



UNIVERSITY REGULATION FOR PHD PROGRAMMES AND STUDENTS

Art. 1 - Scope

1. This Regulation governs the institution and operation of the PhD programmes at the University of Milan (hereinafter, the “University” or the “Campus”), pursuant to Art. 4, paragraph 2, of Law no. 210 dated 3 July 1988, as amended by Art. 19, paragraph 1, of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010, and Ministerial Decree no. 45 dated 8 February 2013, as well as pursuant to the University's Articles and Bylaws.

2. The PhD programmes offered by the University in partnership with other universities are governed by the Regulation in effect at the Campus serving as the administrative home for the programme.

Art. 2 - Purposes of the PhD programme and objectives pursued by the University

1. A PhD represents the third level of university training, and provides the skills needed to conduct high-level research through institutions in the public and private sector. The degree likewise qualifies the student for professional practice, thereby making a meaningful contribution to the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

2. The University's PhD programme attracts graduates from all degree programmes who demonstrate the requisite talent, merit, and aptitude for scientific research. Successful applicants will present a strong likelihood for success in their studies, and preferably enrol upon earning their Master's degree. The University's PhD programme also attracts student-professionals intent on furthering their education.

3. The University designs and organises its PhD programme to ensure quality in accordance with the following tenets:

- the PhD advances knowledge through the originality of their research;
- PhD programmes, and the institution of research study are designed in a way to foster professional growth and the employment prospects of the PhDs, contributing to the needs of society, and a job market beyond academia;
- the programmes must ensure transparency in admissions, assessment, and supervision;
- the programmes foster advanced training in the disciplines, as well as multi-disciplinary training, and the development of transferable skills to launch a generation of researchers able to tackle the most difficult challenges with a global approach;
- the PhD programmes aim to offer candidates study-abroad opportunities thanks to the University's network of institutional partners;



- the PhD is considered a student vested with his or her own rights and responsibilities, who must learn to conduct research and to contribute to the creation of new understanding.

Art. 3 - Accreditation and establishment of the PhD programmes

1. The PhD programmes will be on a three-year cycle at a minimum, unless otherwise contemplated in Art. 24, *infra*.

2. A condition precedent for establishing any PhD programme is accreditation from the Ministry of Education, University and Research (hereinafter, the "MIUR") pursuant to Art. 19 of Law no. 240/2010, and Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013.

3. The programmes are offered in those disciplines wherein the University conducts ongoing, original, and qualified research and training activities, with sufficient international renown. The programmes revolve around scientific issues germane to disciplines which are of sufficient breadth, organic, and clearly defined. The programmes may be offered as a series of "tracks", provided there are sufficient scientific and cultural predicates for that type of differentiation. The admission process as described in Art. 16, *infra*, remains the same. A precursor to differentiating the programme into tracks is an adequate number of faculty members who teach within the macro-categories falling within the track itself, to ensure that quality education in these areas will be provided.

4. Proposed PhD programmes must meet the accreditation criteria contemplated under Art. 4 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013. Proposals must have the support of a sufficient number of University professors, from the core disciplines of the proposed programme, who meet the qualifications under Art. 12. The Academic Bodies shall, periodically, set the minimum number needed for a programme to be instituted. Proposals will be submitted to the proper Academic Bodies by one or more Departments pursuant to a resolution by their respective Councils, by absolute majority of those with voting rights, no later than the deadline, and in accordance with the protocols established by the University, which in turn are predicated on instructions from the Ministry. Should more than one Department be involved in the proposal, approval by the Departments home to at least 2/3 of the participating members shall be sufficient for purposes of the application. A Department must be home to at least ten per cent of the participants in order to propose the programme. Each PhD programme's administrative home will generally be the Coordinator's home department.

5. Each proposal must include:
- a) the name of the programme, and any individual tracks within the same;
 - b) the Department(s) proposing the programme;
 - c) the institutions, if any, which would be good candidates for a consortium or other collaborative agreements, pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 9 of this Article;
 - d) the scientific issues and educational objectives for the programme, the professional opportunities for which each of the individual tracks is designed, if applicable;



- e) the related research programme, and for purposes of compliance with Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (f) of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, the educational programme intended to enhance the doctoral student's scientific knowledge, consisting of classes, advanced seminars, journal clubs, and other activities, spread out across the programme years, with a notation of the delivery method, the attendance requirements, assessment criteria, and the available university credits;
- f) types of educational assessments to be used, and the objectives they are designed to measure;
- g) the qualification requirements and other admission criteria, as defined under Art. 16 of this Regulation;
- h) the total number of spaces for which accreditation is sought, including any spaces reserved to international students, or to international scholarship or exchange-programme students;
- i) the portion of funding made available by the department-applicant(s) for research sustainability in the doctoral student's field of research, or the funding or joint funding of a scholarship;
- j) the number of scholarships funded by other universities or research institutions, for any doctoral programmes offered in partnership with another university or institution;
- k) any willingness by external entities to fund one or more scholarships, or to provide a grant to fund the PhD;
- l) the research facilities available for the PhD programme, and specifically for PhD educational activities, noting the resources allocated to the same;
- m) the option of documented collaboration with public or private entities, Italian or foreign, of high calibre, which allows for the PhDs to take part in substantive study and research experiences or gain professional experience;
- n) an appointment of the members of the Faculty, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 12, *infra*. The Faculty appointment must include the CVs for all interested parties; each of these must also submit the scientific documentation germane to the subject areas to be taught, and the instructors must affirm they do not sit on the faculty of any other PhD programme in Italy. Where the programme is broken down into tracks, each Faculty member may only teach for one track;
- o) any other information needed to issue the call for applications, or required by the ministry's database, or any Italian university-system assessment entity.

6. The proposals to institute a PhD programme shall be approved by the Board of Directors, with the advice and consent of the Academic Senate regarding the programme's consistency with University planning for advanced training in the respective subject areas, and its compliance with paragraph 5, *supra*. The Board of Directors and the Academic Senate are responsible for passing resolutions falling within their respective spans of authority, also based on the evaluation findings in the subject area or areas relating to the proposed programme.

7. Once the first three years of the five-year accreditation term have elapsed, the doctoral programme shall be subject to a review regarding the results achieved, and whether the training objective remains current at the time the programme is to be re-accredited.



8. The University may institute doctoral programmes, provided Ministry accreditation is secured, independently or in partnership with other high-calibre universities, public and private research entities, and businesses (Italian and international) that conduct research and development, pursuant to the provisions of Art. 2, paragraph 2, subparts (a) and (e) of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013.

9. Pursuant to Art. 2, paragraph 2, subparts (c) and (d), of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, to institute the doctoral programmes, which are likewise accredited by MIUR, the University may found or join university consortia, including international ones, as well as public-private partnerships bringing together advanced research institutions in Italy and abroad.

10. Proposals to institute a doctoral programme as contemplated under paragraphs 8 and 9, which are generated in the manner set forth in paragraph 5, must include the draft agreement or other legal documents needed to formalize the consortia to be executed with the partners.

11. The PhD programmes are instituted on an annual basis by Rector's decree issuing a call for applications pursuant to the provisions of Art. 16 of this Regulation.

Art. 4 - Role of the Independent Evaluation Unit

1. The Independent Evaluation Unit, in respect of the PhD programmes, performs those controls contemplated under Art. 3, paragraph 7, of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, pursuant to guidelines provided by ANVUR; the Independent Evaluation Unit each year generates a detailed report on all doctoral programmes within the University.

Art. 5 - Financial resources

1. The Board of Directors sets aside, into discrete line items and pursuant to all annual budgetary guidelines and restrictions, the resources necessary to fund the PhD programmes, and to fund scholarships for doctoral students.

2. Without prejudice to funding from other universities and/or research entities for any PhD programmes offered through a consortium agreement, including scholarships granted under Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (c), and paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, the expenses for the funding of doctoral-programme scholarships, possibly in excess of those offered through the University's own budgeted resources, may be covered by financial support offered (before the expiry for the call for applications) by external entities privy to one or more doctoral-programme cycle agreements, or directly by the interested Department(s). For any financial aid provided by an external entity, the available funding must also cover enrolment and tuition expenses for the doctoral programme, as set forth in Art. 19, the study-abroad scholarship supplement, and research-cost expenses under Art. 20.

3. To the extent funds are available within the University's budget, the Board of Directors, with the required approval of the Academic Senate, and bearing in mind the assessment findings



(efficiency / efficacy) for each doctoral programme following the Art. 13, Ministerial Decree 45/2013 audits, shall each year appropriate funds for doctoral programme scholarships.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1, subpart (c), first sentence of Art. 4 of the aforementioned Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, each doctoral programme shall offer at least four (4) scholarships; however, within the scope of the programmes instituted by the University, each shall on average provide at least six (6) scholarships. Scholarships funded without budget impact shall likewise count towards the total offered. For any doctoral programmes offered in partnership with another entity or consortium, each partner must agree to fund at least three (3) scholarships.

5. The Board of Directors may further establish spaces within the doctoral programme which are not funded by a scholarship, within the limits established by the Board, and pursuant to any specific motion by the Faculty, in accordance with the conditions set by the Board itself.

Art. 6 - Doctoral programmes instituted in collaboration with other Italian universities and research institutions

1. The University, through ad-hoc agreements, may establish doctoral programmes in collaboration with other Italian entities, universities, or research institutions, whether in the public or private sector, meeting advanced standards in the arts, culture, and sciences, and equipped with the necessary resources in terms of personnel, facilities, and equipment, undertaking administrative responsibility for the same.

2. These partners (generally no more than four) must each commit to keeping the doctoral programme in place for at least a three-year cycle, and ensure for each PhD programme cycle, the funding of at least three (3) scholarships, including any study-abroad supplements, and the research expenses under Art. 20, *infra*. The cap for the number of visiting instructors from the University's institutional partners is set by the Board of Directors, with the advice and consent of the Academic Senate.

3. The ad-hoc agreements contemplated in paragraph 1 must be executed in a timely manner to allow for accreditation, and for the call-for-application procedures to be carried out. These agreements must be predicated on the partners actually sharing responsibility for the educational and research offerings, and ensure the PhD programme meets accreditation standards. Specifically, the agreements shall:

- a) establish the scientific and educational support to be offered by each party;
- b) provide for an equitable sharing of financial undertakings between the partners;
- c) identify the operational and scientific facilities made available by the parties;
- d) establish the organisational and functional characteristics of the programmes, including the composition of the management bodies;
- e) establish the protocols for doctoral students to conduct research through the facilities placed at their disposal by the parties; as the doctoral student's individual dissertation needs require, they may opt to use one lab or facility over another;
- f) set a mobility plan for the instructors;



g) offer joint degrees for those programmes offered in partnership with other universities. Where a joint degree is not offered, the University of Milan alone shall issue the degree.

Art. 7 - Participation in external PhD programmes

1. The University may offer students the chance to attend a doctoral programme which is administratively headquartered with another university, pursuant to the arrangements contemplated under Art. 2 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013.

2. The exchange-programme proposal, submitted by all interested professors and researchers, must meet with the approval of the Councils for their home departments and shall be subject to Board of Directors' approval, with the advice and consent of the Academic Senate. A sufficient number of University instructors must take part in the exchange programme.

3. Professors and researchers who do not teach for any University PhD programme may teach for the exchange programme on an ad-hoc basis, with the approval of their home department.

Art. 8 - PhD programmes instituted in collaboration with international institutions

1. The University has established a number of partnerships with European and other international institutions to more effectively coordinate its advanced-research operations, including with respect to its PhD programmes.

2. Upon execution of ad-hoc agreements, the University may therefore establish, in collaboration with one or more internationally renowned foreign universities or research institutions offering advanced training, PhD programmes duly proposed and accredited pursuant to the terms and conditions contemplated in Art. 3, *supra*, or specific tracks within the PhD programme, with the option of earning a joint degree, dual, or multiple PhD.

3. The agreements contemplated under paragraph 2 shall govern the organisation and functioning of the doctoral programme or the individual track within the same; they will override any conflicting provision in this Regulation, and may apply to one or more cycles of the PhD. These agreements must be predicated on a strict alignment, in terms of pedagogy and research, between the cooperating institutions, and on the participation of university instructors and/or equivalent positions of each partner entity in the various phases of the PhD programme or specific track, and on facilitating mobility of the PhD candidates between the campuses. They must set out specifically:

- a) the PhD programme length, which shall be a minimum of three years;
- b) the protocols for selecting the candidates, and the composition of the admissions board for the PhD programme. Admissions may also be adjudicated by international boards and/or by an EU entity within the scope of a competitive-funding procedure, which contemplates the enrolment of winners into the PhD programme;
- c) the campus into which the PhDs will matriculate;
- d) tuition payments owed by, or tuition waivers held by, the PhD students;



- e) the procedure for forming the Faculty and any other bodies;
- f) adequate quality and support in terms of academics and training, organisation, and funding from each institutional partner;
- g) the distribution of training and research activities between the partner campuses and the mobility framework for all interested PhD students and instructors;
- h) the methods for forming the final-examination board;
- i) the procedures to write and defend dissertations;
- j) the type of degree issued (joint, or national degree issued by each campus on a reciprocal basis), the exact name for the degree (which may be the same or differentiated amongst the campuses, into their respective languages, if permitted), the protocol for awarding the degree, and the format and layout for the diploma;
- k) the provisions to safeguard the intellectual property of the dissertation, its publication, the utilisation and deployment of the PhD's research findings.

Art. 9 - Doctoral programmes instituted through a consortium with other universities and research institutions

1. The University may establish inter-university consortia, whether with Italian entities, or with international universities, or consortia between universities and advanced research institutions in the public and private sector, whether in Italy or abroad, to institute PhD programmes, provided they have received MIUR accreditation. The University may, in pursuit of the same objectives, join consortia previously founded or supported by other institutions. The maximum number of universities or research institutions within a consortium is generally capped at four.

2. The inter-university consortia may contemplate the issuance, by participating universities, of dual, multiple, and joint degrees. For consortia formed by universities and research institutions, one of the universities (or one of the Italian universities, where the consortium includes an international institution) shall be responsible for issuing a degree and shall assume the role of consortium administrative headquarters.

3. At formation, the consortium becomes a new legal entity, created for the purpose of administering a PhD programme. Each party shall agree to finance at least three (3) scholarships, and to ensure the PhDs have ongoing, functional access to all research and training facilities and activities.

Art. 10 - PhD programmes formed in cooperation with businesses, industrial PhDs, advanced-training apprenticeship and research doctorates

1. In order to facilitate the PhDs entry into the workforce, and their ability to utilise advanced-training facilities, the University may institute a PhD programme in collaboration with businesses, whether in Italy or abroad, who conduct research and development, provided MIUR accreditation is secured. Within the scope of such doctoral programme, the University of Milan (or another participating Italian university) will be responsible for conferring the academic



degree, and acting as the administrative home for the programme. The companies, on the other hand, will provide economic support to the PhD students.

2. The University may also establish an industrial PhD programme, or individual tracks within the same, where a portion of the available spaces may, by agreement, be set aside for the employees of certain businesses that utilise highly skilled labour. These students must pass the required entrance examinations.

3. Pursuant to Art. 5 of Legislative Decree no. 167 dated 14/9/2011, the University may establish apprenticeship-PhD programmes with external institutions and businesses.

4. The spaces offered under paragraphs 1 and 2, *supra*, and the apprenticeship agreements under paragraph 3, *supra*, shall count toward the minimum number of scholarships needed to establish the programme under paragraph 3 of Art. 5, *supra*.

5. The agreements established to institute the programmes identified in this article must be executed in a timely manner to ensure that all accreditation, application, and admission procedures are properly completed. They must establish the research protocols to be carried out through such organisations and, with respect to the spaces to be filled by the company's own employees, the commitment to be made by the employee, and the duration of the doctoral programme. The agreements must include the following terms:

- the training and education of the PhDs shall remain the responsibility of the University;
- the research activities shall be conducted, pursuant to Art. 21, under the supervision of a university instructor-tutor, with the support of a co-tutor, whose home institution is the partner institution, responsible for the PhD's work carried out outside with the latter;
- the partner shall make suitable research facilities available and shall, in the most appropriate manner, foster the professional growth of the PhD trained within the scope of the agreement;
- the institutional partner shall pledge sufficient financial aid to fully fund the scholarships identified in the agreement;
- any economic or patent exploitation arising from the research activities carried on within the PhD programme, including any non-disclosure agreements on the findings, shall be governed by specific agreements;
- for any PhD candidates who are employed by a partner institution, their wages shall count towards the requirement set forth in paragraph 4, *supra*.

6. Given the specificity of the doctoral programmes which might be instituted under paragraphs 1 and 2, *supra*, the competent Bodies may decide for the educational activities to follow a timeframe other than the normal academic calendar. Furthermore, to optimise the programmes, the competent Bodies may choose to adapt delivery methods, in accordance with an established protocol.



Art. 11 - Bodies of the PhD programme

1. These are the Bodies of the PhD programme:

- the Faculty;
- the Coordinator;
- the Board.

Art. 12 - The Faculty of instructors

1. The Faculty for the doctoral programme is made up of University professors and researchers whose academic and research background meets parameters established by the University's Governing Bodies. The research areas for Faculty professors and researchers must fall within the fields contemplated for the doctoral programme, as well as within the macro-categories that match the programme's educational objectives. Pursuant to Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (a) of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, Faculty members must have documented, international research findings in each of the fields within the PhD programme, preferably within the five years prior to joining the programme Faculty. An instructor cannot sit on more than one PhD Faculty within the country.

2. The total number of Faculty members cannot fall short of the number set by the University's Governing Bodies, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (a) of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, including the professors and researchers whose home institutions are partnered or in a consortium with the PhD programme. At least twelve (12) Faculty members must be professors.

3. For any PhD programmes instituted as a partnership or in consortium with advanced public or private research institutions, whether in Italy or abroad, the Faculty may be made up of parties who are research directors, lead researchers and investigators with a research institution, or in any equivalent position within a foreign entity, within the limits contemplated under Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (a) of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013. For those PhD programmes instituted pursuant to an agreement with an international university or entity, the Faculty shall be formed pursuant to the protocols and criteria contemplated under the agreements instituting the same.

4. Faculty members from international universities in partnership or consortium with the University for the PhD programme, and for any PhD programmes falling outside an agreement, any international faculty member falling within the scope of an agreement signed pursuant to Art. 6, paragraph 11, of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010 may be appointed as Faculty members.

5. Professors and researchers from other Italian universities which are not partnered with the University's PhD programme may sit on the various Faculties, provided their home institution issues an authorisation letter. The cap established for each Faculty by the Academic Bodies, and



the ratio of University professors and researchers shall stand. An instructor cannot sit on more than one PhD Faculty within the country.

6. For any joint PhD offered in cooperation with another university and/or research entity, instructors from those institutions shall automatically be permitted to sit on the Faculty. In other instances, participation by non-affiliated researchers, provided they meet the qualifications required by ANVUR, is predicated on a specific agreement being executed between the University and their home entities, subject to any framework agreement pending between the University and the entities themselves. These agreements shall only be entered into with entities providing a commitment to maintain the high calibre of the PhD programme. Participation by those researchers shall be governed by individual agreements, and shall be subject to the caps set by the Academic Bodies.

7. Outside those scenarios, experts from the professional arena with particularly high qualifications may be invited as adjunct instructors or speakers; they will not be involved in programme administration.

8. All teaching and instruction provided by university professors and researchers within the PhD programme, duly recorded in the proper register, shall count towards their institutional duties as established under Art. 6 of Law no. 240/2010, without prejudice to the priority given to their teaching duties in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. For professors, these hours will likewise count toward compliance with Art. 3, paragraph 8, of the University Regulation on academic duties.

9. Representatives of the PhD candidates shall attend Faculty meetings when topics on teaching and organisation are being discussed. The PhD candidate-representatives, three in total, must be enrolled in three different cycles and shall each be elected by the students enrolled in their respective cycle. Each representative shall hold office for a three-year period, until graduation, during the statutory period contemplated for the programme. Voting for each elected representative takes place at the beginning of the first year of each cycle. Votes are called by the Coordinator of the PhD programme. Should a representative's term expire, or should they step down, the next-ranked doctoral candidate (from the original election) shall take his or her place. If no such replacement is available, a new election will be held; the Faculty shall not lapse whilst the votes are pending. The Faculty may increase the number of doctoral-candidate representatives to six; the voting rules established *supra* shall stand. The doctoral students elected as advisory members within the Faculty shall designate, among themselves, the doctoral student who will represent them on the Council of PhD students.

10. The Faculty shall be responsible for the scientific, organisational, and educational quality of the doctoral programme, and for superintending the design and delivery of all teaching and training within the same. The Faculty is moreover tasked with strategic planning, and with directing and guiding the research of the PhD students; they handle the compliance required of them under this Regulation, including with respect to generating proposals for national or international agreements relating to the PhD.



11. Faculty meetings shall be deemed validly convened provided that an absolute majority of the members are in attendance. Under special circumstances, members may attend via tele- or video-conference facilities. Excused absences, up to one fifth of the Faculty members, shall not count against the quorum requirement. Faculty members may not delegate their own functions by proxy. Resolutions shall pass by majority vote of those in attendance. The Coordinator's vote shall break any tie. Faculty meetings shall be duly recorded, with the minutes to be sent to the proper Administrative offices for all proper processing thereafter. Co-tutors may take part in the Faculty meetings in an advisory capacity, pursuant to Art. 21, *infra*.

Art. 13 - The Coordinator

1. The Faculty Coordinator shall be a first-tier, full-time professor who is a member of the Faculty. Should no first-tier professor be available, a second-tier, full-time professor will be appointed. The Coordinator shall meet the scientific qualifications required for such position for purposes of programme accreditation.

2. The Coordinator shall be appointed by an absolute majority of the members. Voting shall be held by secret ballot, called by the dean of the Faculty. The Coordinator's appointment shall be ratified by Rector's decree. The Coordinator shall serve a three-year term, and may be appointed for one immediately consecutive term. Pursuant to Art. 2, paragraph 11, of Law no. 240/2010, and Art. 63, paragraph 3, of the University's Articles, the right to stand for election shall be reserved to professors with outstanding years of service equal to or greater than the mandate prior to the required retirement age. Should the Coordinator step down early from his or her term, the Faculty shall appoint a replacement within forty-five (45) days. As soon as elected, the Coordinator will assume duties in respect of operations for established and running programmes.

3. The Coordinator shall oversee the Faculty, and execute the resolutions passed by the same. The Coordinator acts as representative for the doctoral programme to the Academic Bodies. The Coordinator is responsible for the overall functioning of the PhD programme and the educational offerings contemplated within the same, ensuring an effective execution of all educational programming; each year, the Coordinator generates a report on activities. This is to be filed with both the Rector and the Independent Evaluation Unit (the deadline varies from year to year) for purposes of the compliance contemplated under Art. 4, *supra*.

4. The Coordinator shall allocate funds for the proper functioning of the PhD programme from resources apportioned by the Board of Directors, in accordance with provisions established by the University Regulation for Administration, Finance, and Accounting.

Art. 14 - The Board

1. The Coordinator will be assisted, in carrying out the compliance required of the PhD programme bodies, by a Board made up of five to seven members, including the Coordinator,



designated by the Coordinator from amongst the Faculty. The Board shall remain in office until the end of the Coordinator's term of office.

Art. 15 - Admission requirements for the PhD programme

1. To apply for admission into the PhD programme, students (from any country) must have earned a Master's degree or equivalent degree (deemed equivalent or otherwise accepted for entrance into a doctoral programme) as of the programme-application deadline. Upcoming graduates may be provisionally admitted, and may continue in the programme, provided they earn their degree no later than 31 October following the issuance of the call for applications.

2. Applicants' international degrees are subject to review and approval by the Admissions Board, using criteria established by law or regulation in Italy, and in the country issuing the degree, along with any applicable international treaties or agreements on the recognition of international degrees.

3. Those enrolled in a PhD programme are ineligible to sit for the entrance exam for the same programme. Anyone previously enrolled in a PhD programme who withdraws prior to starting research or coursework is likewise eligible to apply and enrol in the same programme provided they pass all competitive-entrance exams and procedures.

4. Those enrolled in a PhD programme may be admitted into a different doctoral programme, matriculating during the first year, provided they pass all competitive-admission procedures, and withdraw from their prior doctoral programme. They are not eligible for a scholarship.

5. Those who have already earned a PhD in Italy (regardless of whether they are a scholarship recipient) may be admitted into a different doctoral programme, matriculating during the first year, provided they pass all competitive-admission procedures. They are not eligible for a scholarship.

6. Candidates may apply for admission into multiple PhD programmes; however, anyone ranking high enough for consideration for multiple programmes may only be admitted into one.

7. To be admitted into a doctoral programme, one must demonstrate proficiency in English or other foreign language, as required by the call for applications, at a B2 level or above under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Therefore, those passing the entrance exam for the PhD programme shall, upon matriculating, submit a foreign-language certification as required by the University.

Art. 16 - Admission procedures



1. Admission into the PhD programme shall take place through a public selection process based on the candidate's previously earned degrees and qualifications, and entrance-exam scores, to be completed by 30 September of each year, or by a different date as established by the University.

2. The Rector shall institute the admissions process for the PhD programmes by promulgating a decree to issue a call for applications. The call for applications shall be duly disseminated, in Italian and English formats, through a posting to the University's website, and the European *Euraxess* website, the MIUR website, as well as through other channels at the University's discretion. The call for applications must specifically provide the following information for each available PhD programme, whether hosted directly by the University, or made available through a partnership or consortium:

- the programme length in years;
- any individual tracks within the same, although admitted students will choose their track once they matriculate;
- admission criteria;
- the type of qualifications subject to consideration, and the assessment rubric for the same;
- the contemplated entrance examinations, as established under the following paragraphs, as well as the times and procedures for the same;
- the number of scholarship spaces available, with a notation of the research topic tied to the same;
- the number of non-scholarship spaces, to the extent permitted under Art. 5;
- the scholarship amount;
- the number of any spaces reserved pursuant to Art. 3, paragraph 5, subpart (h);
- any spaces to be filled pursuant to apprenticeship agreements executed under Art. 5 of Legislative Decree no. 167 of 14 September 2011, and/or reserved for company employees;
- tuition and, in the amount determined by the Board of Directors, enrolment and attendance fees (which may be differentiated with respect to EU and non-EU nationals in the PhD programme), but only for those PhD students required to pay them;
- the deadline by which the admission process must be completed;
- a set of particularly compelling research topics proposed by the Faculty, without prejudice to the provisions of Art. 21, *infra*. Where the doctoral programme includes discrete tracks, the research topics are grouped by track, if possible.

The call for applications shall also identify the documents each candidate must submit, including the "Diploma Supplement" or a certification from the student's home University showing the student's grade-point average and ranking (percentile) within their study programme, as reported on the ECTS ranking; any publications, any other degrees and qualifications held by the candidate, and one or more recommendation letters, should they be requested by the Faculty. The candidate shall also have the option to include other reference letters generated by qualified parties who played a role in their training, to highlight the qualities that set them apart. The reference letters, which must be generated using the template supplied by the University, shall be evaluated as part of the applicant's CV; no separate points will be awarded for the same.



3. The number of scholarships may be increased upon notice being provided through the University website. This increase must be made prior to the application deadline.

4. The admission process is intended to vet the applicant's educational and professional background, their skills, aptitude for scientific research, and their personal statement. Admission shall be predicated on assessing the applicant's CV and a proposed research project, which may have been inspired by their thesis work, and an admission interview. The research-project proposal, which must follow a standard format, is relevant solely for purposes of admission; it shall not restrict the student's choice of dissertation topic thereafter. The call for applications may establish that, should the number of applications exceed the limit set forth in the same call for applications, an initial screening shall be conducted through a written multiple-choice or short-answer exam, using a standard, international format. The entrance exam may be administered in English, at the Faculty's discretion; students may also opt to take the exam in English. For those pursuing a PhD in a linguistic area, an additional, oral exam prior to the entrance interview may be required in order to ascertain the student's fluency in the foreign language specified in the call for applications. That exam shall be graded on a pass/fail basis by a university instructor (or qualified expert) of the language in question.

5. Should there be any EU or international cooperation agreement in place for any accredited PhD programme, the admission and assessment criteria, and the rankings, may be differentiated accordingly. Likewise, there may be specific organisational procedures that take into account the characteristics of the individual cooperation agreements. Specific admission procedures with separate rankings may likewise be permitted where the call for applications contemplates spaces being set aside for graduates hailing from foreign universities, or for scholarship recipients from foreign countries.

6. The assessment of the student's CV and the research project shall take place prior to the interview. The student's university career, along with their publications, professional experience, and other qualifications (if any) will be assessed as part of the University's review of the student's CV. A maximum of twenty (20) points will be awarded for the CV component. A maximum of ten (10) points will be awarded for the research-project component. In conducting the assessment contemplated under this provision, the Boards shall consider the timeframe and circumstances under which each applicant earned his or her degree(s).

7. The interview is intended to assess the applicant's familiarity with topics germane to the PhD programme, in terms of the educational and scientific goals for the same. The interview includes a time-limited, seminar-style presentation on the proposed project, followed by a general discussion aimed at verifying the applicant's skill set, his or her scientific acumen and personal motivations. The interviews will be public. A calendar of scheduled interviews will be generated accordingly, and shall set forth (for each applicant) the date, time, and place for the interview, as well as the title for the proposed research project. The calendar must be posted in a conspicuous manner to the University website. A maximum of seventy (70) points will be awarded for the interview.



8. Under special circumstances, foreign applicants who are not Italian residents may attend their interview via teleconference or videoconference provided that their interviewers can identify them, and that such option is contemplated under the call for applications.

9. Applicants scoring at least 50% of the maximum points available for each category of assessment (for their CV and their research project) will be invited to sit for the interview. The passing score for the PhD programme entrance exam is 70/100.

Art. 17 - PhD Admissions Boards

1. The Rector, upon motion of the Faculty, shall appoint the Admissions Boards for the PhD programme applicants by Rector's decree within fifteen (15) days of the deadline for the call for applications. Each Board shall be made up of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) members of which at least two (2) (or three, where five Board members are selected) are chosen amongst full-time university professors and researchers; any non-university member (or two members, where five Board members are selected), whether Italian or foreign, shall be chosen from a public or private research institution. The university contingent shall include at least one first-tier professor. All board members shall meet the language qualifications contemplated under the call for applications.

2. For any PhD programmes established pursuant to Arts. 6, 8, and 9 hereof, the Admissions Boards shall be formed and feature the members contemplated under separate, ad-hoc agreements.

3. Non-university instructors and experts who sat on the Admissions Board for the immediately preceding PhD programme cycle shall not be eligible for the current Board.

4. The Board shall be chaired by the first-tier professor; for Boards featuring more than one first-tier professor, the Board shall be chaired by the most senior in tenure, and where two are of the same tenure, by the elder of these.

5. The Admissions Boards shall work to ensure all candidates are given equitable consideration. The Boards shall begin and complete their duties within the timeframe established by the call for applications.

6. At the end of the entrance-exam period, each Board shall generate a general, merit-based ranking based on the sum of points scored by the candidates during the assessment of their CV, their research project, and the interview.

7. The official record of the competitive procedure will be executed by all Board members, and shall be filed with the proper office within the Administration by the deadline set by the office itself. The official records for the competition shall be given proper visibility as required under the University Regulation serving to implement Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990.



Art. 18 - Admission into the PhD programme

1. The final merit-based rankings generated by the Admissions Boards shall be approved by Rector's decree, once the official record has been reviewed and approved. Applicants are admitted into the programmes in the order they appear on the ranking until all spaces within each PhD programme have been filled.
2. Any admitted student who fails to accept their place in the programme by the deadline set forth in the call for applications will be replaced by the next-ranked applicant. The same shall apply to any admitted student who withdraws during the first three (3) months of the programme. Should the withdrawing student have utilised one or more scholarship stipends, they shall be required to reimburse the same.
3. A student may rank high enough for admission into multiple programmes, but may only matriculate into one.

Art. 19 - Enrolment and attendance fees for the PhD programme

1. The total fees for being admitted into, and thereafter attending coursework and conducting research, in any University PhD programme, and the payment terms for the same, shall be set each year by the Board of Directors. The fees shall be the same for all PhD programmes; different tuition rates are set for non-EU PhD students. The fees shall include a health-insurance premium, tax-revenue stamp, and a regional "right to an education" tax, and must be paid as a lump sum. Those PhD candidates who have been awarded a University scholarship, and the PhD students holding a non-scholarship position shall be exempt from the enrolment and attendance fees, but shall be responsible for the health-insurance premium, the tax-revenue stamp, and the regional "right to an education" tax. The same conditions shall apply to Ministry of Foreign Affairs scholarships. For PhD students who have been awarded scholarships by a partnering research institution, or by an external entity, payment of the enrolment fee, with the exception of the line items discussed above, is guaranteed by the scholarship provider.
2. Enrolment fees are non-refundable, even if a student decides to withdraw from the programme.
3. Any PhD candidate required to pay the enrolment and attendance fees who is in arrears shall be prevented from participating in any activity relating to the PhD programme in which he or she is enrolled. An encumbrance shall be placed on the student's record, and they will not be allowed to sit for the final exam.

Art. 20 - Scholarships and other financial aid



1. Scholarships are awarded (irrespective of the value calculated pursuant to paragraph 3, *infra*) to PhDs in the order set in the related merit-based ranking, generated by the Admissions Boards following the comparative-assessment procedures. In case of a tie on merit, the scholarships will be awarded on a needs basis pursuant to criteria set by the Board of Directors. In case of a tie on merit for any non-scholarship space, preference will be given to the younger candidate. Those who have the right to a scholarship may waive that right, as late as upon acceptance of admission, and still be permitted to enter the PhD programme.
2. The scholarship is an annual scholarship, and will renew automatically from year to year provided that the PhD candidate has been admitted into the following year of study by the Faculty, because of satisfactory academic performance during the prior year.
3. The scholarship amount, which shall be post-paid in monthly instalments, consists of a standard amount, set by the Board of Directors, and a supplemental amount, if any, as set by the Faculty, which will vary from programme to programme, but which cannot exceed 30% of the standard amount. The granting of any supplemental scholarship must be contemplated under the call for applications.
4. The scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS premiums with separate payors pursuant to Art. 2 of Law no. 335 dated 8 August 1995, as amended. The University shall be responsible for two-thirds (2/3) of the premium, and one-third (1/3) will be paid by the scholarship recipient. PhD students shall enjoy all related protections and rights.
5. The scholarship amount shall be increased by at least 50% for any study-abroad period, lasting at least one month, if and when authorised by the Faculty. The study-abroad period cannot exceed eighteen months overall, except for any PhD programme established in cooperation with a foreign university or institution. The supplemental aid cannot be utilised in the candidate's home country, or country of residence. For those PhD students who have been awarded scholarships by a partnering research institution or university, or by an external entity, the study-abroad supplement is provided by the scholarship provider.
6. Beginning in the second year, each PhD shall be provided, in addition to the scholarship, aid to cover costs relating to research operations in Italy or abroad, of at least 10% of the standard scholarship amount. For those PhD candidates who have been awarded scholarships by a partnering research institution or university, or by an external entity, the research supplement is provided by the scholarship provider. The Faculty will award financial aid to all non-scholarship students to cover their research costs. Should a PhD student's right to a scholarship lapse, or should they rescind the scholarship offer, the aid shall return to the University's coffers, and be automatically re-allocated to financial aid.
7. The provisions under the immediately preceding points shall not apply to foreign scholarship recipients or to PhDs who have been awarded financial aid as part of an exchange programme.



8. Those who have already earned a PhD, with or without a scholarship, and who enrol in a second programme, upon passing the related entrance exam, shall not be eligible for the scholarship. The PhD scholarship shall not be cumulative with any other scholarship provided for any reason whatsoever, except with a scholarship or other financial aid provided by a national or international institution for a research sabbatical or study abroad. Additionally, the PhD scholarship shall not be cumulative with any stipend granted to specialist physicians-in-training, as specified in Art. 24.

9. The PhDs are required to work full-time and exclusively on those activities contemplated under the student's training programme, for a total of 1500 hours per year. The Faculty may authorise (pursuant to a resolution) off-campus work by PhD students on a non-ongoing, occasional basis, provided that such work, in the Faculty's estimation, will not interrupt their studies or affect the aforementioned schedule, without the PhDs forfeiting their scholarship.

10. PhDs awarded a scholarship who withdraw from the programme shall forfeit any stipends which they have not yet accrued, but shall have the right to a pro-rated amount for their final month of study. Should the PhD have received an advance on such stipend, the funds must be returned. The withdrawing PhD shall be required to provide one month's notice of withdrawal to the Rector. Should the student withdraw during the first year, the remaining scholarship funds may be awarded to another, non-scholarship student ranking next in the admissions ranking.

11. The same standards set forth in paragraph 2 of this Article shall apply for students to maintain an apprenticeship stipend and other forms of financial aid in the years following the first.

Art. 21 - Programme planning and delivery

1. The University's PhD programmes start at the beginning of the academic year, with the exception of those PhD programmes established through a European or international partnership, or through a public-private partnership with a business, and for industrial PhDs, which may have a different start date. Any doctoral candidates appearing on the overflow ranking who have been awarded a foreign scholarship that takes effect after the start date for the PhD programme, may be authorised to defer their start date for up to six months.

2. In accordance with course objectives and the related research and in-depth training programme, the Faculty shall make a decision, prior to instituting a PhD programme, regarding the research topics to make available to the PhD candidates, at least twice in number with respect to the number of available places, identifying one or more lead instructors, and any standards the PhD students must meet in order to carry them out. Partner entities may likewise propose research topics. These research topics shall be provided suitable visibility within the call for applications, and through postings to the University's website so that the greatest number of candidates might see them. Additional research topics may be offered by the Faculty, or proposed by PhD candidates after the programme has begun.



3. In accordance with the timeframes and conditions set by the Faculty, and moreover no longer than twelve (12) months from the PhD programme start date, the PhD candidates are invited, in order of merit-based rank, to select their own research topic from those made available by the Faculty. Their selection must be reported to the Coordinator who will determine, with the advice and consent of the supervising instructor for each of the chosen research topics, whether the student meets the requirements for the research topic in question. The PhD candidates shall, however, have the right to propose an original research project of their own choosing. The same research topic may be chosen by multiple PhD candidates, though no instructor may supervise more than two (2) PhD candidates in the same cycle. The Faculty monitors the PhD candidates' progress, once the project-initiation work has been completed, and no sooner than three (3) months into the project, in order to confirm that the topic is a good fit for the student. If needed, the Faculty will replace the initial research topic with a more suitable one.

4. A University catalogue specific for the PhD programme will be generated for purposes of scheduling the academic offerings within a PhD programme. The Faculty of each PhD programme assists in generating the catalogues for the PhD programmes, proposing a set of courses deemed fundamental for the same. All PhD programmes, regardless of subject area, may draw from the full breadth of courses offered within the University catalogue, to create an academic plan, as defined *infra*. Each Faculty, in generating their course offerings, shall set the prerequisites (in terms of prior coursework, skills, or experience) required to register for the course, and the cap on PhD registrants in the same. Each PhD programme shall participate in generating the University catalogue and ensure, with respect to specialty academic areas, at least eighteen (18) credits per academic year. Each course shall be worth at least two (2) credits.

5. Given the standard twenty-five (25) hours of work per PhD programme credit, lectures or equivalent educational opportunities will range from a minimum of five (5) to a maximum of ten (10) hours; the remaining hours, up to the maximum twenty-five, should be allocated to independent study. For all other types of educational activities, the provisions set forth in Art. 10, paragraph 5, of the University's Academic Regulations shall apply.

6. Each Faculty shall, from year to year, establish the plan for the academic offerings intended to complete the PhD candidate's scientific knowledge. The academic plan, which may be jointly created by multiple PhD programmes, must: include interdisciplinary educational activities, foreign-language and IT skills proficiency, and communication skills; provide an understanding of European and international research systems, and allow the PhD student to acquire skills in managing his or her research operations, deploying the findings and the intellectual property of such research; tackle the issue of research ethics, whether generally or within the framework of the Italian, EU, or international regulatory system; offer PhD candidates the tools needed to define their own professional identity and career path. The academic plan will include coursework, as identified in the University's catalogue, high-level seminars, journal clubs, and much more. These are broken down by programme year, along with a notation of whether attendance is mandatory, how the class is to take place, and how



students are assessed in terms of knowledge, skill, and abilities acquired, along with the related educational credits. In setting the course schedule, the Faculty includes a year-end assessment for the PhD student's overall performance, which shall include a written report and an interview, as well as the mark assigned by their respective tutors.

7. Each PhD candidate shall earn, over the course of the PhD cycle, no fewer than twelve (12) credits in specialised courses; each specialised course included in the University's catalogue shall only be offered if selected by at least three (3) PhD students. Each PhD student shall have the option to earn a greater number of credits in targeted areas germane to their research programme.

8. Over the course of the full PhD cycle, each PhD candidate shall further be required to take part in a total of seventy-two (72) hours of interdisciplinary studies (four hours every two months) as defined under paragraph 6, *supra*, pursuant to the programme established by the University for general educational coursework, or additionally on motion of multiple Faculties.

9. Study-abroad periods excluded, at least 2/3 of PhD programme activities must be carried out onsite at the University. Any off-campus work or study must be carried out pursuant to a specific cooperation agreement with the host institution, and must be approved by the Faculty with respect to the individual PhD student. Any exceptions to the foregoing rule must be approved by the Faculty, who will review the reasons for the request. This restriction does not apply to international doctoral programmes, apprenticeships, and industrial PhDs.

10. When the PhD candidate chooses a research topic, the Faculty appoints a tutor tasked with guiding and providing support for the PhD student as they undertake their research and write their dissertation. Tutors are selected from amongst University professors and research staff who meet the accreditation criteria established by the Ministry to sit on a Faculty, with outstanding teaching years for at least one PhD cycle. Should the appointed tutor be a contracted researcher whose contract is set to expire prior to the end of the doctoral programme, the Faculty shall appoint, along with the tutor, a co-tutor, selected from amongst University professors and researchers on the Faculty. Instructors and professors from other universities who sit on the Faculty, as well as employees from other institutions where a specific agreement has been entered into for the doctoral programme, may serve as tutors. In these cases, the tutor is assisted by a co-tutor, chosen from amongst University professors and researchers on the Faculty. Additionally, university tutors may be assisted by external experts who do not sit on the Faculty, as co-tutors. All co-tutors must be appointed by resolution of the Faculty. The PhD's home department will be that of the student's tutor, or co-tutor should the tutor be a non-University member.

11. Professors and researchers who are not on the Faculty may lend their expertise to the programme, with the authorisation of their home departments. The provisions of Art. 12, paragraph 8, shall likewise apply to these instructors.

Art. 22 - PhD candidate rights and responsibilities



1. The PhD programme offerings total 1500 hours per year.
2. PhD candidates are required to attend the programme full-time for its full duration, in accordance with the rules set by the Faculty. They must regularly attend all educational activities contemplated under their individual study plan, pursuant to the terms and conditions set for the same. They must dedicate themselves to independent study, in-depth learning, and carry out those research activities assigned to them, for the total hours specified in paragraph 1. Special rules may be established for those parties identified under paragraph 6, for those students enrolled in a PhD programme conducted in partnership with a business, those in an industrial PhD, and for those under an apprenticeship agreement.
3. Students may not enrol in two PhD programmes simultaneously, except for international PhD programmes, and joint sponsorship PhD programmes.
4. Students in a PhD programme may not enrol in an additional PhD programme, Bachelor's degree programme, Master's degree programme, single-cycle Master's degree programme, vocational master's or post-graduate programme. An exception is made for those University of Milan medical and healthcare post-graduate programmes detailed in Art. 24.
5. Similarly, students enrolled in a PhD programme may not hold an adjunct teaching position with any university or other entity offering academic degrees.
6. Civil servants admitted into a PhD programme may utilise the standard leave-of-absence period permitted under applicable collective bargaining agreements, whilst those under a public-law contract may avail themselves of special leave time for study reasons, insofar as the needs of their home office permit, pursuant to Art. 2 of Law no. 476 dated 13 August 1984, as amended, with or without grants, and subject to an official notice of waiver. This option is only available for first-time enrolment, regardless of the subject area.
7. PhD students will benefit from the programming established under Legislative Decree no. 68 of 29 March 2012, "Statutory reforms for 'the right to an education' and enhancement of all statutorily recognised institutions of higher education, in implementation of the authority granted pursuant to Art. 5, paragraph 1, subpart (a), second sentence, and subpart (d), of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, and pursuant to the standards and criteria established under paragraph 3, subpart (f), and paragraph 6".
8. PhD candidates may, as an integral part of their educational plan, and with the approval of the Faculty (without thereby being entitled to any increase in their scholarship), conduct tutoring for Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, single-cycle Master's degree students, and provide supplemental, preparatory, or remedial education for up to forty (40) hours in any given academic year. The limit shall only apply through the third year of the PhD programme. The PhD student may, however, undertake activities contemplated under this paragraph for a maximum of one-hundred (100) hours during a single academic year. Those enrolled in medical and veterinary PhD programmes may, with approval from the Faculty, receive clinical training.



The manner in which these activities shall be conducted must be coordinated with the host entity.

9. No later than the date set by the Faculty, including for purposes of conducting the annual assessment contemplated under paragraph 5 of Art. 21, the PhD is required to submit the Faculty a written report on his or her research operations as conducted, their findings, as well as any seminars, conferences, or other scientific programmes in which they took part, and any publications written. Should approval be granted by the Faculty, the student will be allowed to pass into the next year of study or, for those enrolled in the last year of the programme, to sit for the final exam provided they have also received approval on their dissertation pursuant to Art. 23. Should the student fail to pass this performance review, and absent extraordinary, documented circumstances, they will be dismissed from the PhD programme, and will lose any scholarship awarded. Should the student be dismissed during the first year, the remaining scholarship funds may be awarded to another, non-scholarship student ranking next in the admission ranking.

10. PhD students will be excused from attendance requirements during any maternity, paternity, adoption, or foster-care / guardianship period as permitted under applicable law, as well as for any prolonged (over thirty days) and duly documented illness or injury. The maternity provisions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare decree of 12 July 2007, and those of Art. 22, paragraph 6, final sentence of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010 shall apply to all female PhD candidates, including those falling within the scope of social-security funds other than INPS.

11. The attendance requirement will also be tolled, upon the PhD student's request and with Faculty authorisation, for serious personal or family reasons, which shall be duly documented. Attendance shall, moreover, not be required during any teachers' traineeship period (*Tirocinio Formativo Attivo*).

12. At the end of any such leave period, the PhD student will start attending the programme again, providing notice to the Coordinator and the proper offices within the University administration. The academic and research path taken by the PhD student in order to continue and complete the PhD programme, as redetermined by the Faculty, will be deferred for a period corresponding to their leave of absence.

13. For any leave of absence falling into the category appearing in paragraph 10, and for leaves attributable to serious personal circumstances, the PhD student may continue to utilise any awarded scholarship (albeit paused during the leave of absence) once they return to attending the programme. However, the number of scholarship years shall not exceed the duration of the PhD programme cycle. During any leave of absence for teachers' traineeships, scholarships shall not be disbursed.

14. Upon application, and with Faculty approval, any PhD students who are employed by the public administration on a permanent contract may secure, during their probationary



period, a waiver from the attendance requirement. Any scholarship will likewise be suspended during such period.

15. The Faculty may decide, with just cause and having given notice and hearing to the interested party, to suspend the PhD student from the programme temporarily (with an attendant partial or total loss of any scholarship awarded) for the following reasons:

- a) unexcused, extended absences;
- b) conduct which is cause for disqualification under paragraphs 4, and 5, *supra*, and Art. 20, paragraph 9, *supra*;
- c) infractions to which the sanctions contemplated under Art. 52 of the University's General Regulations apply;
- d) work by the PhD student undertaken in violation of applicable provisions hereunder.

16. The intellectual and industrial property rights on any findings or results by the PhD student shall be governed by applicable law and University Regulations, as well as in accordance with any applicable portion of agreements with other universities, and corporate / organisational partners, if any.

17. The PhD student shall be bound by a duty of confidentiality with respect to any confidential information, data, or documents coming into the student's possession during any activities carried out onsite at the University and/or on behalf of the same.

Art. 23 - Awarding of the PhD

1. The doctorate of philosophy, abbreviated "PhD" (or "*Dott. Ric.*"), along with any specific programme track, shall be conferred at the end of the PhD programme period, upon approval of the student's dissertation, which shall be defended over the course of the final exam. The dissertation must be on an original research topic, which is then carried out with a sound method, for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of knowledge and methodology in the student's area of study.

2. Dissertations, accompanied by an abstract in both English and Italian, shall be generated either in English or Italian, or in another language with authorisation by the Faculty. The dissertation, to which the PhD student must annex a report on all activity undertaken over the course of the PhD programme, and any publications during the same, shall be submitted by the end of the final year of the programme to the Faculty, who will then provide an assessment on the student's research activities. The dissertation, along with the annexed report by the Faculty, shall be submitted to the dissertation committee defined in paragraph 3, *infra*.

3. The dissertation shall be assessed by a committee of at least two highly qualified instructors, who may be from institutions other than the University, whether in Italy or abroad, or from other entities who are issuing the degree jointly with the University. The dissertation committee members are chosen by the Faculty, and shall not sit on the Adjudication Board for the final exam, as discussed *infra*. The dissertation committee shall issue a detailed written



analysis in which they make a recommendation to the Faculty whether to allow the student to defend his or her dissertation at the public session, or to defer such defence for up to six (6) months, should they believe corrections or changes to be in order. Once that six-month deferment has passed, the dissertation shall automatically qualify for public defence, and it must then bear a new written opinion from the same dissertation committee, which shall be rendered based on any corrections and/or changes made.

4. The public session for the student's dissertation defence shall take place before an Adjudication Board appointed by the Rector, upon motion of the Faculty. The Adjudication Board shall be made up of three (3) members chosen from amongst university professors (at least one of whom must be first-tier) and researchers with specific expertise in the subject area germane to the programme. At least two (2) Board members must be university faculty (whether in Italy or abroad) who are not part of the PhD programme, and shall not be members of the Faculty. The Board shall be chaired by the first-tier professor; for Boards featuring more than one first-tier professor, the Board shall be chaired by the most senior in tenure, and where two are of the same tenure, by the elder of these.

5. For any PhD programme which encompasses distinct and diverse disciplines, the Faculty may ask the Rector appoint multiple Adjudication Boards, established pursuant to the immediately preceding paragraph, made up of instructors with a high degree of expertise in the relevant field.

6. For any doctoral programmes offered through a partnership or consortia of universities or entities, as well as pursuant to any international agreement, the Board shall be established in the manner contemplated under such agreements. International collaboration agreements may, regardless, contemplate specific timeframes and procedures for earning the degree.

7. PhD students who are approved for the public dissertation-defence session by the Faculty shall submit, no later than the deadline established therefor by the relevant university administration office, an application to sit for the final examination. As soon as the members of the Adjudication Board have been disclosed, the PhD students shall, no later than the deadline provided to them, submit an electronic copy of their dissertation to the Board members, in compliance with format requirements set forth in paragraph 2, along with all documentation contemplated under that same paragraph.

8. The final examination shall take place by the deadline established by the University, which will generate a calendar of required compliance to earn the PhD. A new calendar will be published each year. The Adjudication Boards shall be convened by the Rector, and shall be required to complete their work within sixty (60) days of the date of their official letter of appointment by the Rector. Once that deadline has passed, any Board which has not completed its work shall lapse, and the Rector shall thereupon appoint a new Board. No member from the prior Board may sit on the new Board. Any recusals, which shall only be permitted under serious circumstances, shall only take effect upon acceptance by the Rector.



9. At the end of the dissertation defence, the Board, providing a written, detailed report on the same issued following a discussion and vote by the Board, shall accept or reject the dissertation presented by the PhD Candidate. The exam is administered on a pass/fail basis. Any motion to confer the PhD degree shall pass by majority vote. Should the dissertation contain findings of high scientific value, the Board, pursuant to unanimous vote, may confer the degree with honours. The dissertation defence is public, as is the notice of the Board's official findings.

10. At the completion of their works, the Adjudication Board generates a report on the same, including any judgements expressed on the dissertations presented by the PhD candidates.

11. Candidates who are unable to appear at the dissertation defence due to illness, unforeseeable circumstances, or force majeure shall be excused, provided proper supporting documentation is submitted. Under such circumstances, the PhD candidate will be permitted to defend his or her dissertation on a date set by the Faculty, before a new Board appointed by the Rector pursuant to paragraph 4, *supra*. Should a student otherwise fail to appear for the final-exam session, their right to earn a PhD shall terminate.

12. The degree is conferred by the Rector, who certifies the awarding of the same. The issuance of the foregoing certification shall be predicated on the interested party's filing an electronic copy of the dissertation into the University's Institutional Archive (the "AIR"), to be made available to the public. The proper division within the University shall handle all regulatory compliance regarding e-filing of documents, including the official filing of the dissertation in the Ministry's database within thirty (30) days of the dissertation defence and approval. The PhD candidate or the Faculty may, in exceptional cases, for purposes of protecting and deploying any intellectual and/or industrial property, request that publication of the dissertation be deferred for up to eighteen (18) months.

13. Those PhDs who have earned their degree from the University of Milan will be provided career services, at their request.

Art. 24 - Connection between the PhD programmes and the medical post-graduate schools

1. The medical PhD programmes may set aside, for each cycle, spaces for those enrolled in the final year of the Postgraduate Schools in Medicine at the University of Milan, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 7 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013. The spaces shall be subject to a specific call for applications; candidates will be admitted pursuant to a specific procedure that assesses any research previously carried out by the interested parties during their post-graduate period.

2. Candidates who have passed the entrance examination may be granted by the Faculty dual-enrolment status at the post-graduate school and PhD programme. The dual-enrolment



period will be followed by a period of single enrolment in the PhD programme through the statutory end of the programme.

3. The dual-enrolment authorisation shall be granted provided the Council for the Post-Graduate School shall certify that attendance of the PhD programme would not conflict with those activities and obligations contemplated for the school. Moreover, the Council shall be required to certify the research activities carried out by the interested party during the specialisation period.

4. During the dual-enrolment period, the interested parties may not be awarded a PhD scholarship. These students, in general, shall be subject to the rules applicable to specialist-physicians in training, and the contract governing the same shall apply.

5. Outside those scenarios contemplated under the preceding points, those enrolled in the post-graduate programmes who participate in calls for admission into the PhD programmes shall, if the student is admitted, opt for one or another track.

Art. 25 - Agreements to jointly sponsor a dissertation

1. The University may, upon motion of the Faculty for the PhD programme, execute bilateral agreements to jointly monitor a dissertation with an international campus, whether as an administrative home or as a host institution, as well as any framework agreements with any foreign institutions which would govern the signing of any joint sponsorship agreement.

2. The joint sponsorship of a dissertation assumes that a student enrolled in a PhD programme will write his or her dissertation under the joint tutorship of a University instructor and an instructor through the university partner. At the end of the degree path, and once he or she has passed the consolidated final exam (held before a joint board) for the same dissertation, the candidate would earn a Doctor of Philosophy or equivalent degree from each of the two university institutions, issued as a dual degree, or as a single degree signed by both institutions.

3. Joint sponsorship of the dissertation is intended for PhD candidates enrolled in their first year of study, for the purpose of allowing them to carry out their studies and research at either university campus for equivalent periods, subject to the student's one-year residency requirement (which need not be continuous) where the University of Milan is the host institution.

4. The PhD candidate taking part in a joint sponsorship agreement shall be duly enrolled through his or her home institution and dually enrolled at the host university. Generally, no extra tuition is required. The University where the student is initially enrolled is required to provide the PhD student health-insurance coverage. The host institution is required to provide the PhD student access to all academic and research facilities needed to complete their dissertation, providing them the same services offered to their own PhD students.



5. The Faculty, based on reports generated by the two dissertation supervisors, shall assess the PhD student's work, to determine whether they will pass into the following year of the programme, and be permitted to sit for the final exam, in the same manner contemplated for all PhD students in the programme.

6. The individual joint-sponsorship agreements shall be generated based on the foregoing provisions and shall govern the following:

- the duration of the PhD programme;
- any payment plan for tuition and fees, and the insurance coverage provided;
- the study and research programme to be conducted onsite at both institutions;
- the dissertation title;
- the names of the two dissertation supervisors;
- the procedure and place for the public dissertation defence;
- the composition of the Joint Board before whom the thesis will be defended;
- the exact name of the PhD degrees as issued;
- the ways the intellectual property of the dissertation, its publication, the utilisation and deployment of the PhD's research findings will be safeguarded.

Art. 26 - Doctor Europaeus Certification

1. The University may, upon the PhD candidate's request and with the Faculty's approval, issue a "Doctor Europaeus" certification in addition to the Italian PhD degree. The PhD candidate must meet the conditions set by the European University Association. These conditions require:

- those assessing the dissertation pursuant to Art. 23, appointed by the Faculty, to belong to two different European Union academic institutions, and to express a favourable vote on the dissertation;
- at least one member of the Adjudication Board must hail from another EU university;
- the dissertation defence to be held in a European Union language other than Italian;
- the dissertation to be generated pursuant to a study-abroad period lasting at least one quarter, to be carried out in another EU country.

Art. 27 - PhD Coordination

1. A University PhD Coordination Team made up of Coordinators for the current PhD programmes has been established for the University. The Coordination Team is responsible for:

- monitoring the quality of the PhD programme offerings, and setting the standards for the same;
- overseeing the creation of the catalogue under Art. 21 of this Regulation, and coordinating the delivery of routine as well as specialised educational activities;
- handling the promotion and marketing, both in Italy and abroad, of all University PhD programmes.



2. A contingent of PhD candidates elected by the Council from its members shall participate in Coordination Team meetings where issues relating to teaching and organisational aspects are being discussed. This contingent shall constitute 15% of the members of the Coordination Team.

Art. 28 - Consolidation of PhD programmes

1. Two or more PhD programmes which are similar, complementary, or convergent with respect to their scientific objectives may be consolidated under one name.
2. Consolidation is intended to promote synergy amongst the programmes, to foster interdisciplinary networking and, if applicable, to build a bridge to business and the professions, to ensure the high calibre and specialisation of the PhD programmes themselves, and to promote and communicate their offerings to the world outside the University. The goal of consolidation is also to contribute to a more effective and functional management of available resources from a teaching, organisational, logistical, and administrative point of view.
3. The consolidation of two or more PhD programmes, by resolution of the respective Faculties, shall be approved by the Academic Senate, and made official by Rector's decree.
4. Consolidation is coordinated by a Committee made up of implicated PhD Coordinators, and a contingent from the respective Faculties, the number for which shall be set forth in the motion to consolidate programmes. The Committee shall be responsible for ensuring seamless functioning of this consolidation, and for creating synergy through a development and optimisation plan. A Committee Chair will be elected amongst the PhD Coordinators, tasked with representing the consolidated programme outside the University.

Art. 29 - Transitional and final provisions

1. Should this Regulation be silent on any matter, applicable Italian laws and the rules and regulations of the University of Milan shall supply gap-filling terms.
2. This Regulation shall be approved and implemented in the manner provided for in Art. 17 of the General University Regulation.
3. Once it takes effect (2015/2016 academic year - 31st Cycle), it shall supersede the prior PhD Regulation, which was promulgated by Rector's Decree no. 244828 of 9 October 2006.
4. For all PhD students enrolled in the 30th cycle, the provisions of Art. 4, paragraph 1, subpart (f), Art. 8, paragraph 6, Art. 9, paragraph 3, and Art. 12 of Ministerial Decree 45/2013 shall apply.
5. Annexed to this Regulation, and forming an integral and substantive part of the same, is a list of the already accredited PhD programmes, as well as the documents to which the



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

individual articles refer, as passed periodically by the University's Governing Bodies. The aforementioned annexes may be amended, if needed, pursuant to a resolution by the proper university authorities without thereby amending this Regulation.