

School of Social Sciences

Applying to PhD and MA (By Research) Programmes

Before Applying

Website <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/sss/graduate-education/graduate-research>

Subject Areas

Economics – PhD, Full Time and Part Time
Public Policy & Global Affairs – PhD, Full Time and Part Time
Psychology – PhD and MA, Full Time and Part Time
Sociology – PhD and MA, Full Time and Part Time

Academic Year

Semester 1 – August to December
Semester 2 – January to May

Intakes and Application Period

August 2026 Intake – 01 November to 15 December, For all four Subject Areas
January Intake – 01 June to 31 July, For Economics, Psychology and Sociology only

Application

Only the **first choice** of the application will be processed. Candidates who wish to be considered for more than one subject will have to submit separate applications. If you wish to be considered for either MA or PhD, separate applications must be submitted. Application fee is payable for every application.

Programme code: 230 [MA] / 231 [PhD]

Prospective Supervisor

Before submitting your online application, please check out the faculty from the respective research areas. If there is a faculty whose research areas matches yours, you may approach him/her to be your prospective supervisor.
<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/sss/about-us/our-people>

Email Address and Contact No.

When applying, it is important to provide your email address and contact no. so that we can contact you regarding interviews. Ensure that both email and contact no. are valid.

Admissions Requirements

Admissions Eligibility

Applicants must have Bachelor's degree with minimum Honours (Distinction) or 2nd Class Upper Honours or equivalent and the ability to pursue research in the proposed field of advanced study.

IELTS / TOEFL

For applicants whose native language is not English, **IELTS** or **TOEFL** test scores must be submitted.

- Refer to <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/admissions/graduate/radmissionguide>.
- Test dates must be **within 2 years or less** from the date of application.
- Those who hold a degree from universities (must be at least 3 years of study) where English is the medium of instruction are exempted from the IELTS/TOEFL requirement. A letter from the university indicating the medium of instruction as English must be submitted.

The minimum score requirements for the tests are:

- IELTS: 7.0 (overall)
- TOEFL (iBT): 105 out of 120

GRE

- Applicants applying to the Economics programme is to note that the GRE (General) test is not mandatory, but GRE scores submitted along with applications will be taken into consideration.
- GRE (General) test is required for applicants applying to the Psychology programme if they did not graduate from a Psychology programme at Autonomous Universities in Singapore. Test date must be **within 5 years or less** from the date of application. GATE and GMAT scores are not acceptable.
- GRE is not required for PPGA and Sociology programmes.

Interviews are scheduled between February to March (August Intake) and August to September (January Intake) for shortlisted candidates only and they are conducted via Zoom.

Application Link and Supporting Documents

Application Link

<https://gradadmissions.ntu.edu.sg/apply/>

Supporting Documents

1. Copy of Passport / NRIC (front & back)
2. One recent passport-sized colour photograph
3. IELTS / TOEFL (if applicable)
4. GRE (if applicable)
5. Resume
6. Research Publications
7. Professional Qualifications
Transcripts and Certificates in both original language and official translation in English (if original is not in English)
8. Two Academic Referees' Reports
The Referee email address must be an Official institutional email address, email address given by his University or organization, etc.)
9. Research Proposal
Refer to research proposal [template](#) which may be used.

Referee Reports

- Referee reports are confidential and should not be made accessible to applicants.
- Applicants are encouraged to prompt referees to submit report online on time to avoid delays in processing applications.
- Referee report should be typed on a letterhead and duly signed.

Enquiries to be sent to AC-SSS-GE@ntu.edu.sg.

Application Process

Application process may take up to 4 months or more. Offers will be made from May to June (for August Intake) and from September to November (for January Intake).