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## **Agreement on the Review of Doctoral Theses for the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University**

Authorized by the Dean of the School on April 1, 2004

Partially revised on May 25, 2007

Partially revised on February 13, 2009

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Partially revised on June 13, 2025

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Pursuant to Article 12 of the Rules on Review of Doctoral Theses for the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University (hereinafter referred to as “Rules”), the following are agreed.

1. Applicants who have completed their courses are eligible to submit (or may submit) a doctoral thesis if they have published, as the first author, at least two academic papers (including coauthored papers) in a refereed journal, or equivalent academic periodical, satisfying the separately determined “Requirements for Major Articles under the Agreement on the Review of Doctoral Theses, etc.” One paper may include the following articles upon approval by the Board of Representatives:
  - [1] Articles published before the applicant enroll the United Graduate School of Agricultural sciences, Kagoshima University.
  - [2] Articles written by multiple first authors: Submit a document specifying the reasons for the applicant’s role (in discretionary form), especially if the applicant is not the lead author.
  - [3] Articles in the form of a brief paper, etc. (not full-length articles): Submit a document specifying the reasons (in discretionary form) for the article’s equivalence to a full-length article.
2. The requirements for the main academic paper to be submitted by dissertation doctorates as a doctoral thesis shall be as follows:
  - (1) For applicants who have left the school after acquiring credits or after enrollment for a full-year (this refers to a person who entered the school before 2008 and studied at the school for more than three (3) years, received necessary research instructions, attended the common seminar for over sixty (60) hours, and has since left the school), the requirements for submission of doctoral theses for dissertation doctorates shall be three or more academic papers authored as the first author. One paper may include the following articles upon approval by the Board of Representatives:
    - [1] Articles published before the applicant enroll the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kagoshima University.
    - [2] Articles written by multiple first authors: Submit a document specifying the reasons

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- for the applicant's role (in discretionary form), especially if the applicant is not the lead author.
- [3] Articles written by the applicant as a corresponding author: Submit a document specifying the reasons for the applicant's role (in discretionary form).
- [4] Articles in the form of a brief paper, etc. (not full-length articles): Submit a document specifying the reasons (in discretionary form) for the article's equivalence to a full-length article.
- (2) A person other than (1) above should have authored five or more academic papers as the first author, as stated in the requirements for applicants who have completed their courses. One paper may include the following articles upon approval of the Board of Representatives:
- [1] Articles written by the applicant as a corresponding author: Submit a document specifying the reasons for the applicant's role (in discretionary form).
- [2] Articles to which the applicant contributed extensively other than the first author: Submit a document specifying the reasons for the applicant's role (in discretionary form).
- [3] Articles written by multiple first authors: Submit a document specifying the reasons for the applicant's role (in discretionary form), especially if the applicant is not the lead author.
- [4] Articles in the form of a brief paper, etc. (not full-length articles): Submit a document specifying the reasons (in discretionary form) for the article's equivalence to a full-length article.
3. Applicants shall submit doctoral theses written in Japanese or English.
4. For the coauthored academic papers specified in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 (2), these are accepted on condition that a form expressing the coauthors' consent shall be submitted and that paper shall not be used for any other degree.
5. In submission of a doctoral thesis, the Advisory Professor shall discuss the matter sufficiently with the Vice-advisory Professor.
6. Members of the Thesis Review Committee other than the Advisory Professor shall generally be selected from those who are qualified as Advisory Professors, provided, however, that a Vice-advisory Professor may be assigned if there are sufficient reasons. In such a case, a form stating the reasons shall be submitted.
- One member of the Committee may be an Advisory Professor at the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences of Iwate University, Tokyo University of Agricultural and Technology, Gifu University, Tottori University, and Ehime University.
7. Regardless of the previous paragraph, one registered instructor may be added to the Thesis Review Committee. Matters concerning the registered instructors shall be separately determined.
8. Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 5 of the Rules, eligible applicants to be accepted in the eligibility review specified in Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Rules, shall be as follows:
- (1) Those who have completed a Master's course, having a research career (Note) of 5 or more years' duration after completing the Master's course.
- (2) Those who have completed an undergraduate course, having a research career (Note) of 8 or more years' duration after graduating from the undergraduate course.
- (Note) "Research career" means the period during which the person was engaged with universities, public research institutes or research organizations of private companies, etc. or the period during which the person was engaged in research as a research student, program student or researcher.
9. Of those who are mentioned in Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the Rules, those who apply for a degree within three years of leaving the school shall be treated in the same manner as applicants who have recently completed a course. If the time elapsed since the applicant left the school exceeds three years, the applicant shall lose eligibility.

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10. The Thesis Review Committee shall hold a thesis presentation.

- (1) The thesis presentation shall in principle be held at the university to which the Chair of the Committee belongs.

However, the thesis presentation for degree applicants who have completed the course shall, in principle, be held at the university to which the respective degree applicant is assigned.

- (2) When holding a thesis presentation, the name of the applicant and title of the thesis as well as date and place shall be notified on the school's website at least one week prior to the presentation.
- (3) The applicant shall give his or her presentation in Japanese or English at the thesis presentation.

11. Procedure for conferring a doctor of philosophy degree shall be as follows:

- (1) When the Chair has determined, after carefully examining the content of the doctoral thesis, that the thesis is interdisciplinary and deserves a doctor of philosophy degree, the Chair shall make an application upon specifying the reasons for so deciding according to the summary of results of the final examination (Degree Form No. 10) or the summary of results of academic capacity examination (Degree Form No. 11).
- (2) The Chair shall explain at a meeting of the School Faculty that a doctor of philosophy degree is appropriate.
- (3) The Committee of Advisory Professors shall decide to confer a doctor of philosophy degree after careful scrutiny based on the explanation above.