



IUSS

Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pavia

**PHD COURSES REGULATIONS
OF IUSS PAVIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED
STUDIES**

*The official and legally binding of the regulations is the one in Italian.
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Summary

TITLE I GENERAL RULES.....	4
Art. 1 – Objective	4
Art. 2 – Framework	4
TITLE II RESEARCH DOCTORATE COURSES.....	4
Art. 3 – Purpose	4
Art. 4 – Scholarships.....	4
Art. 5 – Activation and deactivation of courses	4
Art. 6 – Agreements and consortia	5
Art. 7 – Doctorates of National Interest	5
Art. 8 – Industrial doctorates	6
Art. 9 – Bodies.....	6
Art. 10 – The Teaching Board.....	7
Art. 11 – The Doctoral Programme Coordinator	8
Art. 12 – Admission to doctoral programmes.....	8
Art. 13 – Enrolment in doctoral programmes.....	9
Art. 14 – Organisation of doctoral programmes.....	9
Art. 15 – Rights and duties of students.....	10
Art. 16 – Scholarships.....	11
Art. 17 – Incompatibility.....	11
Art. 18 – Suspension and forfeiture.....	12
Art. 19 Extension.....	12
Art. 20 – Final examination.....	13
Art. 21 – Examination Committee.....	13
Art. 22 – Title of Research Doctor	14

TITLE I **GENERAL RULES**

Art. 1 – Objectives

1. The University School for Advanced Studies of Pavia, hereinafter referred to as the "School", can activate doctoral programmes pursuant to Art. 24 of the Statute in order to achieve its postgraduate training purposes.

Art. 2 – Regulations

1. On the basis of its autonomy and within the framework of current EU and national legislation, the School regulates the activation of its PhD courses and its related modes of operation through these Regulations.
2. It is the responsibility of the Department Councils to enforce these Regulations, to detect the innovations of the community and national legislation and to propose any modifications to the Governing Bodies of the School.

TITLE II **PhD COURSES**

Art. 3 – Purpose

1. The School activates PhD programmes, in accordance with Art. 24 of the Statute, designed to train young researchers in an international and interdisciplinary perspective, providing them with the skills necessary to carry out highly qualified research activities in public and private institutions, qualifying also in the practice of freelance work, contributing to the creation of the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.
2. The School can organize the PhD courses activated in the "Doctoral School". The Doctoral School is established with a resolution of the Academic Senate, after hearing the opinion of the relevant Departments of the concerned PhD courses. The Doctoral School is responsible for coordinating the courses and managing common activities.

Art. 4 – Funding

1. The School's funding for scholarships within the doctoral programmes is decided by the Academic Bodies. This funding may be increased on the basis of agreements or funding from external entities.
2. The minimum amount of scholarships is determined by ministerial decree. When activating individual courses, an increase in the minimum amount of scholarships may be decided annually, in compliance with the requirements set forth in the regulations. In this case, the increase applies to all scholarships offered within the doctoral programme.

Art. 5 – Activation and deactivation of courses

1. The proposal to establish or renew a PhD course is submitted to the Rector by the Head of the relevant Department, after consultation with the Department Council.
2. The Rector submits the proposal to the Academic Senate, which evaluates and approves the activation or deactivation of courses, after consulting with the Evaluation Committee.
3. With regard to proposals for newly established courses or renewals approved by the Academic Senate, the School submits a request for new accreditation or confirmation of accreditation to the Ministry.
4. The Rector, upon receipt of the accreditation decree from the Ministry for newly established doctoral programmes, in accordance with the indication of ANVUR, issues the relevant announcement.

5. The announcement is written in Italian and English and published electronically on the School's website, on European websites and on the Ministry's website. It includes:
 - the total number of places covered by scholarships available for each doctoral programme;
 - the amount of the scholarships;
 - the potential breakdown in curricula;;
 - the criteria for admission and evaluation of qualifications, as well as any written tests, including internationally recognised tests, the procedures for conducting the interviews, which may also include the presentation and discussion of a research project;
6. In the event of the loss of accreditation of a doctoral programme, ordered by decree of the Minister, with the approval of ANVUR, as a result of the loss of one or more requirements, the School shall suspend the activation of the new cycle with immediate effect.
7. The School adopts a system of quality assurance for the design and management of doctoral training in accordance with the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), according to the indications of ANVUR.

Art. 6 – Agreements and consortia

1. In order to activate doctoral programmes, the School may enter into agreements with one or more of the following entities:
 - a) other Italian or foreign universities, with the possibility of awarding multiple or joint degrees;
 - b) public or private research institution, Italian or foreign, in possession of high cultural and scientific qualifications and equipped with suitable scientific facilities and equipment;
 - c) institutions referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Law No. 508 of 21 December 1999, accredited in accordance with current legislation, with the possibility of awarding multiple or joint final degrees;
 - d) companies, including foreign ones, that carry out qualified research and development activities;
 - e) public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international relevance, for the implementation of specific research and development or innovation programmes.
2. The agreements referred to in paragraph 1, except in the cases provided for in Articles 7 and 8, must provide for:
 - the commitment of the parties to the agreement to ensure, as a rule, the activation of doctoral programmes for at least three years;
 - the contribution by each party to the agreement in terms of: teaching, financial resources, specific and qualified operational and scientific facilities for the study and research activities carried out by the PhD students; the contribution to cover scholarships, in compliance with the minimum number required by current legislation.
3. Within the framework of agreements signed by the School with other universities, including foreign ones, it is possible to establish the awarding of multiple or joint academic degrees.
4. For the activation of doctoral programmes, the School may also establish consortia with the entities referred to in paragraph 1.
5. For the fulfillment of training, research, study and hospitality activities related to doctoral programmes, the School may enter into specific agreements with the University Colleges of Merit and the EDiSU of Pavia.

Art. 7 – Doctorates of national interest

1. The IUSS School may request the Ministry to activate doctoral programmes of national interest and to identify co-financing arrangements.
2. According to current legislation, a doctoral programme is considered to be of national interest if it:

- a) makes a proven contribution to the advancement of research;
- b) provides, already at the accreditation stage, for the signing of agreements or the establishment of consortia between several universities, as well as with highly qualified and internationally recognised research institutions, including foreign ones, which provide for the effective sharing of training and research activities, the modalities for regulating the forms of financial support, of the modalities of exchange and mobility of academics and PhD students, and any potential forms of cotutelle;
- c) provides, already at the accreditation stage, for the coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four entities referred to in Article 6, paragraph 1, in order to create highly qualified training courses and allow access to research infrastructure suitable for the implementation of doctoral students' research projects;
- d) provides for at least thirty scholarships for each doctoral cycle, in accordance with current legislation.

3. Scholarships are awarded in accordance with the procedures described in these regulations or in the specific course regulations issued by the School, in any case subject to the evaluation of the candidates by a selection committee formed in order to ensure the participation of members who are foreign or external to the affiliated subjects.

Art. 8 – Industrial doctorates

1. In the cases referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 6, during initial accreditation or subsequently, the School may request recognition of the qualification of 'Industrial doctorate', including as part of the name, for doctoral courses activated on the basis of agreements or consortia involving companies, including foreign ones, that carry out qualified research and development activities.
2. In the case of the establishment of an industrial doctoral programme, the agreements referred to in paragraph 1 shall govern:
 - a) the modalities of coordination of research activities between the parties;
 - b) the modalities for carrying out research activities at the company, as well as, with regard to possible positions filled by company employees, the distribution of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the doctoral programme;
 - c) incentive mechanisms to promote technology transfer and the development of research results by the companies involved in the agreement.
3. The research topics characterizing the industrial doctoral programme place particular emphasis on promoting economic development and the production system, facilitating joint planning in relation to research topics and doctoral students' activities.
4. Announcements for admission to industrial doctoral programmes may:
 - a) indicate specific requirements for carrying out research activities, such as interdisciplinarity, participation in international networks and cross-sectoriality, with particular reference to the business sector;
 - b) allocate a part of the available places to employees of companies or affiliated entities engaged in highly qualified activities, who are admitted to the doctoral programme after passing the relevant selection process.
5. In any case, the possibility referred to in Article 45 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of 15 June 2015, to activate apprenticeship contracts aimed at the training of the industrial doctoral, while ensuring the prevalence of research activity, still remains.

Art. 9 – Bodies

1. The bodies of the doctoral programme are: the Teaching Board and the Coordinator.

Art. 10 – The Teaching Board

1. The Teaching Board for each doctoral programme, consisting of at least six members belonging to scientific fields consistent with the educational objectives of the programme, shall be composed of at least half of first and second-tier professors and the remaining part by permanent researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the case of doctoral programmes in association with public research institutions, also by researchers belonging to the roles of research managers, researchers or senior researchers of the institutions themselves, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. The composition of the Teaching Board must take into account, where possible, gender balance.
2. In any case, the members of the Teaching Board must meet the following requirements: researchers belonging to the Teaching Board must have a scientific qualification certified on the basis of the requirements necessary under current legislation for access to the functions of associate (second tier) professor; professors must have a scientific qualification certified on the basis of the requirements necessary for access to the functions of the role they belong to.
3. Members of the Teaching Board belonging to foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum requirements set out in current legislation for access to the position of associate (second tier) professor, without prejudice to the rules on composition referred to in the previous paragraphs.
4. Experts, even if not belonging to universities or public research bodies, in possession of a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in coherent research fields can be part of the doctoral Board, up to a maximum of one third of its total membership.
5. If a doctoral programme consists of several curricula, the Teaching Board must represent the skills related to each curriculum.
6. Doctoral students are guaranteed representation on the Board for the discussion of educational and organisational issues. For each doctoral programme, a representative of the students on the programme is appointed to the Teaching Board and, if the doctoral programme consists of several curricula, a representative is appointed for each curriculum.
7. The student representative is appointed from among the students of the doctoral programme by the Head of the relevant Department on the proposal of the representative elected by the doctoral students to the Department Council, after consultation with all students enrolled in the programme. The regulations of the individual doctoral programme may provide for appointment by election.
8. The representative remains in office for one academic year and the mandate is renewable.
9. For newly activated courses, the Teaching Board is established at the same time as the doctoral course is set up, as per resolution of the competent bodies.
10. In the case of courses that are already accredited, changes to the Teaching Board must be approved at the same time as the renewal proposal is approved.
11. The Teaching Board is responsible for the design and implementation of the doctoral programme and, specifically:
 - a. defines the training and research project for doctoral students, which includes general training and research objectives, in accordance with available resources and taking into account the School's strategic planning;
 - b. organises the courses and other doctoral activities, in line with the path defined in the previous point;
 - c. identify a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom is of academic origin, from among members of the Teaching Board or external parties, provided that at least one of them meets the requirements for members of the board to coordinate the work of each student. In the case of an industrial doctorate, a co-supervisor from the company must be assigned. If the student requests a replacement supervisor, the Teaching Board, on the recommendation of the Coordinator who assesses the reasons for the request,

shall proceed to identify a replacement.

- d. indicates the facilities where the student must continuously carry out study activities and decides on the possible conduct of research periods at other institutions, in Italy or abroad;
- e. authorises, upon the supervisor's proposal, the participation of students in research projects related to the administrative headquarters or other affiliated institutions
- f. may authorise, at the request of the student, the exercise of teaching activities, subsidiary and supplementary to the same, at the School or other universities or research institutions;
- g. may co-opt well-known Italian or foreign scholars with the role of international experts;
- h. may appoint a Deputy Coordinator to assist the Coordinator in the performance of his or her duties;
- i. performs the tasks referred to in Articles 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

12. In the case of conventions or agreements pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, the composition of the Teaching Board may be specified in the agreements, always in compliance with the rules in force. The provisions of Article 28 of the Statute and, insofar as compatible, the provisions of the Regulations for the functioning of the School's bodies shall apply to the meetings of the Teaching Board

13. The Teaching Board meets at least twice a year.

Art. 11 – The Coordinator

- 1. The coordination of the Teaching Board is entrusted to a full-time first-tier professor or, in the event of justified unavailability, to a full-time second-tier professor of the School, also under an agreement pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 11 of Law 240/2010, or of one of the universities participating in the programme, possessing a high level of scientific qualification, certified on the basis of the requirements set out in current legislation for access to the position of full professor. The role of coordinator may only be held in one Board at national level.
- 2. The Coordinator:
 - a. convenes and chairs the Teaching Board;
 - b. is responsible for the organisation and overall functioning of the doctoral programme and the training courses included therein;
 - c. authorises the participation of external students as auditors, in accordance with the School's Teaching Regulations, in courses offered as part of the doctoral programme, after consulting with the relevant lecturer.
 - d. proposes to the Head of the relevant Department a tutor for each student for the relevant assignment;
- 3. The Deputy Coordinator, if appointed pursuant to Article 10, paragraph 9, letter g, assists the Coordinator in the performance of his or her duties and replaces him or her in cases of absence as provided for by law.
- 4. If the Coordinator needs to be replaced, the Teaching Board shall appoint a replacement.

Art. 12 – Admission to doctoral programmes

- 1. Admission to the doctoral programme is based on a public selection process, which takes place at least once a year. The selection procedure involves a public competition based on qualifications and, where necessary, examinations or interviews (also remotely), in accordance with the regulations in force, and aims to assess the candidate's preparation, ability and aptitude for scientific research.
- 2. Upon passing an admission exam without age and citizenship restrictions, those who can access the courses should be in possession of:

- a university degree (old system);
- a master's degree;
- a similar academic qualification obtained abroad, recognised as equivalent by the Commission;
- additional admission requirements may be decided by the School when the competition notices are published.

2. The Selection Committee consists of a minimum of three permanent members and three deputy members, chosen from among tenured professors and university researchers affiliated with the research topics covered by the doctoral programme, including those from non-Italian universities. Commissioners can be members of the Teaching Body. In the case of doctorates of national interest, the Committee must be formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of foreign members or members from outside the affiliated institutions.

3. The Committee may be supplemented by one or more experts of proven competence, including members of the Teaching Board, in the subjects being assessed.

4. The Selection Committee is appointed by decree of the Rector upon recommendation of the Teaching Board.

Art. 13 – Enrolment in doctoral programmes

1. The Rector verifies the regularity of the competition procedures and approves, by decree, the general merit ranking. Candidates who are successfully placed in the merit ranking are declared winners, subject to verification of the requirements for admission to the selection procedure.
1. Candidates are admitted to the programmes in order of ranking and up to the number of places available for each doctoral programme. Candidates admitted to the programme forfeit their place if they do not express their acceptance within the terms contained in the notification of the competition results. In the event of any waivers of those entitled before the start of the programme, just as many candidates will take over according to the order of the ranking.

Art. 14 – Organisation of doctoral programmes

1. The training programmes of the doctoral courses include the activities defined below:
 - Research activities: each doctoral student, under the coordination of a supervisor and at least one co-supervisor, will be introduced to research on specific topics in which the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) have consolidated experience, documented by scientific output of excellence and scientific contacts at national and international level;
 - Specialised training activities: each doctoral programme will offer a certain number of specialised training activities each year, which differ from first and second level teaching, including through the use of innovative methodologies related to the disciplines covered by the doctoral programme. These activities will be taught by lecturers from the School or any affiliated institutions and by highly qualified international lecturers, within the scope of the course itself, according to the programme approved by the competent bodies;
 - Cross-training activities: the Doctoral School or each doctoral programme will organise a number of interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training activities each year, including in non-academic fields such as industry, public administration, services and cultural institutions, with the involvement of experts in the field. It will also organise language and IT enhancement activities, as well as activities in the fields of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, the promotion and dissemination of results, intellectual property and open access to research data and products, and the fundamental principles of ethics and integrity.

2. The activities referred to in the first paragraph may be carried out at the School or at any affiliated institution pursuant to Article 6. Affiliated universities may, in the agreement, be identified as the 'operational headquarters' of the course with the relevant commitments defined in the agreement itself.
3. The doctoral programme may include curricular internships at other research institutions.
4. Each doctoral programme must include a minimum number of teaching hours or credits that each student must acquire during the programme by attending the scheduled training activities and taking the relevant examinations, where applicable. In any case, students must be guaranteed at least 150 hours of training activities as referred to in the first paragraph throughout the duration of the programme. These training activities may be provided by the School or by other university and research institutions, provided that they are part of a comprehensive programme approved by the School's governing bodies.
5. Recognising the scientific and cultural value of the presence of foreign teachers and students, doctoral courses are normally taught in English.

Art. 15 – Rights and duties of students

1. Admission to the doctoral programme requires exclusive, full-time commitment, except in cases provided for by law and as specified in Article 17. Students must carry out the activities included in the course's training and research programme, approved by the Teaching Board in accordance with the provisions of the previous article, on a full-time basis at the School's facilities or at facilities affiliated with the School.
2. In the event of unauthorised absence from the operational headquarters by the Teaching Board, the latter will proceed with a proposal to the Rector for the student's forfeiture.
3. As an integral part of their training programme, doctoral students may, subject to approval by the Teaching Board and without any increase in their scholarship, carry out tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, for students enrolled in Ordinary Courses and Master's degree courses, as well as supplementary teaching activities, up to a maximum of 40 hours per academic year.
4. Students must attend training activities and take the exams required for each doctoral programme, in accordance with the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 4. Each doctoral student is normally required to carry out research and training activities consistent with their doctoral project at highly qualified institutions abroad.
5. Students must periodically update their supervisor on the progress of their study and research activities.
6. Medical students may participate in clinical-assistance activities, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 17.
7. At the end of each academic year, students must prepare a summary report on the activities carried out and submit it to the Teaching Board for approval for the purposes of passing to the following year and confirmation of the scholarship; at the end of the final year, the report (covering the entire cycle) will be accompanied by the final title and *abstract* of the doctoral thesis. The Teaching Board will verify the achievement of the objectives set out in the training and research project and will assess whether the doctoral student has acquired adequate national and international scientific experience.
8. In the event of an unsatisfactory assessment, the Teaching Board may conditionally admit the student to the following year, indicating the deadline by which he or she must meet the requirements.

9. In the event of a negative assessment or failure to comply with the request referred to in the previous paragraph, the Teaching Board shall justify its refusal to admit the student to the following year, propose forfeiture to the Rector and notify the interested student.
10. Students evaluate the teaching, research and services offered by the School through special anonymous questionnaires.

Art. 16 – Scholarships

1. Scholarships are awarded according to the order defined in the relevant ranking.
2. Scholarships shall last for the duration of the relevant doctoral programme and shall be awarded for the first year and confirmed subject to the decision of the Teaching Board of programme to admit the student to the following year.
3. The amount of the scholarship is increased by 50 per cent for any period of stay abroad for research activities, for a total period not exceeding 12 months, subject to authorisation of the student by the Teaching Board. This period may be extended up to a maximum total of 18 months for doctoral programmes in co-supervision or in agreement with foreign entities.
4. In addition to the scholarship and within the limits of the financial resources available in the School's budget, each student is guaranteed a budget for carrying out research activities in Italy and abroad, adequate for the type of course and in any case not less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship itself, the allocation procedures for which are defined in specific regulations.
5. Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships awarded for the same purpose or with research grants, except for those awarded by national or foreign institutions and useful for supplementing the scholarship holder's research activity with stays abroad. Students may participate in competitions for the awarding of study prizes organised by the School and other institutions.
6. Students who have received a scholarship for a doctoral programme are not eligible to receive the same benefit for a second doctoral programme.

Art. 17 – Incompatibility

1. Enrolment in doctoral programmes is compatible with simultaneous enrolment in bachelor's degree programmes, master's degree programmes, single-cycle master's degree programmes, and specialisation schools. Candidates are required to disclose any simultaneous enrolment at the time of enrolment or registration for subsequent years.
2. Enrolment in a doctoral programme is not compatible with enrolment in other doctoral programmes in Italy; candidates are required to declare that they meet this requirement at the time of enrolment.
3. Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme and a master's programme is permitted subject to assessment by the respective collegial bodies, which must verify whether the conditions for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the educational objectives of each programme are met.
4. The Teaching Board, taking into account the provisions of Article 15, paragraph 1, which requires full-time commitment to the PhD programme, may authorise PhD students to carry out paid activities, verifying and justifying their compatibility with the successful completion of the educational activities (teaching and research) related to the programme. Such activities must, however, be limited to those related to the acquisition of skills relevant to the doctoral programme. In its decision to authorise paid work, the Teaching Board must also take into account the amount of remuneration received by the student, which may not exceed

the amount of the scholarship.

5. The Teaching Board may authorise, at the request of the doctoral student, the joint attendance of the doctoral programme and a medical specialisation course and the consequent reduction of doctoral activities. Authorisation is granted after assessing the consistency of the research activities carried out during the specialisation course with the doctoral programme and the compatibility of the activities and commitments required by the specialisation school with the doctoral programme, as certified by the school itself with its own compatibility assessment. In any case, the doctoral scholarship and the emoluments, however named, received for the activities of the specialisation school remain incompatible.
6. Failure to request authorisation for the activities referred to in this article will result in the student's forfeiture.

Art. 18 – Suspension and forfeiture

1. Attendance at doctoral activities is compulsory and may be temporarily suspended by the Rector for a maximum period of six months, at the request of the student and subject to the favourable opinion of the Teaching Board, for proven reasons provided for by law or by the regulations of the individual doctoral programme.
2. The PhD programme may be suspended for maternity or paternity leave in accordance with Articles 16 et seq. of Legislative Decree 151/2001, as amended. An additional period of suspension of up to six months may be granted at the end of the maternity or paternity leave period, subject to authorisation by the Teaching Board. No scholarship or other equivalent funding will be paid for the duration of the suspension.
3. Upon resuming attendance at the course, which must be certified by the supervisor, the months of suspension must be made up, with the payment of the relevant scholarship instalments. The Teaching Board defines the changes to the programme of activities for doctoral students who request suspension, in order to ensure that their training is not compromised by the suspension.
4. A doctoral student may be declared to have forfeited their place on the programme by order of the Rector, on the detailed recommendation of the Teaching Board, for serious and documented reasons, including disciplinary reasons.
5. Forfeiture from the course may also be declared by the Rector for failure to comply with the obligations set out in these Regulations, once the deadline for compliance has passed. The negative outcome of the administrative verification will be communicated to the doctoral student, who will have 15 days to report any preliminary errors. If no response is received within the specified time limit, the offices will proceed with the proposal for forfeiture.
6. Forfeiture from the course does not entail the repayment of scholarship instalments already paid.

Art. 19 Extension

1. For proven reasons that prevent the doctoral thesis from being submitted within the time frame specified for the duration of the course, the Teaching Board may grant, at the request of the doctoral student, an extension of up to twelve months, without additional financial charges.
2. An extension of the duration of the doctoral programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the Teaching Board, upon joint request of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) for justified scientific reasons. The Teaching Board, having assessed the scientific reasons presented in support of the request, shall decide on the granting of the extension, subject to verification of coverage by funds from the School's budget.
3. The periods of extension and suspension referred to in this article and the previous one may not exceed a total of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

Art. 20 – Final examination

1. The doctoral thesis must consist of original research by the candidate, contributing to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study. It should preferably be written in English, or in Italian or another language subject to authorisation by the Teaching Board, and must in any case be accompanied by a summary in Italian and English.
2. The thesis shall be accompanied by a report by the student on the activities carried out during the doctoral programme and on any publications, and shall be examined by at least two evaluators, who may belong to foreign and international institutions, external to the entities that contributed to the award of the doctoral degree and possessing highly qualified experience, at least one of whom shall be a university professor. The evaluators are chosen by the PhD Coordinator, after consulting the supervisor, within 30 days of the thesis being submitted.
3. Within 60 days of the date of completion of the doctoral programme, a copy of the thesis together with the report referred to in the second paragraph shall be sent by the candidates to the offices, which, after checking for plagiarism, shall send the thesis to the /evaluators.
4. Within 30 days of receiving the thesis, the evaluators shall express a written analytical opinion on the thesis and propose its admission to public discussion or its postponement for a period not exceeding six months, if they consider significant additions or corrections to be necessary.
5. If the evaluators fails to meet the deadline referred to in the previous paragraph, the Coordinator may consider replacing them.
6. Once the period of postponement referred to in paragraph 4 has elapsed, the thesis shall in any case be admitted to public discussion, accompanied by a new written opinion from the same assessors, issued in light of any corrections or additions made.
7. The public discussion takes place before an Examination Committee as referred to in Article 21.
8. At the end of the public discussion, the Committee shall issue a reasoned written opinion and, when it unanimously recognises particular scientific merit, may award honors.
9. Absence from the final examination may be justified by the Teaching Board on the basis of appropriate documented reasons. In this case, the candidates concerned may ask the Rector, within 30 days of the date set for the final examination, to be allowed to take the examination on another date.
10. The Rector, upon a reasoned proposal from the Teaching Board, taking into account the particular circumstances that prevented the candidate from attending the final exam, shall appoint a special Commission in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 21, or admit the candidate to the exams scheduled for the next session.
11. In the event of unjustified absence, the candidate shall lose the right to take the final examination.
12. In the case of doctoral programmes established as a result of international cooperation agreements or on the basis of agreements entered into with other universities or institutions involved in higher education, the procedures for the final examination may be set out in the agreements themselves.

Article 21 – Examination Committee

1. The Examination Committees are appointed by the Rector, respecting gender balance where possible, upon joint proposal by the Coordinator and the Head of the relevant Department within 30 days of the proposal by the assessors on admission to the public discussion or, in the case of annual scheduling of sessions, within 30 days of receipt of the last proposal on admission to the public discussion of candidates for the session.
2. The Examination Committee consists of at least three members and as many alternates, with at least two-thirds of its members coming from outside the School and no more than one-third coming from among the participants in the doctoral programme. In any case, at least two-thirds of the committee members must come from academia, and the committee may be supplemented for individual discussions by experts, including foreign ones, chosen from among public and private research institutions and organisations.

3. The evaluators referred to in Article 20 may be members of the Selection Committee.
4. The Selection Committees are required to complete their evaluations within 60 days, without exception.
5. Once the above deadline has passed, any committee that has not completed its work shall be dissolved and the Rector shall appoint a new Committee, excluding the members who have been dismissed.
6. Any resignations of members of the Selection Committee, duly justified, shall take effect upon the appointment of the new member.
7. In the case of doctoral programmes established as a result of international cooperation agreements or on the basis of agreements signed with other universities or institutions involved in higher education, the procedures for setting up the selection committees may be laid down in the agreements themselves.

Art. 22 –Title of Research Doctor

1. The title of 'Doctor of Research'/Research Doctor , abbreviated to '*Dott.Ric/Dr.*' or '*Ph.D.*', is awarded upon passing the final examination and is issued by the Rector of the School. The training activities carried out by doctoral students are certified by a document attached to the final diploma (diploma supplement).
2. Within 30 days of the discussion and approval of the thesis, the School shall deposit a copy of the thesis, in electronic format, in the ministerial database. The Teaching Board, upon reasoned request by the PhD candidate, may decide to make parts of the thesis unavailable to the public in accordance with current legislation. The School shall also deposit the thesis at the central national libraries in Rome and Florence.
3. The School may award an honorary doctorate degree ('Philosophy Doctorate - Ph.D.') in the disciplines in which PhD courses are offered. The relevant decision is taken by the Academic Senate, on the proposal of the relevant Department Council, deliberated in the restricted composition of first and second tier-professors; the proposal must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members and approved by the Minister of University and Research.
4. The School may recognise the Doctor Europaeus certification, by decree of the Rector, subject to a resolution by the Teaching Board. The certification is additional to the PhD degree and is awarded where the following conditions are met:
 - a positive assessment of the thesis work by at least two evaluators, appointed in accordance with Article 20(2), belonging to universities or research institutions in two European countries other than the one in which the thesis is being discussed;
 - the presence on the committee of at least one member from a university or research institution in a European country other than the one in which the thesis is being defended;
 - discussion of at least part of the thesis in an official European language other than that of the country in which the thesis is being discussed;
 - study and research stay of at least 3 months in a European country other than the one where the doctoral programme is based.
5. In the period between the end of the programme and the final examination, including any extension pursuant to these Regulations, the student shall retain his or her status as a doctoral student, with the consequent possibility of accessing the School's facilities necessary for the completion of his or her research activity.