

FAQ

1. What are the components of the PhD programme?

The first 18-24 months of the PhD programme comprise preparatory courses, followed by a qualifying exam. Students then formally become doctoral candidates. At this stage, their target is to conduct high-quality and innovative research to write a doctoral dissertation. The thesis milestones include presentation of dissertation in a defence, thesis submission and oral examination. Please refer to this [link](#) for more details.

2. How long is the PhD programme?

The NBS PhD programme is a full-time programme that is typically completed between 4 and 5 years.

3. Do you have part-time or long-distance PhD programme?

Due to the demanding nature of the programme, we do not offer part-time nor long-distance PhD programme.

4. What do you look for in a candidate?

We are looking for candidates with good bachelor's or master's degree (in any discipline) and with strong passion in research and who are willing to work hard to meet the rigorous demand of research. Research and work experience are beneficial but not necessary.

5. Are there scholarships available? What do they cover?

The available scholarships are shared in the table below. The scholarship covers tuition fee and monthly living allowance for up to 4 years. Please click the corresponding links for details about the scholarships. Note that the application for admission is applied together with the scholarship.

	APPLY ONLINE (FOR AUG 2025 INTAKE)	APPLICATION PERIOD
Admission with Nanyang President's Graduate Scholarship (NPGS)	Click here	Click here for the information
Admission with Provost Graduate Award (PGA)	At school's recommendation (NPGS/RSS applicants may be recommended for PGA)	Click here
Admission with NTU Research Scholarship (RSS) or self-funding	Click here	Click here

6. How do I apply to your programme?

Application to our PhD programme is fully digital. The deadline and links for the online application portals are shared in the table above.

The supporting documents include the following:

- Bachelor's degree certificates & transcripts, and master's degree (if any) certificates and transcripts
- Two academic referee's reports
- GMAT or GRE (taken within the last 5 years) – mandatory for all applicants
- IELTS or TOEFL (taken within the last 2 years) – may be waived if bachelor's degree is conducted in English
- A research proposal
- A statement of objective (1-2 pages)
- Research publications and award certificates (if any)

7. Do you accept applicants if they do not have business background?

Yes, we accept candidates from other academic backgrounds, however, we expect their research interests to be related to business topics.

8. What are the programme costs for self-funding student?

We prefer to admit students who can qualify for our PhD scholarship. But if you are not able to obtain scholarship and will be on self-funding, you will be covering all expenses, which include tuition fees and

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miscellaneous fees, [insurance](#), living expenses, etc. Please refer to the tuition and miscellaneous fees through this [link](#).

9. May I request for waiver of GMAT/GRE?

The GMAT/GRE is an important (though certainly not the only one) yardsticks considered in the evaluation process and in comparing applications. Sitting for the exam also shows the candidate's motivation and seriousness to apply to the PhD programme. For these reasons, we are not able to grant exemption or waiver for this requirement.

10. May I request for waiver of TOEFL/IELTS if I'm not a native English speaker and my bachelor's degree was not taught in English?

Yes if your master's degree was conducted in English. Please include a request letter in your application materials and preferably, provide additional comments about your English proficiency in the letter.

11. Is work experience necessary to apply?

It is not required, but if you have research experience (or other work experience) related to the area to which you are applying for, the experience may help.

12. May I apply to more than one research area?

We do not encourage applying to more than one specialisation, but if you really need to, please write to us after you submit your application, so we can take note of your preferred research areas.

13. I have graduated a long time ago and may not be able to get academic referee letter. Would you accept referee letters from my workplace?

We prefer academic referee reports. However, for candidates who have been away from academia for a while that requesting for referee reports from academic mentors is no longer feasible, referee reports from workplace will be accepted.

14. Do you accept late application or one with missing GMAT/GRE at the time of application?

It is possible that we may not have admission slots left for late applications, therefore we encourage all applicants to submit timely. We also are not able to process applications with pending supporting documents, therefore, please collate all needed materials before submitting your application.

15. May I contact the NBS faculty to discuss supervision?

You are not required to look for supervisor during application stage as the nomination of supervisor takes place sometime in the first year in the programme. Nevertheless, we encourage you to check the [profiles of our faculty](#) for their interests and works as it will give you some ideas on potential supervisors.

16. How would I know the outcome of my application or if I'm shortlisted?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application anytime between Feb and May. You may also check the status of your application online via this link - [https://wis.ntu.edu.sg/webexe/owa/pga\\$srsh_inquiry_grass.main](https://wis.ntu.edu.sg/webexe/owa/pga$srsh_inquiry_grass.main). If you are shortlisted, one of the faculty members will contact you to arrange for interview. Note that only shortlisted candidates are invited for interview.

17. Since NPGS application period is earlier, is the outcome for the application also become available earlier?

It will depend on the timeline that is set by the university. Although the review at school level may usually commence earlier, those who are recommended for NPGS will need to attend another round of interview. As there are more reviews and interviews involved, the NPGS outcome is usually known in March.