

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH DOCTORATES

Disclaimer: Please note that only the Italian version of the present regulations, issued with Chancellor Decree No. 347 of 05.06.2013, is legally binding, the English version is provided for informational purposes only. The original Italian version is available at <https://unige.it/usg/it/dottorati-di-ricerca>

Title I – General provisions

Art. 1 - Area of application

1. This set of regulations rules the establishment, the operation and accreditation process of doctoral courses as well as the organisation of doctoral schools.

Art. 2 – Learning objectives

1. The Research Doctorate supplies the necessary competences to carry out highly qualified research activity in public and private institutions and also qualifies holders for liberal professions, thus contributing to the development of the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

Art. 3 - Funding

1. The Academic Senate annually formulates proposals concerning the establishment and the operation of doctoral courses to the Board of Directors which establish the amount of the funding.
2. The cost burden deriving from the stipulation and implementation of the consortium agreements laid down in art. 5, paragraph 2 shall be borne by the University structures proposing the activation of doctoral courses according to the rules set out in art. 7.

Art. 4 – Research and Technology Transfer Committee

1. The Research and Technology Transfer Committee has been set up through a Chancellor's decree and is made up of:
 - a. the pro chancellor for the Research and Technology Transfer Area acting as coordinator;
 - b. 22 lecturers, one for each department, chosen by the Chancellor in accordance with the director of the relevant department;
 - c. 1 lecturer acting as vice-coordinator on behalf of the pro-Chancellor for the Research and Technology Transfer Area should he or she is absent;
2. the Committee members serve for a term of three academic years.
3. The Committee:
 - (a) annually expresses an opinion to the Academic Senate on the proposals to activate Doctoral courses and assesses the coherence of these proposals with the curriculum and the availability of human and financial resources as well as the meeting of requirements as per art. 6;
 - (b) formulates proposals regarding the awarding of scholarships to Doctoral courses or Doctoral schools;
 - (c) expresses opinions on combined doctoral degrees and courses provided for by art. 21;
 - (d) formulates proposals for the revision of the present regulation;
 - (e) formulates guidelines for the implementation of a system of monitoring and periodical evaluation of Doctoral courses activated at the University of Genoa.

Title II - Accreditation and activation of courses and establishment of Doctoral Schools

Art. 5 - Activating Doctoral courses

1. Doctoral courses are activated after receiving accreditation from the Ministry of Education, upon approval of ANVUR and in line with European guidelines.
2. Upon receipt of accreditation from the Ministry of Education, Doctoral courses can be activated also in agreement with public and private bodies provided they meet the requirements of advanced cultural and scientific qualification and suitable personnel, facilities and equipment. They can also be activated in consortium with Universities and/ or public or private highly qualified research bodies, also abroad.
3. Doctoral courses can also be activated in collaboration with businesses, Industrial Doctorates and advanced training apprenticeships as per art. 22 of this regulation.

4. Doctoral courses must have a duration of no less than three years, except as provided for by article 19, paragraph 8.

Art. 6 - Requirements for accreditation of Doctoral courses

1. All Doctoral courses must meet the following requirements:

a) the presence of a Doctoral Board composed of no fewer than 16 University lecturers of whom no more than a quarter can be researchers, belonging to macrosectors that are in line with the objectives of the course. For Doctoral courses activated in consortium with highly qualified public or private research bodies also abroad, up to a quarter of the Doctoral Board can be composed of members who hold research management posts, first-time researchers and researchers from research bodies or holding equivalent positions in foreign entities. To meet the requirement of this letter, each member may only be counted once on a national basis;

b) members of the Doctoral Board must hold documented research results at an international level in the disciplinary fields of the course, with particular reference to those attained in the five years preceding the accreditation request date;

c) for each Doctoral cycle to be activated, an average of at least six scholarships for each Doctoral course must be granted, it being understood that no fewer than four scholarships for each single Doctoral course cycle will be available. In order to satisfy the aforementioned requirement, other forms of funding can be taken into account for at least equivalent sums, as per art. 16 paragraph 3.2.

For Doctoral courses activated in consortium with Universities, or agreements, each institution in the consortium or agreement must ensure the contribution of at least three scholarships with the exclusion of Doctoral courses activated with foreign institutions.

d) the availability of congruous and stable funding for maintaining the course, with specific reference to the availability of scholarships as per letter c), supporting the Doctoral students research.

e) the availability of specific and qualified operational and scientific facilities for study and research activities of Doctoral students, including, with regard to the type of course and/or curriculum, scientific laboratories, suitable book resources, databanks and resources for computation.

f) planning of activities, also in common with other Doctoral courses and/or curricula, for disciplinary and interdisciplinary training, ICT and language skills upgrading as well as in the fields of research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, enhancement of research results and intellectual property.

2. In the context of agreements with public and private bodies meeting the necessary requirements regarding advanced cultural and scientific qualification of personnel, facilities and suitable equipment, for each Doctoral course, the entities involved must also ensure the activation of Doctoral cycles for at least three years. For each course agreements also have to ensure the meeting of the requirements in paragraph 1 indicating for each entity involved their contribution in terms of teaching, availability of financial resources and operational and scientific facilities guaranteeing the continuity of the course and, with the exception of Doctorates activated with foreign institutions, the contribution of at least three scholarships for each Doctoral cycle. For Doctorates activated in agreement with foreign institutions, the contribution in terms of scholarships is regulated according to article 21, subject to the meeting of the requirement laid down in paragraph 1, letter c), first sentence. Regarding agreements between Universities, provisions have been made so that double, multiple or joint degree certificates may be issued.

3. In the case of consortiums with Universities or highly qualified public or private research bodies, the maximum number of university or research bodies that can be in the consortium is four.

4. The subjects of Doctoral courses refer to wide, organic and clearly defined disciplinary fields. Doctoral course titles and curricula will be evaluated by the ANVUR upon reviewing the courses.

Art. 7 - Proposals to activate courses

1. The proposal to activate Doctoral courses is formulated every year within the Academic Senate by the departments and excellence centres involved.

2. The proposal must contain the requirements laid down in art. 6 and must be accompanied by the following information:

(2.1) the name of the single courses for which activation is being requested and if they are divided into different curricula;

(2.2) the structure of the course, whether single university or consortium, and, in the latter case, details of the consortium universities and/or highly qualified public or private research bodies involved;

- (2.3) research themes, learning objectives, career opportunities relative to the course and/or to the single curricula depending on how specific they are;
 - (2.4) educational and research programmes relative to a course or a whole curriculum with details on course modalities, relative university training credits and expected results with the mention of activities carried out and results attained in previous cycles;
 - (2.5) course admission process and/or admission to single curricula and admission requirements;
 - (2.6) employment results of PhD graduates;
 - (2.7) the number of posts for each course including supernumerary places;
 - (2.8) the number of scholarships which the University will be required to issue, the presumptive number of scholarships funded by the departments, by other Universities or external entities with an indication of any co-funding quota of the same scholarships;
 - (2.9) the names of the components of the Doctoral Board of each course and the course Coordinator who will also declare that they do not belong to any other Doctoral Board nationally;
 - (2.10) operational and scientific facilities;
 - (2.11) agreements with Universities or public/private research entities (Italian or foreign) meeting the requirements for advanced cultural qualifications, and detailing of autonomous resources for the funding of scholarships on specific research lines;
 - (2.12) collaboration with public or private entities, either Italian or foreign, enabling Doctoral candidates to undertake experiences in a working context;
 - (2.13) any further information necessary for the publication of the call for applications either requested by the Ministerial database or the National Bodies for the Evaluation of the University System;
 - (2.14) a financial plan detailing the availability of adequate economic and human resources and of specific operational and scientific facilities for Doctoral students' study and research activities.
3. If, for single courses or curricula, no variations on the previous year's proposal have been introduced, brief reference to this will suffice.

Art. 8 - Resolutions for the activation of courses. Accreditation.

1. Subject to the resolution of the University governing bodies, on the advice of the Research and Technology Transfer Committee and having met the requirements of the University evaluation nucleus, the Chancellor forwards the appropriate application for accreditation to the Ministry for Doctoral courses accompanied by course curricula and location as well as the documentation certifying the possession of the requirements pursuant to article 6.
2. The application must indicate the overall number of posts for which accreditation is requested for each Doctoral course. The maximum number of posts that can be activated for each cycle must not be more than double the number of scholarships activated for each course unless provided otherwise by a resolution of the Academic Senate; supernumerary places are excluded from the calculation according to the subsequent paragraph.
3. In order to promote the internationalisation of the University, supernumerary posts can be provided for and/or reserved for applicants who have attained a qualifying degree abroad.
4. Failure to meet one or more of the requirements pursuant to art. 6 entails the withdrawal of accreditation. In this case, the activation of a new cycle of Doctoral courses will be suspended with immediate effect.
5. In reference to the accreditation system which assesses whether requirements are still being met, the University Evaluation Nucleus annually sends a report to the governing bodies on the evaluation of each Doctoral school and the single Doctoral courses. The clearly motivated evaluation is made available to the Doctoral Schools, and to the Doctoral courses in the relevant section of the University website.
6. The Chancellor will send the annual report, accompanied by the the Academic Senate's observations, to the Ministry for the University so it can be transmitted to the competent National Bodies for the Evaluation of the University System.

Art. 9 - Establishment of Doctoral Schools

1. Pursuant to art. 54 of the Statute, Doctoral schools are established on a proposal of one or more schools of the University with a resolution of the Academic Senate after hearing from the Governing Body.
2. The proposal to set up a Doctoral school requires at least three Doctoral courses regarding departments belonging to the proposing University school or schools.

3. The Doctoral School coordinates its Doctoral courses, it approves training projects also in relation to University scientific and general training courses of studies and verifies the results. It also deals with the activation and management of activities common to several Doctoral courses.
4. Every Doctoral school is governed by a regulation that defines its specific aims and organisational modalities in accordance with this regulation. This regulation can adopt provisions in derogation of paragraph 3 of this article and articles 14 and 15.

Title III Organisation of Doctoral courses and Schools

Art. 10 – Doctoral course boards and Doctoral school boards

1. The following are boards of the course: the Doctoral Board and Doctoral Course Coordinator.
2. If a Doctoral school is set up, the following are school boards: the Chancellor and the Governing Council.
3. For each Doctoral course a cost centre is set up for administrative and accounting support.

Art. 11 - Course Coordinator

1. The course Coordinator is a full professor or, if a full professor is unavailable, an associate professor, and there is normally one coordinator for all activated Doctoral cycles. Course coordinators serve a three-year term. In case of early resignation, the Doctoral Board, at the invitation of the Dean will provide for the election of a new Coordinator who will take over for all active cycles.

Each member of the teaching staff can be Coordinator of only one course.

2. The course Coordinator:

- (2.1) is responsible for the overall organisation of the course;
- (2.2) convenes and chairs the Doctoral Board;
- (2.3) implements the resolutions of the Doctoral Board;
- (2.4) undertakes tasks delegated by the Director of the Doctoral School, if established;
- (2.5) proposes the authorisation of study periods abroad to the Doctoral Board;
- (2.6.) assumes urgent resolutions with own measures, submitting them for approval to the Doctoral Board in the next possible meeting.

Art. 12 – Composition of the Doctoral Board

1. The Doctoral Board is in charge of planning and implementing Doctoral courses. Without prejudice to the requirements laid down in article 6, paragraph 1, the Doctoral Board is composed of full professors an associate professors, researchers and research managers or similar in public research bodies as well as experts of proven qualifications who do not necessarily belong to accredited bodies, who however, must not exceed the overall number of components from accredited bodies. The Doctoral Board can be divided in sections corresponding to single curricula.

2. For each active Doctoral cycle, a representative Doctoral student will be present at the Doctoral Board when dealing with teaching and organisational issues. The election of this component will take place at the beginning of the cycle. In case of forfeiture or renunciation, the next candidate in line will take over. If no such candidate exists, another election will be held.

The Board composition is considered valid even if no student representative has been identified, following the above mentioned procedures.

3. Any change in the composition of the Doctoral Board is subject to a resolution of the department responsible for the Doctoral course.

4. Certified teaching and tutoring activities carried out by professors and researchers in the context of Doctoral courses shall contribute to meeting institutional obligations (provided for in article 6 law 30 December 2010, no. 240).

5. The participation of university professors and researchers in the Doctoral Board of a Doctoral course activated by another university is subject to the authorisation of the Academic Senate, after consulting with the Research and Technology Transfer Committee.

Art. 13 – Functions of the Doctoral Board

1. Doctoral Course Doctoral Boards have the following functions:

- (1.1) to annually determine the organisation of course activities on the basis of the indications contained in the activation proposal;

- (1.2) to rule on the equivalence of academic qualifications attained abroad for admission to courses;
 - (1.3) to formulate proposals on the appointment of members of the Course Selection Board nominated by the Chancellor;
 - (1.4) to carry out interim evaluation (admission to the subsequent year) and final evaluation (admission to the Doctoral exam) of Doctoral students, having obtained the evaluation of the Governing Council of the Doctoral School, when established, on the participation of Doctoral students in Doctoral School training programmes;
 - (1.5) to formulate proposals on the appointment of members of the final exam Panel of examiners, nominated by the Chancellor with indications of the preferred timeframe and place of said exam;
 - (1.6) to establish possible specific modalities for the attainment of a PhD degree;
 - (1.7) to define the fees for admission to and attendance of courses to propose to the Board of Directors;
 - (1.8) to take on any other decision functional to the optimal organisation and functioning of courses and their international showcasing;
 - (1.9) to evaluate student requests in relation to the course organisation and reports of any teaching and organisational issues.
- Doctoral students are not represented in decisions regarding points 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6.

Art. 14 - Director of the Doctoral School

1. The Director of the Doctoral School is a full professor or, if unavailable, an associate professor, full-time professor and is responsible for the overall organisation of the Doctoral school.
The Director is elected by the Doctoral Course Coordinators of the Doctoral Board by an absolute majority of those eligible to vote on the first ballot, and by a majority of participants in the subsequent ballot. The Director is appointed by a decree from the Chancellor for a three-year term which can be renewed for another three years.

The post of Director is incompatible with that of course Coordinator.

Elections for a new Director must be held at least six months before the end of the mandate.

2. The Director:

- (2.1) convenes and chairs the Governing Council;
- (2.2) formulates proposals to the Governing Council on the organisation and functioning of the Doctoral school, optimum planning of courses on offer at the Doctoral school and their publicising nationally and internationally, stipulation of agreements with University Bodies and Institutions and national and international higher education bodies as well as establishment of Doctorates that provide for the issuing of a double or joint degree;
- (2.3) sends Governing Council proposals and resolutions to the Chancellor;
- (2.4) implements decisions of the Governing Council;
- (2.5) delegates tasks to Course Coordinators;
- (2.6) guarantees, in conjunction with the Course Coordinators, the meeting of timeframes regarding beginning and end of courses, as well as interim and final evaluations;
- (2.7) adopts urgent decisions with own provisions and submits them to the approval of the Governing Council within ten days.

Art. 15 - Governing Council of Doctoral School

1. The Governing Council is composed of the Director of the Doctoral School and Doctoral Course Coordinators.

2. The Governing Council is responsible for the direction, planning and coordination of the activities of the Doctoral School. The Council is also responsible for guaranteeing the operational connection among Doctoral School courses as well as the planning of common activities; it approves proposals on the distribution of scholarships allocated to the Doctoral School among the different courses; it prepares the regulation laid down by art. 9 paragraph 4; it forwards any requests for resources relative to motivated working needs of the Doctoral school to competent University organs; it deliberates on the use of funds allocated to the Doctoral School; it exercises all the other powers established in the Doctoral School regulation and required for the smooth functioning of the school.

Title IV - Regulation of courses

Art. 16 - Admission to courses

1. Admission to the Doctorate is carried out through a public selection process to be completed by the 30th of September of each year without prejudice to what is laid down in paragraph 2 of the present article. Applications can be presented, without nationality limitations, by graduates with an advanced degree (laurea magistrale) or suitable foreign qualification at the expiry date of the Call for applications, or by undergraduates who receive the required qualification for admission before the 31st of October of the same year. Failure to meet the aforementioned requirements will lead to automatic disqualification if selected. The suitability of the foreign qualification will be ascertained by the Doctoral Committee within the framework of existing rules in Italy and in the Country in which the qualification was attained and those laid down by relevant international treaties or agreements. Without prejudice to what is laid down in articles 21 and 22, the start of Doctoral courses will coincide with the start of the academic year.

In cases of EU and international collaboration projects, specific admission procedures and organisational modalities can be formulated to take account of the features of the single projects, provided that they are activated in the context of accredited Doctoral courses.

2. With a decree, the Chancellor shall issue the Call for Applications drawn up in Italian and English and publicised telematically on the appropriate section of the University website, the European website Euraxess and the Ministry website by June each year. The Call must indicate the criteria for admission and evaluation of qualifications as well as any written tests, including internationally recognised tests or oral tests provided for in each course or course curriculum.

If the Call provides for a quota of places reserved for foreign University graduates, or foreign scholarship holders or of specific international mobility programmes, the admission procedures can be differentiated and there can be separate rankings.

Reserved posts that are not allocated can be made available for procedures formulated in paragraph 1.

For Doctorates in collaboration with businesses, provisions laid down in article 22 will be applied.

3. The Call for Applications contains the following indications for each Doctoral course:

(3.1) number of posts;

(3.2) number of scholarships also in relation to the single curricula, if provided for, and the financing authorities of the scholarships if different from the University, as well as any apprenticeship contracts provided for by article 5 of legislative decree 14th September 2011, no. 167 and any other forms of financial support from research funds or other University resources including research grants according to article 22 of law no. 240 of 30th December 2010, that may be attributed to one or more candidates deemed to be suitable by the selection procedure as well as an indication of taxes and social security contributions to be paid by Doctoral students, taking account of legislation in force regarding the right to education;

(3.3) any supernumerary posts referred to in art. 8, paragraph 2;

(3.4) the amount of the scholarship;

(3.5) research themes for each course and/or curriculum;

(3.6) admission qualifications and comparative evaluation of candidates established for each course or course curriculum (qualifications; qualifications and exam; qualifications and interview);

(3.7) content of admission tests and details of how they will be carried out for each Doctoral course or course curriculum, where provided for;

(3.8) the location of the consortium universities premises with the respective number of posts;

(3.9) admission and attendance fees for those Doctoral students who do not have a scholarship.

4. Indications referred to in points (3.6) and (3.7) can be disclosed subsequent to the publication of the Call for Applications on the basis of what is laid down therein.

5. Candidates can apply for admission to no more than two courses or course curricula within one Doctoral School. If a candidate places well in both selection rankings, they must choose one.

Art. 17 - Nomination of Selection Boards for admission to Doctoral courses

1. On the proposal of the Doctoral Board, the Chancellor shall nominate by decree the Boards charged with the comparative evaluation of candidates. These Boards will be composed of at least three members of the teaching staff of each course; they can be joined by no more than two experts, who can also be foreign, from public or private research bodies.

For Doctorates organised in agreement or consortium with other bodies or structures, the Selection Board membership is laid down in the Agreement.

Art. 18 – Selection of PhD candidates

1. In accordance with the indications contained in the activation proposal, specific modes of selection of candidates can also be formulated for admission to single courses, or course curriculum and/or specific admission qualifications, always in compliance with the principles of transparency and speed of administrative procedures as well as the predetermination of evaluation criteria for candidates.
2. In the absence of specific provisions according to the previous paragraph, the candidates' selection will consist in the evaluation of the candidate's qualifications and a test based on theoretical and/or practical content and an interview (the selection is based on the candidate's previous qualifications and an entry test). The interview will consist in a discussion of the test and the illustration of the candidate's research activities of interest also on the basis of activities reported in the candidate's CV. Both tests will be considered passed if the candidate obtains at least 40 out of 60 in each one.
3. The candidate can decide to do the tests in one of the foreign languages indicated in the call for applications as well as telematically.
4. The tests aim to ascertain candidates' aptitudes for scientific research; the selection boards shall evaluate the tests through appropriate comparison.
5. The University ensures public access to all the documents regarding the selection procedure according to existing legislation.
6. The list of candidates and their ranking prepared by the Selection Boards as well as the relevant selection procedure documents will be approved by the 30th September of each year.
7. In case of equal merit the allocation of the scholarship is means tested. In case of equal merit unfunded PhD places are assigned to the youngest candidate.
8. If, once the procedures to assign scholarships are complete, one or two scholarships remain vacant, these will be allocated to suitable candidates in other courses through a resolution by the Doctoral Committee (Research and Technology Transfer Committee), or by the Doctoral school, where established, in cases in which scholarships remain vacant in Doctoral courses that adhere to the same Doctoral school.
This paragraph applies exclusively to scholarships entirely financed with Ministerial or University funds unless the financing authority expressly states otherwise.
9. Thereallocation of unfunded vacant PhD places will be undertaken according to the procedures laid down in the previous paragraph in relation to the reallocation of vacant scholarships.

Art. 19 - Regulations concerning the status of doctoral student and the conduction of courses

1. Admission to the Doctoral programme requires full-time commitment, without prejudice to the possibility of a specific discipline in relation to what is provided for by paragraph 4 and article 22.
2. As an integral part of their training programme Doctoral students may carry out tutoring activities for undergraduate students (both in degree and advanced degree courses) as well as complementary teaching activities (for no more than forty hours per academic year) and solely upon approval of the Doctoral Board. These activities do not increase the scholarship amount. Medicine Doctoral students can participate in clinical-assistance activities. After the third year no limit is applied.
3. Doctoral scholarships are subject to INPS (National Institute for Social Security) social security payment, the separate pension and welfare scheme according to article 2, paragraph 26 of Law 8 August 1995 no. 335 and subsequent modifications: one third of the cost is borne by the scholarship beneficiary and two thirds by the University administration. Doctoral students enjoy all associated rights.
4. Public employees who are admitted to Doctoral courses enjoy leaves of absence provided for by collective bargaining arrangements for the duration of the course, or, for employees under public law, a special leave for study purposes provided it is compatible with the needs of the administration as per article 2 Law no. 476 13th August 1984 and subsequent modifications, with or without grants and unless an explicit waiver is made only if they are registered in a Doctoral course for the first time, irrespective of the disciplinary field.
5. Measures provided for by Legislative Decree no. 68 of 29 March 2012 are extended to Doctoral students in the manner set out therein.
6. Female Doctoral students shall enjoy maternity protection provisions as laid down in the Labour Ministry Decree of 12 July 2007 published in Official Journal no. 247 of 23 October 2007.
7. Doctoral students are ensured representation on the Doctoral Board when teaching and organisational issues are being discussed as per Art. 12.
8. Registered Medical Specialisation course students at the University of Genoa can be admitted to a joint attendance of the Doctoral Course at the same university, if they win the admission selection, but only in the last year of their specialization programme and if this joint attendance is compatible with the activity and commitment laid down by the school and only upon authorisation of the Doctoral Board of the same school.

The Doctoral Course Doctoral Board can allow a request to reduce a Doctoral course to a minimum of two years following the evaluation of research already carried out during a medical specialisation course and attested by the specialisation school.

Students who attend both a Doctoral course and a specialization course will not receive a Doctoral scholarship for the duration of the joint attendance.

9. Supernumerary doctoral students who hold foreign scholarships with a start date following 1st November may request the postponement of the course for no more than six months.

10. Doctoral students may be included in research activities carried out by the University provided they are congruent with their course and subject to the approval of the competent Doctoral Board.

11. At the beginning of the course, all Doctoral students are allocated at least one postgraduate tutor who is a university lecturer. If the tutor is not a member of the Doctoral Board, he or she shall be party to all meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity.

12. The University promotes training periods for Doctoral students in Italy and abroad in order to attain a more complete training experience.

13. The University promotes forms of consultancy and cooperation with public and private bodies interested in specific Doctoral research themes in order to offer professional opportunities to doctoral candidates.

14. After consulting the Doctoral Board, the Chancellor can authorise the suspension of the course for periods relative to the following documented cases: (a) maternity leave; (b) paternity leave; (c) illness. The course can also be suspended to attend an Active Educational Traineeship in the same place as well as, in particular cases, to attend a University Master's Degree course. Students who have had to suspend their doctoral course will be allowed to catch up at the end of the cycle and shall take their final exam with Doctoral students from the following cycle.

15. At the end of each year, a detailed written report on the activities they have carried out is presented by the Doctoral students to the Doctoral Board. The Board can request that the report be discussed according to established modalities. After consulting the PhD's student tutor, the Doctoral Board decides on the admission of Doctoral students to the subsequent year or to the final exam; if results are deemed insufficient, the Board proposes to the Chancellor that the the Doctoral student be excluded from continuing their course of studies.

Art. 20 - Doctoral scholarships

1. Scholarships, the minimum amount of which is established by national law, are disbursed in monthly instalments.

2. Doctoral scholarships have a duration of one year and they are renewed annually after students have passed a test whose result is attested by the Doctoral Board and that demonstrates that the research activities planned in the previous year have been carried out smoothly and fruitfully.

3. The amount of Doctoral scholarships may be increased by 50% for an overall period of no more than 18 months if the Doctoral student is authorised by the Doctoral Board to undertake research activities abroad.

4. Starting from the second year into their Doctoral course, each Doctoral student is guaranteed, in addition to a Doctoral scholarship, extra funding for research activities in Italy and abroad, whose amount will be no less than 10% of the amount of the Doctoral scholarship. If the Doctoral student does not receive a positive evaluation in relation to the renewal of the Doctoral scholarship, or they give it up, the unused amount of the scholarship can be used by the University for the same purposes.

5. To maintain apprenticeship contracts and other forms of financial support as per article 16, paragraph 3.2, in the course years subsequent to the first, the same principles used for the maintenance of Doctoral scholarships laid down by paragraph 1 is applied.

6. The principles laid down by this article do not apply to scholarship holders from foreign countries or beneficiaries of financial support in the context of specific mobility programmes in relation to what is provided for by the specific regulations.

7. Doctoral scholarship beneficiaries who withdraw from the Doctoral course maintain the right to receive the scholarship proportionally with the period of activity on condition that the Doctoral Board attests that the research undertaken up to the time of withdrawal has been fruitful.

8. Suspension of the course for a duration of more than 30 days will lead to a suspension of payment of the scholarship.

9. The simultaneous use of other scholarships is forbidden, with the exception of scholarships received from Italian or foreign institutions and which are useful to supplement training or research activities abroad.

10. Doctoral scholarship beneficiaries are exempt from payment of admission fees to attend Doctoral courses.

Art. 21 - Doctorates in agreement with foreign institutions

In order to efficiently coordinate research activities of a high level internationally, Doctoral courses with foreign Universities and research bodies of recognised advanced qualification internationally can be activated subject to accreditation in line with the general principle of reciprocity on the basis of agreements that provide for the genuine sharing of training and research activities, fair sharing of the burden, regulation modes of financial support, modes of exchange and mobility of teaching staff and Doctoral students as well as the issuing of joint, double or multiple doctoral qualifications.

The rules governing the above-mentioned courses are found in the relative institutional documents notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation, without prejudice to the accreditation requirements.

Art. 22. Doctorates in collaboration with companies, advanced learning industrial Doctorates and apprenticeships

1. Doctoral courses can be activated in agreement with companies that carry out research and development activities subject to ministerial accreditation.

2. Industrial Doctoral courses can also be activated with the possibility of allocating some available places, on the basis of specific agreements, to company employees involved in highly qualified activities who, having passed the selection process, are admitted to the Doctoral programme.

3. Agreements activating the courses referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 establish, among other things, ways in which research activities will be carried out at the company as well as the breakdown of the overall employee obligations and the duration of the Doctoral course.

4. It is however still possible to activate doctoral apprenticeships with external institutions and companies (as per article 5 of legislative decree no. 167 14th September 2011). Apprenticeship contracts as well as places activated on the basis of agreements according to paragraph 1 and 2 are considered equivalent to Doctoral scholarships for the purpose of calculating the minimum number of posts necessary to activate a course.

5. Considering the specific nature of Doctoral courses referred to in paragraph 1 and 2, different deadlines may apply in relation to admission applications and the beginning of the course as well as the organisation of teaching activities of Doctoral students so as to guarantee the optimal running of the Doctorate.

Art. 23 – Doctoral awards

1. The qualification of Research Doctor or PhD (Dott.Ric.) is awarded following a positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to advancing knowledge and methodology in the chosen field.

2. The application to take the final exam must contain the Doctoral thesis title and must be accompanied by a resolution of the Doctoral Board stating that the applicant is allowed to discuss their thesis.

3. Doctoral candidates must submit their Doctoral thesis, written in either Italian, English or another language subject to the authorisation of the Doctoral Board, to the competent Board together with a report on activities undertaken during the Doctoral course, as well as any publications, by 31st January of the year subsequent to the conclusion of the three-year cycle. The Board then sends the thesis and the report to two highly qualified external university lecturers, hereinafter called Evaluators, who can also be from foreign institutions. The Board invites the Evaluators to express an analytical assessment of the thesis within sixty days of receiving it and to propose admission of the thesis to a public defence or postponement for a period of no more than six months, should significant integrations or corrections be deemed necessary. After this period of deferment and having received a new assessment from the Evaluators, the Board admits the thesis for defence and establishes a date. The disbursement of the scholarship will cease at the end of the course-period indicated in the Call for Applications.

4. The Public thesis defence will take place in the presence of a Panel of Examiners nominated for each course or course curriculum by the Chancellor on the proposal of the Doctoral Board by the month of May subsequent to the conclusion of the cycle. The Panel of Examiners is composed of: (a) at least three lecturers, as well as (b) two substitutes chosen among lecturers specifically qualified in the disciplines pertaining to the scientific areas of the course or the curriculum.

The examiners may be joined by no more than two experts from either Italian or foreign public or private research structures whose availability has been determined in advance by the Doctoral Board.

Mission expenses and any other costs incurred by the examiners shall be borne by the Departments that propose the Doctoral courses.

5. The work of the examiners may take place over several exam sessions according to the indications of the Doctoral Board. The first or single exam session must be held within 60 days of the date of the Chancellor's nomination decree. Further sessions must be held within 120 days of the decree. If the Panel of Examiners fails

to respect the terms established for fulfilling its tasks, the Panel forfeits the task and the Chancellor nominates a new Panel. Any resignations, which will be accepted only for serious reasons, will be considered effective only when the Chancellor accepts them.

6. Doctoral candidates must send a copy of their thesis to the members of the Panel of Examiners whose names will be given to them by the Coordinator within an established time limit; two copies of the thesis must be handed in to the competent office of the University.

7. After the defence, the thesis is approved or rejected through a motivated collegial assessment. The Panel of Examiners may attribute a cum laude assessment with a unanimous vote if the results are of particular scientific importance.

The thesis defence must take place within 12 months of concluding the course.

8. If the Doctoral thesis is published, it must include the following: "Thesis submitted for assessment with a view to obtaining the Doctoral Degree in at the Doctoral course of the University of Genoa".

9. The Doctoral degree is awarded once the final exam is passed. The date is communicated to candidates at least 10 days before the award.

10. Within thirty days of the defence and approval of the thesis, an electronic copy must be deposited in the Ministerial data bank. If authorised by the Doctoral Board, parts of the thesis may be made unavailable in relation to the use of data covered by industrial secrecy according to existing legislation.

Another copy of the thesis is deposited at the National Library in Rome and Florence as well as the relevant Library service centre.

Art. 24 - Postponement to a subsequent session

1. In cases of suspension for reasons under art. 19, paragraph 14, the Doctoral student can take the final exam subject to the favourable opinion of the Doctoral Board in its first possible meeting.

Art. 25 – Certification of Doctor Europaeus and International Doctorate

1. On the request of the Doctoral student and subject to the opinion of the Doctoral Board, the University may issue the certification of Doctor Europaeus in addition to the national title of the relative Doctorate if the following minimal conditions are met:

- the final thesis defence must be carried out subject to the presentation of two positive reports on the thesis by professors or researchers from two Universities of the European Union different from the one where the thesis is being defended.
- at least one member of the Panel of Examiners must belong to an academic or research institution of a European country different from the one in which the thesis is being defended;
- part of the thesis defence must take place in one of the official languages of the Union that is different from that of the country in which the thesis is being defended;
- part of the research presented in the thesis must have been carried out during a stay of at least three months in a European Union country different from that of the Doctoral student's.

2. If the same conditions have been met in relation to foreign lecturers, and the Doctoral student has carried out part of their research during a stay of at least three months in a foreign country, the Doctoral student can request the certification of International Doctorate.

Art. 26 -Transitional and final rules

1. The "Regulation of Research Doctoral Schools" emanated with D.R. no. 1199 22/1/2007 and subsequent modifications and integrations, is hereby abrogated with the exception of articles 18, 19, 20, 22 that continue to apply transitionally and until the conclusion of their studies to those students registered in active Doctoral courses on the date of entry into force of the present regulation.

2. Students who are already registered in Doctoral courses on the date of entry into force of the present regulation who have the requirements referred to in art. 7 of DM 8 February 2013 can present a request under art. 19 paragraph 8, second sentence.

3. For Doctoral students registered in a cycle prior to the 32nd, if, at the end of the three-year period there are grounds for follow-up of research necessary for drafting the Doctoral thesis, the Chancellor, on the motivated proposal of the Doctoral Board, can grant the Doctoral student an extension of no more than 12 months and, in exceptional cases, of a further 12 months.

4. The allocation of the Doctoral scholarship will cease in any case on the course expiry date indicated in the Call for applications.