

Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees at Institute of Metal Research (IMR)

1. A master's degree candidate must have at least one research paper (excluding review articles) published or accepted in a scientific journal in either a first-authorship or co-first-authorship, which must be the central results of his/her theses.
2. A doctoral candidate must have at least three research papers (excluding review articles) published or accepted in a scientific journal, or at least two research papers that one of them is published or accepted in a Tier 2 journal in the CAS journal ranking system, or one research paper published or accepted in a Tier 1 journal in the CAS journal ranking system, in either a first-authorship or co-first-authorship, which must be the central results of his/her theses. The CAS journal ranking system is enclosed below.
3. A research paper in a co-first-authorship can only be used by the first or second co-first author for his/her degree application, and the applicant must provide an official statement to obtain the permission from other co-first authors who decide to give up to use the present paper for their degree applications as well as and consent from all corresponding authors. A research paper published in a Tier 1 journal by a graduate student who is the second co-first author is regarded as a research paper published in a Tier 2 journal in the first-authorship for him/her; a research paper published in a Tier 2 journal by a graduate student who is the second co-first author is regarded as a regular research paper in the first-authorship for him/her; a research paper published in a journal other than Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals by a graduate student who is the second co-first author is not allowed to use for his/her degree applications.
4. An applicant can only use one research paper to apply his/her degree, of which he/she is the second co-first author. At the same time, his/her supervisor must provide an official statement to define the contributions of all co-first authors.
5. An applicant holds an approved invention patent as the first inventor or is an awardee (one of the first five contributors) of a second-class Ministerial and Provincial-Level Science and Technology Award or even higher is regarded as he/she

has published one research paper in a scientific journal. Only one conversion is allowed.

6. Having completed an engineering or R&D project, a sub-project of a key engineering or R&D project, or technological transfer with significant economic or social benefits, as the first contributor, is equivalent to one research paper published in a scientific journal, which is approved by the IMR Degree Subcommittee after reviewing the summary report. Only one conversion is allowed.

7. The scientific journals include ones indexed by SCI and EI as well as other journals recognized by the IMR Degree Subcommittee. Supplements and conference proceedings are excluded. No more than one research paper published in an EI journal should be used for degree application.

8. A research paper that the applicant is the second author and his/her supervisor is the first author is effective for his/her degree application.

9. When a research paper in press is used for degree application, the authorship and affiliation must not be changed in case the degree application is submitted. Otherwise, penalty will be imposed. At most serious, the degree will be revoked.

10. If a research paper used for the degree application is retracted, Penalty will be imposed. At most serious, the degree will be revoked.

11. An applicant's affiliation in a research paper must be one of following combinations:

(1) Institute of Metal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

(2) School of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China.

Or:

(3) School of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China;

(4) Institute of Metal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

12. The articles listed above are applicable to applicants who are enrolled in IMR of CAS and School of Materials Science and Engineering of USTC.

13. The articles are effective since July 2020.ⁱ

This English version of *Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees of University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)* is for reference only, subject to the 2020 Chinese version.