



I. Principality of Asturias

- Other University of Oviedo dispositions

Agreement of 20 July 2018, of the University of Oviedo Governing Council, which approves the regulation of doctoral studies.

Agreement of 20 July 2018, of the University of Oviedo Governing Council, which approves the regulation of doctoral studies.

Statement of Motives index

Chapter I. General provisions article

1. — Purpose article
2. — Regulatory framework article
3. — Definitions article
4. — Doctoral studies

Chapter II. Structure of the doctorate section 1 of the Doctoral

Commission article

5. — Doctoral Commission article
6. — Powers of the Doctoral Commission Section 2 of the doctoral programmes article
7. — Programme structure article
8. — Doctoral programme organisation article
9. — Doctoral programme Academic Commission article
10. — Doctoral programme coordinator article
11. — Doctoral programme teaching and research staff article
12. — Tutor article
13. — Doctoral thesis director article
14. — Doctoral programme proposals article
15. — Doctoral programme monitoring and accreditation article
16. — Administrative management of doctoral programmes Chapter iii. Development of the studies section 1. Access, admission and enrolment conditions article
17. — Doctoral programme access article
18. — Admission to doctoral programme article
19. — Doctoral programme change article
20. — Transfer record article
21. — Training complements article
22. — Enrolment article
23. — Discharge from the doctoral programme Section 2. Planning and monitoring studies article
24. — Doctoral study duration article
25. — Study schedule article
26. — Monitoring the doctoral student's work Chapter iv. The doctoral thesis section 1. Nature of the doctoral thesis article



27. — Doctoral thesis article
 28. — Presentation of the thesis as a compendium of publications article
 29. — International mention in the doctor accreditation article
 30. — Thesis in co-ordination with other universities article
 31. — Industrial mention in the doctoral degree section 2. of Doctoral thesis presentation and submission article
 32. — Authorisation for the formal thesis presentation and submission article
 33. — Doctoral thesis defence registration article
 34. — Submitting the doctoral thesis and public exposure period article
 35. — Admission to the procedure for reading the thesis section 3. Examining board proposal and designation article
 36. — Proposed examining board composition article
 37. — Designation, appointment and composition of the doctoral thesis evaluation section 4 defence of the doctoral thesis article
 38. — Call for proposal of the thesis defence act article
 39. — Thesis defence act article
 40. — Assessment of the thesis article
 41. — Claim against the grading of the doctoral thesis article
 42. — Thesis archive article
 43. — Thesis with data protection article
 44. — Doctoral degree article
 45. — European supplement to the doctoral degree Chapter v. Extraordinary doctoral awards article
 46. — Awards entity article
 47. — Call and number of extraordinary awards to grant article
 48. — Evaluation and award article
 49. — Approval of the proposal and award of extraordinary awards
- First additional provision: denominations
- Second additional provision: inter-university doctoral programmes
- Third additional provision: physical documentation media and doctoral thesis
- Repeal provision
- First final provision
- Second final provision
- Appendix i. Documentary supervision commitment
- Appendix ii. Doctoral thesis joint supervision between the University of Oviedo and a foreign university

Explanatory statement

The entry into force of Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies, has established a new regulatory framework for studies leading to obtaining a doctoral degree, completed with royal decree 195/2016, 13 May, which establishes the requirements for issuing the European supplement to the University doctoral degree.

This standard distinguishes between the first and second cycle studies, aimed at preparing for the professional course according to the different degrees of specialisation and doctoral studies, located at the intersection between the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area. A doctoral training model is regulated that facilitates collaboration with other organisations, entities and institutions, and whose main objective is for future doctors to be recognised professionals and leaders in all institutions involved in innovation, research and knowledge transfer.



Doctoral studies are linked to the university's R&D strategy, which includes the research teams and lines defined in the doctoral programmes. Although the main objective of doctoral studies is the advanced research that leads to the doctoral thesis, there is also special emphasis on the role of researchers in training doctoral students. The doctoral programmes must therefore include activities aimed at completing their training so that, through the academic commissions, together with the directors and tutors, they can acquire the necessary skills and competencies that enable them to achieve the doctoral degree

pursuant to current legislation and the provisions of Royal Decree 195/2016, which establishes the requirements for issuing the European supplement to the university doctoral degree, the management, guardianship and coordination of the doctoral programme may be assumed by a doctor, member of the University of Oviedo teaching and research staff (TRS), which is why the term "professor" has been replaced, which was contained in the previous regulation approved by agreement, 17 June 2013, of the University of Oviedo Governing Council and published in the Official Provincial Bulletin (BOPa), 25 June 2013, by TRS.

This Doctoral Regulation modifies the academic and administrative management of the doctoral programmes, which are now assumed by the vice-rector with competences in doctoral matters. The doctoral programme affiliation is also modified, which comes under the University of Oviedo doctoral units (centres, departments, institutes or doctoral schools).

In order to adapt the regulatory norms of its doctoral studies to this legal framework, the University of Oviedo has developed these regulations, applicable to students who pursue doctoral studies in a doctoral programme verified under Royal Decree 99/2011.

Chapter I. General provisions

Article 1. — The purpose of this regulation is to regulate the organisation of doctoral studies corresponding to the third official university education cycle leading to obtaining a doctoral degree from the University of Oviedo, and pursuant to managing official university studies established by Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January, and Royal Decree 195/2016, 3 June.

Article 2. — *Regulatory framework*

Doctoral studies and obtaining a doctorate from the University of Oviedo are governed by the provisions of Organic Law 6/2001, 21 December, on Universities and their development standards; Royal Decree 1393/2007, 29 October, which establishes the organisation of official university education, modified by Royal Decree 861/2010, 2 July and, in particular, by Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January, which regulates the official doctoral teaching; Royal Decree 195/2016, 3 June, which regulates the requirements and procedure for issuing the European supplement to the doctoral degree; the University of Oviedo articles of association and other provisions on doctorate promulgated by the state, adapted to the Asturias Principality and the University of Oviedo, within the scope of their respective competences and, in particular, by these regulations.

Article 3. — *Definitions*

1. Doctorate: Third cycle of official university studies, leading to acquiring competences and skills related to quality scientific research leading to obtaining a doctoral degree.
2. Vice Rectorate with doctoral competencies: Body responsible for doctoral studies at the University of Oviedo and responsible for its academic and administrative management.
3. Doctoral school: Unit created by one or several universities and in possible collaboration with other organisations, centres, institutions and entities with national and foreign R&D activities, whose main objective is the organisation, within its management scope, of the doctorate in one or several knowledge branches or with an interdisciplinary nature.
4. Doctoral Commission: Collegiate body of the University of Oviedo competent in everything related to doctoral teaching.
5. Doctoral programme: the structure of the doctoral studies and in which activities are undertaken leading to acquiring the skills and abilities needed to obtain the doctoral degree. The programmes are aimed at the doctoral students' different formative aspects and establish the procedures and research lines for drafting doctoral theses.
6. Academic Commission: The body responsible for defining, updating, quality and coordinating each doctoral programme, as well as supervising the research progress and training and authorisation of the thesis presentation for each doctoral candidate on the programme.
7. Doctoral student: a researcher in training who, after accreditation of the requirements established in these regulations, is admitted to and enrolled in a doctoral programme.
8. Doctoral programme coordinator: member of the teaching and research staff (TRS) responsible for a doctoral programme who acts as its representative, ensures compliance with its objectives and chairs the doctoral programme's Academic Commission.
9. Activity document website: individualised control record of the training activities undertaken by the doctoral student, materialised in the corresponding online support, which is regularly reviewed by the tutor and the thesis director and evaluated annually by the Academic Commission responsible for the doctoral programme.



10. Research plan: a document describing the research to be developed, indicating, at least, the methodology to be used and the objectives to be achieved, as well as the resources and time planning to achieve it.
11. Doctoral thesis director: member of the TRS responsible for the management, orientation and supervision of all the doctoral student's research and training tasks.
12. Doctoral tutor: member of the TRS responsible for ensuring the doctoral student's interaction with the doctoral programme's Academic Commission. The doctoral tutor is also responsible for aligning the training and doctoral student's research activity to the principles of the doctoral programme.
13. Monitoring commission: The doctoral programme body responsible for evaluating the annual development of the doctoral research plan.
14. Documentary supervision commitment: document assumed by the University of Oviedo, the doctoral student, his/her tutor and director, which establishes the supervision roles for the tasks to be completed in order for the doctoral student to undertake the doctoral thesis.

Article 4. — Doctoral studies

1. The official doctoral studies are aimed at advanced student training in research techniques and drafting, publishing and presenting an original research paper. These studies will end with the defence and approval of a doctoral thesis that incorporates original research results.
2. Official doctoral studies are organised through doctoral programmes, pursuant to Royal Decree 99/2011 and within these regulations.
3. The doctoral student's essential activity while undertaking these studies is research, although he/she will also have to develop research training activities. He/she will also form part of the supplementary training studies that the doctoral programme's Academic Commission considers necessary for drafting the doctoral thesis and that have not been acquired by the doctoral candidate previously.

Chapter II. DOCTORATE STRUCTURE Section 1 of
the Doctoral Commission

Article 5. — The Doctoral Commission

1. The Doctoral Commission is the collegiate body of the Vice-Rectorate with doctoral competencies from the University of Oviedo, competent in developing doctoral teachings.
2. The University of Oviedo's Doctoral Commission includes:
 - a) the vice-rector with doctoral competencies, who chairs it.
 - b) The vice chancellors with competences in the areas of academic organisation, research, students and internationalisation.
 - c) The Secretary General of the University of Oviedo, who may work alongside the deputy secretary.
 - d) Area director with doctoral competencies.
 - e) The head of the service responsible for managing the doctorate, who may work alongside the head of the doctoral section, acting as secretary, with voice but no vote.
 - f) Three doctors members of the TRS for each of the five knowledge branches: arts and humanities, sciences, health sciences, social and legal sciences, and engineering and architecture.
 - g) The director or directors of the University of Oviedo's doctoral school or schools.
3. The doctor members of the TRS are appointed by the Governing Council and their term of office is four years, extendable by express agreement of said body.
4. The university's Doctoral Commission meets, on an ordinary basis and during the teaching period, at least every two months and, on an extraordinary basis, when convened by its chairperson.
5. The Doctoral Commission acts autonomously, informing the Governing Council of its actions and agreements in a timely manner.
6. The Doctoral Commission's decisions on all matters within its competence are subject to appeal before the vice-chancellor, pursuant to current legislation.

Article 6. — Doctoral Commission competences

The following competences correspond to the Doctoral Commission:

- a) Prepare the proposal for regulations on doctoral teaching.
- b) Approve, modify or reject doctoral programmes and supervise their teaching.
- c) Resolve requests for doctoral programme changes.



- d) Decide on the doctoral thesis's admission to the reading process, after a report from the corresponding programme's academic committee.
- e) Appoint the examining boards responsible for appraising doctoral theses.
- f) Resolve claims made against the qualifications of doctoral thesis examining boards.
- g) Determine the procedures for filing and advertising the doctoral theses.
- h) Evaluate and propose the granting of extraordinary doctoral awards.
- i) Inform the vice-chancellor about requests for accrediting doctoral degrees obtained abroad.
- j) Resolve appeals against the decisions taken by the Academic Commissions about the doctoral programmes and of the monitoring commissions regarding admission and evaluation.
- k) Resolve any other incident that arises within the doctoral programmes and propose specific actions.
- l) Any doctoral competencies entrusted to it by the Governing Council and current regulations.

2nd section of the doctoral programmes

Article 7. — Programme structure

1. A doctoral programme is the set of activities conducive to acquiring the skills and abilities necessary to obtain the doctoral degree indicated in Royal Decree 99/2011. It includes the procedures and research lines for developing doctoral theses, as well as the offer of transversal and specific research training activities to be undertaken by doctoral students.

2. Training of a practical, methodological or specialised nature, conferences, meetings, seminars or other training activities, research seminars, courses or scientific congresses, or any other type of activity that the doctoral programme's Academic Commission may establish, may be considered transversal training of the doctoral programme. Within these activities, the vice-rector with doctoral competencies or the doctoral schools of the University of Oviedo annually organise a transversal training programme that can be attended by all University of Oviedo doctoral students.

3. The verification report of the doctoral programme includes the list of training activities, with express indication, if applicable, of those that are mandatory for all doctoral students of the programme, as well as the procedures for their control.

Article 8. — Organisation of the doctoral programme

1. Doctoral programmes may be organised by the University of Oviedo alone or jointly with other Spanish or foreign universities, by signing the appropriate agreement, and lead to obtaining a single doctoral degree.

2. Organisations, centres, institutions and entities with R&D+i activities, public or private, Spanish or foreign, may also collaborate on the doctoral programmes, expressed by means of an agreement.

3. The doctoral programmes are attached to the doctoral units (centre, department or institute) or to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies or to a doctoral school of the University of Oviedo, in whose bodies they are represented.

Article 9. — Doctoral programme academic committee

1. Each doctoral programme constitutes an Academic Commission responsible for its training and research activities.

2. The doctoral programme's Academic Commission includes a minimum of three members, including the coordinator, who chairs it. In any case, its members include a doctor who is a member of the TRS for each research line of the programme that appears in the verification report. One of its members, at the proposal of the coordinator, acts as secretary and attests to the agreements adopted.

3. The members of the doctoral programme's Academic Commission are chosen by and among the teaching and research staff of each line of the programme who have directed or co-directed at least one doctoral thesis and have at least one recognised six-year term of research or its equivalent in the case of hired staff. The term of office is four years.

4. The functions of the doctoral programme's Academic Commission are:

- a) Keep the information related to the doctoral programme up to date and prepare the list of teaching and research staff annually.
- b) Assess the merits and resolve the admission of doctoral students.
- c) Determine the doctoral candidate's cross-training activities from among those listed in the verification report and, if necessary, the supplementary training activities that each doctoral student must undertake, monitoring them.
- d) Assign a tutor and a director to each doctoral student from among the doctors of the teaching staff and a researcher from the doctoral programme who works with the doctoral student. The tutor may or may not be the doctoral thesis director.



- e) Resolve co-direction requests.
- f) Resolve the admission of the doctoral students' research plan.
- g) Annually monitor and evaluate the doctoral students' research plan and activity document, pursuant to the established schedule and procedures.
- h) Resolve requests for temporary withdrawal and change of dedication regime in the programme.
- i) Authorise the thesis presentation and submission, guaranteeing its quality before formal presentation and ensure the improvement of the final doctoral thesis document.
- j) Propose to the Doctoral Commission the members of the doctoral thesis examining boards, pursuant to current regulations, and manage the process of presenting and reading the doctoral thesis of the doctoral programme.
- k) Propose new joint supervision and collaboration agreements with other institutions, organisations or entities, and make requests for external aid and subsidies that are required to develop the programme.
- l) Ensure the correct fulfilment of the doctoral programme's accreditation processes and actively participate in all procedures related to the internal Quality Assurance system.
- m) All those that, within its competence, can be assigned by the Doctoral Commission.

Article 10. — *Doctoral programme coordinator*

1. The coordinator is appointed by the vice-chancellor of the University of Oviedo at the proposal of the doctoral programme's Academic Commission or in the manner indicated within the agreement with other institutions when it is a collaborative doctoral programme.
2. The coordinator is a member of the TRS of the programme with permanent ties with the University of Oviedo and full-time dedication. He/she must also have directed, prior to his/her appointment, at least two doctoral theses and have a minimum of two recognised six-year research terms or the equivalent in the case of contracted staff.
3. The coordinator of the doctoral programme presides over the academic committee, monitors the fulfilment of the programme's objectives and represents it if applicable.

Article 11. — *Doctoral programme teaching and research staff*

1. All University of Oviedo doctors who have research experience in any of the programme's research lines may participate in the doctoral programme.

For the purposes of this regulation, research experience is understood as compliance with any of the following conditions:

- a) Be, or have been in the last six years, the lead researcher of a research project financed by public tender.
 - b) To be author or co-author, in the last six years, of at least three publications in journals included in the Science Citation index. In areas where the above is not applicable, this criteria is replaced by the bases related by the National Commission for evaluating research activity (Cneai) for these scientific fields.
 - c) Have undertaken two six-year periods of research or its equivalent in the case of contracted personnel.
 - d) Be the author or co-author in the last six years of a patent in operation.
 - e) Have directed or co-directed a doctoral thesis in the last five years with a final assessment of cum laude.
2. Each doctoral programme may indicate other additional requirements deemed appropriate. These requirements are included in the corresponding verification report.
 3. Doctors from public research organisations and companies may also participate in doctoral programmes. They are required to comply with the same requirements as the University of Oviedo teaching and research staff. It is therefore essential that they have the express consent of the institution or company to which they belong.
 4. Pursuant to Royal Decree 898/1985, 30 April, on the University Teaching Staff regime (art. 22. Emeritus professors, sections 2 and 5), as well as article 2.1 of the Emeritus Professors regulation, approved by agreement of the Governing Council, 17 March 2017, emeritus professors may participate in doctoral programmes and, therefore, may direct, supervise thesis and participate in examining boards as full members of the University of Oviedo.
 5. Other retired professors (honorary, honorary or assimilated emeritus professors) may not participate in doctoral programmes and, therefore, may not supervise theses or participate in examining boards as members of the University of Oviedo, being considered external professors to all effects.

Article 12. — *Tutor*

1. The doctoral student's tutor must be a member of the TRS of the doctoral programme that belongs to the programme's academic committee.



2. The tutor is responsible for adapting the doctoral student's training and research activity to the principles of the doctoral programme. The tutor's roles also include informing the doctoral student about the operation of the programme and advising on administrative and academic matters.

Article 13. — *Doctoral thesis director*

1. The doctoral thesis director is a member of the doctoral programme TRS who directs, guides and supervises the doctoral student during preparation. This is the highest person responsible for the coherence and suitability of the doctoral training activities, the impact and innovation of the doctoral thesis and the planning and adaptation, if applicable, to that of other projects and activities in which the doctoral candidate is enrolled.

2. The thesis director is a doctor of the programme appointed by the academic committee after verifying that he/she meets the conditions established in article 11 of these regulations.

3. The thesis may be directed by several doctors (two maximum) and in the case of theses in co-ordination with other universities, there may be three directors.

4. The co-directors of the doctoral thesis may be members of the TRS of the programme itself or external to it or to the University of Oviedo, when reasons of an academic nature or thematic interdisciplinarity concur, or in the case of programmes developed in Spanish or international collaboration. Co-management requires prior authorisation from the doctoral programme's Academic Commission, by reasoned request in writing. This authorisation may be revoked if the co-management does not benefit developing the thesis in the opinion of the academic committee. The co-directors must comply with the requirements indicated in article 11, with the exception of the following two assumptions, applicable only to one of the co-directors:

- a) Doctors who have attained this academic degree in the last five years.
- b) Doctors who do not come from the academic field.

5. The competences of the doctoral thesis directors are:

- a) Direct the research undertaken by the doctoral student.
- b) Facilitate the doctoral student's access to the necessary resources to carry out his/her work.
- c) Ensure the quality of the doctoral student's work and the dissemination of the results.
- d) Promote research placements for doctoral students in other universities.

Article 14. — *Proposals for doctoral programmes*

1. Doctoral programmes may be proposed by one or more centres, departments, university institutes or doctoral schools of the University of Oviedo. The proposal may be made in collaboration with other universities and public or private R&D entities. These collaborations and the commitments they imply must be established through agreements.

2. The doctoral programme proposals are structured on research lines. Each of these lines must be endorsed by a team of researchers who must meet the requirements set forth by the ministry with doctoral competencies for the doctoral programme verification and accreditation process.

3. The proposals are presented to the Doctoral Commission in the time and the manner thereby established. The Doctoral Commission resolves these proposals pursuant to quality criteria and with the R&D strategy of the University of Oviedo.

4. In the case of a positive resolution, the Doctoral Commission appoints a coordinator and an Academic Commission from among the teaching and research staff guaranteeing the research lines. This provisional commission prepares the curriculum for the programme, pursuant to the guidelines of Royal Decree 99/2011, and the criteria, protocols and procedures of evaluating the aneCa. In this process, the competent vice-rectors act as advisory bodies and monitor the process of preparing the proposal.

5. The doctoral programme report, once positively informed by the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission, is presented to the Governing Council and the Social Council for approval and verification by the University Council and authorisation by the Regional Community, pursuant to current regulations.

6. After the approval of the verification report, the provisional academic committee, in collaboration with the Vice-Rectorate with doctoral competencies and the unit (centre, department, institute or doctoral school) to which it is attached, is responsible for its implementation. The provisional Academic Commission exercises its functions during the first course of programme implementation.

Article 15. — *Doctoral programme monitoring and accreditation*

1. Doctoral programmes must undergo an evaluation every six years to renew their accreditation, pursuant to article 10.3 of Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January.

2. The vice-dean with doctoral competencies and the doctoral units (centre, department, institute or doctoral school) have the internal quality assurance systems that enable their development and results to be analysed, and that ensure their review and continuous improvement. These internal quality assurance systems are included in the verification reports.



Article 16. — *Administrative management of doctoral programmes* The vice-rector with doctoral competencies is responsible for coordinating and managing studies towards

doctoral qualifications. The unit's administration staff (centre, department, institute or doctoral school) to which the doctoral programme coordinator belongs, also provides the necessary administrative support for the correct development of the programme.

CHAPTER iii. Development of the studies Section 1.

Access, admission and enrolment conditions

Article 17. — *Access to the doctoral programme*

1. In general, for access to an official doctoral programme, the candidate must be in possession of the official Spanish Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, and a university Master's degree, or equivalent, provided that at least 300 eCT credits have been passed within these two qualifications.

2. Those in one of the following cases may also access:

- a) Those in possession of an official Spanish university degree, or a degree from another country that is part of the European Higher Education Area, that enables access to a master's degree pursuant to article 16 of Royal Decree 1393/2007, 29 October, and have passed a minimum of 300 eCT credits in the group of official university studies, of which, at least 60 must be at the master level.
- b) Those in possession of an official Spanish graduate degree, whose duration, according to rules of community law, is at least 300 eCT credits. These graduates must attend the training complements referred to in article 7.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, 28 January, by which they are regulated, unless the curriculum of the corresponding degree includes training credits in research, equivalent in training value to the credits in research from master studies.
- c) Having obtained the research sufficiency pursuant to Royal Decree 185/1985, 23 January, which regulates the third cycle of university studies, obtaining and issuing the doctoral degree and other postgraduate studies.
- d) Those in possession of the diploma of advanced studies, obtained pursuant to Royal Decree 778/1998, 30 April, which regulates the third cycle of university studies, obtaining and issuing the doctoral degree and others postgraduate studies.
- e) University graduates who, after obtaining a place in training in the corresponding access test to specialised health training places, have passed at least two years of training in a programme with positive evaluation to obtain the official title of any of the specialisations in Health Sciences.
- f) Those in possession of a degree obtained pursuant to foreign educational systems, without the need for accreditation, after verification by the university that it accredits a training level equivalent to that of the official Spanish university master's degree and that it empowers in the country issuing the degree for access to doctoral studies. This admission does not imply, in any case, accreditation of the previous title of which the interested party is in possession nor its recognition for other purposes than that of access to doctoral teaching.
- e) Those in possession of another Spanish doctoral degree obtained pursuant to previous university ordinations.
- f) Those in possession of an official university degree that has obtained correspondence at level 3 of the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, pursuant to Royal Decree 967/2014, 21 November, which establishes the requirements and the procedure for the accreditation and declaration of equivalence to degree and official university academic level and for the validation of foreign higher education studies, and the procedure to determine the correspondence to the levels of the Spanish Framework of Qualifications for Higher Education of the official titles of architect, engineer, graduate, technical architect, technical engineer and diploma.

Article 18. — *Admission to a doctoral programme*

1. Each doctoral programme may establish additional requirements for admission, which may include the obligation to have completed one or more specific subjects of a university master's degree, passing level tests or passing a personal interview. These additional requirements are included in the corresponding verification report.

2. The student must request admission to the doctoral programme indicating the research line in which he/she wishes to develop his/her studies. If the student is admitted, a tutor is assigned from among the members of the doctoral programme's academic committee and is linked to this research line.

3. At least 5% of the places offered in each doctoral programme are reserved for students with a disability degree equal to or greater than 33%. If these places are not covered, they become part of the general programme offer. Students with special educational needs arising from a disability are offered appropriate support and counselling services. The academic committee assesses possible curricular adaptations.

Article 19. — *Doctoral programme change*

In general, the following criteria are established for the doctoral programme change:



1. A request from the interested party is submitted by general registration, based on the established format, including:
 - a) A reasoned report from the thesis directors about the suitability of the doctoral programme change.
 - b) The approval of the doctoral programme Academic Commissions: issuer and receiver.
 - c) The need for specific training must be specified to proceed with admission to the new doctoral programme.
2. No doctoral student may request more than one doctoral programme change.
3. The student's permanence regime is that of the programme of origin, as established in article 24 herein.
4. Eventually, if requested by the Doctoral Commission, a personal interview will be conducted with the doctoral student.

Article 20. — *Record transfer*

1. Doctoral students who have initiated doctoral studies at another university may only request the transfer of their record in the following cases:
 - a) If the doctoral thesis director forms or becomes part of the teaching staff of a doctoral programme at the University of Oviedo.
 - b) If he/she is enrolled in a joint doctoral programme in which the University of Oviedo participates and this fact appears in the report verifying the degree.
2. The request to transfer the record is sent to the doctoral programme's academic committee, which is responsible for resolving it.
3. If it is authorised, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission assigns a tutor and a research line.

Article 21. — *Training supplements*

1. In the admission report, and depending on the student's previous training, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission may require specific training supplements. These training supplements are preferably subjects of the university's degree and master's offer, and may not exceed 18 eCTS. The training supplements must be taken after admission to the programme during the first academic year in the case of full-time students or in two years if part-time studies are undertaken, enrolling in them at the same time as the academic tutorship. These supplements are, for the purposes of public prizes, scholarships and grants, considered doctoral training.
2. Failure to complete the supplements within the established period results in permanent termination of the programme.

Article 22. — *Enrolment*

1. Once admitted to the doctoral programme, the doctoral student must formalise the academic tutorship enrolment as a doctoral student at the University of Oviedo, pursuant to the established procedure and schedule. Enrolment is formalised in the doctoral units (centre, department or institute) or in the vice-rectorate with doctoral competencies or in a doctoral school at the University of Oviedo. In the case of joint programmes, the agreement determines the manner in which the enrolment must be made.
2. Enrolment must be renewed each academic year until the end of studies. This academic tuition enrolment must not be formalised when the defence of the doctoral thesis occurs within the first three months after having submitted the doctoral thesis during the enrolment period. Not formalising the enrolment is cause for cancellation in the doctoral programme. In these cases, the student may start the process as a new doctoral student in another doctoral programme at the University of Oviedo.
3. The student may enrol full-time or part-time. In the latter case, authorisation is required from the programme's academic committee. For part-time student status, work, family or personal reasons are taken into account. At the time of enrolment, the doctoral student may change his/her dedication regime, upon reasoned request addressed to the doctoral programme's academic committee.
4. The doctoral student may request a temporary withdrawal from the doctoral programme for a maximum period of one course, which can be extended to another academic year, in which case he/she does not have to formalise the enrolment. This request must be reasoned and addressed to the doctoral programme's academic committee, which decides on the origin of accessing the request.

Article 23. — *Discharge from the doctoral programme*

1. Causes for discharge from the doctoral programme, in addition to not renewing the enrolment, include not passing the training supplements, a negative evaluation of the research plan monitoring on two sequential occasions, or the period indicated for the duration of studies having transpired without submission of the thesis application.
2. For the purposes of calculating the above period, sick leave, pregnancy or any other cause provided for within current regulations are not taken into account. The doctoral candidate may request temporary withdrawal from the programme for a maximum period of one year, which may be extended up to one more year. This request must be



addressed to and justified before the Academic Commission responsible for the programme, which decides on the validity of the request made by the doctoral student.

3. Upon discharge, the doctoral candidate may request admission to another doctoral programme at the University of Oviedo.

Section 2. Planning and monitoring studies

Article 24. — *Duration of doctoral studies*

It is the University of Oviedo Social Council's responsibility to approve the rules of permanence and continuation of studies for students enrolled in doctoral studies at the University of Oviedo

Article 25. — *Undertaking the studies*

1. Once the first enrolment in the doctoral programme is formalised, the Academic Commission assigns a tutor to the doctoral student. The tutor may or may not be the same as the doctoral thesis director.

2. At the same time, the University of Oviedo provides a personalised digital repository of activities for each doctoral student for the purposes of an individualised control record. This document regularly records the activities undertaken by the doctoral student in the context of the doctoral programme, always documented, and is regularly reviewed by the tutor and the thesis director and evaluated annually by the programme's academic committee.

3. Within a maximum period of three months from the first enrolment, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission appoints the director, who may be any Spanish or foreign doctor with proven research experience, regardless of the university, centre or institution to which he/she provides services. The doctoral programme's Academic Commission, after hearing the doctoral candidate, the tutor and the thesis director, may change the director at any time throughout the studies, provided there are justified reasons.

4. In the six months after first enrolment, the doctoral student must submit a research plan to the doctoral programme's academic committee describing the work to be undertaken in the doctoral thesis. It must include, at least, the title, methodology to be used and the objectives to be achieved, as well as the resources and time planning to achieve them. The research plan can be improved and detailed throughout the programme and must be endorsed by the tutor and the thesis director.

5. The doctoral programme's academic committee decides on the admission of the research plan and issues a report that is sent to the body responsible for the doctoral studies. In the case of a positive resolution, the research plan is presented to the Doctoral Commission accompanied by a documentary monitoring commitment, which follows the model set forth in Appendix I of these regulations.

6. The research plan is linked, on the one hand, to the corresponding doctoral programme and, on the other, to the department or institute of the University of Oviedo to which the thesis director belongs, or if it does not belong to the university, to the department or institute to which the tutor belongs and in which it will be undertaken.

Article 26. — *Monitoring the doctoral student's work*

1. The doctoral programme's academic committee annually organises, before a Monitoring Committee formed by three members of the doctoral programme's teaching and research staff, a seminar in which the enrolled doctoral students present the progress made in the corresponding course. In the case of a thesis with data protection, the University of Oviedo enables procedures that respect compliance with protection guarantees, including a closed-door exposition. In all other cases, this seminar is public.

2. Having heard the thesis director, the Monitoring Committee must complete an individual report with the assessment of the work undertaken and the degree of progress with respect to the doctoral research plan in which the completion of supplementary training activities may be recommended. After analysing the report issued by the Monitoring Commission, the doctoral programme's academic committee is responsible for evaluating compliance with the research plan and the activity document, and forwards the report to the doctoral student within a period not exceeding ten business days after the test.

3. If the academic committee detects significant deficiencies, the doctoral candidate may be requested to present a new research plan, or a new follow-up, within a maximum period of six months. If deficiencies continue to occur, the academic committee must issue a reasoned negative report and the doctoral candidate is permanently withdrawn from the programme. In the event of a negative evaluation, the doctoral candidate may submit allegations to the Doctoral Commission within 10 days of being notified.

4. The University of Oviedo establishes the doctoral students' supervisory functions through a documentary commitment signed by the university, the doctoral student, his/her tutor and his/her director pursuant to the document prepared for this purpose (Appendix i). This commitment is signed as soon as possible after admission and includes a conflict resolution procedure, covering aspects related to intellectual or industrial property rights that may be generated in the field of doctoral programmes.

5. The University of Oviedo, through the doctoral programme's Academic Commission, establishes the evaluation and monitoring mechanisms indicated above, the procedures provided for in cases of conflict, ensures the completion of the thesis within the projected time and intellectual and industrial property rights pursuant to the preceding paragraph.



CHAPTER iv. THE DOCTORAL THESIS

Section 1. Nature of the doctoral thesis

Article 27. — *The doctoral thesis*

1. The doctoral thesis consists of an original research work prepared by the doctoral student in any knowledge field. The thesis must train the doctoral student for autonomous work in the field of R&D.

2. In its preparation, the following minimum standards must be taken into account:

- a) The report that includes the work undertaken in the doctoral thesis must be written in Spanish. However, the Doctoral Commission may authorise another official European Union language following a report from the doctoral programme's Academic Commission and provided that it is guaranteed that the members of the board are in a position to evaluate it. In this case, the report must contain the summary and the conclusions in Spanish. Under the same conditions, and pursuant to article 6.2 of the University of Oviedo articles of association, the report may be written in the Asturias language.
- b) The cover of the report must include "University of Oviedo", together with the institutional shield, the name of the doctoral programme, the title of the thesis and the name of the author.
- c) The above data must also appear on the cover and the following pages must include the authorisation of the doctoral programme's academic committee, the tutor and the director of the work for presenting the thesis.

Article 28. — *Submitting the thesis as a compendium of publications*

1. A doctoral thesis may be submitted as a compendium of publications. Under this format, the doctoral thesis must include all of the works published, or accepted for publication, by the doctoral student after the beginning of his/her doctoral studies, on the same research line.

2. The works will consist of a minimum of three articles or book chapters published or accepted for publication, which must meet the following requirements:

- a) The doctoral student's scientific contribution to the works must be significant and must be accredited by the thesis director.
- b) The publication media must be included in the science citation index. In areas where the foregoing is not applicable, this criteria is replaced by the conditions related by the National Commission for evaluating research activity (CNEAI) for these scientific fields.
- c) Papers must have been accepted for publication after the first enrolment in doctoral studies.

3. The works that are part of a thesis in the form of compendium of publications may not be part of another thesis presented under this same modality.

4. The thesis report must contain at least the following sections:

- a) Introduction, in which the thematic unit of the thesis is properly justified and, if applicable, possible objectives.
- b) A complete copy of the works, whether published or accepted for publication, in which the name and ascription of the author and all co-authors, if any, as well as the complete reference of the journal or editorial in which the works are recorded, published or accepted for publication, in which case proof of acceptance by the journal or publisher must be provided.
- c) Results/discussion and conclusions.
- d) Report containing the impact factor of the publications presented. In the areas where this criteria is not applicable, the conditions related by the National Commission for evaluating research activity (CNEAI) for these scientific fields is replaced.
- e) The supporting bibliography.

Article 29. — *International mention in the doctoral degree* The doctoral degree may include "international doctorate" on the back, provided that the

following circumstances concur:

- a) That, during the training period necessary to obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student has held a minimum three-month placement outside of Spain in higher education institutions or prestigious research centres, studying or conducting research work. The placement and activities must be endorsed by the director and authorised by the academic committee and are incorporated into the doctoral activity document.
- b) That part of the doctoral thesis, at least the summary and conclusions, has been written and presented in one of the usual languages for scientific communication in the knowledge field, other than any of Spain's official or co-official languages. This rule does not apply when the placements, reports and experts come from a Spanish-speaking country.



- c) That the thesis has been informed by a minimum of two expert doctors belonging to a higher education institution or non-Spanish research institute.
- d) That at least one expert belonging to a higher education institution or non-Spanish research centre, with the doctoral degree and other than the person responsible for the placement mentioned in paragraph a), has been a member of the thesis evaluation board.

Article 30. — *Thesis in co-ordination with other universities*

1. The doctoral thesis may be co-ordinated between the University of Oviedo and another university, with the objective of creating and developing scientific cooperation between research teams of both institutions and promoting doctoral students' mobility. The back of the doctoral degree will therefore include "thesis in joint supervision regime with the university", whenever the following circumstances concur:

- a) That the doctoral thesis is supervised by doctors from two universities, one of them the University of Oviedo and another from abroad, which must formalise a co-signed agreement between their rectors (Appendix II), pursuant to the principle of reciprocity. Under the agreement, each institution recognises the validity of the doctoral thesis defended in that framework and undertakes to issue the doctoral degree.
 - b) That during the training period necessary to obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student has held a minimum placement of six months in the institution with which the joint supervision agreement is established, undertaking research work in one period or in several. The placements and activities appear in the joint supervision agreement.
 - c) The report is ultimately submitted for defence in one of the two universities, obtaining the doctoral degree from both academic institutions.
 - d) The doctoral student enrolls in each of the two universities, but with no fee payments in one of them.
 - e) The requirements for admission to the doctorate are those that apply to the respective universities. Doctoral students who have completed all or part of doctoral studies at the other university may access a doctoral programme at the University of Oviedo provided they meet the academic access and admission requirements established in these regulations. The doctoral programme's Academic Commission must therefore agree, if applicable, the recognition of the studies undertaken and may require additional training in the cases that apply. The registration of the doctoral thesis project in the joint supervision must be undertaken in the two universities, pursuant to the respective regulations of both universities.
 - f) The doctoral student will have at least one thesis director in each of the universities.
 - g) The thesis preparation time is shared between the two universities. The minimum placement in each of them may not be less than six months. This placement may be undertaken only once or in several periods.
 - h) The thesis must be written in an accepted language in one of the two universities. In any case, the summary and the conclusions must be written in Spanish.
 - i) Once prepared, the doctoral student must submit the thesis in the two universities. The doctoral thesis submission, publicity and defence requirements are those that apply in the respective universities.
 - j) The thesis is the object of a single defence in either of the two universities. This provision is subject to a condition of the agreement signed by the two institutions. The joint supervision agreement also considers the equivalence between the doctoral qualification systems of both universities.
 - k) The examining board before which the thesis must be defended is appointed by mutual agreement between the two universities, and its composition follows the regulations of the university in which the defence act takes place.
 - l) The thesis is archived and disseminated in both universities, pursuant to the specific procedures of each one.
2. The University of Oviedo controls doctoral theses under joint supervision.

3. The above conditions are established in the corresponding agreement between institutions, based on the format indicated in Appendix ii.

Article 31. — *Industrial mention in the doctoral degree*

1. The "industrial doctorate" mention is granted provided that the following circumstances concur:

- a) The existence of a labour or commercial agreement with the doctoral student. The agreement may be concluded by a private sector or public sector company, as well as by a public administration.
- b) The doctoral student must participate in an industrial research or experimental development project that is developed within the company or public administration in which the service is provided, which may not be a university. The industrial research or experimental development project in which the doctoral student participates must be directly related to the thesis he/she is undertaking. This direct relationship is accredited by means of a report that must be approved by the doctoral programme's academic committee at the University of Oviedo.



2. If the industrial research or experimental development project is executed in collaboration between the university and the company or public administration in which the doctoral student serves, a framework collaboration agreement is signed between the parties. This agreement indicates the university's obligations and the company or public administration's obligations, as well as the procedure for doctoral student selection.

3. The doctoral student has a thesis tutor appointed by the university and a director appointed by the company or public administration, who may, if applicable, be the thesis director pursuant to the doctoral regulations.

Section 2. Doctoral thesis presentation and submission

Article 32. — *Authorisation for the formal presentation and submission of the thesis*

1. Once the doctoral thesis has been prepared, the doctoral student requests authorisation from the doctoral programme for presentation and submission.

2. The doctoral candidate may apply provided that he/she has formalised at least two academic enrolments and passed an evaluation by the Commission for monitoring the doctoral programme.

3. The application must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- a) Two copies of the thesis, one on paper and another in electronic media.
- b) A summary of the thesis in electronic format with a maximum of 4,000 characters, in Spanish and English.
- c) The authorisation for reading by the director and the tutor.
- d) The doctoral student's activity document, referred to in article 23 of these regulations, with the training activities undertaken by the doctoral student.
- e) Authorisation for archiving and disseminating the thesis, with the considerations of article 43, in open electronic format in an institutional repository, once its evaluation has been successfully passed.

4. If the thesis is presented as a compendium of publications, the following documentation must also be attached:

- a) Report from the thesis director, with the approval of the doctoral programme's Academic Commission, which specifies the suitability of the thesis presentation under this modality.
- b) Written acceptance of the co-authors of the works, if any, of their presentation as part of the doctoral thesis.
- c) Resignation of co-authors who are not doctors to present the same works as part of another or other doctoral theses.

5. If mention of an international doctor is also sought, the following must also be submitted:

- a) Request for mention of international doctor.
- b) Accreditation of the placement as indicated in article 29.a).
- c) Reports of foreign experts as indicated in article 29.c).

6. If mention of an industrial doctor is also sought, the following must also be submitted:

- a) Copy of the doctoral student's employment or commercial agreement.
- b) Act of the doctoral programme's Academic Commission in which the thesis report is approved.
- c) Approval of the thesis presentation by the person appointed by the company or public administration, if it is not the director.

7. If the thesis is presented in a language other than Spanish, the agreement of all examining board members must be presented.

8. Within a maximum period of one month, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission must authorise or not the presentation of the doctoral thesis. Therefore, and in order to guarantee the quality of the doctoral thesis before its formal presentation, the Academic Commission must check whether the thesis presented and its accompanying documentation comply with current regulations and recommend, if applicable, any modifications it deems appropriate. This decision and the corresponding justification, if applicable, must be communicated to the doctoral student and the thesis director or directors.

Article 33. — *Doctoral thesis defence registration*

Once authorisation for the submission of the doctoral thesis has been obtained, the doctoral student formalises the doctoral thesis defence registration, paying the corresponding fees.

Article 34. — *Submission of the doctoral thesis and public exposition period*

1. Once the presentation of the doctoral thesis is authorised, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission sends the authorisation to the vice-rector with doctorate competences, together with all the documentation submitted



by the doctoral candidate and an examining board proposal. The thesis is submitted for a period of fifteen calendar days from the day following receipt of the documentation. During this time, any doctor may examine the thesis on submission, and send in writing the considerations he/she deems appropriate to formulate to the Vice-Rectorate with doctoral competencies.

2. The vice-rector with doctoral competencies, through the University of Oviedo website, disseminates theses that are in submission at any time, indicating their author, title, director, doctoral programme and the department in which they were undertaken.

3. In the case of a thesis with data protection, the university enables procedures that respect compliance with the guarantees of article 43.

4. If there are any comments, the doctoral programme's academic committee, the thesis director and the doctoral student are notified so that, in view of its content, they can express their opinion to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies on the need to continue or halt the process, within a period of seven business days from the end of the submission period. The Doctoral Commission resolves within a maximum period of one month.

Article 35. — *Admission to thesis reading process*

1. Once the submission deadline has transpired without comments, or once those raised have been resolved, the Doctoral Commission authorises the defence of the thesis, resolving, if applicable, the doctoral candidate's requests regarding the mention of an international or industrial doctor and on any other issue raised. The decisions taken must be communicated to the doctoral student, the director and the doctoral programme's Academic Commission. The Doctoral Commission also sends the paper copy of the thesis to the doctoral student when requesting authorisation for submission.

2. Once the authorisation for reading the thesis has been communicated, within a maximum period of three months from the authorisation communication date, the defence may proceed.

3. It is the doctoral student's responsibility to send the required copies of the thesis to the doctoral programme's Academic Commission so that they can be sent to the members of the examining board together with the student's curriculum vitae.

Section 3. Proposal and appointment of the examining board

Article 36. — *Proposal for the composition of the examining board*

1. If the of the doctoral thesis presentation is authorised, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission formulates the proposed Doctoral Commission of the examining board.

2. The proposal consists of ten doctors with research experience in the subject to which the thesis refers. Half of them are graduates and the other half are alternate members.

3. The examining board proposal must meet the following requirements:

- a) Two doctors belonging to the University of Oviedo must be on the examining board, at least one of them acting as chairperson or secretary. Alternate members must also belong to that institution.
- b) Neither the qualification examining board nor the alternate members may have more than two members from the same institution or doctoral school.

4. The proposed composition of the examining board must be accompanied by:

- a) A reasoned report on the suitability of all the doctors selected to constitute the doctoral thesis evaluation board, indicating three contributions related to the scope of the thesis.
- b) The acceptance of the proposal by each member of the examining board.
- c) The form indicating compliance with any of the requirements indicated in article 11 of these regulations. This compliance is not required for members of the examining board outside of the academic field.

5. A maximum cost is established for travel to be paid by the University of Oviedo for each doctoral thesis examining board, depending on budgetary availability each fiscal year, which the vice-rector with competencies in doctoral studies makes public in each financial period. Videoconferencing expenses are included in the maximum expenditure calculation by examining board.

Article 37. — *Designation, appointment and composition of the doctoral thesis evaluation board*

1. To designate the examining board, the Doctoral Commission may request that the doctoral programme's Academic Commission to modifies the proposal of doctors who are experts in the field. If deemed convenient to do so, the Doctoral Commission may appoint experts not included in the proposal as members of the examining board.

2. In no case may the thesis director be part of the examining board, except in the case of theses presented within the framework of bilateral joint supervision agreements with foreign universities.

3. The Doctoral Commission appoints the examining board that will examine the thesis and notifies the doctoral programme's academic committee, the doctoral candidate and the chairperson of the examining board. It also communicates the appointment to the ten members of the board, thus being deemed constituted.



4. In case of resignation due to just cause of a member of the examining board, the doctoral programme's academic committee will replace the member with the corresponding substitute.

Section 4. Defence of the doctoral thesis

Article 38. — *Call for the thesis defence act*

1. Once the thesis is admitted for processing, the chairperson of the examining board convenes the defence act. The chairperson or secretary thus notifies the members of the examining board and the vice-rector with doctoral competencies of the date, place and time of the defence, with a minimum of seven working days' prior notice. The vice-rector with doctoral competencies disseminates this information to the university community through the university's website.

2. If, on the day set for the thesis defence act, one of the members of the examining board is absent, the alternates will be incorporated. This change is communicated to the Vice-Rectorate with doctoral competencies.

3. In the case of thesis with international mention, at least one member of the examining board must meet the requirements indicated in article 29, section d).

4. A minimum of three members is required. If this is not possible, the chairperson of the examining board must suspend the act of reading and set an alternative date, once the remaining members of the examining board, the doctoral candidate and the doctoral programme coordinator have been consulted.

5. Based on article 17, Law 40/2015, 1 October, on the Public Sector Legal Regime, the examining board may establish, convene, hold its sessions, adopt agreements and submit minutes both in person and remotely.

6. Based on the limitations of section 4 of this article, in the sessions held by the remote examining board, its members may meet in different places as long as the identity of the participants and the content of their statements, the time they are made, as well as the intercommunication between them in real time during the session are guaranteed electronically. Only real-time videoconferences are considered valid electronic media.

Article 39. — *Thesis defence act*

1. The thesis defence act will take place in public session during the academic period of the academic calendar and within a maximum period of three months from the admission to reading process. For these purposes, the period between 1 and 31 August, inclusive, as well as every Saturday and the days expressly scheduled in the work calendar approved annually by the governing bodies shall be considered a non-reading period.

2. The doctoral programme's Academic Commission articulates the appropriate mechanisms for the thesis to be defended in the University of Oviedo's facilities. To defend the thesis outside of the University of Oviedo, the Academic Commission of the corresponding doctoral programme must authorise it.

3. The doctoral thesis may be defended in person or virtually, by videoconference, and consists of the doctoral student's oral presentation of the work completed, the methodology, the content and the conclusions, making special mention of his/her original contributions.

4. The members of the examining board must express their observations on the thesis presented and may formulate any questions deemed appropriate, to which the doctoral candidate may answer. Doctors present at the public ceremony may also ask questions and the doctoral candidate may respond. All at the time and in the manner indicated by the chairperson of the examining board.

5. In the case of a thesis with data protection, the university enables procedures that respect compliance with the guarantees of article 43.

6. The members of the examining board will have the doctoral student's activity document, with the activities undertaken during the period of developing the thesis. This document does not result in a quantitative score, although it does constitute a qualitative evaluation instrument that complements the doctoral thesis evaluation.

7. If the doctoral candidate defends the thesis virtually, the following considerations are taken into account:

a) The Doctoral Commission, after hearing the proposal presented by the doctoral programme's academic committee, authorises the reading and defence of the thesis virtually.

b) During the entire public presentation process, the communication quality conditions must be sufficient for real-time interaction between the examining board and the doctoral candidate throughout the entire defence act at all times. The University of Oviedo's audio-visual media service therefore certifies the connection with the university or research centre where the doctoral student is and makes the necessary electronic media available to the examining board in the established format, upon request to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies.

c) All members of the examining board must explicitly agree to be part of the examining board in the established format.

Article 40. — *Grading the thesis*

1. After the defence and discussion of the doctoral thesis, each member of the examining board writes a reasoned report on the grading of the thesis, in a standard document that is incorporated into the record.



2. The examining board grants the overall grade for the thesis pursuant to current regulations, and it is included in the minutes that all members must sign, communicating the grade obtained to the doctoral student in the same session.

3. The examining board may grant the cum laude mention if the vote is unanimously issued in that regard. The members of the examining board will thus cast a secret vote, which is sent along with the rest of the documentation to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies. The secretary of the Doctoral Commission counts the votes and communicates the result of the scrutiny to the doctoral student, the director, the doctoral programme's Academic Commission and the members of the examining board.

4. The members of the board also cast a secret vote regarding the consideration of the doctoral thesis to receive the extraordinary doctoral award, which is also sent along with the rest of the documentation to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies. The thesis may qualify for the extraordinary doctoral award if it obtains the cum laude qualification and is unanimously proposed.

5. The secretary of the examining board is responsible for the documentation corresponding to the defence of the doctoral thesis, and must send it to the vice-rector with doctoral competencies within a maximum period of five working days from the defence date. If the thesis opts for the mention of an international doctor, he/she is also responsible for certifying that the requirements b) and d) of article 29 of these regulations have been met.

6. If some of the examining board members attend remotely, they send the pertinent reports by email to the secretary of the Doctoral Commission, indicating the date and time of the defence as well as the title of the doctoral thesis and the name of the doctoral student.

Article 41. — *Claim against the grading of the doctoral thesis*

1. In view of the doctoral thesis grading, a claim may be submitted to the Doctoral Commission, which is resolved taking the reports issued by the members of the examining board into account.

Article 42. — *Thesis archiving*

1. Once the doctoral thesis is approved, the university archives it in an open electronic format in an institutional repository and sends a copy of the thesis, together with all the necessary additional information, to the ministry with competences in doctoral matters.

2. In the case of a thesis with data protection, the university enables procedures that respect compliance with the guarantees of article 43.

Article 43. — *Thesis with data protection*

1. In exceptional circumstances determined by the programme's academic committee, such as, among others, the participation of companies in the programme, the existence of confidentiality agreements with companies or those that give rise to industrial and intellectual property rights, and with prior authorisation from the Doctoral Commission, the University of Oviedo enables procedures to guarantee the non-dissemination of the content of the thesis.

2. This type of thesis is formalised in two versions: The limited version, in which the content affected by the duty of non-dissemination or the duty of right or confidentiality is deleted, and the complete copy, which is archived at the University of Oviedo under confidentiality obligation.

3. The limited version is the one submitted to the public exposition period referred to in article 34. This version must match the content of the exposition and public defence of the thesis.

4. The full version is sent to the members of the examining board for evaluation. Members must sign the corresponding confidentiality obligation on the content, of which no public dissemination can be made. If the examining board wishes to formulate questions to the doctoral student about this content, it must do so in a private session, before or after the public session.

5. Once the thesis is approved, the limited copy is the one published in the institutional repository. When the process of knowledge transfer protection is completed, the doctoral candidate must request its replacement with the complete copy.

Article 44. — *Doctoral degree*

1. Passing the doctoral teachings gives the right to obtain the title of: Doctor from the University of Oviedo. Material issuance of the degree also includes information on the doctoral programme, pursuant to Royal Decree 1002/2010, 5 August, on issuing official university degrees.

2. In the case of inter-university programmes or joint programmes, the degree is issued by the university indicated in the respective agreement.

3. The application for the degree is made in the vice-rectorate with doctoral competencies pursuant to the established procedure.

Article 45. — *European supplement to the doctoral degree*

1. The European supplement to the doctoral degree is the document that accompanies the aforementioned official university degree and is valid throughout Spain with the unified information, personalised for each university graduate, about the programme followed, the results obtained, the professional skills acquired and the level of his/her degree in the Spanish higher education system.



2. Issuing the European supplement to the doctoral degree, as well as that related to the content, characteristics of the documentary media and personalisation of the document, and electronic format, must conform to the rules established in Royal Decree 22/2015, 23 January, which establishes the requirements for issuing the European supplement to the degree and modifies Royal Decree 1027/2011, 15 July, which establishes the Spanish framework for qualifications for higher education, as well as the provisions of Royal Decree 195/2016, 13 March, which establishes the requirements for issuing the European supplement to the university doctoral degree.

CHAPTER v. Extraordinary doctoral awards

Article 46. — *Entity of the awards*

Doctoral theses presented at the University of Oviedo that have been defended in the academic year indicated in the corresponding call and that obtained the cum laude qualification and an extraordinary award grading of all the members of the examining board that examined it have the option of the doctoral extraordinary award mention.

Article 47. — *Call and number of extraordinary awards to be awarded*

1. The awards are convened for each of the five knowledge branches: arts and humanities, science, health sciences, social and legal sciences and engineering and architecture. The assignment of the doctoral thesis to a branch of knowledge corresponds to the Doctoral Commission, taking the proposal of the doctoral programme's academic committee into account at the time of submission.

2. In order to establish the corresponding calls, the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission annually updates and makes public, on the University of Oviedo website and the notice board of the vice-rector with doctoral competencies, a provisional list, for each branch of knowledge, of the doctoral thesis likely to qualify for the award, indicating its defence date. After a period of allegations of the possible candidates, as established in the corresponding call, the list becomes final and the awards are called.

3. An annual award may be awarded for every ten theses read in each branch of knowledge in the course indicated in the call, and up to one more award for an additional fraction equal to or greater than six. If the minimum of ten theses read in a given branch of knowledge is not reached in one year, they will accumulate the following year, and an award must be called in each branch at least every two years, however many theses are accumulated.

4. The awards are convened by the chairperson of the Doctoral Commission, indicating the number of awards that can be awarded in each branch. The applications must be submitted by the candidate doctor to the vice-rectorate with doctoral competencies within the deadline established in the call, together with the documentation that serves as the basis for the assessment. If the application is not submitted on time, it is understood that the right is waived.

Article 48. — *Evaluation and award*

1. Prior to the submission of applications, the Doctoral Commission approves and makes public on the University of Oviedo website the scale for the assessment of the merits presented, which may be different for the different knowledge branches.

2. The following aspects are taken into account in preparing the above-mentioned scale:

- a) Scientific quality of the thesis and contribution to the advancement of knowledge.
- b) Scientific impact of the thesis: Publications, presentations at conferences, patents, placements in other academic institutions and other merits derived from the research work of the doctoral thesis.
- c) Mention of international doctor.
- d) Mention of industrial doctor.

3. The Doctoral Commission is responsible for evaluating and proposing the awarding of the awards, for which as many experts as deemed appropriate can be advised.

4. In no case may those who have been thesis directors or tutors of any of the applicants intervene in the evaluation and in the award proposal.

5. The proposal may be subject to complaint within the period established in the call. Once the allegations are resolved, the final proposal is submitted to the Governing Council.

Article 49. — *Approval of the proposal and award of extraordinary awards*

1. The University of Oviedo Governing Council grants the extraordinary doctoral awards, and the vice-chancellor issues the corresponding diploma.

2. The granting of an extraordinary doctoral award also entails exemption of the payment of the price for issuing the doctoral degree.

3. The diploma, which includes the mention "Extraordinary Doctoral Award from the University of Oviedo", is awarded in a formal event organised by the University of Oviedo.



First additional provision: denominations

All the denominations related to the bodies of the departments and centres, their holders and members and the members of the university community, as well as any others that, in the present regulation, are made in masculine grammatical gender, are understood to be made interchangeably in the female gender, according to the gender of the holder who performs them or who is affected by these denominations.

Second additional disposition: Inter-university doctoral programmes

In the case of inter-university doctoral programmes, the regulations related to monitoring the research plan, examining board, defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis, are established in the agreement signed between the participating universities and included in the verification report.

Transitional disposition: Physical media of the documentation and doctoral thesis

The documents to be submitted in the procedures indicated in these regulations for doctoral programmes and doctoral theses, including the copy to be submitted from the doctoral thesis itself, must be, whenever possible, in electronic media, endorsed by the corresponding electronic signature. To the extent that the electronic administration is implemented, all documentation must be submitted electronically.

Repeal disposition

The previous regulation of doctoral studies, approved by agreement of the Government Council, 17 June 2013 (Official Provincial Bulletin (BOPa), 25 June 2013), as well as the rest of regulations of equal or lower rank that opposes pursuant to this regulation.

First final disposition

It is the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission's responsibility to interpret these regulations, as well as to establish the necessary instructions for the application of the provisions contained therein.

Second final disposition

This regulation enters into force at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

This regulation was approved by the University of Oviedo Governing Council at its session on 20 July 2018, as to which as Secretary General, I attest.

In Oviedo, on 26 July 2018. — The Secretary General. —Code. 2018-07942.

Appendix I

SUPERVISION DOCUMENTARY OBLIGATION

Purpose.

This document constitutes a commitment assumed by the University of Oviedo, the doctoral student, his/her tutor and his/her director, by which the functions of supervision of the tasks to be undertaken are established in order for the doctoral students to undertake the doctoral thesis.

Mutual collaboration.

The thesis director, the tutor, the doctoral student and the vice-chancellor with competences in the field therefore undertake within the scope of the functions that correspond to each one, to establish collaboration conditions that enable the presentation of the doctoral thesis project, its subsequent drafting and, finally, its defence, pursuant to the procedures and deadlines established in the applicable

regulations.

The signatories of this commitment declare to know the current general regulations regulating doctoral studies and the specific regulations of the University of Oviedo, which is constituted by the regulations of doctoral studies and accept that the provisions contained therein govern the processing and defence of the doctoral thesis object of this commitment.

Obligations of the doctoral student.

The doctoral student undertakes to develop the doctoral studies and to carry out the research object of the thesis project within the framework established by the applicable regulations, under the supervision of the director and pursuant to the obligations resulting from this commitment. In particular:

- To complete the training supplements that, if applicable, have been established, and are specified in the Appendix that accompanies this document.
- Inform the director regularly of the evolution of his/her research, of any problems that may arise and of the results obtained.



- Follow the instructions that the thesis director provides about the research work.
- Ensure the correct use of the facilities and the material provided in order to carry out their research activity.
- Dedicate to completing the full-time/part-time doctoral thesis.
- Submit the activity undertaken in the period prescribed by regulation for evaluation.

Obligations of the thesis director.

The thesis director commits to regularly supervising and monitoring the research activity undertaken by the doctoral student, providing the necessary guidance and advice and ensuring that the doctoral student develops his/her initiative and achieves autonomy in the research task.

Confidentiality.

The doctoral student is obliged to maintain secrecy of all the data and information of a confidential nature that the thesis director, the tutor or any other member of the research team provides or discloses by any means.

The doctoral student also undertakes not to disclose or transfer to third parties, even in cases of change in the thesis management, information about the work or materials of the research, proprietary or of the group, in which he/she has participated, without having obtained, expressly and in writing, the corresponding authorisation from the previous thesis director or the tutor, unless the information is already public or required by law.

Intellectual and industrial property.

The doctoral candidate has the right to be recognised as the holder of the intellectual or industrial property rights that may correspond pursuant to current legislation and internal regulations and to appear as an inventor or author in all works, articles or communications that include the research results in which his/her contribution may be considered substantial and effective.

Dispute resolution procedure.

In case of any conflict arising from breach of any of the extremes to which this commitment extends, or for any other cause related to the completion of the doctoral thesis, including the change in the management of the thesis, the parties agree to submit to the decision adopted by the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission, without prejudice to the subsequent legal resources.

Validity.

This document is effective from the signing date until the reading of the doctoral thesis. However, it is without effect in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions provided, as well as the University of Oviedo's regulations on doctoral studies. Oviedo, ____ of _____ 20__.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ (full name of the doctoral student) (signature)

Dr _____ (full name of the thesis director) (In case of co-management, all assigned directors must sign)
(signature)

Dr _____ (full name of the tutor) (if any)
(signature)

Dr _____ (full name of the vice chancellor with powers in the matter)
(signature)

Appendix II

Doctoral thesis joint supervision between the University of Oviedo and a foreign university

Agreement between institutions

1. Undertaking a doctoral thesis in coordination regime, as established in article 30 of the University of Oviedo doctoral regulations, requires the prior establishment of an agreement between the University of Oviedo and the respective foreign university, signed between the deans of both universities

2. Any of the provisions of the signed joint supervision agreement may only be modified on a strictly exceptional basis and with prior authorisation from the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission and subsequent approval of the deans of both of the universities involved.

Access to the joint supervision regime



1. In order to be able to undertake a thesis in a joint supervision regime, the access requirements to the doctorate must be fulfilled in its research phase, pursuant to current Spanish legislation and the legislation that is established at each moment, as well as the admission requirements established by the University of Oviedo.

2. To undertake a doctoral thesis in a joint supervision regime between the University of Oviedo and a foreign university, the doctoral student must request it in writing in standardised form, addressed to the body responsible for the doctoral programme to which the doctoral thesis is linked.

3. The body responsible for such studies must issue a report on the application and, if favourable, send it to the University of Oviedo Doctoral Commission together with the established co-ordination agreement and the request of the interested party, for its study and approval if applicable.

Preparation and presentation of the doctoral thesis

1. The doctoral thesis must be undertaken under the control and supervision of a director in each of the two signatory universities of the agreement (co-management), being designated pursuant to the requirements in this regard in each of the universities.

2. The total time for completing the thesis may not be less than two years from the time the registration of the doctoral thesis is formalised, unless the Doctoral Commission authorises a different term.

3. The research that constitutes the doctoral thesis will be undertaken in both universities. The minimum period of placement in one of the universities shall be no less than six months, the remaining period being completed in the other. This placement may take place only once or in several periods.

4. During the placement period at the University of Oviedo, the doctoral student must pay the academic tuition fee as a doctoral student.

5. The thesis must be written in one of the languages authorised by the university in which the defence is to be undertaken, being completed with a written summary, including the conclusions, in the language of the other university.

6. The doctoral thesis must be presented and submitted pursuant to the regulations in force at the university where the thesis will be defended.

Examining board of the doctoral thesis

1. The examining board before which the thesis must be defended is appointed by mutual agreement between the two universities and its composition is governed by the legislation in force at the university in which the defence is undertaken. The co-directors of the thesis may be part of the examining board, if this is included in the agreement signed by both universities.

2. If the thesis defence is undertaken in the other university, at least one of the examining board members must belong to the University of Oviedo.

Defence of the doctoral thesis

1. The thesis will be the object of a single defence in the university established in the joint supervision agreement.

2. Payment of fees for reading must be made at the university where the thesis defence takes place.

3. When the defence act is undertaken at the University of Oviedo, the current regulations must be followed, and the following additional documentation must be submitted:

a) Official certification of placements made at the other university.

b) Summary of the doctoral thesis in an authorised language in the other university and, in any case, different from that used in writing it.

4. If the thesis will be defended in the foreign university, the procedures will be pursuant to the current legislation in the country where it is defended. However, the doctoral student must request the admission to process to the body responsible for the University of Oviedo doctoral programme where he/she is enrolled, following the general procedure established in the regulations.

5. Doctoral students who defend the doctoral thesis at the other university will present an official certificate of the act of reading at the University of Oviedo in which, at least, the date of reading and the grade obtained must be recorded, in order to be able to issue the corresponding doctor title.

Issue of the doctoral degree

1. Once doctoral thesis has been defended, the doctoral student may request issuance of the corresponding degrees in both universities, pursuant to the respective agreement and the current regulations in each of them.

2. The mention of "Joint supervision with the University of ..." will be included in the doctoral degree.

3. Doctoral theses that meet the necessary requirements may also request the mention of an international doctorate.

Publication and reproduction of the thesis



The publication, exploitation and protection of the results of the research undertaken are ensured by the two institutions that host the doctoral student pursuant to the specific procedures of each country.