



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about AR-ChEPS (Academic-Research ChEPS)

Chemical Engineering Practice School (ChEPS)

Starting in 2017, the Department of Chemical Engineering has initiated a new academic track called Academic-Research ChEPS or AR-ChEPS in the Chemical Engineering Practice School (ChEPS). Students with half scholarship or soft-loan offers are eligible for the AR-ChEPS upgrade. However, every AR-ChEPS candidate will be given a Queue #, starting with Number 1. We will notify you when your Queue # is up which means that you are being offered AR-ChEPS. In 2017, a total of 9 students are under the AR-ChEPS Track.

The following are the FAQs that you should read carefully:

- Question:** What is the difference between AR and AR+?

Answer: For AR+, in addition to the 12-credit thesis, AR+ students are required to spend 10 weeks (2.5 months) one-phase internship at an industrial site, namely ThaiOil, PTTGC, or SCG-Chem. AR+ is for highly motivated students who also like to experience practical training, which makes AR+ more intensive than AR.

- Question:** How many AR-ChEPS scholarships are offered each year?

Answer: A total of at least 10 AR-ChEPS scholarships are available each year.

- Question:** How is AR-ChEPS different from Regular ChEPS in terms of curriculum?

Answer: Make no mistake - all AR-ChEPS are considered ChEPS students. However, AR-ChEPS students are required to do a 12-credit-hour thesis project instead of a 6-credit-hour thesis project in the regular track. To compensate for the intensity of the longer thesis, in terms of coursework, AR-ChEPS students are exempted from taking a number of courses such as Business Management, Process Optimization, and Petroleum and Petrochemical Chemistry.

- Question:** Are there any additional benefits of AR-ChEPS?

Answer: Yes. In addition to the full scholarship, AR-ChEPS students are eligible for 24 months (2 years) of monthly stipends. If a student's cumulative GPA upon graduation is above 3.50, he/she is entitled to a monthly stipend of 6,000 baht. On the other hand, if the student's cumulative GPA is between 3.00 and 3.50, he/she is entitled to a monthly stipend of 3,000 baht. If the student's cumulative GPA is below 3.00, there is no monthly stipend.

- ❑ **Question:** What about other obligations or commitments for students under AR-ChEPS?

Answer: AR-ChEPS students are expected to be teaching assistants (TAs) for certain undergraduate courses such as Aspen Plus and unit operation labs. However, the students will get paid for being TAs. This money is not part of the monthly stipends. In fact, this is a good learning experience for our ChEPS students. In most cases, our regular track ChEPS students have also been TAs for undergraduate courses.

- ❑ **Question:** Will AR-ChEPS students be able to graduate in two years and one summer, just like the regular track students?

Answer: Yes, all AR-ChEPS students are expected to perform well academically (same expectations as for those in the regular track) and to graduate in two years and one summer. But the students must be willing to work hard and must stay highly motivated. We will monitor the academic progress of all AR-ChEPS students to make sure nobody takes more than the necessary time in completing their Master's degrees.

- ❑ **Question:** Will I know my thesis project and my advisor when I enroll in ChEPS and accept the AR-ChEPS offer?

Answer: Yes. We should have a list of thesis projects and advisors for AR-ChEPS students by mid-April. We will do our best to match your interest with the projects offered and their advisors, but cannot guarantee you will get what you want. We will ask AR-ChEPS candidates to indicate their 1st-choice, 2nd-choice, and 3rd-choice for the 11 thesis projects being offered.

- ❑ **Question:** So what happens if I'm offered half scholarship or soft-loan to enroll in ChEPS?

Answer: You have to make one of the following decisions:

- (1) You are not interested in AR-ChEPS and want to decline our admission offer, in which case we wish you the very best.
- (2) You are not interested in AR-ChEPS and are already happy with the half scholarship or soft-loan admission offer. In that case, please visit our ChEPS Office by the deadline to sign the Enrollment Agreement.
- (3) You want to be upgraded to the AR-ChEPS Track, in which case you must wait for us to contact you when your Queue # is up.

- ❑ **Question:** What if I have further questions which are not listed in this FAQ document?

Answer: For more information and in-depth discussion of AR-ChEPS, please contact Dr. Hong-ming Ku, the Director of ChEPS, at 02-470-9611 or 02-470-9616, or by Email at hongming.ku@gmail.com. You may contact Dr. Hong-ming Ku via Line as well at "hongmingku" (Line ID).