

PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE) Guidelines for PhD students in Fintech Thrust, Society Hub

Objectives:

The objective of the PhD Qualifying Examination is to assess students' general knowledge of Fintech area and understanding of fundamental principles, as well as the ability to apply these principles to solve problems. The PQE provides an early assessment of students' potential to meet the academic requirements to obtain their doctoral degree. PhD students are required to pass the qualifying examination with a maximum of two attempts within 22 months after admission into PhD study.

Examination Format:

The PQE at the Fintech Thrust consists of two components: (1) a written comprehensive examination, and (2) a critical survey paper.

1. Written comprehensive examination

- The first component of the PQE requires the students to take the written comprehensive examination in two sessions on two separate days. Each session lasts for three hours.
 - a) The first session focuses on the **Tech part**.
 - b) The second session focuses on the **Fin part**.
- The PG committee will make a Pass/Fail decision based on the overall written examination.

2. Critical survey paper

- Students should discuss and ask for advice from their co-supervisors on the critical survey paper topic. The paper is due by October 7th following the first-year summer. The paper will be presented to the faculty in a 45-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session in late October following the first-year summer.
- The survey paper should be at least 20 pages long (including references), double-spaced with 1" margin on all sides, and written in academic English. It should be spell-checked and proof-read. The student should provide a cover page with title and a 100-word abstract. The survey paper should cite sources appropriately and be checked for plagiarism.
- After the presentation, the PG committee will evaluate both the written critical survey paper and the oral presentation, which are of equal importance. A Pass/Fail grade will be given.