resident	S\$2,400	S\$2,000
International Student 2	S\$2,200	S\$1,900

Singapore Citizens will receive additional 17% Central Provident Fund (CPF) contribution on top of the stipend rate.

- For scholars who pass the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination/Confirmation, he/she may be eligible for an additional stipend of up to \$500 per month. The increased in stipend is subjected to good performance in research and the attainment of required standards for courses taken. The University reserves the right to vary the amount of the stipend at any time by written notice.
- In addition to the monthly stipend, the award also covers the annual tuition fee.

19. Are students under research scholarship required to carry out duties for the School?

Research students under scholarships are required to perform teaching, research and other administrative duties to fulfil the requirements of the Graduate Assistantship Programme (GAP)

20. How many scholarships are available per intake?

The number of scholarships available is dependent on the budget the university allocates to Schools.

21. What are the types of scholarships available?

For PhD students, the following scholarships are available:

- NTU Research Scholarship (RSS)
- Nanyang President Graduate Scholarship (NPGS)

More information about scholarships can be viewed at this [link](#)

Financial Matters

22. What are the fees for research programmes?

Tuition fees for research programmes can be viewed at this link [here](#). On average, the tuition fees range from S\$9,150 (for local students) to S\$19,600 (for international students with service obligation) per year.

There is an application fee of \$53.50 (inclusive of GST) for research programmes.

Career Prospects

23. What are the career prospects of PhD graduates?

Graduates will have a research-oriented career in academia or in the communication or information industry. The programme equips graduates with research skills and mental tenacity to cope with future challenges in research and teaching.

Housing

24. Is housing available for international students?

Graduate housing is only available for full-time international students during their first year of candidature. The subsequent year may be subjected to the housing availability. For more information, students can consult the [Graduate Housing](#) website.