

NU/SJTU Dual-MS program Program Guidelines

1. Important Dates (All following dates are annual)

- Jan. 1 – Student Applications due to SJTU Graduate Directors
- Jan. 15 – SJTU approvals of student application and SJTU thesis advisor; Applications forwarded to NU
- Feb. 15 – Application package submitted online to NU’s graduate student application system <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=nwu-grad>
- Mar. 15 – NU admission; NU advisor identified (Contacts: Professor Chris Wolverton in MSE/Dr. Deborah Shiao-Wun Burton in ME)
- April 15 – Deadline of student acceptance

2. Degree and Course Requirements

To receive MS at NU, students shall take the “thesis option” which requires nine (9) courses plus enrollment in three(s) quarters of 590 (thesis research). The MS thesis shall be on a topic of mutual interest between a faculty advisor at NU and a faculty advisor at SJTU, written in both Chinese and English. For detailed requirements of courses and thesis committee formation, students shall follow the guidelines published by the individual departments.

3. NU/SJTU Residency Options

Options: Students will need to indicate their NU/SJTU residency option in application. Four options of NU/SJTU residency are available. In all cases, students will be physically present at SJTU to defend thesis at the end of Year 2.5. If presentation in English is acceptable by the committee in SJTU, the NU committee members will participate either in person or by web-conference. Otherwise, two separate defenses will be arranged at NU and SJTU, respectively. Note NU does not offer graduate level engineering courses in Summer. Students who select MSE of NU as their degree option can enroll in Option 1, Option 2, or Option 3, but not Option 4.

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 2.5		Optional
Options	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Option 1	NU			NU or SJTU	SJTU						/
Option 2	SJTU				NU			NU or SJTU	SJTU		/
Option 3	SJTU							NU			
Option 4	SJTU						NU				/

* Fall – late September to mid December; Winter – Early January to mid March; Spring – Late March to early June; Summer – Late June to end of August

Opportunities for Internship or post-completion employment in the US: International students are eligible for summer internship, called CPT (curricular practical training), and Post-Completion OPT (optional practical training for one year) in the US, only after they have taken courses for three consecutive quarters at NU. A student is not eligible for OPT unless he/she completes, defends, and receives a diploma following the final quarter of enrollment at NU. Options 1 and 2 will qualify the student for CPT. Options 3 and 4 will qualify the student for OPT if the student registers full-time and pays the full tuition rate in the summer while at NU. Under both Options 1 and 2, students will not qualify for OPT employment in the US because such applications can only be submitted while the student is resident in the US and less than 90 days before the end of the quarter in which the degree will be completed. Students are responsible for finding their own internship or employment if they meet visa requirements. There is no guarantee that such positions will be available.

Tuition: Options 1 and 2 will require 3 quarters of full tuition plus \$100 summer registration, if applicable. Options 3 and 4 will require 4 quarters of full tuition in order to qualify for OPT post-completion internship or employment.

4. Responsibilities of Student and Faculty Advisors at SJTU/NU

The main purposes of the dual degree program are to expose enrolled students to the graduate curriculum and top research programs at NU and to facilitate research collaborations between NU and SJTU faculty members. Students play the critical role of ambassadors of both programs, while faculty advisors from two schools are expected to maintain close communications with each other and with the student, especially when the student resides remotely. An ideal Master thesis topic shall exploit the complementary expertise at two schools. The topic needs to be agreed upon by all parties involved. The following paragraphs outline the major responsibilities of each party.

Student

- Prepare for TOEFL or IELTS tests (the minimum score for TOEFL is 85; IELTS is 7.0)
- Communicate with the prospective advisor at SJTU during the application stage.
- Prepare a study plan and choose one NU/SJTU residency option for approval before visa application.
- Work with both SJTU/NU advisors to prepare a 2-page thesis pre-proposal by the end of Winter quarter (March) in Year 1. The pre-proposal should illustrate the research objectives, state of the art, proposed approach and a timeline.
- Work with both SJTU/NU advisors to prepare a 10-page thesis proposal by the end of Summer in Year 1. The proposal is an extended version of the pre-proposal.
- Finish thesis writing in time to allow sufficient time for evaluation. For example, the thesis in Chinese will be sent out by the SJTU advisor for external review before final defense.
- Review course plans with SJTU/NU advisors on a regular basis to ensure course requirements are met at both SJTU and NU.
- Provide monthly written research progress reports to faculty advisors at SJTU and NU.
- Arrange regular face-to-face or internet research meetings with faculty advisors at SJTU and NU.

SJTU advisor

- Meet with the prospective student during the application stage and suggest names of potential NU advisors considering mutual interests.
- Provide supervision of student's pre-proposal, proposal, and final thesis.
- Review and approve student's course plan.
- Attend regular face-to-face or internet meetings with student and NU faculty advisor.
- Arrange external review and defense of student's thesis.

NU advisor

- Provide supervision of student's pre-proposal, proposal, and final thesis.
- Review and approve student's course plan.
- Recommend another thesis committee member from the department at NU.
- Attend regular face-to-face or internet meetings with student and SJTU faculty advisor.
- Supervise publication(s) in English based on student's thesis research.