



REGULATION ON DOCTORATES

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Article 1 – Objectives and scope

1. This Regulation governs the creation, activation, operation and funding of doctoral degree courses (hereinafter also referred to as courses) at the University of Trieste (hereinafter referred to as the University) in accordance with Italian Ministerial Decree No 226 of 14 December 2021 (hereinafter referred to as MD 226/2021), in compliance with the aims and areas of application set out in Article 1 of the same Decree. The Regulation also regulates PhD student intake.
2. Doctorates/PhDs are the highest level of university education.
3. According to the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), a doctoral degree corresponds to a third-cycle qualification and with reference to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) it corresponds to EQF level 8.
4. Doctorates are intended to promote, organise and manage activities related to educational projects at the doctoral level. Educational projects can also have an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature.
5. Doctorates provide the necessary expertise to carry out highly qualified research activities within public and private entities. They give access to careers in public administrations and offer an additional level of education for highly innovative career pathways. Doctorates are part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research Area (ERA) and are therefore subject to both the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) and to the ANVUR model of self-assessment, evaluation and accreditation that is in force in Italy.
6. The University can also participate in joint doctorates on the basis of agreements, conventions or consortia. In this case, the rules of the institution in charge of the administrative management of the course apply.
7. This Regulation shall ensure that the principle of equal opportunities for men and women is respected, particularly in the composition of collegial bodies and boards of examiners.

Article 2 – Accreditation, creation and activation of courses

1. Accreditation of a course consists of two elements. Firstly, authorisation to offer the course from the Italian Ministry of University and Research (hereinafter “Ministry” or “MUR”), with the agreement of the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems (hereinafter ANVUR) and, secondly, accreditation of the individual sites where the



course is to be carried out. Accreditation is also subject to periodic verification of the relevant requirements set in Article 5 of MD 226/2021.

2. A course accreditation lasts five years and includes three consecutive cycles (i.e. it opens for admissions three years in a row), which ANVUR monitors and evaluates regularly. Past accreditations are taken into account when a substantial change listed in Article 5(4) of DM 226/2021 means the initial authorisation must be confirmed or revoked. Each course will be reviewed at least once every three years, following the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Authority.
3. If the course fails to meet one or more of the requirements, the accreditation will be revoked by ministerial decree. In the case that a course has its accreditation revoked, any editions that have already started will continue in order to allow current PhD students to complete their education and obtain their degree.
4. Doctorates are created and activated within University departments and can be articulated into more than one curriculum. The areas of study within each course should relate to broad, coherent and clearly defined academic disciplines.
5. In order to create a course, the University department that will be in charge of its management must submit a proposal. The proposal can also be submitted together with other departments, in accordance with the terms and deadlines set annually through a rectoral memorandum or similar document.
6. Other University departments as well as other institutions affiliated with the University pursuant to Article 3(2) of MD 226/2021, may also contribute to the creation and operation of the course.
7. A proposal for the creation or renewal of a course must comply with the requirements of Article 4 of MD 226/2021 and any additional criteria identified by the University, taking into account the indicators provided for in the accreditation guidelines and requirements and the criteria for allocating ministerial funds referred to in Article 13(2) of MD 226/2021.
8. When proposing the creation or renewal of a course, departments must take into account the objectives of the University Strategic Plan and ensure a quality assurance system for the design and management of doctoral training in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and in line with ANVUR guidelines.
9. The proposal must be well-structured and include: a sustainability plan which can be based on existing human and organisational resources; an educational plan with elements of interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary; details of connections with local, national and international actors.
10. Courses must be equipped with dedicated web pages, in order to give adequate visibility to the educational activities and research project of each individual course.
11. Every year, in the budget estimate, the department in charge of a course allocates its resources.
12. The department shall contribute to the activation of a course by providing scholarships or other equivalent forms of funding. In addition, the department shall also provide the research budget referred to in Article 27(10) of this Regulation, which is granted to all PhD students, including those without a PhD scholarship. Course funding is covered by the department's own funds or by third parties through a specific agreement signed by the head of the department.
13. When a department has acquired external funds, it may fund an increase in the amount awarded for a PhD scholarship, above the amount established by the Board of Directors every year. The amount must be defined before the beginning of the scholarship recipient's activities and must stay the same for the duration of their doctorate.



14. In the event of non-compliance by third-party funders, the department must cover the deficit with its own funds or with the funds of the member of teaching staff acting as the contact point for that specific project. The University will not cover any imbalance by allocating resources from the ministerial Ordinary Fund (*Fondo di Finanziamento Ordinario* - FFO). This applies both to funding contributions for operating expenses and to contributions for investments.
15. Any agreement for financing PhD scholarships must also give details about confidentiality and the ownership of results. If the agreement establishes that the PhD student is to carry out part of their research at the funder's premises, the agreement must also stipulate measures to ensure the student's health and safety, details of insurance cover and privacy, as well as the code of ethics and conduct to be followed.
16. The department must also fund any additional scholarship instalments in case of an extension of the student's programme according to Article 23(2) of this Regulation. This can be done with departmental or external funds, independently from their origin.
17. The departments involved in the course, within the scope of their competences, can sign collaboration agreements with public and private bodies in the context of the course. This includes agreements with a view to promoting mobility in Italy and abroad.
18. The head of the department proposing a course is in charge of managing the creation of the course. They must also select a doctoral teaching body and organise an election for the course coordinator pursuant to Article 9(3). The doctoral teaching body and the course coordinator shall then be in charge of activating the course.
19. In the event of renewal of a course already activated in previous cycles, the course coordinator is in charge of its re-activation.
20. Before a new cycle of a course can begin, the Board of Directors, with the agreement of the Academic Senate, will rule on the creation and activation of courses. This is done after consulting the Evaluation Unit, which will assess compliance of courses with the University's Strategic Plan.
21. Every year, the Board of Directors fixes the minimum amount of the doctoral scholarships with the consent of the Academic Senate. The Board then allocates a budget for scholarships from ministerial and University funds among the courses to be activated, within the limits of the resources available.
22. The budget may also be covered with funds that come directly or indirectly from the European Union. Places offered by means of this type of funding may include specific requirements, including derogations from the provisions of this Regulation.
23. The Evaluation Unit shall periodically assess the proper functioning of courses and that they continue to fulfil the quality requirements referred to in Article 4 of MD 226/2021, also in the light of the indicators set by ANVUR and MUR.

Article 3 – Joint courses

1. The University promotes the activation and operation of joint courses by signing agreements or by setting up consortia with the subjects referred to in Article 3(2) of DM 226/2021.
2. Institutions participating in the courses referred to in paragraph 1 must grant PhD students access to their facilities and their research and higher education activities on an ongoing basis. They shall provide for joint training activities that may take place on a rotational basis between locations.

Article 4 – Industrial doctorates



1. If a course is based on a convention or a consortium that includes one or more companies carrying out qualified research and development, the University may request that the course be recognised as an 'industrial doctorate'. This request can be submitted at time of applying for accreditation or afterwards. If recognition is obtained, the term 'industrial doctorate' should be included in the course title.
2. The calls for applications to an industrial doctorate may reserve a certain number of the positions available for employees of affiliated companies or institutions who are engaged in highly specialised activities, including apprenticeship contracts. In any case, applicants can only be admitted to the course after passing the relevant selection procedure.
3. The conventions referred to in paragraph 1 should stipulate the following: arrangements for the coordination of research activities between the parties; arrangements for carrying out research at the host company; mechanisms that promote technology transfer and the development of research results by the companies involved; in the case that places on the course are filled by existing employees, details of their overall workload.
4. The staff referred to in paragraph 2 must have signed an employment contract that is equal to or longer than the duration of the course.

In the event of a change of supervisor within the partner institution, the outgoing supervisor shall ensure that an appropriate handover takes place.

If the employee's work contract is terminated, the doctoral teaching body may allow the student to conclude their degree as a non-industrial doctorate. This can only be done if the student is enrolled in their third year and depends on the evaluation of the research project the student has carried out up to that time and the availability of department funds.

The doctoral teaching body may exceptionally allow a different company to take over the original project and allow the student to obtain their degree as an industrial doctorate. This decision must be duly justified and the project must remain unchanged. The PhD student may be granted a hiatus of no longer than 6 months while the new agreement is completed.

In all other cases, should the conditions laid down in the agreement cease to apply, the agreement shall be terminated without any further obligation.

Article 5 – Doctorates of national interest

1. The University, on the initiative of at least one of its departments, can activate or join a doctorate of national interest.
2. For any requirements and rules for the creation, operation and organisation of a doctorate of national interest, reference should be made to Article 11 of DM 226/2021 and to any additional requirements indicated by the Ministry or established by the University.

Article 6 – Duration of the courses

1. A course must last at least three years (36 months of actual attendance), except as provided for in Article 30 of this Regulation.
2. Each call for applications must detail the course start date, normally scheduled on 1st November of each academic year, and the admission deadline, which corresponds to the closing date for enrolment in the course. Different start dates may be provided for in the case of courses in collaboration with companies or other institutions, as referred to in Article 4 of this Regulation, or in the case of the students with projects financed by specific national or European funds.

Article 7 – Course content

1. The basic content of the course consists of the following:



- a) an individual research project on a subject covered by the course. The project must be approved by the doctoral teaching body and is carried out under the guidance of one supervisor and one or more co-supervisors. When evaluating a research project for approval, the doctoral teaching body may also make provisions for research and training activities to be carried out in research institutions and high-quality institutions in Italy and abroad. In the event that the research activity of the PhD student is carried out at other institutions and/or bodies, this must be provided for and regulated by a specific agreement between the University or the relevant department and the host institution;
 - b) attendance of educational and training activities that complement the students' research. These activities are approved by the doctoral teaching body in accordance with Article 11(1)(k) of this Regulation, including doctoral training activities as referred to in Article 4(1)(f) of DM 226/2021.
2. During their three-year course, students are required to earn at least 20 ECTS/CFU credits by attending complementary educational and training activities, defined by the doctoral teaching body. The recognition of credits is approved by the doctoral teaching body, which is responsible for monitoring and assessing the training and research activities completed by each student. The assessment is carried out at the end of each year and is required for admission to the following year and for admission to the final thesis review.
3. Credits are earned through several activities, some of which are mandatory. The University organise activities to ensure that students can earn some credits within the maximum and minimum reference values. These activities are:
- a) taught components offered within the student's PhD programme (or other PhD programmes at the University of Trieste or at other partner universities and institutions);
 - b) doctoral training activities organised by the University of Trieste;
 - c) taught components offered within master's degrees programmes (at the University of Trieste or at other partner universities);
 - d) national and international summer/winter schools;
 - e) conferences, symposiums, workshops;
 - f) additional academic support (supporting a taught course, tutoring);
 - g) outreach activities (especially public engagement).
- The minimum and maximum number of credits for each activity are set out in a table in Annex 1, which forms an integral part of this Regulation. The table may be amended by resolution of the Academic Senate, after consulting the course coordinators and then the Board of Directors.
4. The training project requires an exclusive full-time commitment of 1720 hours per year.
5. Educational and training activities within courses are delivered and certified by University academic staff. This contributes to the fulfilment of their institutional obligations referred to in Article 6 of Italian Law No 240/2010, within the limits and under the conditions established by University regulations.

Article 8 – Course governance bodies

1. Course governance is made up of the following bodies:
 - a) the course coordinator;
 - b) the doctoral teaching body;
 - c) the doctorate quality assurance group;
 - d) the advisory board, where established;



- e) the board of teachers, where established.
- 2. Each course can create its own regulation, in compliance with the ministerial legislation in force, the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Authority and this Regulation.

Article 9 – Course coordinator

1. The course coordinator is a full-time professor elected by the doctoral teaching body and appointed by the head of the department in charge of the course. They must be chosen from among full professors or, if this proves to be impossible, from among associate professors. Accreditation requirements laid down in Article 4(1)(a)(3) of the MD 226/2021 apply. Indicators provided for in the existing accreditation guidelines must be taken into account.
2. The coordinator's term of office is three years and is renewable only once. In order to ensure the proper assessment of the quality of the doctoral teaching body, the election must take place at the time of application for course accreditation or renewal. The coordinator's term of office starts at the beginning of the academic year of the new cycle, unless a different start date is justified by exceptional reasons.
3. The coordinator must stay in office for at least one academic year. The coordinator must be a professor at the University in charge of the course or a professor at one of the partner universities.
4. The course coordinator:
 - a) is responsible for the educational and research aspects of the course. They oversee course operation and coordinate its activities, also in accordance with the guidelines for the quality assurance system set by the University Quality Assurance Authority;
 - b) convenes and chairs the doctoral teaching body, quality assurance group and, where established, advisory board and board of teachers. They implement the decisions made by the course governance bodies;
 - c) with the support of the QA group, prepares an annual report on the course's progress, which is to be submitted to the teaching body for approval and transmitted to interested parties in accordance with the guidelines for the University's Quality Assurance System;
 - d) appoints a deputy coordinator from among the members of the doctoral teaching body within one month of taking up the role. The deputy coordinator will replace them in the event of absence or incapacity, and in the event of early termination of office, until the new elected coordinator takes office. If the coordinator is a member of a partner university, the deputy coordinator should be identified from among the professors at the University;
 - e) adopts any necessary measures in case of emergency. These decisions will be included with a specific item in the agenda of the first useful meeting of the doctoral teaching body and promptly ratified;
 - f) ensures continued compliance with the initial accreditation requirements and informs the doctoral teaching body and the QA group in the event that the course fails to meet the requirements;
 - g) maintains the course's internal and external relationships;
 - h) in agreement with the supervisors, ensures compliance with the legal requirements on health and safety at work and, in particular, on training on safety, health surveillance and accidents related to the doctorate's activity;
 - i) contributes to the monitoring of PhD graduate employment rates within the first five years of obtaining their qualification;



- j) is also responsible for any other issue attributed to them by the University Statute and regulations.

Article 10 – Composition of the doctoral teaching body

1. In compliance with the requirements set in Article 4(1) of MD 226/2021, the doctoral teaching body must consist of at least 12 members belonging to academic fields consistent with the educational objectives of the course. Members must also comply with the following requirements:
 - a) at least half the members must be full university professors or associate professors;
 - b) the rest of the members may be researchers at universities or other public research organisations. In the case of doctoral degrees in association with public research organisations, they may also be research leaders, researchers or first researchers within those organisations, without prejudice to the minimum proportion of professors.

Up to one third of doctoral teaching body members may be experts from outside universities and public research organisations.

2. In any case, the doctoral teaching body cannot exceed 35 members, excluding any members appointed to represent companies in industrial doctorates.
3. In accordance with the accreditation guidelines, the doctoral teaching body must adequately cover the academic disciplines of the course and its curriculums, where applicable.
4. In the case of joint doctorates that are managed by partner universities, the University must be represented on the doctoral teaching body by a similar number of members compared to the other bodies involved.
5. The members of the doctoral teaching body must prove that they have obtained high research results in compliance with the scientific requirements for accreditation and any other quality requirements established by the University.
6. In order to be admitted to the doctoral teaching body, interested parties must submit an application annually, in accordance with the procedures established by the University, taking into account the accreditation indicators, as provided for in the relevant ministerial guidelines. The application must be addressed to the head of the proposing department at the time of creation of the course or to the coordinator if the course has already been created.
7. The members of a doctoral teaching body may also belong to an additional doctoral teaching body only in the event that one of them relates to a joint doctorate (including doctorates of national interest), or where one of the courses is going to be withdrawn. A course coordinator only be on one doctoral teaching body in Italy.
8. The doctoral teaching body is proposed by the course coordinator and appointed or renewed every year by the council of the department in charge of the course. In the case of interdepartmental courses, this is done after consulting all the departments involved.

Any new members who apply to join the doctoral teaching body after the application for accreditation has been sent to the Ministry, will only participate in the body at the beginning of the following cycle and after a positive evaluation by ANVUR.

To resign from the doctoral teaching body after accreditation, members must formally submit their resignation to the body and to the competent office of the University central administration.

9. Representatives of doctoral students also attend doctoral teaching body meetings in order to discuss educational and organisational matters. There cannot be more than two student representatives, i.e. one per curriculum. Student representatives remain in office for a maximum of two years and in no case after they obtain their qualification. Elections of student representatives are called by the course coordinator.



10. The participation of University teachers in doctoral teaching bodies for courses activated by other universities, even in a non-associated form, is subject to the Rector's authorisation after consulting their department.

Article 11 – Role of the doctoral teaching body

1. The doctoral teaching body guides and oversees the educational and research activities of the course. In particular, the doctoral teaching body has the following responsibilities:
 - a) defining the educational objectives, topics and the possible division of the course into curriculums;
 - b) appointing the members of the quality assurance group and, where established, the stakeholder representatives in the advisory board referred to in Article 13(1) of this Regulation, as well as the members of the board of teachers;
 - c) in synergy with the departments, promoting collaboration with the subjects referred to in Article 3(2) of DM 226/2021 (also in a non-associated form) to conduct more effective research and find more financial resources;
 - d) approving the annual report written by the course coordinator, who will forward it to the relevant stakeholders in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance System Guidelines;
 - e) ensuring the smooth running of the course in close cooperation with the quality assurance group;
 - f) proposing the members of the board of examiners for course admissions;
 - g) defining the admission requirements for the course and establishing the criteria for the evaluation of the candidates' qualifications;
 - h) deciding on the allocation of places and scholarships to eligible candidates in accordance with the criteria detailed in the relevant call for applications;
 - i) deciding on requests for the suspension of scholarships in the event of equivalent funding;
 - j) appointing the supervisor and one or more co-supervisors of each PhD student within two months of the beginning of their activities;
 - k) approving the individual research project and doctoral training activities for every student after consulting their supervisors, and assigning each student a main university site within two months of the beginning of their activities;
 - l) authorising students to deliver additional academic support activities for undergraduate and master's degree students as an integral part of their training project, within the limits laid down by current legislation;
 - m) authorising students to carry out any other activity outside the training project, if deemed compatible with their other educational activities, taking into account the criteria laid down in Article 27 of this Regulation;
 - n) approving requests for co-supervision of theses of incoming and outgoing PhD students;
 - o) evaluating students' work at least once a year in consultation with their supervisors, thereby ultimately granting or refusing admission to the subsequent year. The body is also responsible for postponing thesis submission deadlines, for granting extensions and for admitting candidates to the assessment of their final thesis with a view to obtaining their qualification;
 - p) proposing the expulsion of a student from the course at any time to the Rector, providing a reasoned justification for this;



- q) deciding on requests for hiatuses and on their duration as well as on requests for postponing the beginning of a student's activities and the total duration of the course referred to in Article 6 of this Regulation;
 - r) appointing the members of the board of examiners for both the admission procedure and the final examination;
 - s) evaluating requests for the academic recognition of foreign PhD degrees;
 - t) providing any documentation requested for the financial reporting on projects;
 - u) authorising the redaction of certain sections of a thesis or the embargo of a thesis in accordance with law, at the request of PhD students and after hearing their supervisors;
 - v) deciding on joint attendance with specialisation schools in medicine or other degree courses, as provided for in Articles 30 and 31 below;
 - w) in the case of courses resulting from the merging of discontinued courses with compatible subject matter and academic disciplines, the doctoral teaching body of the new course acquires the competences and obligations for the discontinued course. Students will obtain the initial qualification they enrolled for;
 - x) in the case of agreements with partner institutions, providing the elements necessary for drawing up an agreement;
 - y) following up on and coordinating the student activities for all cycles of the degree course, from its accreditation until the end of the teaching body's term of office. If the composition of a doctoral teaching body is modified, the new body takes over this task from the body accredited on the previous cycle;
 - z) carrying out all other obligations provided for in this Regulation and in the legislation in force.
2. Meetings of the doctoral teaching body are convened by the course coordinator or, for newly created courses, by the head of the proposing department.

After each meeting, a signed copy of the minutes is transmitted to the secretariat of the department in charge of the course. The secretariat shall record the minutes and send them to the relevant administration office for all administrative purposes.

The chair of the meeting, usually the coordinator, cannot act as secretary of the same meeting.

3. Participation in the doctoral teaching body is unpaid.

Article 12 – Doctorate quality assurance group

1. The doctorate quality assurance group is composed of at least 5 members who are proposed by the course coordinator and then appointed by the doctoral teaching body.

The course coordinator is automatically a member of the group and chairs it.

The other members are the deputy coordinator and one or more teachers from the doctoral teaching body, including external members, and at least one PhD student.

The term of office is three years. The three-year period starts at the beginning of the academic year. Any members who take over from another member during the three academic years shall remain in office until the end of the term of office of the group.

- 2. The group is convened by the chair at least once a year. Minutes are drawn up at each meeting.
- 3. The group has the following responsibilities:
 - a) taking part in the redesign and management of the course;
 - b) monitoring the course data on training and research activities, public engagement activities and academic support activities;



- c) supporting the coordinator in analysing the course performance indicators and the results of the surveys submitted by students and graduates;
- d) supporting the coordinator in preparing the annual report on the course, identifying strengths and weaknesses, as well as improvement actions;
- e) supporting the coordinator in carrying out the periodic review of the course to ensure its alignment with the cultural and scientific evolution of the relevant academic disciplines and taking into account the expectations of external stakeholders;
- f) drawing up the self-assessment document in preparation for the Evaluation Unit hearing and for ANVUR's periodic accreditation visits;
- g) assisting the coordinator in verifying that the requirements set out in the current guidelines for doctorates are met at the initial accreditation stage.

Article 13 – Advisory board

1. The advisory board is an optional governance body, composed of at least 5 members appointed by the doctoral teaching body.

The course coordinator is automatically a member of the group and chairs it.

The advisory board is made up of both teaching representatives and stakeholder representatives. Stakeholder representatives may operate at a regional, national and international level and are interested in students' academic and professional profile. For example, stakeholder representatives might include companies funding PhD scholarships and alumni.

The board's term of office is three years. The three-year period starts at the beginning of the academic year. Any members who take over from another member during the three academic years shall remain in office until the end of the board's term of office.

2. The board is convened by its chair at least once a year. Minutes are drawn up at each meeting.
3. The board has the following responsibilities:
 - a) expressing opinions on the course content, students' professional profiles and possible employment opportunities as well as on the consistency of the students' research projects with the course's educational and scientific objectives, also with a view to improving the course;
 - b) proposing activities of interest for the course;
 - c) in order to provide the opinions referred to in point (a), the board may also identify and consult additional stakeholder representatives interested in the academic and professional profiles of PhD graduates.

Article 14 – Board of teachers

1. The board of teachers is an optional governance body. It is composed of the members of the doctoral teaching body, of professors and researchers belonging to Italian or foreign universities, of researchers from public and private research institutions, both in Italy and abroad, and of experts of proven qualification appointed by the doctoral teaching body.
2. If the board of teachers is selected when the course is created, it is first convened by the head of the proposing department. If the board is selected after the activation of the doctorate, it is convened by the course coordinator.
3. The board of teachers provides opinions and guidelines on training, research and technology transfer in line with the course objectives and topics.



4. The members of the board of teachers may take on the role of supervisors referred to in Article 16 and carry out the teaching activities referred to in Article 7 of this Regulation.
5. The term of office is three years. The three-year period starts at the beginning of the academic year. Any members who take over from another member during the three academic years shall remain in office until the end of the board's term of office.

Article 15 – Board of Course Coordinators

1. The Board is composed of all the course coordinators (or their delegates) with administrative headquarters at the University of Trieste. Course coordinators with administrative headquarters outside the University may also be involved for specific topics.
2. The Board is chaired by the Rector or the Rector's Delegate for Doctorates.
3. The Board delivers opinions and submit proposals in the following areas:
 - a) coordination of educational activities and interdisciplinary initiatives between courses;
 - b) aspects of teaching and research collaboration that are common to universities, research institutions, companies or other qualified public or private bodies in Italy or abroad, also for the purpose of obtaining funding;
 - c) amendments to this Regulation;
 - d) general policies on the funding of courses.
4. For the purpose of carrying out their duties, the Rector (or the Delegate for Doctorates) convenes the board of course coordinators at least once a year, where appropriate or necessary. The Board votes by simple majority. In the case of a tied vote, the Rector or the Delegate for Doctorates shall vote as well. Meetings of the Board may also take place remotely. Members of relevant offices may also participate in the meetings of the board for consultation on specific items on the agenda. The Board may be convened at the request of at least one third of the course coordinators.

Article 16 – Supervisors

1. Each PhD student is assigned at least one supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom must be a university member. Supervisors are appointed by the board of teachers and must meet the requirements set out in Article 6(6) of MD 226/2021. Additional co-supervisors may be assigned if the needs of the research project require it.

At least one of the supervisors must be a member of the doctoral teaching body or of the board of teachers.
2. Supervisors:
 - a) guide PhD students and follow their progress throughout the course, ensuring the effective and fruitful execution of all planned activities until the completion of the final PhD thesis;
 - b) include PhD students in their research team and ensure the availability of equipment and resources for the student activity;
 - c) authorise PhD students to travel in Italy and abroad as part of their PhD activity;
 - d) authorise the use of student research budget, as falls within their competence;
 - e) inform the doctoral teaching body of the progress of PhD students' work at least annually, including on the basis of the report referred to in Article 27(11)(e) and (f) of this Regulation, highlighting the strengths and points requiring improvement;



- f) give their opinion whether to admit each PhD student to the following year, on the possible postponement of the thesis submission deadline, on a course extension and on the admission of each student to the assessment phase of their thesis;
- g) must inform the doctoral teaching body if a PhD student fails to fulfil the obligations laid out in Article 27, promptly reporting, through the coordinator, any accidents pursuant to Article 9(4)(h) or any unjustified absences or poor performance for the purpose of suspending scholarship payment and excluding the student from the course;
- h) after checking their availability in advance in accordance with the planned schedule and procedures, propose at least two highly qualified teachers or experts (and their alternates) to the doctoral teaching body who will evaluate the students' thesis and admit them to the final examination.
- i) in agreement with the coordinator, they closely monitor that the schedule and deadlines for the closure of evaluations are rigorously met.

Article 17 – Admission requirements

1. Admission to doctorates is subject to one of the following requirements, without restrictions of citizenship:
 - a) master's degree or other equivalent degree;
 - b) academic qualification obtained abroad which is comparable in terms of duration, level and academic discipline to the Italian admission qualification, even if it has not already been declared equivalent to the Italian qualification required.
2. Candidates must have obtained the required qualification by the call deadline, or be able obtain it by the enrolment deadline set in the call for applications, i.e. by the start of activities pursuant to Article 6(2) of this Regulation;
3. The board of admission examiners only assesses the eligibility (*idoneità*) of foreign qualifications for admission purposes, in compliance with current legislation in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued as well as with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies. For assessing the eligibility of foreign qualifications, the board acquires and assesses all the details on the foreign qualification in order to ensure equal treatment of applicants.
4. The eligibility of foreign qualifications of candidates recruited through international selections and of incoming PhD students under joint supervision are assessed using the same criteria set in paragraph 3.

Article 18 – Course admission

1. Course admission is managed through a public selection procedure.
2. The call for applications is issued by rectoral decree. It is available in Italian and English and is published on the University website, the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) website as well as on the Euraxess website. In the event of a dispute, only the Italian version shall be considered authentic.
3. The call shall indicate:
 - a) the admission requirements, the admission test procedures and the organisation and workload of the boards of examiners. The interview may be held remotely, provided that the interview can be made public, including by offering public access to the platform used for the interview;
 - b) the criteria for the assessment of qualifications and tests;



- c) any specific qualifications required for individual courses;
 - d) any internationally recognised tests;
 - e) language proficiency assessments;
 - f) the procedure for creating a ranking of eligible candidates (*graduatoria*), including for the allocation of scholarships and available places;
 - g) the description of the activities and possible career prospects;
 - h) the terms and deadlines for enrolling in courses;
 - i) the starting date of activities;
 - j) any research topics activated for the upcoming cycle;
 - k) further rules on admission to courses.
4. The call shall also indicate the available positions, especially if they are covered by:
- a) PhD scholarships;
 - b) salaries as employees (including the possibility of apprenticeship contracts), as referred to in Article 4(2);
 - c) other equivalent forms of financial support.

In addition, places may be provided without a scholarship, up to one place for every three places with a scholarship or equivalent funding, rounding down the total number of scholarships available.

5. The call may also provide for places activated pursuant to the agreements and conventions referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of this Regulation.
6. The call may reserve a set number of places, with or without a scholarship, for graduates of foreign universities or for holders of scholarships awarded by foreign States or specific international mobility programmes. In this case, different terms and deadlines for admission as well as separate ranking lists may apply.
7. In the case of national, European and international collaboration projects, specific admission procedures and organisational elements may apply depending on the individual projects within the accredited courses.
8. Within the limits of places available, the University may admit students enrolled at foreign universities or other awarding institutions which have signed agreements for the joint supervision of theses with the University of Trieste.
9. In the case of doctorates created on the basis of international inter-university cooperation agreements, admission requirements and the composition of the board of examiners are defined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant agreement.
10. Candidates who have already obtained their PhD degree cannot be re-admitted to the same course. The doctoral teaching body is responsible for identifying these courses.
11. In case of withdrawal or in the case that additional resources become available, eligible candidates within the admission ranking may be admitted to the relevant course by its start date, unless the doctoral teaching body decides otherwise.

Article 19 – Board of examiners for admission to courses

1. The board of examiners for admission to courses is proposed by the doctoral teaching body or, in urgent circumstances, the course coordinator and is appointed by rectoral decree.
2. The board shall consist of three to seven members chosen from among:



- a) university professors and researchers;
- b) research leaders, first researchers, researchers or similar roles in public research institutions;
- c) qualified experts.

For scholarships tied to a specific research topic, the board is entitled to call on experts who can provide technical advice but have no right to vote.

3. At least one member of the board must be a tenured professor.
4. The board elects its chair and secretary from among its members.
5. In the event of the resignation of a member, the substitute is identified by the chair from among the already appointed alternates. In the absence or unavailability of alternates, a substitute is identified by the coordinator and appointed by rectoral decree.

Where the board consists of more than three principal members, the resignation of a member does not necessarily require a replacement, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3.

6. At the preliminary meeting for the admission selection procedure, the board determines any sub-criteria and evaluation parameters within the criteria established by the doctoral teaching body.
7. The board may carry out its work remotely and then draw up and sign the minutes digitally.
8. The final documents of the selection and the ranking of candidates are approved by rectoral decree.

Article 20 – Enrolment

1. Successful candidates must submit their enrolment application form and any related documentation, respecting the enrolment procedure and deadline detailed in the original call for applications.
2. Without prejudice to the students' obligation to complete their enrolment and the total duration of the programme of 36 months, the doctoral teaching body may authorise the start of activities for the first year of the course to:
 - a) be delayed by up to three months, if the PhD student has to complete a university degree course (this is no exception to the provisions of Article 17(2)), an internship or employment relationship, or for reasons related to entry to Italy;
 - b) deferred to the following year for foreign candidates who, within three months of the course start date set in the original call, are unable to obtain an entry visa in time for documented reasons. The doctoral teaching body may also authorise the student to attend activities remotely for up to a maximum of six months;
3. For the purposes of their research, students regularly enrolled in courses in which the University participates pursuant to Article 3(2) of MD 226/2021 may apply for registration in the University's computer systems.

Article 21 – Enrolment in subsequent years

1. PhD students must enrol in subsequent years of the course and to the final examination session following the terms and deadlines communicated by the competent offices. Failure to do so will entail forfeiture from their studies.
2. Enrolment is subject to the doctoral teaching body's positive assessment of the activity carried out by the student, as provided for in Article 11(1)(o).

Article 22 – Hiatus



1. PhD students may apply for a hiatus (subject to prior approval by their academic supervisor) for the following reasons provided for by law:
 - a) parental leave pursuant to the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007;
 - b) maternity or paternity leave pursuant to Article 32 of Italian Legislative Decree No 151/2001;
 - c) compulsory military service in countries requiring it;
 - d) duly certified accidents or serious health reasons.

The doctoral teaching body need only take note of the hiatus.

These hiatuses are only subject to the limit provided for in Article 24(3).

2. At the request of the doctoral student, subject to the prior approval of the supervisor(s), the doctoral teaching body may also grant a hiatus for a maximum of 6 months for the following substantiated reasons:
 - a) serious family reasons;
 - b) employment reasons (probationary periods, within the limit laid down in the contract of employment, in any case not exceeding 6 months);
 - c) organisational needs in the workplace, in the case of employees of affiliated companies or institutions or also in the case of apprenticeships.
3. The doctoral teaching body may also grant a hiatus for accidents certified by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL), in the event that the PhD students are unable to carry out the scheduled activity;
4. Courses will be extended accordingly at the end of the normal duration of their cycle for students who take a hiatus, unless they are required to repeat the entire course year in accordance with paragraph 7 below. During their hiatus, PhD students cannot carry out any course activities.
5. PhD students on hiatus retain their initial rights to any scholarship. The scholarship may continue or be interrupted during the hiatus and resumed at the end of it, but in any case the scholarship cannot exceed the duration of the course (36 months), except as provided for in Article 21(2) of this Regulation.
6. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, the duration of hiatuses cannot exceed a total of 6 months.
7. If hiatuses within the academic year exceed 6 months, the student must re-enrol and repeat the course year.

Article 23 – Postponing the thesis deadline or extending the doctorate programme

1. If, for substantiated reasons, a student cannot present their doctoral thesis within the duration of the course, with the prior approval of their supervisors, they can ask the doctoral teaching body to postpone the deadline for a maximum of 12 months. This does not entail an extension of the mandatory period of attendance, any extension of the scholarship or any additional financial charges.

The thesis deadline can be postponed for the following reasons:

- a) serious family reasons;
- b) employment reasons (probationary periods, within the limit laid down in the contract of employment);
- c) organisational needs in the workplace, in the case of employees of affiliated companies or institutions or also in the case of apprenticeships.
- (d) in the cases referred to in Article 34(7).



2. On the recommendation of the supervisors and for justified research reasons, the doctoral teaching body may grant the student an extension and an equal extension of the scholarship for a period not exceeding 12 months, provided that the decision is ratified by the department that will fund the scholarship extension and subject to verification of financial viability. A student may only receive an extension in full months. Eligible students may receive up to a maximum of 12 additional monthly instalments. The extension of the scholarship does not include an extension of the research budget referred to in Article 27(10).
3. The extension periods referred to in paragraph 1 and the hiatuses referred to in Article 22(2) cannot exceed a total of 18 months, except in the following specific cases provided for by law:
 - a) parental leave pursuant to the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007;
 - b) maternity or paternity leave pursuant to Article 32 of Italian Legislative Decree No 151/2001;
 - c) compulsory military service in countries requiring it;
 - d) accidents or serious health reasons;
4. During the extension periods, the PhD student remains enrolled in the course with all the related rights and duties.
5. After the presentation of their thesis, if the board of examiners requested corrections, as referred to in Article 25 below, PhD students may continue to attend laboratories and other university facilities in order to draft the final, amended version of the thesis.

In order to access University facilities for other reasons, PhD students will have to request authorisation from the head of the department in charge of the course.
6. Any other requirements will be indicated in the annual notice for the admission to the final examination.

Article 24 – Forfeiture, exclusion and withdrawal from studies

1. Eligible PhD students who fail to enrol to subsequent years or to apply for the final examination within the deadlines will automatically forfeit their studies.
2. The doctoral teaching body may decide to exclude a student from the course, even during the academic year, for the following reasons:
 - a) doctoral teaching body's negative opinion on the work carried out by the student;
 - b) prolonged and unjustified absence;
 - c) failure to pass in-year assessments;
 - d) failure to pass the periodic assessment at the end of the year;
 - e) failure to be admitted to the evaluation of their thesis or to the final examination.

PhD students who do not resume their activity at the end of a hiatus, do not upload their final thesis within the deadline or who are not present at their final examination without justified reason will also be excluded. The exclusion is issued by rectoral decree and the student will be notified.
3. After 6 years (72 months) from the beginning of the course, the doctoral teaching body may propose the exclusion of any doctoral candidates who have not obtained their final degree to the Rector on the grounds of established obsolescence of their research.
4. PhD students may withdraw from their studies at any time. Withdrawal from studies is final.
5. Forfeiture, exclusion and withdrawal referred to in this Article entail the immediate interruption of the scholarship or of any equivalent form of economic support provided by the University that is linked to course attendance.



Article 25 – Assessment of the thesis and admission to the final examination

1. The academic title PhD or, in Italian, '*Dottore di ricerca*', also abbreviated to '*Dott. Ric.*', is awarded upon successful completion of the final examination during which the candidate must demonstrate that they have obtained significant and original results, contributing to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of research.
2. The academic qualification of PhD is awarded by the Rector.
3. The educational activities completed by PhD students in one or more institutions are certified by a document attached to the final diploma (Diploma Supplement).

When the conditions detailed in paragraph 16 of this Article are fulfilled, the final diploma shall mention any additional honours.

4. The final examination consists of the discussion of the students' thesis. The thesis is accompanied by a summary in English and should be written in Italian or English. With the permission of the doctoral teaching body, it may be written in another language. PhD students must attach to their thesis a report on the activities they carried out and any academic papers they published during the doctorate. The thesis and the report must be submitted following the terms and deadlines set for the two examination sessions established in a specific rectoral memorandum.

The University reserves the right to verify the originality of students' theses.

5. The thesis is critically examined by two reviewers who are highly qualified and have experience in the thesis' field of research. The reviewers are proposed by the supervisors and appointed by the doctoral teaching body.
6. The reviewers must come from outside the doctoral teaching body and any universities or institutions that participate in the course in any form and must not have been involved in the student's research.

Reviewers may be experts from public or private institutions, in Italy or abroad.

At least one reviewer must be a university teacher.

7. In accordance with the procedure laid down in the relevant annual notice, within 30 days of receiving the thesis, the reviewers must submit a written analysis of the thesis. The reviewers shall then either propose: the admission of the student to the public discussion of their thesis, or that the discussion be postponed for a period not exceeding six months if they consider that significant additions or corrections to the thesis are necessary. After the period for corrections has passed, the thesis is in any case accepted for discussion at the first available session and accompanied by a new written analysis from the reviewers.
8. In exceptional cases, where there are obvious errors of assessment, the doctoral teaching body may decide on the admission of a student to the final examination against the reviewers' suggestions by means of a duly reasoned act.
9. Admission to the final examination is subject to the deposit of the thesis in the University institutional archives. The University will upload a copy of it in the National Libraries of Rome and Florence, as well as in the Ministry's database.
10. PhD theses are available free of charge in line with the University's policy on open access.
11. Upon a reasoned and substantiated request by the doctoral candidate, submitted before the thesis is discussed, and with the agreement of the supervisors, the doctoral teaching body may authorise to temporarily redact some parts of the thesis exclusively for reasons related to the protection of intellectual property.
12. Under the same procedure, doctoral candidates may apply for an embargo period for the full publication of their thesis for a maximum of 12 months.



13. The embargo may be renewed, upon an additional reasoned and substantiated request, for a further period of 12 months. A third request for an embargo may be made submitted, provided that a total period of 36 months from the date of the discussion of the thesis is not exceeded. Additional requests must be received before the expiry of the previous embargo period.
14. Requests received after the open access publication of the thesis cannot be accepted.
15. The thesis is discussed publicly during sessions established by the University before a board of examiners referred to in Article 26(1) of this Regulation.
16. At the end of the debate, the thesis shall be approved or rejected via a short written assessment. The assessment can be subject to a rating scale. In the event of results of particular scientific significance, the board may award honours by unanimous vote.
17. In the event of a negative result, the final examination cannot be repeated.
18. The terms and deadlines for admission to the final examination are set out in the relevant annual notice.

Article 26 – Board of examiners for doctoral thesis

1. The board of examiners for the final examination is proposed by the doctoral teaching body or, in case of urgency, the course coordinator and is appointed by rectoral decree.
2. The board shall consist of three to five members chosen from among:
 - a) tenured professors and researchers at the University of Trieste or at other universities, in Italy and abroad;
 - b) leading researchers, established researchers, researchers or similar roles in public research institutions;
 - c) qualified experts.

The following rules apply to the composition of the board:

- a) at least two-thirds of the members must be university teachers;
 - b) in the case of a course organised uniquely at the University of Trieste, two thirds of the members must come from outside the University;
 - c) in the case of a joint doctorate, no more than one third of the members may belong to the institutions involved in the organisation of the course;
 - d) the number of components is rounded down when necessary;
 - e) the reviewers may be also members of the board of examiners. Supervisors cannot participate, except in cases of joint supervision of theses, if this is provided for in the relevant agreement.
3. If necessary, the doctoral teaching body may propose up to six different boards of examiners per academic year. The decision to propose more than a single board of examiners must be duly justified. Doctorates with joint supervision are an exception, as they may have dedicated boards.
 4. The board elects its chair and secretary from among its members.
 5. In the event of the resignation of a member, a replacement is identified by the chair from among the appointed alternates. In the absence or unavailability of alternates, a replacement is identified by the course coordinator and appointed by rectoral decree.

Where the board consists of more than 3 principal members, the resignation of a member does not necessarily require a replacement, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 2.



6. Examiners may also participate in the discussion of the thesis remotely. They may draw up and sign the minutes digitally, provided that at least one member of the board is present at the administrative headquarters or, where applicable, at the associated headquarters authorised to award the qualification. In exceptional and duly justified cases, the board may authorise the PhD student to take the examination remotely.
7. In the case of doctorates created on the basis of international inter-university cooperation agreements, including those with joint thesis supervision, the composition of the board of examiners is defined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant agreement.

Article 27 – Students’ rights and obligations

1. Admission to a course is granted with the expectation that the student will commit exclusively to full-time study, without prejudice to any specific discipline for apprentices and employees of companies or other bodies referred to in Article 4(2) and for students enrolled in medical specialisation schools or for which the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article apply.
2. If the doctoral teaching body approves it, PhD students may carry out the following activities as part of their training project. This does not entitle them to any increase in scholarship amount.
 - a) tutoring undergraduate and graduate students. This activity may also be paid;
 - b) supporting taught courses, up to 40 hours for each academic year.
3. If the doctoral teaching body and their supervisors approve it, PhD students may also carry out tutoring and additional academic activities outside the scope of their course, within a limit of an additional 50 hours per year. These activities may also be paid.
4. The doctoral teaching body may also authorise further activities outside the scope of the course that are consistent with the PhD student's studies and research. This may be done on the proviso that there are no conflicts of interest with the University and that the activities will not interfere with the student's individual research programme or their attendance of scheduled teaching activities.
5. Scholarships are compatible with the activities of both free-lancers and employees referred to in paragraph 4, provided that the resulting income does not exceed the amount of the scholarship. In any case, students cannot exceed the personal income limit defined annually by the Board of Directors.

The following sources of income are not included in the student's personal income: remuneration referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article, PhD scholarships and income from occasional work.

6. PhD students may carry out research and training activities in Italy and abroad as well as internships with public or private subjects, subject to the prior approval of their supervisors who regularly inform the doctoral teaching body. During their stay at institutions other than the University and its partners, PhD students are required to stay in contact with their supervisors and to undergo planned assessments as defined by the doctoral teaching body. If any such activities are necessary for them to draft their thesis, students may also carry out activities at the end of the mandatory period of attendance and within the deadline for submitting their thesis.
7. PhD students in medicine, surgery and health sciences can participate, on request, in clinical and health care activities. In this case, the professional qualification and insurance cover against occupational risks are required.
8. PhD students may have access to the facilities, equipment and IT resources of the University and its partners, including for individual projects within their research.



9. PhD students may request intervention from the doctoral teaching body in the event of disputes with their supervisors. After hearing both parties, the doctoral teaching body may replace one or both supervisors, following a reasoned decision.
10. A budget is secured to support research activities in Italy and abroad. This research budget is appropriate to the type of course and, in any case, shall be no less than 10% of the amount of the PhD scholarship, the minimum value of which is defined by ministerial decree. The budget is managed by the department in charge of the doctorate. Any expenses are authorised by the student's supervisor. Any part of the budget not spent in a given year may be used in the following year, within the deadline set for uploading the thesis. All PhD students are entitled to their research budget, with the exception of the following categories:
 - a) holders of scholarships paid by foreign countries;
 - b) beneficiaries of economic support under specific international or UE mobility programmes.
11. PhD students have the following obligations:
 - a) attending the educational activities scheduled within their course and obtaining the ECTS credits for all scheduled doctoral training activities, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of this Regulation;
 - b) conducting the research assigned to them by the doctoral teaching body;
 - c) sitting all required exams;
 - d) complying with the University Code of Ethics;
 - e) submitting a report on the progress of their research and training to their supervisor(s), including on research and training activities carried out abroad and any written or oral presentations;
 - f) submitting a report on the progress of their research to the doctoral teaching body every year or whenever requested. These reports must be endorsed by their supervisors;
 - g) filing their publications in the University's research archive in a timely manner, irrespective of where they are attending courses, indicating their affiliation to the University of Trieste;
 - h) including any logos and citations in their thesis that are requested by a project funder and indicated in the relevant agreement;
 - i) complying with any additional scholarship requirements linked to EU or other funds for the entire duration of their doctorate.
12. Enrolment in a doctorate is incompatible with enrolment in other doctorates or university masters with mandatory attendance.

For the simultaneous enrolment in bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, first- and second-level masters and specialisation schools, please refer to the provisions of Articles 30 and 31 of this Regulation.
13. PhD students are covered against accidents at work by the compulsory insurance provided by Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL) pursuant to Article 4 of Italian Presidential Decree No 1124 of 30th June 1965. As far as the civil liability of the University is concerned, students also have third-party liability insurance, provided by a primary insurance company. Insurance policies only cover events occurring within course activities, including the period from the end of mandatory attendance to the discussion of the student's thesis.
14. In the case of civil servants admitted to a course, the provisions of Article 12(5) of MD 226/2021 apply.

Article 28 – Tuition fees



1. PhD students are required to pay a tuition fee determined annually by the academic bodies and published in the PhD fee notice.

Article 29 – Scholarships

1. PhD scholarships are annual and are renewed from year to year for a maximum period equal to the duration of the course, provided that the PhD student has completed all scheduled activities, as assessed by the doctoral teaching body, and still meets the requirements.
2. The scholarship is paid in monthly instalments. The total annual amount must meet the minimum established by the legislation in force. The monthly instalment is increased by up to 50 % for research activities carried out abroad for a total period not exceeding 12 months. The period may be extended up to a total of 18 months in the case of joint doctorates or joint supervision of theses with foreign institutions. The increase is only applied to continuous periods abroad of 30 days or more.
4. In the case of foreign students with their permanent address abroad, if the student starts attending activities remotely, the payment of the scholarship will only start on their arrival in Italy and on completion of the documentation necessary for enrolment. Any instalments not paid from the course start date will also be paid at this point.
5. Those who have already benefited from a PhD scholarship within the Italian university system, even partially, cannot benefit from a second scholarship.
6. PhD scholarships cannot be combined with research grants (*assegni di ricerca*), research contracts pursuant to Italian Law No 79 of 29th June 2022, or with any other scholarships, with the exception of scholarships granted by national or foreign institutions to supplement the research activity of PhD students abroad.
7. In the event that a PhD student holding a scholarship acquires another form of financial support for the course after the course start date, they may temporarily waive their PhD scholarship without forfeiting their studies. The authorisation of the doctoral teaching body is required.
8. If a scholarship has become available because it has been waived, not renewed or its holder has withdrawn from their studies, the doctoral teaching body may propose to award it, in its entirety or residual share, to a PhD student of the same course cycle who does not have a scholarship. This is done according to the relevant ranking list and taking into account any scholarship requirements linked to specific research topics. In any case, the department that activated the course will only use the unused scholarship to fund doctorates. The funds may only be reused by agreement between the parties or if the terms of the funding so provide.
9. PhD students without a scholarship may benefit from other forms of research support, provided that the doctoral teaching body deem their research theme compatible with the course.
10. Departmental councils may decide to award PhD students mobility grants and research awards.
11. The scholarship is subject to the payment of social security contributions as required by law.
12. Scholarships do not give rise to legal or economic expectations of career opportunities.
13. Scholarships funded by public or private bodies, in Italy or abroad, may be subject to specific requirements and may be linked to specific research themes.
14. If a PhD student no longer wishes to pursue their assigned research subject or to cooperate with the relevant research group and its supervisors, the doctoral teaching body may forfeit the student's studies or assign them a new topic and a new supervisor, without extending their doctorate programme beyond the scheduled 36 months.

Article 30 – Coordination of doctorates and medical specialisation courses



1. A student can enrol and attend a doctorate and a medical specialisation course at the same time if the following general criteria are met:
 - a) the specialist in training must have won a selection for admission to the doctorate;
 - b) the activities and commitment required by the specialisation school and the doctorate must be compatible, also in view of the distance between the two course sites. The compatibility is certified by the relevant specialisation school council and doctoral teaching body;
 - c) the double enrolment renders the receipt of a PhD scholarship and any amounts received in connection with the activities of the specialisation school incompatible;
 - d) the specialist in training may apply for a reduction in the duration of the doctorate after at least 18 months from the start of the specialisation school. In any case, the duration of the doctorate must be at least two years (24 months);
 - e) the reduction in doctoral activities may be accepted by the doctoral teaching body if the research activities carried out in the medical specialisation school are consistent with the doctoral project. In order to accept the student's application, the specialisation school council's opinion on the compatibility of the doctoral project with the educational purposes of the school is required.
2. Detailed rules are set out in the call for applications to the doctorate.

Article 31 – Double enrolment

1. A PhD student can be enrolled at the same time in a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a non-medical specialisation school, a vocational or advanced master if the following general criteria are met:
 - a) the student must have won a selection for admission to the doctorate;
 - b) double enrolment is only possible if attendance in the other degree course is not mandatory. This provision does not apply to courses for which attendance is mandatory only for laboratory and internship activities;
 - b) the activities and commitment required by the other degree course and the doctorate must be compatible, also in view of the distance between the two course sites. The compatibility is certified by the relevant course's collegial body and the doctoral teaching body;
2. Double enrolment in two doctorates is not allowed, nor in a doctorate and a master with compulsory attendance.

Article 32 – Confidentiality and inventions

1. PhD students are required to maintain confidentiality in relation to research activities which may lead to results with potential for economic gain (intellectual property). At the student's request, the doctoral teaching body may grant derogations after hearing their supervisors.
2. PhD students who become aware of confidential information belonging to the University, individual researchers or third parties with a relationship with the University by virtue of their presence in the University's facilities must treat such information, in whatever form (oral, written, graphic or electronic), as strictly confidential.
3. As regards the ownership of patentable results obtained in the context of doctorates or collaborations with University research groups, express reference is made to the national legislation on intellectual property and the University's regulations.

Article 33 – Internationalisation



1. The University promotes and facilitates international cooperation and mobility within doctorates. To this end, the University shall conclude inter-institutional agreements or conventions with universities or other foreign institutions empowered to issue doctoral degrees. These agreements define the terms of collaboration, in particular for the activation of international accredited courses pursuant to the procedures indicated in Article 2, as well as for the realisation of programmes for the joint supervision of theses and for the recognition of the title of *Doctor Europæus*.

Article 34 – Joint supervision of theses

1. The University concludes joint supervision agreements with foreign universities to allow students to write their thesis under the joint guidance of one or more supervisors from both the University of Trieste and the foreign partner and to receive a double qualification, valid in both countries where the two universities are located. Agreements may also be entered into with other recognised foreign institutions which are entitled to issue qualifications equivalent to the title of PhD in their country.
2. Joint supervision programmes are only possible if the course content and course objectives at each of the two institutions are equivalent.
3. Joint supervision allows PhD students enrolled at the University or at the partner institution to prepare their thesis by alternating periods of research and training across the two institutions. Periods spent in each institution usually have a similar duration, but the student must spend at least one year in each institution.
4. Joint supervision is activated at the request of PhD students regularly enrolled in a doctorate at one of the two universities, subject to approval by the relevant doctoral teaching body. Joint supervision is to be initiated preferably within the first year of a doctorate and in any case cannot be granted to PhD students enrolled in the last year of their course. The work already completed towards the student's doctorate is mutually recognised by partner universities.
5. Incoming students with joint supervision are accepted as extra students, within the limit of sustainable places. These students are considered as full University PhD students and are therefore subject to the rights and duties provided for in this Regulation.
The doctoral teaching body must verify the admission requirements of incoming PhD students with a foreign qualification.
6. The final examination normally takes place at the university where the student enrolled first. This is done before a joint committee, formed on the basis of the relevant convention and in accordance with the regulations of the two partner institutions. Supervisors may also be members of the board of examiners for the final examination, but without voting rights.
7. The extension referred to in Article 23 may also be granted to jointly supervised PhD students to reconcile any differences between the national legal systems or the rules of the two institutions in relation to the duration of courses or the dates of the sessions scheduled for discussing the thesis.

Article 35 – *Doctor Europæus* certificate

1. In order to promote and enhance international aspects of doctorates, the University may issue a *Doctor Europæus* certificate in addition to the title of PhD and to the national value of the doctorate qualification. This is done at the request of the student upon favourable opinion from the doctoral teaching body. The general requirements and conditions on mobility, evaluation of international committees and multilingualism set by the rectors' conferences of EU countries and adopted by the European University Association (EUA) apply.



2. Within the third year of their doctorate and before admission to the final examination, doctoral candidates must have spent at least three continuous months conducting research in relation to their thesis at universities or research institutions in another European country. Participation in training courses does not count.

The host structure must issue appropriate certification, which must be deposited at the competent offices in accordance with the relevant procedures and deadlines.
3. PhD students must apply for the *Doctor Europæus* certificate within the third year of their doctorate and inform the competent offices. Applications must be submitted to the doctoral teaching body.
4. The doctoral teaching body must grant the additional certification through an official resolution ensuring that applicants meet all the requirements.
5. The doctoral teaching body must appoint two reviewers from (non-Italian) European universities who must evaluate the candidate's thesis and submit their opinion to the board of examiners in a timely fashion. Reviewers must not have participated in the doctoral teaching body or any other organisational bodies of the course for at least two years.
6. According to the regulations in force, at least one member of the board of examiners must belong to a (non-Italian) European university. The thesis must be discussed in another EU language approved by the doctoral teaching body. The reviewers' reports must be attached to the final examination minutes, which must also be written in Italian.
7. PhD students who will obtain the national as well as the European PhD qualification will be awarded the additional *Doctor Europæus* certification by the University of Trieste.

Article 36 – Recognition of foreign doctorates

1. The application for the academic recognition of a doctorate obtained abroad entails obtaining the equivalent Italian qualification, i.e. a qualification having legal force under Italian law. The equivalence (*equipollenza*) requires the detailed verification of the correspondence between foreign and Italian qualification levels and course content. A foreign qualification that has been recognised as equivalent (*equipollente*) has the same legal value as the corresponding Italian PhD qualification.
2. In order to be recognised, a foreign qualification must:
 - a) be an official doctoral degree (corresponding to the third cycle of the foreign academic system) awarded by an official, accredited and/or recognised institution of the foreign system;
 - b) give the same academic rights within the foreign academic system;
 - c) be characterised by the same academic disciplines, research, duration and programme as the corresponding Italian qualification;
 - d) be comparable, both in terms of typology and disciplinary field, with a title awarded by one of the PhD courses activated by the University, provided that at least one cycle of this course has been completed since its activation.

These conditions apply to all students with a foreign doctorate, regardless of their nationality or of the country that issued it.

3. The recognition of doctorates is carried out in accordance with the guidelines for the academic recognition of foreign doctorates in Italy issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA), published by MUR's Ministerial Note No 3327 of 8 July 2022 regarding the academic recognition of doctorates obtained abroad pursuant to Italian Law No 148/2002. In accordance with the decision of UniTS Board of Directors on the matter, the recognition procedure has the following steps:



- a) administrative verification of the documentation supporting the application for recognition, in accordance with guidelines approved by the governing bodies;
 - b) evaluation of all documents by the doctoral teaching body, taking into account the doctoral training and research completed abroad and its consistency with the doctorate for which recognition is sought.
4. The evaluation leads to one of the following outcomes:
 - a) in case of positive evaluation, the direct issue of the corresponding Italian PhD qualification;
 - b) in case of negative evaluation, refusal to recognise the foreign qualification.
 5. In the event of a positive outcome, the procedure shall be concluded by the adoption of a recognition certificate signed by the Rector.
 6. A fee is required for the evaluation of the equivalence requirements, irrespective of the outcome of the application.
 7. If the request for recognition is approved, the applicant must also pay a certificate fee.
 8. Fee amounts are determined each year by the University Board of Directors.

Article 37 – Honorary doctorates

1. The University of Trieste may award the title of '*Dottore di Ricerca*' or 'Doctor of Philosophy' (PhD) to graduates who have acquired exceptional cultural, scientific, humanitarian and social merits recognised by the international community, in the themes specific to the course for which it is awarded, subject to any limits established by the Ministry.
2. The course must be active during the academic year in which the proposal for an honorary doctorate is approved.
3. The award may be proposed by the Rector or by the relevant doctoral teaching body, with a decision taken with a majority of two thirds of the members.
4. Proposals for honorary doctorates must state exactly the title of the doctorate and include the candidate's curriculum and a report stating their academic merits.
5. The Academic Senate evaluates any proposals and approves or rejects them after verifying the exceptional requirements and limits provided for by law.
6. The Rector submits to the Ministry the resolution of the Academic Senate in order to request the definitive authorisation to issue the honorary degree.
7. Proposals referring to individuals already holding a PhD or a similar honorary degree shall not be taken into consideration.
8. The submission deadline for proposals is established by the Academic Senate and is the same as the submission deadline for the awarding of other honorary degrees.
9. Each academic year, the University may award a single honorary doctorate at most and in any case within the limits established by the Ministry.
10. The honorary doctorate diploma attributes all the rights of the ordinary degree, as it is equated with it by law.

Article 38 – Transitional and final provisions

1. The amendments and additions to the Regulations on Doctorates come into force on the day following the publication of the relevant rectoral decree in the official University Notice Board. They shall replace the text issued by Italian Presidential Decree No 261 of 30 March 2022.



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2. The rules of this Regulation apply from the 38th cycle of doctorates. The provisions of articles 23, 25 and 26 apply from the 37th cycle. The notice setting out the rules for the final examination shall govern any cases of doctoral candidates from previous cycles.
3. The provisions of Articles 7(2, 3) apply from the 39th cycle.
4. The provisions of Articles 29(3) apply from academic year 2024-2025.
5. The provisions of this Regulation do not apply to courses in which the University participates as an associated partner, as they are governed by specific agreements in accordance with MD 226/2021.
6. For any matters not provided for in this Regulation, reference is to be made to the provisions of MD 226/2021.