

Q&A regarding the graduation requirement (first authorship of papers).

One of the graduation requirements of SCST Program, in accordance with NCTU's Degree Conferring Regulations, is "Before the oral defense, the Ph.D. Candidate must have two published (or accepted) papers in SCI or EI journals, however, the thesis advisor has the right to raise the requirement for graduation. The papers must be approved by the Advisor. The requirements of the papers are as follows:

- 1) Student must be the first author.
- 2) Project must be done during the PhD study.
- 3) Must be agreed by all corresponding authors.
- 4) Either the advisor or co-advisor must be the corresponding author.
- 5) In the published papers, the following institutions should be included: the Department of Applied Chemistry at National Chiao Tung University, the Institute of Chemistry at Academia Sinica, and the Taiwan International Graduate Program of Sustainable Chemical Science and Technology."

Question: Occasionally, there may be two or three students noted as equal contributors in a multilateral teamwork project. In this situation, can a student listed as a second author be granted first authorship?

Answer:

These kind of special cases have to be discussed by the NCTU Academic Affair Committee of the Department of Applied Chemistry. It is noted that

1. A second-authored paper submitted to the Committee should contain writings such as "The authors A and B contributed equally to this work".
2. The advisor should provide strong evidences in a letter to support the paper mentioned in 1.
3. The same paper cannot be submitted to the committee twice to fulfill another student's graduation requirement of first authorship.
4. A third authored paper is not acceptable.
5. **Of the two papers, only one paper can bear shared first authorship.**