

REGULATIONS ON DOCTORATE RESEARCH

Terms referring to persons that appear only in the masculine form in these regulations refer to both male and female persons. Gender-inclusive formulations have been avoided to preserve the clarity and simplicity of the text.

PART I GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Art. 1 - Purpose and scope of the application

1. The University of Foggia organizes PhD programmes in all forms, with the purpose of providing the necessary skills to carry out highly qualified research activities at universities, public institutions, or private organizations. The PhD programmes also facilitate access to careers in public administration and support the development of highly innovative professional courses.
2. The PhD programmes, in accordance with the principles and guidelines shared at European level, enable candidates to:
 - a) independently conceive, design, implement and adapt research or innovation programmes;
 - b) conduct critical analyses, evaluations, and syntheses of new and complex ideas and processes across research institutions, manufacturing sectors, public administration and in the field of self-employed professions;
 - c) contribute, through the acquisition of new scientific and interdisciplinary skills, to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and their integration into European policies;
 - d) support the development of the European Research and Higher Education Area, in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines for quality assurance.
3. To achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1, on the basis of the "Principles for an innovative doctoral training" approved at European level, the PhD programmes:
 - a) pursue the advancement of knowledge through training in basic and applied research, as well as excellence based on academic standards established through peer review procedures;
 - b) are conducted within an attractive and intellectually stimulating institutional environment, enabling PhD students to acquire autonomy and responsibilities that are essential for their future professional careers;
 - c) promote interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary training opportunities, including in non-academic sectors such as the industrial sector, public administration, services, and cultural institutions, with the involvement of experts in training activities;
 - d) strengthen transnational and international relations in the field of research, through joint doctoral programmes and co-supervision arrangements. In addition, they ensure, in accordance with the research project of the PhD student, periods of research abroad of a duration appropriate to the PhD programme;
 - e) promote the acquisition of transferable skills to support their application and development in both scientific and professional contexts;
 - f) are implemented within a dedicated quality assurance system, which is different from that applied to the first and second cycles of university education. They aim to improve the quality of the research and ensure transparent procedures for the admission, supervision, degree awarding, and professional development of PhD students.

4. To this end, the University establishes PhD programmes with administrative headquarters on its premises (University PhD programmes); it may also join agreements or consortia aimed at establishing PhD programmes, in compliance with current legislation.

5. These regulations govern the PhD programmes established by the University of Foggia, as well as the University's participation in PhD programmes created under agreements or consortia, pursuant to Article 2 of these regulations. The PhD programmes established by the University of Foggia may adopt their own regulations, including implementing and supplementary provisions, in compliance with these regulations and any other applicable legislation. The regulations are approved by the Senate, upon proposal of the Academic Board and after consultation with the Department to which the PhD programme is administratively affiliated.

6. The regulations of PhD programmes offered under an agreement or consortium—including the type of qualifications awarded, the admission procedures, and the intermediate and final assessments—are defined by agreements between the parties involved, including for those programmes administered by the University of Foggia.

7. Professors from other universities may participate in a PhD programme at the University of Foggia, subject to approval by the Academic Board responsible for the programme.

8. Teaching activities that are offered by PhD programmes of the University of Foggia, or through its participation in other programmes, may be recognized for the purpose of fulfilling the teaching obligations of the professors and researchers of the University. Professors and researchers of the University of Foggia may also participate, in a personal capacity, in PhD programmes offered by other universities, including foreign institutions, subject to the prior approval of their respective Departments.

Art. 2 - Types of PhD programmes

1. University PhD courses, in the forms permitted by current legislation, may be part of a university or inter-university Doctoral School.

2. Universities may request the accreditation of courses and their respective locations also on an associated basis, through agreements or consortia, which may serve as the administrative seat of the courses, with one or more of the following entities:

- a) other Italian or foreign universities, with the possibility of awarding a multiple or joint final degree;
- b) public or private research institutions, Italian or foreign, possessing high cultural and scientific qualifications and equipped with suitable scientific facilities;
- c) institutions referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Law No. 508 of 21 December 1999, accredited pursuant to Article 15 of these regulations, with the possibility of issuing a multiple or joint final qualification;
- d) companies, including foreign ones, that carry out qualified research and development activities;
- d) public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international importance, for the implementation of specific research and development or innovation programmes.

Art. 3 - Requirements for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations

1. PhD programmes with administrative headquarters at the University of Foggia may be activated subject to accreditation in accordance with the current regulations. Accreditation may also be requested for individual curricula, where applicable.

2. Accreditation proposals must in all cases comply with the requirements established by the competent evaluating and accreditation bodies, with specific reference to the following aspects:

a) Compliance with the following criteria regarding the composition of the Academic Board, taking gender balance into account wherever possible:

1a) The PhD Research Committee is composed of a minimum of twelve members. At least half of the Committee members must be full or associate professors, while the remainder must be tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the case of PhD programmes associated with public research institutions, may also include researchers holding the positions of research directors, researchers, or senior researchers at those institutions, preserving the minimum number of professors. In all cases, researchers who belong to the Academic Board of the PhD programme must possess a scientific qualification, certified according to the requirements established by current legislation, for the position of Associate Professor. Professors who belong to the Academic Board of the PhD programme must possess a scientific qualification, certified according to the requirements established for the position they hold;

2a) Members of PhD committees from foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum requirements established by current regulations for the position of Associate Professor;

3a) The coordinator of the PhD programme must possess a high scientific qualification, certified based on the requirements established by current regulations for the position of full professor;

4a) In addition to the provisions of points 1a, 2a, and 3a, up to one-third of the total composition of the Academic Board may consist of experts who do not belong to universities or public research institutions, provided that they possess a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in research areas consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD programme;

b) The number of PhD scholarships. To this end, it is necessary that:

1b) for each cycle of PhD programmes to be activated, an average of at least four scholarships per PhD programme must be available, excluding from the count the scholarships assigned to PhD programmes established under agreements or consortia, provided that the number of scholarships for any single PhD programme is not less than three;

2b) in the case of PhD programmes established pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021, by two entities, each must fund at least two scholarships; if there are more than two institutions, the institution serving as the administrative headquarters of the programme must fund at least two scholarships, and each other institution must fund at least one.

c) there is adequate and stable funding for the sustainability of the PhD programme, with specific reference to the availability of scholarships and support for the activity of each PhD student;

d) specific and qualified operational and scientific facilities are available, enabling PhD students to carry out their research, adequate for the number of scholarships provided, including, in relation to the specific nature of the course, healthcare facilities, scientific laboratories, adequate library resources, databases and electronic computing resources;

e) advanced research and high-level training activities are offered, including seminar-type activities, or those carried out in laboratories or research infrastructures of European level and interest;

f) interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary training activities are provided (including those shared between multiple PhD programmes), including language and IT courses, as well as activities in the fields of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, valorisation and dissemination of results, intellectual property and open access to research data and products, and fundamental principles of ethics and integrity;

g) a quality assurance system is in place, for designing and managing doctoral training in compliance with the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as indicated by ANVUR. The Ministry, following proposals made by ANVUR and taking into account, in particular, the general guidelines for the university system and the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), periodically updates the indicators for the

accreditation and evaluation of PhD programmes and the related guidelines.

3. The Quality Assurance system for PhD programmes is designed to monitor and improve the quality of the research and doctoral training by encouraging the participation of PhD students in study and research activities. The quality assurance system is divided into four phases: initial planning, annual self-assessment, annual planning, and periodic review. The implementation methods are governed by specific Guidelines developed by the University Quality Committee.

Art. 4 - Accreditation and participation proposals

1. The accreditation system consists of the initial authorization to activate doctoral courses and the accreditation of the locations where they are held, as well as the periodic verification of the continued fulfilment of the required requisites for these purposes, in accordance with the procedures set out in these regulations.

2. The application for accreditation, submitted to the Ministry and accompanied by documentation certifying the fulfilment of the requirements set out in Article 3, specifies the maximum number of positions for which accreditation is requested. The application may also include individual curricula from previously accredited PhD programmes.

3. The Ministry transmits the application to ANVUR within twenty days of its receipt. ANVUR issues a reasoned opinion regarding the accreditation requirements within sixty days of receiving the application, including a ten-day deadline within which the applicant may submit any observations or clarifications, at ANVUR's request.

By decree of the Minister, adopted in accordance with the opinion of ANVUR, a decision is made regarding the application for accreditation. The application is processed by a Ministerial Decree, adopted with the approval of ANVUR. The accreditation decree is sent to the applicant and the related evaluating body.

4. Accreditation of premises and courses is valid for five years. In addition to the monitoring and periodic evaluation referred to in paragraph 5, accreditation is reviewed for the purposes of its confirmation or revocation in cases of changes to the title of the programme or to the composition of the teaching committee, exceeding twenty-five percent compared to the initial composition of the related cycle, or to the programme coordinator, provided that each member of the committee continues to meet the requirements established in Article 3.

5. Periodic monitoring and evaluation activities verify the continued fulfilment of the accreditation requirements for PhD programmes as per Article 3. These activities are carried out by ANVUR, which, to this end, based on the results of the monitoring activities conducted by the internal evaluating bodies of the accredited institutions, may also arrange on-site visits by external experts to ascertain the adequacy of the structural facilities of the courses.

6. The failure to meet one or more of the required criteria entails the revocation of accreditation, ordered by ministerial decree, following the binding opinion of ANVUR. The recipient of the revocation must immediately suspend the activation of new cycles of the PhD programmes, without prejudice to the completion of the programmes underway.

Art. 5 - Awarding of PhD scholarships

1. The Board of Directors determines the total amount of university funding for the awarding of PhD scholarships, as well as any additional financial contributions to support the research activities of each PhD student and to cover the operating costs of the PhD programmes. This also includes programmes

conducted under an agreement or consortium arrangement that do not have their administrative headquarters at the University of Foggia, taking into account the limits of available financial resources and considering the opinion of the Senate.

2. Scholarship funding costs, including tuition and course fees, not covered by funds allocated by Ministerial Decrees pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 3 of Law No. 210/98, or otherwise arising from the university budget, may be covered by the university through agreements with entities outside the university administration.

3. The funds available are allocated by the Board of Directors to individual PhD programmes, following a reasoned proposal from the Academic Senate and taking into account the evaluation carried out by the competent bodies regarding the fulfilment of the requirements for accreditation pursuant to Ministerial Decree 226/2021. In the event of a tie in the evaluation process, resources will be allocated as a priority to PhD programmes whose administrative headquarters are at the University of Foggia during the three-year period, or which, in any case, provide for the awarding of a joint degree.

Art. 6 - Establishment of PhD courses

1. The Rector, following proposals from the Departments, and subject to the approval of the University Scientific Committee and the resolutions of the Senate and the Board of Directors on matters within their respective jurisdictions, following Ministerial accreditation, establishes and activates the PhD programmes located at the University of Foggia by decree.

2. PhD courses last at least three years, except as provided for in Article 7 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021.

3. The University may organize PhD programmes in Doctoral Schools, which are responsible for coordinating the programmes and managing joint activities. In the cases referred to in this paragraph, ownership of the programmes and accreditation of the programmes and Doctoral Schools remains with the University.

Art. 7 - PhD programmes with administrative headquarters at another university

1. Upon resolution of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors for matters within their respective competences, the Rector enters into agreements and establishes consortia, as referred to in Article 2, paragraph 2 of these regulations, aimed at the establishment of PhD programmes whose administrative headquarters are not located at the University of Foggia.

Art. 8 - PhD programmes established in agreement with foreign institutions—joint supervision of the thesis

1. In order to effectively coordinate high-level international research activities, the University of Foggia may, subject to accreditation, establish PhD programmes with foreign universities and research institutions of high qualification and recognized international standing, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity, based on agreements, including joint supervision of dissertations. Such agreements must provide for actual sharing of educational and research activities, equitable distribution of responsibilities, arrangements for financial support, procedures for the exchange and mobility of faculty and PhD students, and the awarding of a joint, double, or multiple degree.

2. Co-supervision of a thesis allows a PhD student, enrolled at the University of Foggia or at foreign

universities, to prepare their PhD thesis by carrying out research both at their home university and at a partner university.

3. Co-supervision of a thesis allows a PhD student, at the end of the programme, to defend his or her thesis in a single location and, following the discussion and a favourable report from the examining committee, to obtain a double PhD degree, recognized in the two countries that stipulated the agreement.

4. The agreement specifies the terms of the arrangement in accordance with the following conditions:

- enrolment at the home university entails simultaneous enrolment at the participating university, without additional fees (or as otherwise specified in the agreement);
 - the participating university provides the PhD student with the necessary educational and research facilities and guarantees access to the services offered to its own PhD students;
 - the doctoral student carries out their study and research activities at both the universities for approximately equivalent periods;
 - the final examination, including the dissertation defence, is conducted before the examining committee, which is supplemented by a member of the faculty from the participating university;
- each of the two institutions will award the doctoral degree for the same dissertation, in compliance with the regulations in force in the respective countries and in accordance with the rules of the participating universities; the doctoral degree awarded will be designated as a “jointly supervised thesis” with the partner university.
- **5.** In the event that the co-tutorship agreement is signed between the Italian University and one of the following European countries:
- Spain
 - France
 - Switzerland
 - Germany

The relevant legislation is that relating to the CRUI agreements.

6. The PhD programmes for which the University serves as the administrative headquarters may admit, even beyond the maximum number of available positions, students from foreign PhD programmes for the co-supervision of their theses.

7. PhD students wishing to initiate a joint thesis supervision programme must submit a specific request to the Higher Education and Advanced Studies Area and the PhD programme Academic Board, no later than the first semester of the second year. The Academic Board must decide whether to accept the request.

Art. 9 - Industrial doctorate and apprenticeship

1. The University, upon initial accreditation or subsequently, may request recognition of the "Industrial Doctorate", even as part of the title, for PhD programmes activated on the basis of agreements or consortia that also include entities referred to in Article 2, paragraph 2, letter d), which carry out research and development activities.

2. The agreements referred to in paragraph 1 regulate:

- a) the methods of coordination of research activities between the parties;
- b) the procedures for conducting research activities at the company, as well as, with regard to positions possibly held by company employees, the distribution of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the PhD programme;

c) the incentive mechanisms to promote technology transfer and the development of research results by the associated companies.

2. The research topics characterizing the Industrial Doctorate programme place particular emphasis on promoting economic development and the productive system, facilitating joint planning in relation to the research topics and the PhD students' activities.

3. Calls for admission to Industrial Doctorate programmes, in accordance with the guidelines established at the European level and with the development strategies of the national system, as well as in compliance with the principles set out in Article 1, may:

a) indicate specific requirements for carrying out research activities, such as interdisciplinarity and membership of international networks, with particular reference to the business sector;

b) allocate a portion of the available positions to employees of affiliated companies or organizations engaged in highly qualified activities, who are admitted to the Doctorate following the successful completion of the selection process.

4. In any case, the option under Article 45 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of June 15, 2015, to activate apprenticeship contracts aimed at training for the Industrial Doctorate, remains unaffected, while still ensuring the prevalence of research activity. Such apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to PhD scholarships for the purposes of counting the minimum number required to activate the programme.

Art. 10 - Doctorates of National Interest

1. The Ministry promotes the implementation of PhD programmes of national interest and establishes co-financing arrangements.

2. A PhD course is defined as being of national interest if it meets the following requirements:

a) It contributes demonstrably to the progress of research, including by achieving specific objectives in the priority areas of intervention of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including those related to the enhancement of innovative doctoral courses for public administration and cultural heritage, or of the National Research Programme or related National Plans;

b) During the accreditation phase, it provides for the stipulation of agreements or the establishment of consortia between several universities, as well as with highly qualified and internationally recognized research institutions, including foreign ones. These agreements ensure the effective sharing of training and research activities, define the methods for regulating financial support, establish the procedures for the exchange and mobility of professors and PhD students, and outline possible forms of co-supervision

c) It provides, during the accreditation phase, for the coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four entities referred to in Article 2, paragraph 2, to create highly qualified training courses and allow access to research infrastructures suitable for the implementation of PhD students' research projects;

d) It provides, for each PhD cycle, at least thirty scholarships, each of an amount determined pursuant to the Ministerial Decree. It is understood that the amount allocated for supporting PhD students' research and training activities is increased, through ministerial co-financing, by an amount equal to twenty percent of the scholarship;

3. The entities referred to in paragraph 2, letter c), assign scholarships for the Doctorate of National Interest, following evaluation of the candidates by a committee formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of foreign members or members external to the affiliated entities;

4. To participate in Doctorates of National Interest, Departments follow the procedural process established in Article 7, paragraph 1.

Art. 11 - University Scientific Committee. Student Advocate

1. The Scientific Committee exercises the powers established by the current General University regulations concerning PhD programmes.
2. The Student Ombudsman serves as guarantor for students enrolled on the PhD programmes established by the University of Foggia.

PART II ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Art. 12 - Access to the PhD programme

1. Admission to the PhD programme is based on a public selection process, held at least once a year.
2. Applications may be submitted, without any citizenship restrictions, by those holding an Italian degree under the old system, a specialist/master's degree specified in the call for applications, or a suitable equivalent foreign qualification. Applications may also be submitted by those who will obtain the required qualification by the PhD enrolment date; otherwise, admission will be forfeited.
3. The suitability of a foreign qualification is verified by the PhD selection committee, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for further studies.

Art. 13 - Call for applications

1. The call for applications, written in Italian and English, is published for at least thirty days on the University website, the European Euraxess website, and the Ministry website. The call for applications specifies the admission and evaluation criteria, any written tests, including internationally recognized tests, as well as the selection process, which may include the presentation and discussion of a research project. Qualifications and all documents may also be submitted in English or another language deemed essential for the specific field of the PhD programme, as indicated in the call for applications.
2. A share of the scholarships and other forms of funding may be reserved for candidates who obtained the qualification required for admission to the PhD programme at foreign universities. If the call for applications provides for a quota of positions reserved for graduates of foreign universities, or for scholarship holders from foreign states or specific international mobility programmes, the accredited institutions may establish differentiated admission procedures and, in such cases, will prepare a separate ranking list. Any reserved positions not assigned may be made available for the selection procedure referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The call for applications specifies the number of scholarships and any other forms of financial support, drawn from research funds or other University resources, that may be awarded to one or more candidates who have passed the selection process. The call also specifies the fees and contributions to be paid by PhD students, also taking into account the provisions of current legislation on the right to education.
4. Any positions without scholarship may be established in compliance with the ratio of one unfunded position for every three funded positions.
5. In the case of community or international collaborative projects, specific admission procedures and

organizational arrangements may be provided, taking into account the characteristics of each project, provided they are implemented within accredited PhD programmes.

6. In the case of scholarships funded by a company or third-party body for a specific research topic, separate ranking lists may be established.

Art. 14 - Appointment and composition of the committee

1. The Committee for the admission to PhD programmes administratively based at the University is appointed by the respective Board of Professors and officially named by Rector's Decree, taking into account, wherever possible, gender balance.
2. The Committees are composed of at least three members and an equal number of substitute members, chosen from among tenured or emeritus university professors and researchers, including foreign ones, in the competitive sector or sectors or scientific-disciplinary subjects of the course.
3. At least two of the three members must be Full, Associate or Emeritus University Professors.
4. In the case of PhD programmes run in collaboration with public or private entities, or offering scholarships tied to specific research topics funded by external bodies, the selection committees may be supplemented with an expert from each such entity, who may provide their evaluation only regarding candidates presenting a research project related to the scholarship funded by their respective entity.
5. The chair of the committee is the most senior Full Professor or Emeritus Professor in service, and in the case of equal seniority, it is the oldest by age. In the absence of Full Professors, the chair is the most senior Associate Professor, and in case of equal seniority, it is the oldest by age. The Chair designates the member who will serve as Secretary.
6. If a member of the Committee resigns with justification, the substitute member from the same sector or scientific-disciplinary sector of the resigning member automatically assumes the position, without further formalities and on a permanent basis.
7. Before the start of the selection and after reviewing the list of applicants, the members of the Committee must declare, under their own responsibility, that no situations of incompatibility exist between themselves and the candidates, pursuant to Articles 51 and 52 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Art. 15 – Work Schedule of the Committee

1. The exam schedule may be set forth in the call for applications or determined by the Committee, provided that the competent office is notified at least 20 days before the scheduled date. The office will then publish the dates on the University's online notice board and on the University website in the section dedicated to PhD programmes.

Art. 16 - Exams

1. The selection process must ensure an appropriate comparative evaluation of candidates and must take into account the provisions of the call for applications. The Committee, at its first meeting, establishes the criteria and methods for evaluating qualifications and exams, recording these in the relevant minutes.
2. As provided in the call for applications, the selection is based on the evaluation of qualifications and written tests, the candidate's CV, a research project proposed by the candidate and relevant to one of the PhD programme's scientific-disciplinary areas, an interview, which may be held in English

at the candidate's request, and a test of English proficiency. For foreign candidates, the interview may also be conducted online using compatible platforms, if expressly provided for in the call for applications. Candidates may, if necessary, submit a letter of reference from highly qualified experts with documented experience in the specific area of the proposed research project.

3. Written tests are carried out in accordance with the general regulations governing access to employment in public administrations and in compliance with the procedures applicable to public examinations.

4. Based on the evaluation of qualifications, the Committee may award each candidate up to 60 points for qualifications (including, where applicable, the CV, research project, and/or reference letters) and up to 60 points for the tests (including the interview). If the Committee decides to assess the test results differently, each candidate may be awarded up to 20 points.

5. At the end of the selection process, the Committee prepares a ranking list based on the scores obtained by the candidates in the evaluation of their qualifications and tests.

Art. 17 - Approval of documents and admission to the PhD programme

1. At the conclusion of the selection, the Committee, based on the scores achieved by each candidate in the exams, draws up a ranking list for admission to the PhD programme.

2. Candidates are admitted to the courses according to the order established in the ranking list, until all available positions for each PhD programme have been filled. If a candidate appears on more than one ranking list, they must choose only one of the programmes to which they have been admitted and proceed with enrolment.

3. In the case of positions with scholarships or equivalent funding for a specific topic, the Committee will award these scholarships to the most suitable candidates in the ranking list, based on the research topics.

4. The Rector, by decree, approves the documents and the ranking list for admission to each PhD programme and establishes the enrolment deadlines.

5. The documents are public; access to them is permitted in accordance with the applicable legislation.

6. In the event of withdrawal by an eligible candidate before the start of the course or failure to enrol within the established deadlines, the first eligible candidate in the ranking list will be admitted in their place.

7. In the event that a successful candidate withdraws or is excluded after the start of the programme, and in any case within the first quarter of the first year, the Academic Board of the PhD programme will evaluate the possibility of filling the vacant position with another suitable candidate from the ranking list, also taking into account the research topics.

Art. 18 - Award of the scholarship

1. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of a comparative evaluation of merit and in accordance with the order established in the ranking list. In the event of equal merit, priority is given to the candidate in the less advantageous economic situation. In the event of further equal merit, preference shall be given to the younger candidate, pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 9, of Law No. 191, of 16 June 1998.

2. The scholarship is awarded exclusively to PhD students whose annual taxable income does not exceed the annual amount of the doctoral scholarship, as defined by ministerial regulations. Upon acceptance of the scholarship, recipients must not exceed the aforementioned income limit for each year of the PhD programme. This income limit includes income from property as well as any other

type of emolument, including occasional income. For the purposes of this provision, income refers to the tax period of the calendar year in which the scholarship is predominantly used. Compliance with this requirement is verified annually. Exceeding the income limit entails the loss of entitlement to the scholarship and the obligation to return any monthly payments already received in the year in which the requirement was not met.

3. It is not possible to hold multiple scholarships simultaneously, even if awarded from different sources, with the exception of scholarships awarded by national or foreign institutions intended to supplement training or research through a period of study abroad. In such cases, the amount of the scholarship will not be increased for periods spent abroad.

4. Candidates who have already benefited, even in part, from a scholarship for attendance of another PhD programme or of a programme deemed equivalent (whether at the University of Foggia or elsewhere) are not eligible to receive an additional PhD scholarship.

PART III

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PhD STUDENTS

Art. 19 - Rights and Duties

1. Admission to the PhD programme entails an exclusive, full-time commitment, subject to the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 2, letter b. PhD students ensure attendance in accordance with the guidelines established by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. PhD students are required to regularly attend the PhD programme and complete the training and research programme agreed upon with their supervisor and approved by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. All study and research activities must be carried out in the designated facilities and according to the procedures established by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. At the end of each academic year, PhD students must submit an oral or written report on the activities and research undertaken to the Academic Board of the PhD programme. PhD students must also comply with any other provisions established by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The Academic Board of the PhD programme, in accordance with the procedures established by University regulations, may authorize PhD students to undertake paid activities. Such activities must allow them to acquire skills related to the educational area of the PhD programme and must be compatible with the proper completion of the training, teaching, and research requirements of the PhD programme.

2. Each PhD student, whether holding a scholarship or not, is expected to carry out research and training activities, consistent with their project, at highly qualified institutions abroad.

3. As an integral part of the training programme, PhD students can perform tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, for students in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, provided that prior approval is obtained from the Academic Board of the PhD programme and the supervisor is consulted. These activities will not increase the amount of the scholarship. PhD students can also perform supplementary teaching activities, up to a maximum of forty hours per academic year. For the activities referred to in this article, PhD students receive the grants specified in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b) of Legislative Decree No. 105, of May 9, 2003, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 170, of July 11, 2003. Participation in teaching collaboration is optional and does not confer any rights regarding access to tenure at Italian universities.

4. Public employees admitted to PhD programmes are entitled, for the normal duration of the programme, to leave of absence as provided by collective bargaining agreements, or, for employees under public law, to extraordinary leave for study purposes, compatible with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Article 2 of Law No. 476, of August 13, 1984, and subsequent

amendments. This leave may be granted with or without pay and is only available if not explicitly waived. It applies exclusively to employees enrolled on a PhD programme for the first time, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to a budget for research activities conducted in Italy and abroad, as specified in Article 22, paragraph 3, remains unaffected.

5. Students enrolled on the PhD programme who hold a tenured research position or a scholarship or research grant may complete their training by renouncing their PhD scholarship.

6. Except for the cases referred to in the previous paragraphs 4 and 5, if PhD students work, the evaluation of the compatibility with the fulfilment of the obligations required for PhD training is delegated to the Academic Board of the PhD programme.

7. PhD students are required to complete the "Questionnaire on the satisfaction of first- and second-year PhD students" to be admitted to the following year of the PhD programme. They must also complete the Almalaurea survey to be admitted to the final exam.

8. Starting from the 41st cycle, academic year 2025/2026, each PhD student must access the University Research Catalogue (IRIS) and enter data related to their scientific publications in order to obtain the PhD title.

Article 20 - Maternity leave and suspension of attendance obligations

1. For the protection of parenthood, pursuant to the Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of July 12, 2007, published in the Official Journal No. 247 of October 23, 2007, PhD students on leave retain their entitlement to the scholarship. At the end of the suspension period, the scholarship is paid upon resumption of attendance for the remaining duration of the scholarship.

2. With the exception of compulsory maternity leave or other situations expressly provided for by law, the Academic Board of the PhD programme may grant a suspension of the course for no more than six months, upon documented request by the PhD student, for the following verified reasons, which are deemed incompatible with the exclusive and full-time commitment required:

- serious health reasons;
- compulsory military service (if required in the candidate's country of origin);
- probationary periods at public institutions;
- for foreign students, awaiting a visa.

During the suspension, no scholarship or other funding is paid.

3. Suspension results in a corresponding extension of the legal duration of the PhD programme by the total length of the suspension periods completed. If the PhD student holds a scholarship, they are entitled to the monthly payments that were not disbursed during the suspension period.

4. Suspensions are not allowed for fractions of a month.

5. In deciding on a suspension, the Academic Board of the PhD programme may establish deadlines, conditions, or evaluations, in accordance with the intermediate assessment deadlines. The Board may allow the admission to subsequent years with reservation, until the suspension period has been fully recovered and the legal duration of the PhD programme completed. The Academic Board of the PhD programme also determines the procedures for the completion of the training activities.

6. During the period between the conclusion of the PhD programme and the defence of the PhD dissertation, suspension may be granted only in cases of maternity or serious illness.

7. The suspension periods referred to in paragraph 2 and the extension periods referred to in the following Article 27, paragraphs 8 and 9, may not exceed a total duration of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

Art. 21 - Exclusion and withdrawal from the PhD programme

1. The PhD student can be excluded from the PhD programme by reasoned decision of the Academic Board of the PhD programme in the event of any of the following:
 - a) a negative evaluation of the student's activities by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, after consulting the supervisor, at any time during the PhD programme;
 - b) prolonged absence from the PhD courses, in any case not less than 30 days, without justification;
 - c) failure to pass any intermediate assessments;
 - d) failure to pass the required end-of-year examinations;
 - e) failure to complete the mandatory period abroad;
 - f) failure to prepare the activity register, if required, or to submit the annual report within the prescribed time frame;
 - g) engagement in work activities not authorized by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, if proven.
2. In the cases referred to in paragraph 1, the scholarship holder is required to repay any instalments already received for the year to which the decision applies, or in accordance with the provisions of the Funding Institution.
3. At any time, a doctoral student may submit a request to withdraw from the PhD programme, promptly notifying the Coordinator and the University Doctoral Office. The scholarship or other form of funding will be maintained until the month preceding the date of withdrawal.

Art. 22 - Scholarships and grants

1. The scholarships, which can also be funded through multiple funding sources, have a total duration of at least three years and are renewed annually, provided that the PhD student has completed the activities planned for the previous year, as verified by the Academic Board of the PhD programme.
2. The scholarship amount, to be paid in monthly instalments, is determined at no less than that established by the Ministerial Decree. The scholarship is payable for the entire normal duration of the course. The scholarship begins at the beginning of the course or, in the event of a deferred start date, on the actual start date.
3. The amount of the scholarship is increased by 50% for periods of stay abroad at universities or research institutes, provided these are previously authorized by the Academic Board of the PhD programme and certified by the host institution. Such periods must be no less than 30 consecutive days and, in total, not exceed 12 months, extendable up to 18 months for PhD programmes under joint supervision with foreign universities or for those established in association pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021. PhD students are required to certify the actual period spent abroad, under penalty of repayment of the amount received. The increase does not apply to stays in the student's country of origin or country of residence.
4. PhD students without a grant must be guaranteed an additional budget of at least 50% of the grant, based on a research period abroad of up to 12 months.

5. Each PhD student, whether holding a scholarship or not, shall be guaranteed an annual budget, cumulative throughout the duration of their training, to support research activities in Italy and abroad, as well as expenses related to their training. This budget is appropriate to the type of doctoral programme and, in any case, is not less than 10% of the annual scholarship amount. The budget is provided either from resources available in the University budget for PhD students receiving scholarships funded by the University, or from resources provided by external entities for additional scholarships, which also manage such funds. For PhD programmes of national interest, the additional budget is equal to 20% of the scholarship amount.
6. For the continuation of apprenticeship contracts and other forms of financial support, the same principles established for the maintenance of scholarships referred to in paragraph 1 apply in the years of the programme following the first one.
7. The principles set out in this article do not apply to scholarship holders from foreign countries or beneficiaries of financial support under specific mobility programmes, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.
8. The fee for access to and attendance at PhD courses is governed by the University Fees and Contributions Regulations.
9. The PhD scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions under the separate management system, pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 26 of Law No. 335 of 8 August 1995, as subsequently amended. Two-thirds of the contributions are paid by the administration, and one-third by the scholarship holder. PhD students enjoy the associated protections and rights.
10. The interventions provided for by Legislative Decree no. 68 of March 29, 2012, are extended to PhD students, in accordance with the procedures set forth therein.

Art. 23 – Periods of study and research abroad

1. The University of Foggia encourages PhD students to spend periods of study and research both in Italy and abroad, as an essential phase of the training process. This may include participation in specific agreements with universities, research institutions, and other institutions in Italy and abroad.
2. PhD students, whether holding a scholarship or not, are required to complete at least six months of study and training abroad—though not necessarily consecutive—at a qualified research facility, chosen in consultation with their supervisor and authorized by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The maximum duration of study and training abroad may not exceed 12 months, even if non-consecutive.
3. The scholarship will be revoked if the required period abroad is not completed, except in the cases of exemption provided for in paragraph 4 below. Revocation of the scholarship will oblige the beneficiary to repay any sums received for the unfinished academic year up to the date on which the revocation is ordered.
4. PhD students who are unable to fulfil the minimum six-month study and training requirement abroad must submit a documented request for exemption to the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The Academic Board of the PhD programme may authorize exemption from this requirement only for the following reasons, provided they arise after enrolment:
 - a) serious and documented health problems;
 - b) maternity leave, pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 151/2021;
 - c) documented delays in obtaining residence permits for foreign students.Any exceptions are evaluated, granted, and approved by the Academic Board of the PhD programme.
5. PhD students holding scholarships funded by another university or by research institutions affiliated with the University of Foggia are exempt from the aforementioned obligation, unless

otherwise required by the terms of the relevant agreement.

6. PhD students without a scholarship at the University of Foggia may receive financial support, including through specific mobility programmes, except in the cases provided for in Article 22, paragraph 4.

Art. 24 - Representation of PhD students

1. PhD students elect a representative to the Academic Board of the PhD programme on which they are enrolled, in order to address teaching and organizational matters.

2. One representative of the PhD students is a member of the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The representative serves a three-year term and is elected according to the following procedures:

- a) the Coordinator of the PhD Programme cycle calls the election of representatives;
- b) the electorate, both active and passive, consists of PhD students regularly enrolled on the PhD Programme cycle;
- c) voting is open and may also be conducted electronically;
- d) each voter may express only one preference.

The election is considered valid if at least 50% of eligible voters participate. The majoritarian electoral system applies: the candidate receiving the highest number of votes is declared elected; in the event of a tie, the younger candidate is elected.

The proclamation and appointment of the elected representatives are formalized by Rector's Decree.

3. The representation of PhD students in University bodies is governed by the Statute of the University of Foggia.

Art. 25 - Connection between PhD Courses and Medical Specialization Schools

1. The PhD Programmes concerned establish, through their own regulations, the procedures for the joint attendance on a PhD Programme and a medical specialization course, as well as the consequent reduction of the PhD Programme to a minimum duration of two years, in compliance with the following general criteria:

- a) compatibility—also taking into account the distance between the locations, the activities, and the commitment required by the specialization school and the PhD Programme—certified by the Board of the medical specialization school and the Academic Board of the PhD programme;
- b) incompatibility between the PhD scholarship and any emoluments received for carrying out the activities of the specialization school.

2. In cases of joint attendance as referred to in this article, a request for reduction of PhD activities is considered by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, following a positive assessment of the consistency between the research activities, already undertaken during the medical specialization programme, and the PhD project. For the purposes of granting such a request, the Board of the specialization school will also assess the compatibility of the PhD project with the educational objectives of the specialization school.

If the request is accepted, the duration of the PhD Programme will in any case be no less than two years.

PART IV

FINAL EXAM AND AWARDING OF THE PhD DEGREE

Art. 26 – Authorization to defend the PhD thesis

1. The title of Doctor of Research, abbreviated as "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.," is awarded following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation.
2. The PhD thesis, accompanied by a summary in Italian or English, must be written in Italian or English or in another foreign language, subject to authorization from the Academic Board of the PhD programme.
3. International inter-university cooperation agreements may establish specific procedures for obtaining the degree.
4. To obtain the PhD degree, PhD students must submit an application to the Academic Board of the PhD programme to take the final examination by the end of the third year, except for those who have been granted periods of suspension for completion.
5. The PhD thesis is submitted for defence at the end of the final year of the PhD programme. Until the defence of the thesis, the PhD student is authorized to access University facilities to complete all activities related to the thesis.
6. The procedure for admission to the thesis defence is as follows:
 - a) The thesis, along with a report on the activities undertaken during the PhD programme and any publications, is reviewed by at least two reviewers, at least one of whom must be a university professor. The reviewers must not be members of the institution awarding the PhD degree and must possess highly qualified experience. Reviewers cannot be members of the University, the Academic Board of the PhD programme, affiliated entities, or consortiums, or funding bodies for any scholarships, and must not be co-authors of joint publications with the author of the thesis. Reviewers may be from foreign or international institutions. Reviewers are appointed for each PhD student by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, upon recommendation of the student's supervisor and co-supervisors.
 - b) The evaluators, generally within 30 days of receiving the thesis, express a written analytical opinion, recommending admission to the public defence or postponement of the thesis defence for a period not exceeding six months, if they deem significant additions or corrections necessary. After this period, the thesis, accompanied by a new written opinion from the evaluators, is in any case admitted for defence. Postponing the defence for a period not exceeding six months cannot in any way entail financial burdens for the University or further entitlement to the scholarship, which in any case expires upon completion of the PhD programme.
 - c) once the evaluators' final opinion has been received, the Academic Board of the PhD programme admits PhD students to the final exam;
7. The decree appointing the evaluators is published on the University online noticeboard and on the University website in the section dedicated to PhD programmes. The doctoral student submits a copy of the thesis and attachments to the Coordinator and the University PhD Office, which ensures timely transmission to the Evaluators, unless dedicated IT platforms are used (e.g. PICA).
8. For proven and documented reasons that prevent the PhD thesis from being submitted within the timeframe established by the course duration, the Academic Board of the PhD programme may grant, upon request of the PhD student, an extension of up to twelve months, without further financial burden.

Art. 27 - Examination Committee

1. The public defence of the thesis takes place before an examination Committee.
2. The examination Committee is composed of three members, chosen from among Italian or foreign university professors and researchers, specifically qualified in the topics addressed in the thesis, respecting gender balance where possible. The examination Committee may be joined by up to two experts from public and private research institutions, including foreign ones, or with specific and documented expertise in the topic addressed in the thesis.
3. The majority of the members of the examination Committee must not be members of the Academic Board of the PhD programme and cannot work at one of the institutions participating in the programme. Under no circumstances may the thesis supervisor be a member of the examination Committee.
4. The Committee is appointed by the Rector's Decree, upon recommendation of the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The Academic Board of the PhD programme may request the Rector to establish additional examination Committees. The Rector's Decree is published on the University online noticeboard and on the University website in the section dedicated to PhD programmes.
5. The Rector's Decree appointing the examination Committee specifies the procedures and timeframes for its work, ensuring that all related activities are completed within 60 days of the date of appointment. After this deadline, any examination Committee that fails to complete its work without valid reason is dismissed, and the Rector appoints a new Committee, excluding the dismissed members.
6. The Chair of the Committee is the Full Professor with the longest tenure, if any, or the Associate Professor with the longest tenure. The Chair designates the member who will serve as Secretary. Any resignation of a member will automatically result in the replacement of the member.
6. The examination Committee notifies the offices of the date set for the defence, so that the notice can be published on the University online noticeboard and on the University website in the section dedicated to PhD programmes.
7. Members of the aforementioned examination Committees do not receive any compensation; if applicable, they are reimbursed only for travel expenses, as set forth in the regulations, and such expenses are drawn from the operating funds of the PhD Programme available to the Department to which they belong.

Art. 28 - Defence of the PhD thesis

1. The candidate is required to promptly submit his or her thesis, together with the report of the PhD Committee, to the University Office, which will forward it to the Examiners.
2. At the end of the defence before the examination Committee, the thesis is approved or rejected with a reasoned written collegial decision. If the thesis is rejected, it can no longer be defended.
3. Honors are awarded by unanimous vote of the examination committee, when scientific results are outstanding.

Art. 29 - Awarding of the PhD degree

1. The PhD degree is conferred by the Rector, who also issues the original diploma. In the case of courses divided into curricula, the degree includes the relevant indication.
2. Before the deadline for submitting the application for the final exam, PhD students may request that the Academic Board of the PhD programme issue a Doctor Europaeus certificate—an additional qualification to the national PhD degree—in accordance with the requirements set by the European University Association. PhD students must also submit the appropriate form, signed by the PhD

Programme Coordinator, to the Higher Education Sector by the same deadline.

3. The additional Doctor Europaeus certification can be issued by the University, upon resolution of the PhD course Academic Board, when the following four conditions exist:

- a) positive opinion on the thesis provided by at least two referees (appointed by the Academic Board of the PhD programme) who belong to university institutions in two European countries different from the country where the thesis is being defended.
- b) The presence in the examination Committee of at least one member from a university institution in a European country different from the country where the thesis is being defended.
- c) Defence of the thesis, at least in part, in an official language of the European Union different from the language of the country where the thesis is presented.
- d) Research included in the PhD thesis, carried out predominantly during a study period abroad in a European country, for a minimum of three months.

Art. 30 - Disqualification of candidates from the final exam

1. A PhD student is declared to have failed, by order of the Academic Board of the PhD programme, if, without providing any justification, he or she does not submit the thesis within the deadlines specified above. A PhD student is also declared to have failed if, without justification, he or she does not take the final examination on the scheduled defence date.

2. In the event that, in the aforementioned cases of failure, the PhD student demonstrates serious and documented reasons, these are evaluated by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, which may grant an exception to the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

Art. 31 – Registry of PhD Programmes and Database of PhD Theses

1. For the purposes set out in Article 1-bis, paragraph 1, of Legislative Decree No. 105 of 9 May 2003, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 170 of 11 July 2003, the Ministry ensures the updating and integration of the national registry of PhD students and PhDs. This registry contains, in addition to the data identified by the Decree of the Minister of Education, University and Research of 30 April 2004, adopted pursuant to paragraph 2 of the same Article 1-bis, specific information on scientific publications produced during the PhD programme, including the PhD thesis, and, after the first five years following the awarding of the degree, data relating to employment. By a further decree adopted pursuant to Article 1-bis, paragraph 2, and after consulting the Authority for the Protection of Personal Data, the specific data to be transmitted to the aforementioned Registry by the Universities are identified, along with the technical and organizational measures required in compliance with current legislation.

2. Pursuant to Article 14 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, within thirty days of the defence and approval of the thesis, and upon release by the PhD student, the University deposits a copy of the thesis, in electronic format, in the Registry referred to in paragraph 1, in a dedicated open-access section. The University also ensures that the thesis is deposited, in accordance with the law, at the National Libraries of Rome and Florence.

PART V

RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

Art. 32 - Bodies of the PhD course

The governing bodies of the PhD programme are the Academic Board and the Coordinator.

Art. 33 – The Academic Board

1. The Academic Board is responsible for planning, implementing, and reviewing the PhD programme.
2. The Academic Board deliberates in all cases provided for by these regulations and, in particular, regarding:
 - a) the appointment of the Coordinator of the PhD programme, for which renewal for the following cycle is to be proposed;
 - b) the procedures for electing the Coordinator at the end of their mandate, or in the event of resignation or inability of the current Coordinator to complete it;
 - c) the preparation of the regulations of the PhD programme;
 - d) the acceptance of applications to participate in the Academic Board, following accreditation and subject to verification of the scientific qualification requirements set out in Art. 4 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021;
 - e) the assignment of each doctoral student to a supervisor selected from among the members of the Academic Board, and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom must be an academic. External individuals may serve as co-supervisors, provided that at least one of them meets the requirements established for members of the Academic Board, pursuant to Art. 6, paragraph 6 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021;
 - f) after consulting the supervisor, it assigns the topic of the doctoral thesis and decides on the admission of each PhD student to the final examination, or on their exclusion;
 - g) the planning of teaching, research, training, and scientific activities of the PhD programme;
 - h) the verification, at the end of each year, of the activities carried out and results achieved by each PhD student, including attendance, performance, and research progress (documented by a written report and, if applicable, an oral presentation). Based on this evaluation, PhD students may be admitted to continue their studies or proposed for exclusion to the Rector. PhD students who do not pass the annual examination may be allowed to continue provisionally, subject to confirmation within the following quarter;
 - i) the authorization for each PhD student to undertake research and training activities at highly qualified institutions abroad;
 - j) the granting to doctoral students of authorization to carry out tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, for students enrolled on Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, as well as supplementary teaching activities within the limit of forty hours per academic year, without this entailing any increase in the scholarship;
 - k) the designation of the members of the committees for the award of the doctoral degree and of the external evaluators;
 - l) the designation of the members of the examination committee for the admission to the PhD programme;
 - m) the appointment of members of any internal committees of the Academic Board established for Quality Assurance purposes;
 - n) the possible simultaneous enrolment on a doctoral programme and on a Master's programme, as provided for by Law No. 33/2022 and Ministerial Decree No. 930/2022;
 - o) the joint attendance of a doctoral programme and a medical specialization course;
 - p) the authorization for doctoral students to carry out research and training activities at highly qualified institutions abroad;
 - q) the authorization, in the event of a request, of exemption, suspension, or extension for the submission of the PhD thesis.

3. The members of the Academic Board must be experts in the research areas of the PhD programme and should, wherever possible, ensure gender balance.

4. In the event of a new PhD programme being established, the Academic Board and the Coordinator, as provided for in the following Article 34, paragraph 2, are designated by the Council of the Department proposing the programme.

5. The Academic Board consists of a minimum of twelve members, belonging to scientific areas consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD programme. At least half of the members must be Full or Associate Professors, while the remaining members must be tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions. In the case of PhD programmes conducted in association with public research institutions, researchers may also include directors of research, researchers or senior researchers from these public research institutions, provided that the minimum quota of professors is maintained.

In all cases, researchers who belong to the Academic Board of the PhD programme must possess a scientific qualification, certified according to the requirements established by current legislation, for the position of Associate Professor. Professors who belong to the Academic Board of the PhD programme must possess a scientific qualification, certified according to the requirements established for the position they hold;

Members of the Academic Board from foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum requirements established by current regulations for the position of Associate Professor. Up to one-third of the total composition of the Academic Board may consist of experts who do not belong to universities or public research institutions, provided that they possess a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in research areas consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD programme.

6. Each member of the Academic Board can serve on only one national Board.

It is possible to participate in an additional Academic Board only if it relates to a PhD programme organized in an associated form, pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2, of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, including Industrial PhD Programmes referred to in Article 10 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, and PhD Programmes of national interest referred to in Article 11 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

The participation of professors and researchers from universities and public research institutions in the Academic Board of a PhD programme of a different institution is subject to authorization by their home institution.

7. The Academic Board also includes a representative of the enrolled students, elected according to the procedures set out in Article 24 of these regulations, with the right to vote only on matters concerning educational and organizational issues. The student representative cannot participate in discussions or decisions concerning individual persons.

Art. 34 – The PhD Coordinator

1. The coordination of the PhD programme is entrusted to a full-time Full Professor. If the Full Professor is duly unavailable, the coordination is entrusted to a full-time Associate Professor who meets the requirements set out in Article 4, paragraph 1, letter a), number 3) of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. The Coordinator must hold a high scientific qualification. This qualification is certified on the basis of the criteria established by current legislation for the position of Full Professor. The function of Coordinator can be exercised in only one Academic Board at the national level.

2. The Coordinator is appointed at the time of confirmation of the renewal of accreditation of the PhD programme by the Academic Board. In the case of the establishment of a new programme, the Coordinator is designated by the Department Council. The designation must occur in due time for the inclusion of the name in the online accreditation procedure. The Coordinator is chosen from among

those who meet the requirements set out in paragraph 1 of this Article. The Coordinator must also have at least as many remaining years in office as the duration of the mandate.

3. The Coordinator is appointed by Rector's Decree. The Coordinator remains in office for the period corresponding to the legal duration of the PhD programme established for the single cycle.

4. In the event of resignation, withdrawal, termination of office, or loss of the necessary qualifications by the appointed Coordinator, the Dean of Full Professors of the Academic Board, as provided for in Article 33, paragraph 2, letter b), schedules elections for the renewal of the office. The elections must be concluded within thirty days of the early termination of the Coordinator to be replaced. The majority electoral system is used for these elections. In the event of a tie, seniority prevails. The proclamation and appointment of the elected Coordinator are formalized by Rector's Decree. The newly appointed Coordinator remains in office until the expiration of the term of the Coordinator being replaced.

5. In cases of absence or impediment, the Coordinator can designate a deputy.

6. The Coordinator:

- a) represents the PhD programme;
- b) is responsible for the organization and functioning of the PhD programme;
- c) convenes and chairs the Academic Board;
- d) ensures that resolutions are implemented and that the relevant administrative offices are duly informed.
- e) chairs any internal committees within the Academic Board responsible for quality assurance, ensuring the implementation of the requirements and processes aimed at quality assurance as set out in the guidelines;
- f) participates in periodic meetings with the Rector's delegate for PhD matters;
- g) provides the Director of the relevant Department with information and data on the progress of the PhD programme, to support the evaluation of the activities and objectives of the Department;
- h) carries out all functions assigned by these Regulations.

In situations of justified urgency, the Coordinator may adopt measures normally within the competence of the Academic Board. Such measures must be submitted for ratification at the Board's first available meeting.

Art. 35 - Rules for meetings of the Academic Board

1. The Coordinator convenes and chairs the Academic Board at least twice a year and whenever deemed appropriate or requested by the majority of the Board members. In the event of impediment, the Coordinator may delegate the functions of Chair to another member of the Academic Board.

2. The Chair of the meeting is assisted by a Secretary, chosen by the Chair from among those present.

3. Unless otherwise provided by the regulations of the programme, notice of the meeting is normally sent at least five days in advance and must include an indication of the matters to be discussed. The notice may be transmitted by any means that ensures timely receipt, including electronic mail.

4. Meetings of the Academic Board may also be held electronically. If the chosen method does not allow immediate interaction among participants, all members are sent the proposed resolution in order to collect their votes within the timeframe established by the Coordinator.

5. In any case, minutes are drawn up and are signed by the Coordinator, or by the person substituting for the Coordinator as Chair of the meeting, and by the Secretary.

6. For the meeting to be valid, more than half of the members entitled to vote must be present. Decisions are adopted by a majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the Chair's vote prevails.

7. Members of the Academic Board who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without a justified reason, forfeit their office. This provision does not apply to faculty members belonging to foreign universities.

PART VI

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 36 - Entry into force. Transitional provisions

1. These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication.
2. For PhD candidates enrolled on cycles prior to the XLI cycle, and by way of derogation from these regulations, Article 23, paragraph 2 of the previous regulations concerning PhD programmes continues to apply. The previous regulations were approved by Rectoral Decree No. 1120/2024 and apply specifically regarding the duration of the period to be spent abroad.
“PhD candidates must spend at least 100 days, not necessarily consecutive, on study and training abroad at a qualified research institution, chosen in agreement with the supervisor and authorized by the Academic Board of the PhD programme. The maximum duration of study and training abroad must not exceed 12 months, even if not consecutive”.

Art. 37 - Amendments to the Regulations

1. Amendments to these regulations are adopted by the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors, including proposals also from one or more Academic Boards.
2. These regulations may also be amended to comply with the general criteria established by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems (ANVUR).

Art. 38 - Reference

1. Matters not explicitly covered by these regulations are governed by Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021 and by other current regulations regarding PhD programmes.