

**Principles for Ph.D. Qualifying Examination**  
**School of Science and Engineering**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen**

1. The qualifying examination is administered **twice** a year.
2. The qualifying examination must be passed within **24** months and **36** months, respectively, according to whether the student has a research master's degree or not.
3. The qualifying examination contains a written examination and an oral examination.
4. The written examination consists of two exam papers. Each exam paper covers one lecture course offered by the corresponding programme, and is prepared and marked by the corresponding lecturer.
5. The oral examination should be taken within a maximum period of **6** months after the completion of the written examination. The student needs to first prepare a thesis proposal and then give a presentation on the thesis proposal. The thesis proposal should contain at least a statement of the intended research topic and a survey of the related research field. The oral examination is examined by a panel which shall be appointed by the graduate panel and shall include the student's supervisor and the (intended) members of the student's supervisory committee.
6. Based on the student's performance in the written examination and in the oral examination, the qualifying examination committee makes a recommendation for the student to pass or fail the qualifying examination.
7. For students with a fail grade, the qualifying examination committee also decides on one of the following options:
  - (i) Take qualifying examination (or part of it) again the immediate next time.
  - (ii) Switch to MPhil stream.
  - (iii) Discontinue the study immediately.
8. Under no circumstance can a student take the qualifying examination more than **twice**.