

# Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees in Information Science and Artificial Intelligence

**Article 1** The Criteria for Award of Postgraduate Degrees in Information and Intelligence (I&I) is formulated upon discussion and decision by the I&I Degree Subcommittee in pursuant to the Implementing Regulations of USTC for Award of Master's and Doctoral Degrees and the spirit of the relevant instructions of USTC on the training of postgraduates.

## **Article 2 Disciplines and Codes**

0809 Electronics Science and Technology  
0810 Information and Communications Engineering  
0811 Control Science and Engineering  
0812 Computer Science and Technology  
0831 Biomedical Engineering  
0835 Software Engineering  
0839 Cyberspace Security

## **Article 3 Requirements for the Study and Training Process of Postgraduates**

Prior to applying for a degree, the candidate shall meet the credits and grades requirements specified in the program and pass the thesis or dissertation defense.

## **Article 4 A doctoral candidate applying for the degree shall meet the following requirements for academic achievements:**

4.1 Quality and quantity requirements (meeting any one of the following items):

Item 1: One grade A achievement;

Item 2: Two grade B achievements;

Item 3: One grade B achievement and two grade C achievements.

In short: 1A or 2B or 1B+2C. The achievements include papers, contest awards, patents, or standards, among others.

4.2 Criteria for paper grades A to C:

**Grade A:** International journals categorized in SCI Zones Q1 and Q2 (excluding IEEE Access), IEEE Transactions, IEEE Journals, ACM Transactions, ACM Proceedings, Grade A International English journals/conference proceedings recommended by the China Computer Federation (CCF), and Grade A journals/conference proceedings recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee (see Annex);

**Grade B:** SCI foreign language journals, Grade B international English journals/conference proceedings recommended by the CCF, and Grade B journals/conference proceedings recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee (see Annex);

**Grade C:** SCI or EI Chinese journals/international conference proceedings, Grade C international English journals/conference proceedings recommended by the CCF, Chinese journals recommended by the CCF, CSCD journals, and invention patents granted at home and abroad.

#### 4.3 Authorship and content requirements

1. Academic paper: An academic paper used for degree application shall have the doctoral candidate as the first author (without counting the Supervisor) and have USTC as the first signed institution, whose content should be related to the applicant's doctoral dissertation.
2. For the quartile in category of SCI journals mentioned hereby, the CAS quartile ranking system is used.
3. A Grade A or B international conference paper used for a master's or doctoral degree application shall be officially published in the proceedings; and a Grade C international conference paper used for doctoral degree application shall be EI retrievable.
4. In case that the category standards for academic papers has been revised between the date of the paper published and of the candidate applying for a degree, the highest grade of the paper used for application shall be recognized, while supporting documents shall be attached.
5. An academic paper that has won a best paper award shall be promoted by one grade,

and a short paper (for example, letter, correspondence) shall be downgraded by one.

6. For an interdisciplinary academic paper, the highest grade categorized among its involved disciplines will be adopted with supporting documents attached.

7. An invention patent shall have the degree applicant as the first inventor (without counting the Supervisor) and USTC as the first patentee, and be related to the applicant's thesis or dissertation.

#### 4.4 Criteria for assessment of qualitative achievements of doctoral candidates:

1. Top awards won by a doctoral candidate for discipline contests (see Annex) related to the dissertation and recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee as the first achiever can be used for degree application as a Grade B achievement, but will be counted only once at most.

2. The participation of a doctoral candidate in the formulation of any international or national standard can be regarded as a Grade B achievement when the following prerequisites obtained, but will be counted only once at most: Preparation of the standards formulated by IETF, ITU-T, ISO/IEC, IEEE, 3GPP or other international standardization organizations recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee, or preparation of the GB series of national standards, with the said standards having been officially released; the recognition is based on the listed names of the authors.

#### 4.5 Assessment criteria for “fast pass” award of achievements for doctoral candidates:

1. Doctoral candidates won a national second class or above Science and Technology Award (listed among the top six awardees) are deemed to have a Grade A achievement; other awardees beyond the top six are deemed to have a Grade B achievement.

2. Doctoral candidates won a provincial or ministerial first-class award or above, or a first-class award for science and technology granted by any first-level society qualified to recommend a national award are deemed to have a Grade A achievement (listed among the top three awardees) or a Grade B achievement (listed among the top five awardees).

### **Article 5 Requirements for Dissertation Review and Defense**

A doctoral candidate applying for dissertation review and defense within three and a half years during the program shall meet one of the following prerequisites:

5.1 If the doctoral candidate with a master's degree has made two Grade A achievements, he or she can apply for dissertation review and defense in the sixth semester after the doctoral enrollment at the earliest; those who are in the integrated master's-doctoral program or the direct doctoral program may apply for dissertation review and defense in the tenth semester after the master's enrollment at the earliest;

5.2 If the doctoral candidate with a master's degree has made one Grade A or two Grade B achievements, he or she can apply for dissertation review and defense in the seventh semester after the doctoral enrollment at the earliest; those who are in the integrated master's-doctoral program or the direct doctoral program may apply for dissertation review and defense in the eleventh semester after the master's enrollment at the earliest;

5.3 If the doctoral candidate with a master's degree has made one Grade B and two Grade C achievements, he can apply for dissertation review and defense in the eighth semester from the doctoral enrollment at the earliest; those who are in the integrated master's-doctoral program or the direct doctoral program may apply for dissertation review and defense in the twelfth semester after the master's enrollment at the earliest.

**Article 6 A master's candidate shall meet one of the following academic achievement prerequisites for degree application:**

6.1 Prior to applying for a master's degree, a candidate shall have, as the first author (without counting the Supervisor), at least one research paper related to the thesis published in an academic journal or at a conference recognized by the Degree Subcommittee of the department with USTC as the first signed institution. The research paper shall meet one of the following requirements:

1. Published in an SCI, EI, ISTP, or CSCD journal;
2. Published in an English journal;
3. Published in a journal listed in the Catalog of Domestic Journals recognized by the Degree Subcommittee of the department or other Degree Subcommittees of related

disciplines;

4. Formally published in the proceedings of a regular international conference (with an ISBN).

6.2 A state-level or provincial or ministerial-level scientific achievement award or an invention patent obtained by a candidate is equivalent to one published academic paper if it meets the requirements of the general provisions of the Reference Guide of USTC for the Publication of Academic Papers by Postgraduates (2008 Edition). The identification of academic scientific achievements may not replace the publication of academic papers.

6.3 Criteria for qualitative assessment:

A top award won by a master's candidate for a discipline contest related to the applicant's thesis and recognized by the Degree Subcommittee of the department (see Annex) as the first achiever can be used for degree application as an achievement.

### **Article 7 “Double Two-thirds” Rule**

Any major matter that shall be decided by the Degree Subcommittee of the department shall be discussed and voted on in a formal meeting. The meeting is valid only when no less than two-thirds of the quorum of members of the Degree Subcommittee present; a major matter can be approved only by a consensus of at least two-thirds majority of the members present.

### **Article 8 Supplementary Provisions on Academic Achievements for Degree Application**

8.1 If a postgraduate uses an academic paper with him or her as the co-first author for degree application, a written statement shall be attached by the applicant's supervisor, and all the other authors shall express their consent and clarify the proportion of each author's contribution. The sum of the proportions of their contribution shall not be greater than one hundred percent.

8.2 A candidate shall not change the authors' order and the signing institution of any accepted paper used for degree application before it is officially published; otherwise serious action will be taken or the degree revoked.

8.3 The academic achievements of a postgraduate under a science and education integration program shall have him/her as the first author (without counting the supervisor), and USTC as the first or second signed institution, at least one of which must have USTC as the first signed institution.

8.4 The academic achievements used for degree application shall be related to the applicant's thesis or dissertation.

8.5 A postgraduate shall submit the copies of all supporting materials (including but not limited to the first pages of published papers, a notice of acceptance and the first pages of accepted papers for publication, patent certificates, award certificates, and the name page of the drafters of standards, etc.) for degree application.

8.6 The criteria for assessment of qualitative achievements and "fast pass" award achievements (see Clauses 4.4, 4.5, and 6.3) are applicable to applications for degrees recognized by the first-level discipline, for which a published paper is not required. In addition to making an academic achievement described in Clauses 4 and 6 (such as a large-scale system platform, etc.), if the applicant's supervisor believes that the applicant's achievement is equivalent to those listed, the supervisor may submit a written application and request that the first-level discipline recognizes and counts the achievement in the corresponding category.

**Article 9** The Criteria shall be implemented for doctoral candidates from May 2023. For international postgraduates enrolled before 2019, the same criteria as that for domestic students shall apply from January 2022; for international postgraduates enrolled in 2019 and after, the same criteria as that for domestic students shall apply from May 2023.

#### **Article 10 Annex**

10.1 The Degree Subcommittee is responsible for recognizing whether the discipline contests and the corresponding requirements are equivalent to Grade B achievements. When applying for the degree, the candidate shall submit the discipline contest documents of the year to the I&I Degree Subcommittee for recognition.

Contest	Organizer	Requirements
“Challenge Cup” National Undergraduate Sci-Tech Academic Contests	Central Committee of Communist Youth League, Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, and All-China Students’ Federation	Special award for natural science or scientific invention, and other such awards
Computational Hearing in Multisource Environments (CHiME)	Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique et en Automatique (France), University of Sheffield (UK), Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories (USA), and other renowned research institutions	Champion
China Collegiate Computing Contest	Ministry of Education	First-class award

10.2 Grade A/B conferences recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee (long papers only)

序号	档次	会议简称	会议全名
1	A	ISSCC	IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conferences
2	A	CCC	IEEE Conference on Computational Complexity
3	A	NDSS	ISOC Network and Distributed System and Security Symposium
4	A	CHES	International Conference on Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems
5	A	ASIACRYPT	International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptography and Information Security
6	A	ICRA	IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation
7	A	ECCV	European Conference on Computer Vision
8	A	ICLR	International Conference on Learning Representations
9	A	MICCAI	International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention ( <b>limited to ORAL</b> )
10	A	EMNLP	Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
11	A	SIGMETRICS	ACM SIGMETRICS International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems
12	A	Mobisys	International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications, and Services
13	A	Sensys	ACM Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems
14	B	EMBC	International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
15	B	STACS	Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science
16	B	CSL	Computer Science Logic
17	B	FMCAD	Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design
18	B	ITCS/ICS	Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science
19	B	RANDOM /APPROX	International Conference on Randomization and Computation / International Conference on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems
20	B	ISIT	IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory
21	B	IROS	IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems
22	B	CDC	IEEE Conference on Decision and Control
23	B	IFAC	World Congress of the International Federation of Automatic Control
24	B	ACC	American Control Conference
25	B	NAACL-HLT	Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies



序号	档次	会议简称	会议全名
26	B	RadarConf	IEEE Radar Conference

### 10.3 Grade A/B journals recognized by the I&I Degree Subcommittee

Serial Number	档次	The Title of Journal	Serial Number	Sponsor
1	A	国家科学评论 (英文) NATIONAL SCIENCE REVIEW	2095-5138	中国科技出版传媒股份有限公司
2	A	科学通报 (英文) Science Bulletin	2095-9273	中国科学院
3	A	中国科学: 信息科学 (英文) SCIENCE CHINA Information Sciences	1674-733X	中国科学院
4	B	中国生物医学工程学报	0258-8021	中国生物医学工程学会
5	B	密码学报	2095-7025	中国密码学会、北京信息科学技术研究院、中国科学技术出版社
6	B	软件学报	1000-9825	中国科学院软件研究所和中国计算机学会联合主办
7	B	雷达学报	2095-283X	中国科学院电子学研究所、中国雷达行业协会
8	B	通信学报	1000-436X	中国通信学会
9	B	计算机学报	0254-4164	中国科学院计算技术研究所; 中国计算机学会
10	B	计算机研究与发展	1000-1239	中国科学院计算技术研究所、中国计算机学会
11	B	电子学报	0372-2112	中国电子学会
12	B	自动化学报	0254-4156	中国自动化学会、中国科学院自动化研究所