

DOCTORATE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

Art. 1 — Scope of regulations

1. These regulations outline the establishment and working conditions of PhD (doctorate) programmes at the Politecnico di Bari — hereby referred to as the Politecnico — in line with conditions outlined under Law 240 (30 December 2010) and Ministerial Decree 226 (14 December 2021).

Art. 2 — Objectives and duration of PhD programmes

1. PhD programmes – hereby referred to as programmes – provide the skills required to carry out high-level research activity at universities and public or private institutes, and may also be applied to careers in public administration or as a complement to high-level innovative professional career paths or roles with a high level of responsibility in public and private structures at both national and international levels. These skills are attained through a research programme organised by the Politecnico or its affiliates or partners and administered by the Politecnico, as part of a European Education Area for Higher Education and European Area for Research. These objectives are pursued in line with the measures set out in Ministerial Decree 226/2021, art. 1,3.
2. Programmes have a duration of not less than three years, except for conditions set out in article 11 of the current document.

Art. 3 — Establishment of programmes

1. Programmes are established by the Politecnico as outlined in article 5 of the current regulations, which can also be in the form of an association, partnership or agreement in line with Ministerial Decree 226/2021 art. 3,2 governing Italian and foreign universities and/or national and foreign public or private bodies meeting the requisites of higher education cultural and scientific qualifications and equipped with suitable premises and scientific equipment, where advanced, internationally recognised scientific research can be carried out.
2. Proposals for the establishment of programmes are set out by Departments, either individually or jointly, following the procedures outlined in article 4 below. These are then approved by the Academic Senate upon prior approval from the Politecnico Evaluation Committee (NdV) regarding adherence to the requisites outlined in article 5,1 below, following consultation with the Doctoral School Council (Scu.Do.) Programmes which are administered at the Politecnico are established by Rectoral Decree.
3. Programmes are activated by the Administrative Council, following prior approval from the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR).
4. Accreditation for institutes and programmes is granted or denied by the Ministry in line with the decision of the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems (ANVUR). This has a duration of 5 years, with an annual verification that all requirements are being followed. Verification is carried out yearly by ANVUR, in line with the results of verification checks carried out by the NdV.
5. If a programme's accreditation is revoked, the Politecnico will suspend the activation of new PhD programme cycles with immediate effect, allowing for the completion of any programmes which have already been activated.

Art. 4 — Proposals for establishment of programmes

1. All proposals for establishment of programmes must demonstrate that the requirements set out in art. 5,1 below are met and provide the following details:
 - a) name of programme;
 - b) research topics in line with the declarations of intent of the Scientific Discipline Sectors pertaining to the programme;
 - c) total number of places available, indicating those which qualify for grant funding;
 - d) programme objectives and methods, together with teaching programmes and parallel curricula, as well as the names of programmes and their relative university credits;
 - e) candidate requirements (academic qualifications and other) needed to apply for the entrance examination;
 - f) study and scientific facilities to be used;
 - g) a financial plan, with specific reference to the availability of whole or partial grant funding;
 - h) whether the establishment of the programme is individual or in association with other parties, as per art. 3,2 of Ministerial Decree 226 (2021). In the latter case, the conditions outlined below in section 2 apply:
 - i) the members of the Academic Board (hereby referred to as Board), as per art. 5,1 a), b) and c);
 - j) name of Programme Coordinator.
2. For proposals regarding the establishment of partnership / associated programmes, the following must be included (in addition to the conditions outlined in section 1):
 - a) the parties with which associated programmes are to be established through the stipulation of an agreement or establishment of a partnership;
 - b) whether the final qualification awarded is combined or multiple;
 - c) specific research, development or innovation projects as part of associated programmes;
 - d) higher education cultural and scientific qualification requirements for the entities with which programmes are to be established, as well as the premises and scientific equipment available for use.

Art. 5 — Requirements for programme and location accreditation

1. The following conditions are required for the accreditation of programmes and their locations:
 - a) a staff Board for each programme, comprising at least twelve members of teaching staff whose scientific fields are consistent with those of the programme educational objectives. Where possible, the Board should take into account parity of gender;
 - b) a group in which at least one half of the members are tenured or associate professors and the other half university or public body research fellows. Where these are associate doctorate researchers from public research bodies, researchers covering a supervisory role for research projects and research teams are also valid, as long as the minimum number of professors is reached. In all cases, committee members who are researchers must possess a certified scientific qualification which is legally recognised as a requirement to carry out the role of an associate professor, while professors must possess a certified scientific qualification required to carry out the role of tenured professor. A maximum third of the committee may be made up of experts who are not affiliated to a university or public research body, but who possess a recognised higher education scientific or professional qualification in a field of research consistent with the educational objectives of the programme. In order to meet the conditions set out in this paragraph, each individual may only be counted once, with the exception of circumstances outlined in art. 6,3;

- c) each department will administer how the group is established, following consultation with the Doctoral School. In order to foster international expansion, the Politecnico will publish details of available programmes on its website in English;
- d) the availability of an average number of at least four scholarships for each programme, excluding those awarded for associated or partnership programmes, with the provision that there are no fewer than three grants available for each programme. For programmes which have been established under the conditions of art 3,1 of the current regulations, where there are two institutions, each will provide funding for at least two scholarships. Where there are more than two institutions, that which administers the programme will provide funding for at least two grants, while each of the other institutions will fund at least one scholarship. The availability of sufficient and regular funding is required for the viability of programmes, with specific reference to the availability of grants and support for research into the areas pertaining to doctorate activity;
- e) the provision of specific and fully-equipped working and scientific premises for doctorate students to carry out study and research activities. These should correspond to the number of expected participants and include, according to programme type, healthcare facilities, scientific laboratories, sufficient library facilities, and databases and resources for electronic calculation;
- f) the provision of activities, which may also be in the form of combined classes among different programmes co-ordinated by the Doctorate School Council, of disciplinary and interdisciplinary training and language and IT courses. Moreover, in the field of research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, provision should be made for the evaluation of research results and intellectual property, access to data and research results and the principles of ethics and integrity;
- g) a system to ensure the quality of planning and management of doctoral teaching conforming to the quality standards of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), in line with guidelines provided by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of University and Research Systems.

Art. 6 — Programme authorities

1. The programme authorities are the Board and the Coordinator.
2. Subject to its component requirements set out above in art 5,1 (a, b & c), the Board is responsible for the planning and implementation of the programme, the supervision of all teaching activities (with direct involvement) and guidelines for doctorate students' scientific research. Moreover, the Board:
 - a) proposes all programme teaching and scientific activity;
 - b) approves teaching and doctorate research programmes;
 - c) designates for each doctorate student (with their consent) a Supervisor and one or more Co-supervisors with proven experience in the research field. At least one of these will be from an academic background. Supervisors are chosen by the Board also from external institutions, provided that at least one of them holds the requirements necessary for components of the Board itself. The Supervisor and Co-supervisor have the task of following and guiding the doctorate student's research activities. They will also inform the Board of any problems or requirements related to the doctorate student's research;
 - d) evaluates doctorate students' research activities annually to assess their admission to the following academic year or final exam, or their exclusion from the programme;
 - e) authorises doctorate students' activity as tutors for first and second degree students, as well as any supplementary teaching activity, as per the conditions set out in art.11 of the current regulations;
 - f) selects members of the Examination Admissions Panel, hereby referred to as the Panel;

- g) designates members of the teaching body as components of the Final Exam Panel, hereby referred to as Final Panel;
 - h) nominates its own Coordinator.
3. Applications to become a member of a Board for an established programme must be sent to the Coordinator, together with a CV, a list of publications and a declaration that the applicant is not a member of any other national Boards, except for participation on a Board for an associated doctorate programme as per art. 3,1, including industrial doctorate programmes and doctorate programmes of national interest, as per art. 10 below. Where professors or researchers are employed by other universities, applicants must also include a declaration of authorisation from their university. The Board will examine all documentation provided and, upon verifying the international nature of scientific work produced, will decide on the applicant's request for Board membership. Components of the Board may only be members of one Board at national level at any one time.
 4. Representatives for doctorate students may participate in Board meetings to address any teaching or organisational problems.
 5. During the accreditation phase, the co-ordination of the Board is assigned to a full-time tenured professor, or, where this is not possible, a full-time associate professor with advanced scientific qualifications certified as those legally required to assume the position of tenured professor. The role of Coordinator may only be held for one national Board at any one time. The Coordinator is nominated by Rectoral Decree. The position has a five-year duration and may not be extended. The Coordinator convenes and oversees the Board and is responsible for the organisation and general functioning of the programme and the teaching modules which form part of it. The Coordinator may nominate a vice Coordinator from the teaching members of the Board. In addition, the Coordinator, after consultation with the Supervisor and Co-supervisor of the doctoral student, authorises their participation in training courses, workshops and conferences, as well as well as periods of research at higher education institutes abroad.
 6. Any changes to the membership of a programme Board or its Coordinator are deliberated by the Board itself.
 7. In relation to the availability of financial resources, the Director of the facility in question is responsible for programme operation expenses from funds allocated for this purpose, in line with instructions from the Coordinator.

Art. 7 — Procedures for admission to programmes

1. Admission to doctorate programmes is through a public exam, to be held once a year, upon the request of the Board. Applications are accepted from all nationalities from candidates with a second-level degree or equivalent foreign qualification, awarded before the application deadline date set out in the public call, under penalty of forfeiture. Qualifications used in applications are subject to administrative checks. The validity of foreign qualifications is verified by the Board in line with current regulations in Italy and in the country where the qualification itself was issued, taking into consideration any international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for further study. The call for applications is published in Italian and English and posted on the Politecnico website, the European Euraxess website and the website of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. Calls must show the complete name and duration of the programme, the total number of places available, including those with grant funding, the location of programme activity for associated and/or partnership programmes, the criteria for admission and evaluation of qualifications and any written test (including internationally recognized exams) or oral test requirements. If the call reserves a number of places for students with foreign qualifications (or students on foreign scholarships or specific mobility programmes),

accredited bodies may establish alternative admission procedures and thus, a separate admissions ranking list. Non-allocated places may be made available for other selection procedures. For programmes held in collaboration with companies, refer to the regulations outlined in art. 10.

2. The call outlines the number of grants available, as well as any other forms of funding, which are provided for by research funds or other university resources, including research fellowships as per art. 22 of Law 240 (30 Dec 2010). These may be assigned to one or more candidates who fulfil the admission requirements and conditions of fees and contributions to which they are subject, as well as any other stipulations set out in the regulations for the right to education.
3. For joint national, European and international projects, specific admission arrangements and organisational procedures may be implemented, subject to the programme Coordinator's decision and prior Board approval, taking into account the features of each project and ensuring that their establishment is within the scope of the accredited programme.
4. Places may also be offered without scholarship funding, limited to one place for every three grant-funded places.

Art. 8 – Transfers from other universities

1. Doctorate students enrolled at other Italian or foreign universities may apply for a transfer to the Politecnico di Bari for the second year of the programme if this is done before the end of their first year of studies. Transfers are subject to the following conditions:
 - a) the programme from which the doctorate student is transferring has research and teaching objectives which are in line with those of the programme applied for;
 - b) the Board of the programme applied for, after evaluation of the activities carried out by the candidate at their previous university, accepts the transfer request.
2. Candidates who are accepted through transfer will be enrolled on the second year of the programme of the PhD cycle in question. Candidates are not eligible for grant funding, but are guaranteed any remaining research budget from their previous university. The title of PhD will be awarded by the Politecnico.
3. Candidates are subject to all the conditions set out in these regulations.

Art. 9 — Grants

1. Doctorate grants, also those financed by more than one source, have a total duration of at least three years and are renewable annually for the entirety of the programme, provided that the doctorate student has completed the scheduled activity programme for the previous year. This is verified by the Board. Should the grant not be renewed, or if it is waived by the doctorate student, the remaining amount is reinvested to fund other doctorate research students.
2. The total amount of the grant, allocated in monthly payments, is determined by a figure no lower than that established by Ministerial Decree. For doctorate students authorized by the Coordinator to carry out research activities abroad, this amount increases by 50% for a total period no greater than 12 months, and is allocated in monthly payments. This period may be extended up to a maximum of 18 months for doctorate programmes under joint supervision with foreign institutes or established under the conditions outlined in art 3,1.
3. Where grants are waived or discontinued during the programme, no reimbursement to the university is required, except for cases where the PhD call expresses different conditions.
4. Every doctorate student, with or without grant funding, is guaranteed an allowance for research activity in Italy and abroad as part of available financial resources from the Politecnico budget.

The allowance total will be in line with the type of programme followed and in all cases will be no lower than 10% of the total amount of grant funding.

5. The conditions outlined do not apply to students allocated grants from other countries or beneficiaries of financial assistance as part of specific mobility programmes.
6. Grants are assigned on the basis of comparative assessment of merit and following the order of the final ranking list of candidates. Where marks are identical, gender balance will be applied, with preference given to the gender which is less represented among successful candidates in the final ranking list. Where gender balance is identical, preference will be given to the younger of the successful candidates.
7. The doctorate call may set a maximum limit of annual income for doctorate students which is compatible with grant funding, and which in all cases will be no greater than the total amount of the grant itself.

Art. 10 — Industrial doctorate programmes, doctoral programmes of national interest and higher education apprenticeships

1. Under art. 10 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the Politecnico, as seat of initial or subsequent accreditation, may request recognition for the qualification of "industrial doctorate" (also as part of the official title) for associated or partnership programmes with those bodies outlined in art. 3,1 of the current regulations where research and development activities are carried out.

2. Agreements established as per point one regulate the following:
 - a) procedures for research activity coordination between parties;
 - b) methods for how research activity is implemented at the company premises, as well as the allocation of tasks for the employee and the duration of the doctorate programme relative to any roles covered by company employees;
 - c) incentives to promote technological transfer and the development of research activity results on the part of participating companies.

Research areas which characterise industrial doctorate programmes are geared towards the promotion of economic development and systems of production, facilitating combined planning for research topics and the activities of doctorate students. Calls for industrial doctorate programmes, in accordance with guidelines defined at European level and national strategies for development, as well as adhering to the principles of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, may:

3. a) outline specific requirements in carrying out research activity, such as interdisciplinary skills or participation in cross-sectoral and international networks, with particular reference to the business field;
 - b) allocate a number of available places to company employees or those of associated higher education bodies, who will be admitted to the programme on successful completion of the selection procedure.
3. The Politecnico may also establish doctoral programmes of national interest, meeting the requirements set out under art. 11 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. In order to be defined as "of national interest", a doctoral research programme must:
 - a) make a proven contribution to the progress of research, also in reaching the specific targets of priority areas within the NRRP, as well as in objectives for the promotion of innovative doctorate programmes for public administration and cultural heritage, namely the National Programme for Research or other related national plans;
 - b) foster, from its accreditation phase, the stipulation of agreements or establishment of partnerships between universities, as well as advanced, internationally-recognised research institutes (including those abroad). These partnerships involve the beneficial pooling of training and research activities, procedures for financial support regulations, arrangements for

- mobility exchange programmes for teaching staff and doctorate students, and potential forms of co-supervision;
- c) allow, from its accreditation phase, for the joint coordination and planning of research activities with at least one other university and a minimum of four bodies, as referred to in art. 3,1, to establish advanced training projects and grant access to research infrastructures which are suited to the implementation of doctorate research programmes;
 - d) offer, for each PhD programme cycle, at least 30 grants of an amount determined under the conditions set out in art. 9, with the provision that the amount allocated to support doctoral research and training is increased. This increment is to be assigned through Ministerial co-funding and is equal to 20% of the amount of the grant.
4. In addition, article 45 of Legislative Decree n. 81 (15 June 2015), outlines the details for the provision of apprenticeship contracts for industrial doctorate training, guaranteeing precedence to research activity. These apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to doctorate grants for the purposes of calculating the minimum number of scholarships required to establish the programme.

Art. 11 — Rights and obligations of doctorate students

1. Notwithstanding the specific disciplines referred to under art. 10, doctorate programmes require a full-time commitment. The Board may authorise doctorate students to carry out paid work which allows for the acquisition of skills pertaining to the field of doctorate study, subject to the evaluation of its compatibility with the correct execution of the programme's learning, didactic and research activities. Every doctorate student has the right to a suitable working space and use of a computer, to be funded by the Department or the amount referred to in art. 9,4 of the current regulations (budget of 10% of the grant total).
2. Subject to authorisation from the Board, and exempt from any increase to grant funding, doctorate students, as part of their training programme, may also carry out tutoring tasks (which may also be paid) for first and second degree students, as well as integrated teaching activity up to a maximum limit of 40 hours in any academic year. For this type of activity, doctorate students are funded as per art. 1,1(b) of Decree no.105 (9 May 2003).
3. Grants are subject to national insurance contributions as per art. 2,26 of law no.335 (August 1995) and subsequent amendments. Doctorate students are entitled to all rights and safeguards herein.
4. State employees selected for a doctorate programme are entitled to study leave, as per collective agreement, for the entire period of the programme. Public Law employees are entitled to special leave for purposes of study in accordance with administrative requirements, as per art. 2 of Law no.476 (13 Aug 1984). Except in cases of withdrawal, these conditions apply only for first-time participants on a PhD programme, regardless of discipline, and may or may not include grant funding. The right to a budget for research activity carried out in Italy and abroad (as per art. 9) is guaranteed.
5. The measures set out in Legislative Decree no.68 (29 Mar 2012) are extended to doctorate students.
6. At the start of each year, doctorate students send the Coordinator a programme of learning and research activity to be implemented which has been agreed upon with the Supervisor and Co-supervisor. The Board is then informed by the Coordinator and acknowledges the agreed programme.
7. At the end of each year of the programme, doctorate students are obliged to present the Board with a detailed report, co-signed by their Supervisor and Co-supervisor, on activities carried out and research undertaken. On evaluation of programme and learning activity attendance, as well as

- commitment and results achieved, the Board deliberates the student's progress to the subsequent academic year or final exam, depending on their status as first, second or third-year student.
8. As per cases and conditions set out in art. 12 below, suspension from the programme or interruption of grant allocation is permitted.
 9. Where there are proven reasons which do not allow for the presentation of the doctoral thesis within the timeframe of the programme, on request of the doctorate student the Board may allow for an extension of a maximum of 12 months, without incurring further costs. An extension to the length of the programme for a period of no longer than 12 months may also be agreed upon by the Board for proven scientific reasons, ensuring a corresponding extension of the duration of grant funding, subject to the availability of financial resources and conditional to the decision of the Politecnico Administrative Council.
 10. The duration of periods of extension and suspension may not exceed a total of 18 months, except in cases specifically covered by law.
 11. Doctorate students may make a written request to the Coordinator to change their Supervisor and/or Co-supervisor. The Board will examine any such request, and where approved, assign the doctorate student a new Supervisor and/or Co-supervisor.
 12. Doctorate students, as Politecnico students, are obliged to adhere to the conditions set out under art. 42 of the III Politecnico Ethical and Behavioural Code. They will endeavour to regularly refer to notifications, guides and all other information documentation which the Politecnico publishes to inform users of obligations and duties. Politecnico doctorate students are required to respect the principles set out in the Politecnico Statute and regulations, which they implicitly agree to upon enrolment on the programme and will adhere to throughout their time at the Politecnico, up until graduation.
 13. Doctorate students are usually required to carry out research or learning activities in line with their programme, which may also be at higher education institutes abroad, as per the conditions set out in art. 6 of these regulations.

Art. 12 – Suspension

1. Doctorate students may suspend programme attendance for reasons of:
 - a) maternity, paternity, adoption and child custody, as per current legal regulations;
 - b) serious, certified illness;
 - c) other cases provided for by law.
2. Specifically, guidelines for the protection of parental rights are applied as per the Ministry of Work and Social Security decree of 12 July 2007, published in the Official Gazette no.246 (23 Oct 2007). The maximum duration of programme suspension is 6 months, except for cases set out under the aforementioned guidelines. No grant or other funding is allocated for the period of suspension. At the end of the suspension period, grant funding is allocated upon recommencement of the programme, up to the amount of the total duration of the suspension.
3. At the end of the suspension period, doctorate students may recommence the programme upon the presentation of a specific request to the designated office.
4. Any payments already made by the doctorate student will be deferred to the following academic year, subject to adjustments.
5. Administrative deadlines may be deferred in order to ensure activity can be recouped. This is on the understanding that under no circumstances will the normal duration of the course be shortened in any way. The Board will recommend the didactic/training studies required to continue and complete the programme.
6. Suspensions may not be requested retroactively.

Art. 13 – Exclusion and forfeiture

1. The exclusion of doctorate students from the programme is decided upon by the Board and applies in cases of:
 - a) a negative Board evaluation of activities carried out by the doctorate student at any time during the programme;
 - b) any extended and unjustified absence from the programme;
 - c) failure to pass mid-term tests;
 - d) failure to pass end of year tests.
2. As per guidelines set out in the Politecnico Ethical and Behavioural Code, the Board may propose the exclusion of a doctorate student from the programme for failure to adhere to didactic conditions or general obligations. On receiving the Board's proposal and interviewing the doctoral student, exclusions are formalised by Rectoral Decree, guaranteeing at all times the principle of further review.
3. Exclusion determines the loss of any grant funding and research budget not yet allocated.

Art. 14 — Admission to programme

1. Admission to the programme is through a public selection procedure based on qualifications held and an examination to verify applicants' preparation on the general topics of the programme, as well as their aptitude for research. This is set out in the call for each PhD programme. Candidates must also demonstrate a good knowledge of English. Calls may establish that the evaluation procedure is also held in English. In line with current legislation, these procedures may also take place online.
2. Each exam committee, established as per art. 15 below, will rank applications out of a total of 100 marks, taking into account both qualifications held and the examination result. A proportion of this total refers to qualifications held and a proportion to the examination, as set out in each call. Calls will also establish the minimum mark required for qualifications held to allow for access to the examination phase, as well as the minimum pass mark for each phase. On completion of the examinations, the committee will carry out an overall assessment and publish the final results.
3. On conclusion of public selection procedures, the committee will publish a ranking list based on the marks attained by candidates in each of the selection phases. The ranking list, once approved by Rectoral Decree, is published on the official Politecnico noticeboard and recognized as a legally valid notification.
4. Candidates are admitted to the programme based on their position on the ranking list, up until the number of places available has been filled. The Rectoral Approval of Acts Decree outlines enrolment procedures and deadline dates for successful candidates. In case of the withdrawal and/or forfeiture of successful candidates before programme commencement, scrolling of lists for replacement participants will allow for their admission, according to their position in the ranking list.
5. Ranking list scrolling is permitted for a two-month period from the start date of the programme.

Art. 15 — Committee

1. The Rector nominates each committee by decree. Each committee comprises:
 - a) a Coordinator, or where this is not possible, a component of the Board selected by the Coordinator;
 - b) from two to four members of the Board (nominated by the Board itself) from different scientific discipline sectors which are also different from the component outlined in point a) above.

2. The committee may also nominate no more than two experts (also non-Italian) with proven skills from public or private research bodies or institutes.
3. For international agreement programmes, the committee and admission procedures are defined as part of the established agreement.
4. The work of the committee must terminate within 60 days of the deadline for applications.

Art. 16 — Final exam and graduation

1. The title of research doctor or PhD (*Italian Dott. Ric*) is awarded following a positive evaluation of a research thesis which contributes to the progress of knowledge or methodologies in the field of the research under study. The PhD thesis can be written in Italian or English (or other languages, upon authorisation of the Board), and is accompanied by a summary in English.
2. Doctorate students are admitted to the final evaluation procedure by the Board, subject to a review of their progress in didactic and research activities over the entire doctoral programme, including a written assessment by reviewers as per point 3 below. Where there is a negative evaluation, the doctorate student will not be eligible for graduation and is excluded from the programme by Rectoral order, on the basis of the relevant Board's recommendation.
3. The doctoral thesis, together with a report on activities carried out during the programme and any publications, is examined by at least two reviewers (at least one of whom is a member of university teaching staff) who are not affiliated to the Politecnico and have experience in higher education. Reviewers may also be affiliated to institutions abroad. Within 30 days of receiving the thesis, reviewers will issue a written appraisal, recommending the student's admission to the final public presentation of the thesis or deferment for a period no greater than 6 months. Following this period, the thesis, together with a new written appraisal on the part of the reviewers, will be admitted for presentation in any case.
4. At least 90 days before the end of the doctoral programme, the relevant office will send doctorate students and Coordinators details of administrative deadlines as well as procedures for admission to, and instructions for, the final examinations.
5. The thesis is presented in public before the Final Committee within 90 days of the end of the programme. The Final Committee is nominated as per the conditions set out under art. 17, adhering, where possible, to parity of gender.
6. At the end of the presentation, the Final Committee will give their written judgement on the thesis and, where unanimous recognition is given to a scientific aspect of particular significance, may grant honours status.
7. Within 30 days of the presentation and approval of the thesis, the Politecnico will deposit a copy in electronic format at the National Register of Research Doctorates in a specific, open-access section. Subject to the Board's authorisation, certain parts of the thesis may be made unavailable due to their use of data governed by current privacy legislation. Copies of the thesis must also be deposited at the national libraries of Rome and Florence.
8. The Politecnico endeavours to store the thesis and provide public access to it through its inclusion in the institutional archives.
9. Any teaching activity carried out by doctorate students in one or more locations is certified by a Diploma Supplement document.

Art. 17 — Final Committee

1. At least two-thirds of the members of the Final Committee will not be affiliated with the Politecnico. No more than one third of its members will be affiliated with parties participating in the doctorate programme. In all cases, at least two thirds of the Final Committee will be from an

academic background. The Final Committee is nominated by Rectoral Decree, adhering, where possible, to parity of gender.

2. For international agreement programmes, the Final Committee is formed according to procedures outlined in the agreement.

Art. 18 – Agreements for international doctorate programmes

1. The Politecnico stipulates agreements with universities and/or institutes from abroad with the aim of establishing co-supervision programmes for theses. These entail the preparation of a thesis under the joint supervision of a member of Politecnico teaching staff and a member of the teaching staff from the participating international university. Applications for co-supervision must be in the format selected by the Academic Senate, and are approved by the doctorate programme Board.
2. Co-supervision agreements must take into account a period of time spent abroad at the partner university for a minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 18 months.
3. Co-supervision doctorate students, both incoming and outgoing, must be enrolled at the Politecnico for the entire duration of the programme. During the research period spent abroad, doctorate students will still be expected to pay statutory Politecnico fees.
4. The conditions set out in art. 11 of the current regulations are applicable to doctorate students with co-supervision, where possible.
5. As part of co-supervision agreements, a double degree qualification may be awarded.
6. The Politecnico promotes the additional *Doctor Europaeus* recognition. This is awarded by the Politecnico, on the recommendation of the Board, upon the achievement of conditions stipulated by the Confederation of EU Rectors' Conferences and implemented by the European University Association (EUA). The term *Doctor Europaeus* is included on the final PhD diploma.

Art. 19 — Transitional and final provisions

1. The current regulations are valid from one day subsequent to the issue of the Rectoral Decree. As a result, the conditions set out under Ministerial Decree 45/2013 and Rectoral Decree no.286/2013 are hereby rescinded.
2. The conditions of the current regulations for which greater costs are to be borne by the Politecnico budget will be applied to those programmes established with effect from the XXXVIII cycle.