

Admission to the doctoral program

Procedure summary and timeframe

The admission of new postgraduates, i.e. doctoral candidates (DC), takes place once in a year by following a procedure, which includes the following steps:

1. Announcement of research areas and available positions.
2. Submission of applications.
3. Evaluation of applications and selection of the new doctoral students.
4. Appointment of a supervising committee to each student.
5. Enrolment of new students.

The time schedule of the above admission procedure is synchronized with the academic calendar of NTUA so as to (a) give students that have just finished their studies the opportunity to apply for the new positions, and (b) to complete the admission process before the beginning of the winter semester, thereby making possible the enrolment of the newly accepted students to winter semester courses

Research areas and doctoral student positions

Each new position is associated with a research subject and is generated at the request of a member of the academic staff. The very same member will finally supervise the thesis of the student that will be selected for the position. The number of positions allocated to each staff member is determined by the General Assembly of the ECE School according to the existing regulations.

The subjects that correspond to advertised positions belong to twenty broad research areas shown in the following list:

1. Electric Energy Systems
2. Electrical Machines – Power Electronics
3. High Voltage Systems
4. Applied Electromagnetics
5. Material Science and Technology
6. Optical Communication Systems
7. Electronics – Microelectronics
8. High Frequency Systems
9. Communication Systems
10. Communication Networks
11. Automatic Control
12. Signal and Image Processing
13. Robotics – Automation
14. Computer Theory
15. Computer Architecture
16. Software
17. Information Technology Applications
18. Biomedicals
19. Decision Systems
20. Industrial Electric Devices

Admission requirements

A general admission requirement is that the candidate possesses a minimum knowledge background in the broader area of his or her intended Ph.D. thesis. Each department may determine its own specific background requirements.

In general, the following categories of candidates are admitted to the doctoral studies program:

1. Holders of the engineering diploma of NTUA or an equivalent title awarded by an accredited national or foreign institution.
2. Graduates of exact science disciplines (e.g. physics, mathematics, etc.). However, non-engineers will receive a Ph.D. degree in science, not in engineering.

Other graduates are considered for admission on a case-by-case basis.

Depending on the origination, newly accepted students are obliged to attend a number of 4-10 preparatory courses. The exact number of required courses is determined by the rules given in section 6.

In general, the requirements of the doctoral program (and in particular the requirement to take a sufficient number of preparatory courses) for candidates that do not fall in the above categories 1 and 2 are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Graduate Studies Committee. The requirements for holders of interdisciplinary graduate program titles are determined by the general rules pertaining to holders of graduate program degrees; these rules are given in section 6.

Application procedure and selection criteria

New doctoral students are selected for admission to the doctoral program according to the existing regulations (mainly according to law No. 3685 of 2008, article 9, par. 1, and a decision of the Rector's Council dated June 4, 2009). The general selection criteria are:

- The overall applicant's main degree grade,
- performance in courses in the area of the intended program,
- performance in the diploma thesis,
- already completed graduate programs,
- previous research experience.

Knowledge of a foreign language is also required.

Applicants must file an application to the secretariat of the ECE School, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Certificate(s) of degree(s) that are equivalent to a Master's degree (Master of Engineering or Master of Science). A Bachelor's degree holder can only be accepted under exceptional conditions (e.g. if the applicant holds a patent or has published an important research result).

If the applicant's degree has been awarded by a non-Greek academic institution, an accreditation certificate by the National Academic

Recognition Information Center is also required (see <http://www.doatap.gr/en>).

The overall grade must be at least equal to 7 (on a scale of 10) or the applicant's performance must be within the top 1/3 in the school of origin.

An applicant that does not satisfy the overall grade requirement can only be accepted as an exception if he or she can show a well-documented research record in the area of the intended Ph.D. thesis. The final decision on this matter is taken by the General Assembly of the ECE School, subject to an overall 10% restriction on the total number of admissions.

- b) A full academic transcript of each module of former studies.
- c) An English language certificate (or a certificate of a language that is dominant in the bibliography of the area of interest).
- d) Two (confidential) recommendation letters.
- e) Curriculum Vitae.
- f) A letter of interest written by the applicant, who should explain why he or she is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the specific program.
- g) In addition to the above documents the applicant is also encouraged to submit scientific publications and other documents that may indicate a previous research experience.

Progress monitoring

Three-member supervising committee

A committee that consists of three academic staff members provides the doctoral student with supervision throughout his or her studies and monitors his or her performance in the preparatory courses and in writing the thesis. The committee has also the task to author a yearly progress report.

According to the Law No. 3685 of 2008 the student's supervising committee consists of a professor or associate professor or assistant professor in the ECE School, and two other academic staff members that may belong to the ECE School or to other departments of the NTUA or of other accredited academic or research institutions in Greece or abroad. However, the expertise of all three committee members must be relevant to the subject of the specific thesis.

Progress reports

According to par. 3, article 9 of Law No. 3685 of 2008 the three-member supervising committee must submit a yearly progress report in cooperation with the student. Filing a progress report is also required after the successful completion of the preparatory courses by the student and a successful proposal examination. The existence of a recent progress report is a prerequisite for the (periodic) enrolment of the doctoral student to the rest of the program.