

Training Requirements for International Master's Degree Candidates at Southwest Jiaotong University

I. Understanding of China's National Conditions and Language Proficiency

International students in China should learn about fundamental knowledge of China's history, geography, society, economy, and culture, understand China's political system and foreign policies, comprehend mainstream Chinese social values and public ethics, and cultivate a strong sense of rule of law and moral awareness.

For disciplines and programs with Chinese as the medium of instruction, international students should be proficient in Chinese to complete academic studies and research in their discipline. They should possess the ability to use Chinese in professional work related to their field. Upon graduation, their Chinese proficiency must reach Level 5 of the *Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages*.

For disciplines and programs with foreign languages as the medium of instruction, international students should be proficient in the corresponding foreign language to complete academic studies and research in their discipline. They should possess the ability to use a foreign language in professional work related to their field. Upon graduation, their Chinese proficiency must reach Level 3 of the *Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages*.

II. Academic System and Duration of Study

International master's degree candidates typically have a standard program length of three years, with a maximum study period of four years (including any leaves of absence). Generally, the entire master's degree training process shall be completed at SWJTU. The program-based international graduate students shall be subject to the academic system specified in the program.

III. Graduation Credit Requirement

For graduation, international academic master's degree candidates must receive at least 34 credits, including 27 credits from coursework, 3 credits from training activities, and 4 credits from innovation practice.

For graduation, international professional master's degree candidates must receive at least 36 credits, including 27 credits from coursework, 3 credits from training activities, and 6 credits from innovation practice.

Master's degree candidates majoring in Chinese or those pursuing program-based master's degrees must meet the credit requirements specified in their program plan.

1. Credit setting requirements

课程类别 Course Category	课程编号 Course Code	课程名称 Course Name	学分 Credits	开课 学期 Semester	毕业学分要求 Required Credits		备注 Notes
					学术型 Academic	专业型 Professional	
公共课 Public Courses	LM31301001	汉语 I Chinese I	2	I	8	8	
	LM31301002	汉语 II Chinese II	2	I			
	LM31301003	汉语 III Chinese III	4	I & II			
	LM31301004	汉语 IV Chinese IV	4	II			
	LM31301005	中国概况 China Overview	2	I & II	2	2	
	GM31501001	体育 Physical Education	2	I & II	2	2	
基础课* Basic Courses	LM34002001	矩阵分析 Matrix Analysis	3	I	3	3	
	LM34002002	数理统计与多元统计 Mathematical Statistics and Multivariate Statistics	3	I			
素养课 Literacy Course	GM34803001	人工智能通识 Artificial Intelligence Literacy	2	I	2	2	
专业课程 Professional Courses	XXX	XXXX	X	X	10	≥10	
	XXX	XXXX	X	X			
	...	...	...	...			
创新实践 Innovation Practice	参照所在专业 培养方案 Refer to the training program of each major	学术创新实践 Academic Innovation Practice	4	III	4	0	
		专业创新实践 Professional Innovation Practice	6	III	0	6	
培养环节 Training Links	参照所在专业 培养方案 Refer to the training program of each major	学术活动 Academic Activity	1		1	1	
		课题组研讨活动 Project Research Activity	1		1	1	
		文献阅读与评述 Literature Reading and Review	1		1	1	

总学分要求 Required Total Credits	≥34	≥36	
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* As for Basic Courses, *Matrix Analysis* is compulsory for majors related to science or engineering; “*Mathematical Statistics and Multivariate Statistics*” is compulsory for majors related to management.

2. Training

(1) Academic activities

During their studies, international master's degree candidates shall attend academic seminars (both on and off campus) as required by their cultivation units, submit a summary (minimum 500 words) for each event, and complete the *Academic Activity Attendance Record for Master's Degree Candidates*. The electronic version must be uploaded to the Graduate Student Management Information System, and the printed copy shall be kept in their academic file boxes for future reference. International master's degree candidates shall follow the instructions in the *Academic Activity Attendance Record for Master's Degree Candidates* and complete this requirement step by step. Upon fulfillment, they will earn one credit.

Weeks 9 and 16 of each semester are designated as "Supervisor Spot Check Weeks", during which supervisors will randomly check the academic reports of international master's degree candidates. By Weeks 11 and 18, master's degree candidates must fill out the supervisor feedback in the *Summary of Supervisor Inspections in Graduate Training Modules* and submit it to the Graduate Student Management Information System. Paper copies must be archived in their academic file boxes for future reference.

Graduate students participating in summer international courses may count their participation toward two academic report requirements upon submitting a course completion certificate.

(2) Research group seminars

During their studies, international master's degree candidates must participate in research group seminars (including one-on-one discussions with their supervisors) as required by the cultivation unit. *After each session*, they must complete the *Record Form of the Research Group Seminars for Doctoral/Master's Degree Candidates*, upload the electronic version to the Graduate Student Management Information System, and archive a paper copy in their academic file boxes for future reference. International master's degree candidates shall follow the instructions in the *Record Form of the Research Group Seminar for Doctoral/Master's Degree Candidates* and complete this requirement step by step. Upon fulfillment, they will earn one credit.

In Weeks 9 and 16 of each semester, supervisors must randomly check the seminar records of master's degree candidates. By Weeks 11 and 18, master's degree candidates must fill out the supervisor feedback in the *Summary of Supervisor*

Inspections in Graduate Training Modules and submit it to the Graduate Student Management Information System. Paper copies must be archived in their academic file boxes for future reference.

(3) Literature reading and review

Before commencing their thesis proposal, master's degree candidates must review high-level Chinese and international literature in their field, summarize key findings, identify unresolved academic or technical problems, complete the *Literature Reading and Review Records for Doctoral/Master's Degree Candidates* that will be evaluated and signed by their supervisors, and present a synthesized report in their thesis proposal. Additionally, the electronic version of the *Literature Reading and Review Records for Doctoral/Master's Degree Candidates* must be uploaded to the Graduate Student Management Information System, while the paper copy must be archived in their academic file boxes for reference. Completion of this requirement awards one credit.

3. Innovation Practice

For master's degree programs, innovation practice for international graduate students is categorized into academic innovation practice (for academic degrees) and professional practice (for professional degrees).

(1) Academic innovation practice

International academic master's degree candidates shall engage in vertical research projects (such as government-funded research projects) or horizontal research projects (such as Industry-funded research projects) led by their supervisors (or supervisory team), scientific inquiries derived from applied research of their supervisors (or supervisory team), or theoretical investigations proposed by their supervisors (or supervisory team) at disciplinary frontiers for systematic research training to strengthen their scientific research methodology and cultivate academic innovation capabilities. They shall compile their contributions, including innovative theories, experimental approaches, methodologies, and research outcomes, into an academic innovation practice report.

International academic master's degree candidates may substitute credits through participation in: (1) the China Postgraduate Innovation and Practice Competitions, (2) SWJTU-recognized Class A collegiate competitions, or (3) equivalent national/international events designated by their faculty and registered with the Graduate School. If master's degree candidates are recommended by SWJTU, they can substitute two credits per competition entry. Award winners may substitute four credits.

Academic innovation practices shall align with the student's research focus and thesis work. For detailed requirements, please refer to the *Implementation Guidelines*

for Innovation Practices of Academic Degree Graduate Students at Southwest Jiaotong University.

(2) Professional practice

International professional master's degree candidates must complete their professional or engineering practice at SWJTU-registered on-campus or off-campus practice bases. (1) Engineering graduate students shall undertake research programs assigned by the practice base, conduct professional and engineering innovation practices to address frontline technical challenges, and compile an engineering technology innovation practice report summarizing the fundamental theories, technologies, methodologies, and practical outcomes applied in solving engineering challenges. (2) Other graduate students shall complete research programs assigned by the practice base, including case studies, planning reports, program proposals, design drawings, and professional practice reports.

Professional practices shall align with the student's research focus and thesis work or practice outcomes. For detailed requirements, please refer to the *Implementation Guidelines for Innovation Practices of Professional Degree Graduate Students at Southwest Jiaotong University*.

IV. Thesis Proposal

1. The thesis proposal for international master's degree candidates shall generally be completed by the end of their third semester. The thesis proposal result is recorded as "Pass" or "Fail".

2. Graduate students who fail their first thesis proposal defense may reapply in the following semester. If the proposal defense fails twice, the proposal review team will recommend dismissal from the program. Master's degree candidates shall have completed all required coursework credits as well as literature reading and review credits as stipulated in their educational program before participating in the thesis proposal defense. If these requirements are not met, a warning shall be issued, and the candidate must propose corrective measures to fulfill all credit requirements by the mid-term assessment. The supervisor must approve the plan before it is submitted to the college.

3. The thesis proposal must include:

- (1) Proposed thesis title;
- (2) Research significance and analysis of Chinese/international research status;
- (3) Research objectives, content, and critical issues to be addressed;
- (4) Proposed research methodology, technical approach, implementation plan, and feasibility study;
- (5) Research innovation;
- (6) Timeline and expected outcomes;

(7) Relevant literature review and preliminary research findings.

4. The thesis proposal application must be submitted through the "My Proposal" module in the Graduate Student Management Information System.

5. The proposal defense meeting shall be conducted openly within the relevant discipline(s). The supervisor (or supervisory team) shall organize at least three experts who are qualified for supervising master's degree candidates in relevant disciplines to evaluate the proposal. There should be at most two supervisors or experts from the supervisory team.

6. Master's degree candidates shall deliver a comprehensive presentation on the proposed research. The supervisors can provide necessary explanations. The proposal review team shall evaluate the innovation and feasibility of the proposed research and offer recommendations and suggestions for the research work.

7. A designated recorder shall document the thesis proposal defense meeting. The proposal report, expert review comments, and final evaluation results shall be archived in the academic affairs office of the college for future reference.

8. Master's degree candidates who change their research fields after proposal approval must get their supervisor's approval and redo the proposal defense.

V. Thesis Mid-term Assessment

1. The thesis mid-term assessment is an integral part of the training process of international master's degree candidates and a significant measure for standardizing educational management and ensuring education quality. It mainly includes the completion of coursework and training requirements, progress in research and thesis work, personal summary, supervisor evaluation, and interview evaluation by the assessment team.

2. The thesis mid-term assessment for international master's degree candidates shall be completed by the end of their fourth semester. The basic conditions include the completion of all course credits specified in the educational program, substantial fulfillment of non-course credit requirements, approval of the thesis proposal, and the achievement of phased results in academic research and thesis work. The thesis mid-term assessment result is recorded as "Pass" or "Fail".

3. Master's degree candidates must submit their thesis interim assessment application through the "My Mid-term Assessment Application" module in the Graduate Student Management Information System.

4. Graduate students shall write a thesis mid-term assessment report. The supervisor (or supervisory team) shall organize a team of over three experts who are qualified to supervise master's degree candidates in relevant disciplines to review the report. There should be at most two supervisors or experts from the supervisory team.

5. Master's degree candidates who fail their first thesis mid-term assessment shall be given a warning and required to propose corrective measures and report them to their colleges. After rectification, graduate students may retake the mid-term assessment in the following semester. If they fail the assessment twice, the expert team will recommend dismissal to the Graduate School. Students who pass the mid-term assessment will be eligible to continue their thesis work.

6. A designated recorder shall document the mid-term assessment meeting. The mid-term assessment reports and forms for master's degree candidates shall be compiled and archived by the academic affairs office of their cultivation units for future reference.

VI. Achievement Requirements and Thesis Defense

Master's degree candidates may apply for thesis defense only after completing required coursework, training components, and innovation practice as stipulated in the educational program, passing both the thesis proposal review and mid-term assessment, and meeting all academic achievement requirements of SWJTU. Master's degree candidates shall generally dedicate at least one year (calculated from thesis proposal approval) to conducting scientific research and writing their theses. The thesis must be completed independently under the guidance of the supervisor. The dissertation/thesis requirements, evaluation, defense, as well as the application, assessment, and conferral of graduate degrees shall comply with the *Regulations on the Conferral of Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees at Southwest Jiaotong University*.