



UNIVERSITÀ DELLA
CALABRIA



UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS ON PHD PROGRAMMES

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Article 1 – Objectives, Scope of implementation and Definitions

1. The following Regulations refer to the accreditation system, implementation and organisation of PhD programmes at the University of Calabria, pursuant to art. 19, paragraph 1, of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010 as well as to "Regulations on the funding methods for PhD centres and programmes and criteria for the organization of PhD programmes by accredited institutions" issued by Ministerial Decree No. 226 dated 14 December 2021.
2. PhDs are third-level post-graduate academic qualifications that provide the necessary skills to carry out highly-qualified research activities at universities, public or private institutions, also for the purposes of career access in public administrations and in highly-innovative professional paths. PhD training programmes are consistent with the principles and guidelines shared at European level in line with Ministerial Decree 226/2021, Art. 1, paragraph 2) and paragraph 3); they implement the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.
3. For a better understanding of these Regulations the following words stand for:
 - a. "University" = the University of Calabria;
 - b. "course" = the PhD course;
 - c. "MUR" = the Ministry of University and Research
 - d. "ANVUR" = National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes.

Chapter II – Accreditation, Organization and Renewal

Article 2 – Accreditation, Organization and Renewal

1. PhD courses with administrative headquarters located at the University are established and organized upon Rector's Decree by resolution of the Board of Directors, following to the approval of the Academic Senate, upon proposal of one or more departments.
2. Proposals for the organization of PhD programmes shall be drawn up by departments, proposing themselves as administrative PhD headquarters; proposals shall be submitted to the Rector by the deadline yearly scheduled by the University on the basis of ministerial guidelines in order to be accredited. The proposing departments apply annually for the new cycle of already financed programmes within the same deadline.
3. The Academic Senate gives its opinion on proposals for the new implementation and renewal of already accredited programmes, which are then submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
4. The University may also apply for programmes and its facilities to be accredited in partnership with other institutions through agreements or consortia, which may become the administrative headquarters of PhD programmes pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
5. The start of PhD courses is subject to the accreditation system established by the MUR, University and Research Ministry, on proposal of the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) in accordance with the standards and guidelines shared at European level.
6. The accreditation system consists of the first authorisation necessary to set up PhD courses and facilities, where they will be carried out, as well as the cyclical assessment of requirements



requested, in accordance with the procedures indicated in the regulations set out in Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

7. University facilities and courses will be financed for a time span of five years.
8. Monitoring activities and regular assessments carried out by ANVUR shall check the fulfilment of requirements requested in order to grant funding to PhD courses as per Art. 4 of the Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
9. Failure to meet one or more of the required conditions shall result in the grants withdrawal. In this case, the University shall immediately interrupt the start of a new cycle of PhD programmes, for which funding has been withdrawn, without prejudice to the completion of the already activated courses.
10. Without prejudice to monitoring and regular assessment referred to in Paragraph 8 of this Article and for the purposes of its confirmation or withdrawal, subsidies shall be re-evaluated, should the name of the programmes or the members of the teaching board change by over twenty-five per cent of its initial members of the reference cycle; the course co-ordinator can also change without prejudice to the fulfilment of the requirements set forth in Article 4 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

Article 3 – Accreditation Requirements

1. Pursuant to Art. 4, para. 1 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the following criteria are necessary requirements to grant funding for courses and venues:
 - a) compliance with the features governing teaching boards' organisations, taking gender balance into account, if applicable;
 - b) number of doctoral scholarships;
 - c) adequate and steady funding for PhD programme's sustainability;
 - d) specific, qualified, operating and scientific facilities for PhD students' study and research activities;
 - e) advanced research and training activities;
 - f) activities – also jointly among several PhD programmes – of interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training of advanced language and computer training, as well as activities in the field of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, results exploitation and dissemination, intellectual property and open access to data and research products and fundamental principles of ethics and integrity;
 - g) an ensuring-quality system for PhD training design and management ensuring quality standards in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), according to ANVUR guidelines.

Article 4 – Industrial PhD courses, advanced training apprenticeships and PhD courses of national interest

1. As per initial or following subsidies, pursuant to Article 10 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the University may request qualification recognition as "industrial PhDs" – also changing their programme designation – for already activated courses on the basis of agreements or financial partnerships, including foreign businesses that carry out research and development activities.
2. In any case, as provided for in Article 45 of Legislative Decree of 15 June 2015, no. 81, the possibility to start apprenticeship contracts aimed at industrial PhDs training shall remain unaffected to guarantee the prevailing research activity. Such apprenticeship contracts are



considered equivalent to PhD scholarships for the purposes of calculating the minimum number required, necessary for the start of the course.

3. The University may also run PhD courses of national interest that meet the requirements set out in Article 11 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

Article 5 – PhD Schools

1. In accordance with Art. 6, paragraph 7 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, the University may organise the PhD Courses into PhD Schools in compliance with the University regulations.

Chapter III Access to PhD Courses

Article 6 – Access Requirements

1. A public selection is announced at least once a year for admission to PhD courses pursuant to Art. 8 paragraph 1 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. Italian and foreign citizens who, on the expiry date of the call for applications, hold Master's degrees or appropriate qualifications obtained abroad or who obtain qualifications required by the call for applications may apply for admission by the date of enrolment in the PhD course, under penalty of course admission forfeiture.
2. For the sole purposes of admission to selection procedures, foreign qualifications are verified by the selection board for admission to PhD courses in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country, issuing the qualification, as well as upon international treaties or agreements on qualifications recognition to continue study courses.
3. Candidates already holding PhD degrees may be admitted to a new PhD course, subject to passing the selection procedure, provided that subjects and scientific disciplines of the new PhD course are different from those of the course, which previously awarded the degree and provided that they are eligible for the scholarship.

Article 7 – Call for applications and admission procedures

1. The call for applications, issued by the Rector in compliance with the provisions of Article 8 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, is drawn up both in Italian and English and is published on the University website, on the European Euraxess website and on the MUR website.
2. The call for applications specifies admission criteria and qualifications assessment, number of candidates admitted in a PhD scholarship, number of possible candidates admitted without a scholarship and/or number of fellowships reserved, as well as any financial aid.
3. In order to take part in the selection, candidates must submit a specific application for admission in accordance with the procedures and deadlines set out in the call for applications.



4. Course admission is based on a merit evaluation carried out by the Selection Board.
5. Admission procedures are laid down by the Board of Lecturers, which establishes one of the following methods for the entry test:
 - a) assessment of qualifications and oral test;
 - b) assessment of qualifications, written and oral test.The presentation and/or discussion of a research proposal may also be envisaged.
6. Candidates' skills in scientific research shall be assessed according to the procedures, dates and facilities indicated in the call for applications.
7. Should the call for applications reserve a number of scholarships for candidates admitted to the competition with an academic qualification obtained abroad, or for scholarship beneficiaries from foreign countries or from specific international mobility programmes, the University may define different admission procedures; in such a case a separate ranking list shall be drawn up. The number of candidates admitted and scholarships – reserved but not allocated at the end of the selection and/or of the enrolment procedure – may be awarded to successful candidates with high ranking positions in the general standard admission list, if applicable, on the basis of funding conditions and rules.
8. Should PhDs be established as a result of international inter-university cooperation agreements and/or projects, specific admission procedures and organisational arrangements may be envisaged in relation to the features of individual PhD projects implemented as part of accredited PhD courses.

Article 8 – Selection Boards, test assessment and merit ranking lists

1. The Rector shall appoint the selection boards by decree for entry tests to PhD courses with administrative headquarters at the University upon proposal of the Boards of Lecturers, respecting gender balance, if applicable.
2. The Selection Boards shall be made up of at least three full professors and three deputy professors, chosen from among tenured or emeritus university professors and researchers, including foreign ones, working in the sector(s) or scientific discipline(s) as related to the course.
3. At least two of the three members of the Selection Board must be either full or associate university professors currently tenured or emeritus.
4. In the case of PhD courses in agreement with public or private bodies, or financed by other entities for specific topics, the selection boards may be supplemented by an expert from each of these entities; the latter may only express their opinion on the selection of candidates who submit a research project with specific topic financed by the organisation.
5. The Selection Board Chairmanship shall be assumed by the longest-tenured full professor or professor emeritus in service and, in the event of a tie, by the oldest one. Should no full professors chair in the Selection Board, the chairmanship shall be assumed by the longest-tenured associate professor and, in the event of a tie, by the oldest one. The Chairperson appoints the member who will play the role of Administrative Officer.
6. Should full members of the Selection Board resign with justified reasons, they shall be permanently replaced by already appointed deputy members without further formal procedures.
7. Members of the Selection Board for admission to PhD courses who lose their legal status required for appointment as Commissioner will be removed.



8. No member may sit the Selection Board for admission to the same PhD course for more than three consecutive cycles.
9. At the end of the selection procedures, the Selection Board shall draw up a single merit list for admission to the PhD course on the basis of the marks obtained by each candidate in the different exam tests.
10. Candidates are admitted to courses according to the order established in the merit ranking list up to the total number of scholarships available for each doctoral course. In the event of more successful placements in the merit ranking list, candidates must choose only one of the courses where they have been admitted and then complete the relative enrolment procedure.
11. In cases of scholarships or equivalent grants for fellowships with specific topics, the selection board awards such scholarships to the successful candidates in the ranking list on the basis of their research topics
12. The Rector shall issue a decree approving the selection criteria and the general ranking list for admission to each doctoral course, setting the deadlines for enrolment.
13. The selection criteria are open to the public; access to the selection criteria is allowed in the manner established by the relevant regulations in force.
14. Should eligible candidates drop out before the start of the course or not enrol by the set deadline, they will be replaced by the first eligible candidates in the ranking order.
15. Should successful candidates resign or be excluded after the start of the activities and in any case within the first term of the first year of the course, the board of lecturers shall assess the advisability of filling vacancies with other candidates from among the eligible candidates according to the ranking list order, also taking into account their research topics.

CHAPTER IV PhD Courses Organisation

Article 9 – Courses Duration

1. PhD courses shall last at least three years.
2. As a rule, the start of PhD courses coincides with the start of the academic year, both for the first and subsequent years.

Article 10 – PhD programme organisational structure

1. The course governing bodies are the Board of Lecturers and the Co-ordinator.
2. The Board of Lecturers, set up in accordance with the criteria and requirements set out in Article 4(1)(a) and (b) of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, has scientific, teaching and organisational responsibility for the courses. It performs orientation and guidance functions of PhD students in their scientific research, supervises the planning and implementation of teaching activities pertaining to courses and carries out all tasks necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and high scientific profile of courses.
3. Without prejudice to the requirements set out in Article 4, paragraph 1 letter a) and letter b) of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, in the case of a new PhD course, the Board of Lecturers and the Coordinator shall be designated by the Board of the Department proposing the course for each PhD cycle. In the event of renewal of an already accredited course, the appointment is decided by the department upon proposal of the Board of Lecturers.



4. A representation of two students enrolled in the PhD programme shall take part in the meetings of the Board of Lecturers during the discussion of teaching and organisational issues.
5. The Board of Lecturers performs the following tasks:
 - evaluates applications for membership of the same Board at the time of course renewal only, verifying that they meet the scientific qualification requirements laid down in Article 4 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021;
 - appoints the Coordinator, should the current Coordinator resign or be unable to conclude the mandate;
 - defines criteria for assessing admission tests to PhD courses and organises procedures to select candidates;
 - plans teaching, research, training and scientific activities of the course, assigning PhD students a research topic, subject to the rules of any additional public grants, whereby PhD students receive a scholarship on a specific research topic;
 - appoints a supervisor for each PhD student and one or more co-supervisors, pursuant to Art. 6 paragraph 6 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. The supervisor and the co-supervisor(s) shall be responsible for monitoring and orienting PhD students in their research activities and shall inform the Board of Lecturers of any problems and needs relating to PhD students' research;
 - decides on the assignment of PhD students to one of the University's departments;
 - approves the annual report on the progress of the course, previously submitted by the Co-ordinator;
 - approves the individual research plan of PhD students, after consulting the Supervisor and the co-Supervisor whatsoever;
 - assesses the research activity of PhD students each year with a view to admission to the following year or to the final examination, or to their exclusion from the course, after receiving the supervisor's reasoned opinion;
 - allows PhD students to carry out study and research periods of time in Italy and abroad;
 - allows PhD students to carry out tutoring and supplementary teaching activities;
 - decides whether to extend deadlines for submitting the PhD final dissertation;
 - proposes the names of the members of the PhD degree board and the external assessors in agreement with the Supervisor;
 - suggests the names of the board members for the award of PhD degrees in joint dissertations;
 - suggests the names of the board members for admission to PhD programmes;
 - authorises PhD students to carry out salaried activities;
 - defines the organisational activities of particular training programmes as allowed by Articles 7, 10(2) and 11 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021;
 - deliberates on topics related to the scientific disciplines of the course on proposals of agreements with public and private entities;
 - determines the conclusion of agreements and/or protocols for the performance of educational and research activities of PhD students at other public or private institutions;
 - determines scholarships reallocation in case of withdrawal by the beneficiaries in favour of suitable candidates according to the ranking list order, taking into account any scholarship for specific topics and any judgement of eligibility expressed by the Selection Board;
 - decides on the possibility to carry out joint attendance of active training stages or, however called, training programmes aimed at obtaining a teaching qualification or, more generally, training programmes requiring compulsory attendance;
 - decides to issue certificates provided for by international institutions upon PhD students' request, on University's proposal, if the requirements are met;



- approves PhD students' requests for co-tutelle programmes of incoming and outgoing PhD students and proposals for signing international agreements for PhD programmes and co-tutelle agreements;
- awards the title of Honorary PhD;
- reports the unauthorised absence of PhD students for the purpose of suspending the PhD grant payment;
- decides on the exclusion from the programme of a PhD student, after receiving the supervisor's opinion, who does not achieve a positive assessment or cannot be admitted to the final examination at the end of a given year;
- deliberates on planned suspension requests;
- performs any other duties provided for in the current Regulations and in the legislation in force.

6. Interested candidates must submit a request for participation in PhD programmes to the Board of Lecturers at the time of funding/renewal:

- a. In case of a newly established course, requests must be submitted to the department proposing the PhD course;
- b. In case of an already established course, requests must be submitted to the Board of Lecturers.

7. Admission of new applications from University lecturers is subject to the decision of the reference department and to the authorisation of the relevant university faculty, in case of applications from lecturers of other universities.

8. The board of lecturers identifies the PhD coordinator among its members pursuant to Art. 6 para. 6 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

9. Coordinators can only be recruited, if they have a number of working years at least equal to the length of their term before their retirement date.

10. The Coordinator cannot perform the same role in another PhD course.

11. The Coordinator remains in office for three years and the term may be renewed only once for a maximum of six years, consecutively. The tenure starts at the beginning of the academic year of the new cycle.

12. The Coordinator manages the activities related to the PhD cycles, already started and not yet completed, within the same programme, upon appointment.

13. The Coordinator:

- a. is responsible for the teaching and scientific activities of the course, supervises its organisation and coordinates its activities;
- b. calls and chairs the Board of Lecturers and implements its resolutions;
- c. draws up an annual report on the progress of the course for approval by the board of lecturers;
- d. may appoint a deputy coordinator among the lecturers belonging to the panel, in order to be replaced in case of his absence or impediment; the deputy coordinator shall fall from office together with the coordinator;



e. takes all the necessary and urgent actions, if applicable, to be approved during the first meeting of the Board;

f. is responsible for monitoring the fulfilment of requirements for grant funding and for informing the board and the department heads immediately, should such requirements be no longer met.

14. Should the coordinator resign, cease to hold office or lose the necessary requirements, the role of coordinator is temporarily performed by the Dean of the Board full professors. The appointment of the new coordinator must occur within a maximum of sixty days after the early resignation of the previous coordinator.

15. Should the PhD programme be cancelled, the co-ordinator and the Board of Lecturers remain in office until the completion of the cycles that are still in progress.

16. The Board's meetings are convened by the co-ordinator and, in the case of a newly-established course, by the head of the department. They may also be carried out on line in such a way as to guarantee the appropriate achievement of the Board's will. Minutes of the meetings must be drawn up and signed by the co-ordinator and the administrative officer designated by the co-ordinator.

Article 11 – PhD student training programmes and PhD educational programmes

1. The Board of Lecturers approves the training plan for each PhD student aimed at acquiring the necessary skills to carry out highly qualified research activities; it assigns the relevant department each PhD student, as well as sets out a Supervisor and one or more co-supervisors.
2. The University shall gradually adopt the quality control system referred to in Article 3(1)(g) in accordance with the guidelines provided by ANVUR.
3. The University shall prepare PhD Teaching Programme's guidelines including specialised teaching on PhD courses, cross-curricular teaching, scientific seminars, conferences, summer schools, teaching activities carried out by external lecturers.
4. The University defines the training educational requirements for PhD students and the equivalent ECTS credits per hour for teaching activities envisaged in PhD programmes.

Article 12 – Links between PhD courses and medical postgraduate degree courses

1. The joint attendance of a PhD course and a medical post-graduate degree course with a consequent reduction to a minimum of two years of the PhD course itself is also possible in compliance with the general criteria set out in Art. 7 of Ministerial Decree 261/2021.

Chapter V Rights and duties of PhD students

Article 13 – Registration and enrolment in subsequent years of the PhD course



1. Successful candidates must enrol in the course within the deadlines and according to the procedures set out in the Rector's Decree, which approves the selection criteria.
2. In accordance with the deadlines set annually by the University, enrolment in subsequent years is formalised by the payment of the fees due for the year in progress, except in cases of suspension, after the positive opinion by the Board of Lecturers.

Article 14 – Registration fees and scholarships

1. The amount of the fees charged to PhD students is indicated in the call for applications, taking into account the provisions of the law on the right to study.
2. Scholarships and other grants are awarded by Rector's Decree, according to the order defined in the merit ranking lists, drawn up by the Selection Board for admission to PhD programmes.
3. Fellows with specific research topics may only be awarded to candidates with the highest ranking in the merit list, who have received a positive evaluation by the Selection Board with regard to the relevance of their curriculum and/or research project to the topic of the fellowship.
4. Scholarships last one year and are renewed from year to year, provided that PhD students have completed the activities, planned for the previous year, as verified by the Board of Lecturers. Successful assessment is also necessary for the continuation of apprenticeship contracts and for awarding other grants in the course years subsequent to the first.
5. The minimum amount of the scholarship's grant is established by decree of the Minister for Universities and Research. The grant is paid for the full course. In the case of an externally-funded scholarship, it will be paid to the scholarship recipient after the University has actually received the relevant sums. Scholarship grants run from the start of the course or, in the case of a delayed start, from the actual start of the course.
6. The grants' amount is increased by 50 per cent for study periods of time abroad at universities or research institutes approved in advance by the Board of lecturers. The study periods abroad must be proven by a certificate issued by the host institution; they must not be shorter than 30 consecutive days and must not exceed a total of 12 months, which may be extended up to 18 months for PhD programmes cooperating with foreign universities and for those carried out in partnership pursuant to Article 3.2 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021. PhD students are required to certify their actual study period abroad or the amount received will be refunded. The bonus cannot be received for stays spent in the PhD student's home country or country of residence.
7. The scholarship is subject to the payment of contributions independently registered with INPS (Italian National Social Security Institute) in accordance with current social security provisions, two-thirds being paid by the administration and one-third by the scholarship recipient.
8. The amount limit of the annual personal gross taxable income, consistent with the scholarship, is set by the academic authorities and is indicated in the selection notice; it may not, in any case, exceed the amount of the scholarship. Scholarship recipients agree not to exceed the aforementioned income limit for each year of grant benefits upon acceptance of the scholarship. The income limit is determined by income from assets as well as income of any other nature, including occasional income. The income refers to the tax term for the calendar year of the grant's longest entitlement. Should the income limit be exceeded, entitlement to the grant is forfeited and any monthly payments already received in the year it occurred, must be repaid.
9. If the scholarship is waived for work-related reasons, as deliberated by the Board of Lecturers, should the call for applications envisage a number of candidates without a scholarship, PhD students may



choose to complete their PhD, in compliance with 75% of the total number of fellowships granted in first year and without limitation in subsequent years.

10. The grant shall also be revoked in case of failure to complete the compulsory period abroad of at least 90 days provided for in Article 15, paragraph 2. Withdrawals from scholarships shall entail the recipient's obligation to repay all or part of the sums received.
11. Those who have, even partially, benefited from scholarships for PhD courses may not apply for it a second time.
12. PhD student fellowships may not be cumulated with research grants or other fellowships, for any reason whatsoever, with the exception of those granted by national or foreign institutions useful to supplement PhD students' training or research activities by means of stays abroad.
13. Each PhD student is ensured a budget, aimed at supporting research activities in Italy and abroad and expenses related to the training course, appropriate to the type of course and in any case not lower than 10% of the amount of the doctoral grant; this amount is financed from the resources available in the budget of the PhD students' own Departments for scholarships granted by the University or from resources received from external institutions for additional scholarships, which also provide for their management.
14. In cases of non-renewal of the grant, or of waiver by the beneficiary, PhD students shall be obliged to repay the instalments already received for the year of the provision. The instalments must be repaid according to the terms of the financing institutions' programmes, including any additional charges for stays abroad. Any unspent amounts remain available in the University budget for the same purposes unless otherwise agreed with the financing institutions, for the resources allocated by them.
15. Without prejudice to the completion of the activities foreseen for each year, the provisions of this Article shall not apply to PhD students from foreign States who are recipients of scholarships or financial support within the framework of specific mobility programmes, in relation to the provisions of the specific regulations.

Article 15 – Rights and duties of PhD students

1. Admission to PhD programmes entails an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the provisions of Art. 10, paragraph 2, letter b) of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021. PhD students are obliged to attend PhD courses regularly, to carry out all study and research activities in the allocated facilities and in accordance with the procedures set out by the Board of Lecturer. At the end of each year, they are required to submit the Board of Lecturers an oral or written report on the activities and research carried out as well as to comply with any other requirements set out by the Board of Lecturers.
2. All PhD students are obliged to spend at least 90 non-consecutive days studying and researching abroad. This period of time must be authorised in advance by the Board of Lecturers.
3. The board of lecturers can authorise PhD students to undertake paid activities that enable them to acquire skills relating to the doctoral training field, subject to an assessment of the suitability of such activities with the successful performance of the training, teaching and research activities of PhD courses.
4. PhD students benefit from the protections and rights connected to the payment of social security contributions independently registered with INPS pursuant to article 2, paragraph 26 of law no. 335 of 8 August 1995.



5. The admission of State employees to a PhD programme is governed by article 2 of Law 476 of 13 August 1984.
6. Since the university is the administrative headquarters of the PhD course, it shall provide PhD students with insurance covering all risks associated with their activities within the framework of the on-campus and off-campus PhD programme.
7. PhD students are subject to the provisions of legislative decree no. 68 of 29 March 2012 on measures for the right to studies.
8. The provisions on the protection and support of maternity and paternity as set out in the Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security dated 12 July 2007 apply to PhD students.
9. PhD students, suspended from their scholarship's courses, retain the right to receive the scholarship's grant. At the end of the period of suspension, the scholarship shall be paid upon the student's re-entry into the course up to the total duration of the scholarship.
10. PhD students are required to comply with current legislation on the protection of personal data as well as with specific University regulations; they are also bound to confidentiality as regards information, data and documents of a confidential nature, which they might become aware of during their activities and/or on behalf of the University or other institutions or companies involved.
11. PhD students are required to successfully complete the training and research programme as approved by the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) as well as by the board of lecturers.
12. Intellectual property rights on research results are governed by the University Regulations on Industrial Property. PhD students are required to be familiar and comply with these regulations.
13. The provisions of art. I, par. 25 of Law no. 4 of 14 January 1999 shall apply to PhD students, who are assigned to university clinics, or who must in any case carry out assistance activities. Such activities are performed without charge to the university budget and do not give rise to any rights as regards access to professional roles in Italian universities.
14. The University guarantees PhD students in gender transition to live in a peaceful learning environment, protective of the individual privacy and dignity, where interpersonal relations are characterised by fairness, mutual respect for personal freedoms and inviolability. For university career development and management, please also refer to the procedures indicated in the specific University regulations.

Article 16 – Teaching activities

1. Subject to the authorisation of the Board of Lecturers and to the opinion of the Supervisor, PhD beneficiaries are considered as an integral part of their training project; thus, they may carry out tutoring activities to students belonging to Bachelor's and Master's degree courses without any increase in the grant.
They may also carry out supplementary teaching activities up to a maximum of forty hours per academic year. Such activities may be paid by means of allowances granted pursuant to Law no. 170 dated 11 July 2003, enacting Decree-Law No. 105 of 9 May 2003.
2. The number of hours of supplementary teaching activities must be mentioned in the annual report on PhD students' activities.
3. The educational collaboration, as defined in the preceding paragraphs, is optional and does not give rise to any rights with regard to access to the professorial roles in Italian universities.



Article 17 – PhD courses' suspension and extension

1. Without prejudice to the compulsory maternity leave or other circumstances expressly provided for by law, upon PhD students' documented requests, the Board of Lecturers may grant a suspension of the course for the following proven reasons, which are deemed incompatible with the required PhD courses' exclusive and full-time commitment:
 - (a) major health reasons;
 - (b) compulsory army service (if provided for in the candidate's country of origin);
 - (c) probation period in public institutions.
2. Suspension for partial-monthly periods is not possible.
3. While deciding on the suspension, the Board may set terms, conditions or checks, in line with the mid-term assessment deadlines, granting the transfer to the following years subject to provision until the suspension period has been fully made up and the legal duration of the course has been fulfilled.
4. Once the reasons for the suspension have ceased to exist, PhD students will have to make up for the months of suspension from study and research activities; if they hold a grant, they will receive the monthly allowances not paid during the period of suspension.
5. The Board of Lecturers may grant a maximum time extension of twelve months, without any further financial burden upon request of the individual PhD student and for grounded reasons that do not allow the PhD student to submit the doctoral dissertation within the timeframe envisaged by the duration of the course
6. A time extension of the duration of the PhD course for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the Board of Lecturers for justified scientific needs and approved by the PhD student's Departmental Board. Such extension includes the corresponding extension of the duration of the scholarship with funds from the budget of the PhD student's relevant department.
7. The periods of PhD courses' extension and suspension referred to in paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, without prejudice to specific cases provided for by law.

Article 18 – PhD courses' exclusion and waiver from studies

1. By means of a grounded decision of the Board of Lecturers, PhD students may be excluded from the PhD course in the event of
 - a. negative assessment on PhD students' activity by the Board of Lecturers, in agreement with the supervisor, at any time during the PhD course;
 - b. prolonged and not-justified absence from the courses;
 - c. failure to pass any mid-term tests;
 - d. failure to pass scheduled final examinations at the end of the year.
2. In the circumstances referred to in paragraph 1, the scholarship recipient shall be obliged to repay the instalments already received relating to the year of issue of the provision or as determined by the Financing Body.



3. PhD students may apply for withdrawal from their studies at any time.

Chapter VI Award of PhD Degrees

Article 19 – PhD Dissertations and Final Examinations

1. The qualification of Philosophie Doctor, hereinafter referred to "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.", is awarded after the successful assessment of a research dissertation, which contributes to the progress of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation.
2. The degree of PhD is awarded by the Rector, who certifies its attainment by issuing a degree certificate.
3. Training activities carried out by PhD students at one or more university facilities are certified by a document attached to the degree certificate (diploma supplement).
4. Fulfilments for coordinators and PhD students concerning the procedure for the award of the degree are periodically defined by the University.
5. The PhD final dissertation is written in Italian or English, or in another language, according to the authorisation of the Board of Lecturers, and is supplemented by an abstract, written in English.
6. The final dissertation, together with the report on the activities carried out during the PhD course and any publications, shall be examined by at least two assessors, being one of them a university lecturer with highly qualified experience, who does not belong to the body and who awards the PhD degree. Assessors may not belong to the University, to the Board of Lecturers, to partner and/or consortia, to the financing bodies of the scholarship, if any, and must not be co-authors of joint publications with the author of the final dissertation. Assessors may belong to foreign or international institutions. They are appointed by the Board of Lecturers for each PhD student on proposal of the supervisor and co-supervisors of PhD students concerned. All PhD students, with the exception of those who have had periods of suspension to make up for, submit their final dissertation and annexes to the Co-ordinator, who ensures timely forwarding to assessors.
7. As a rule, within 30 days from receipt of the final dissertation, assessors shall express a written analytical assessment, suggesting admission to its public presentation or postponing its discussion for a period not exceeding six months, should they deem significant integrations or corrections to be necessary. After this period, the dissertation together with a new written opinion delivered by the assessors, is nevertheless admitted for discussion. The requested time extension of the discussion for a period not exceeding six months may in no way entail financial burdens for the University or further entitlement to the scholarship, which ends up with the completion of the doctoral cycle whatsoever.
8. Once the assessors' final opinion has been forwarded, the Board of Lecturers admits PhD students to the final examination and sends the Rector a copy of the minutes along with the assessments written by the assessors.

Article 20 – Examination Boards and final examination for degree awards

1. The appointment of the Selection Boards' members for the final PhD examination shall be made according to Rector's Decree, upon proposal of the Board of Lecturers, respecting gender balance, if applicable.
Selection Boards for final PhD examinations consists of at least three members, according to the following criteria:



- a. at least two-thirds by members not belonging to the administrative office of the course;
- b. no more than one-third by members belonging to the institutions involved in the doctorate of reference;
- c. at least two-thirds by faculty members.

In compliance with the aforementioned criteria, the Board of Lecturers must appoint an equal number of deputy members in addition to the number of full members.

Assessors and supervisors/co-supervisors cannot normally be appointed as members of the selection board for the PhD final examination.

2. The Selection Board's chairmanship is assumed by the senior tenured full professor or the senior tenured associate professor, if any. The Chairperson appoints the member who shall perform the Administrative Officer's duties. Any members' resignation shall result in the automatic replacement of deputy members, in compliance with the criteria set out in the previous paragraph.
3. Selection Board's activities must be completed within 60 days after the date of appointment. Coordinators of each course shall schedule the Selection Board preliminary meeting, which may also be held online, no later than one week after appointment, to review final dissertations and evaluators' assessments and set the date, time and place for the final examinations. After the above-mentioned deadlines, the Selection Board, whose work has not been completed, lapses and the Rector appoints a new Board, excluding the lapsed members.
4. Final examinations consist in assessing the scientific results achieved, the degree of in-depth research methodologies in the candidates' specific disciplines and the scientific training attained by them during their PhD studies. Assessments are carried out by examining the assessors' analytical opinion as referred to in Article 19 of these Regulations, the report of the Board of Lecturers on the candidates' overall activity, the final written dissertation, with particular reference to its original content, and its presentation.
5. Candidates are required to take the examination face to face, unless otherwise provided for by internal University regulations. Some of the members of the Board of Examination may also participate by remote.
6. At the end of the discussion, the dissertation is approved or rejected by a motivated written collegial decision. The Board of Examination may award honours unanimously in the event of particularly significant scientific results.
7. In case of a negative assessment, PhD students forfeits their PhD status and lose the right to discuss their final dissertations again.
8. At the end of the proceedings, the Board for the final examination draws up minutes, including detailed assessments on each candidate's performance as well as on the dissertations submitted for the award of the PhD degree. A copy of the aforementioned minutes shall be forwarded to the Rector for approval of the acts and subsequent fulfilments.
9. At the end of the examination, the Board issues a certificate stating that the final examination has been passed.
10. Sessions of the final examinations are open to the public and official publication of the relevant documents must be ensured.
11. The dates set for the final examination cannot be waived. In case of absence from the final examination, PhD candidates shall only be deemed justified in the event of illness or force majeure, upon presentation of appropriate documentation proving the cause of their absence.



PhD students may sit the final examination on another date. In case of unjustified absence, they forfeit the right to take the final examination.

12. Any candidate, who does not sit the final examination within one year from the date of submission of the dissertation, shall normally be deemed to have forfeited it.

Article 21 – Database and PhD dissertations' storage

1. Pursuant to Article 14 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the University shall store a digital copy of the dissertation in the University Register, in a specific open-access section within thirty days from the discussion and approval of the dissertation. Following to the authorisation by the Board of Lecturers, sections of the dissertation may be made unavailable in relation to the use of data protected under current legislation.
2. After the award of the degree, the University shall ensure that the final dissertation is stored in the national libraries in Rome and Florence. The University shall also ensure that dissertations are stored in the University's open-access institutional archives, in such a way as to guarantee their preservation and public availability.

Chapter VII Internationalisation

Article 22 – Internationalisation

1. In accordance with the principles for the development of the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area, the University promotes internationalisation and encourages the development of international cooperation in the field of PhDs.
2. The University encourages the participation in European programmes and concludes agreements with foreign universities and/or institutions that define the modalities of cooperation, mobility and provide for the award of a double/multiple/joint degree.
3. In order to obtain the European Ph.D. Label (additional certification of a 'European PhD', drawn up by the European Rectors' Conference), the following four conditions must be met:
 - a) the discussion of the final thesis must be preceded by the presentation of two papers about the dissertation work by two professors, who may also happen to be the assessors, from non-Italian, European universities different from each other and from the university, where the dissertation is being discussed;
 - b) at least one of the members of the examination board must come from an institution from a European country other than the one hosting the PhD;
 - c) part of the dissertation discussion must be held in an official European language other than that of the country hosting the dissertation;
 - d) part of the research included in the dissertation must have been carried out during a stay of at least three months in a European country other than Italy and that of the candidate.
4. The University may award the label "International Doctor" upon request of the PhD students concerned, provided that the following four criteria are fully met:
 - a. the research submitted in the dissertation must be partly carried out during a stay of at least three months (90 days) in a non-European country;



- b. the discussion of the final dissertation must take place after submission of two positive assessments by Assessors, appointed by the Board of Lecturers in accordance with Article 19 above and belonging to foreign university institutions in two different non-European countries; the Assessors' evaluation results will be attached to the candidate's final examination report.
 - c. at least one of the examination board members must come from a non-European country other than the country hosting the dissertation, as appointed in accordance with Article 20 of these Regulations.
 - d. The discussion must take place in a foreign language other than that of the country, where the dissertation is being discussed.
5. PhD students wishing to apply for the issue of the additional certificates referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 must expressly submit their request together with their application for admission to the final examination. This proposal must be formalised in the minutes of the Board of Lecturers that approve the admission of the PhD student concerned to the final examination. Certifications will only be granted, if all the above requirements are fully met.
 6. PhD students from other universities (Italian or foreign), who spend a research period of time of more than one month at a University of Calabria department will be granted the status of visiting Ph.D. upon request of the scientific referee, that is a University professor. Visiting Ph.D. students are not enrolled in the University's Ph.D. courses and do not attain the University's PhD degree. They are allowed access to the general research support services provided by the University.

Article 23 – Co-tutelle programmes of PhD dissertations

1. The University draws up agreements with foreign universities for the implementation of co-tutelle dissertation programmes, which consist in the preparation of a dissertation under the joint direction of a lecturer from the University of Calabria and a lecturer from the university involved in the agreement; the latter plays the role of supervisor of the PhD student's research activity and dissertation work at the two universities signing the agreement.
2. Every co-tutelle agreement requires the existence of international framework agreements.
3. Should the co-tutelle agreement be signed with a university in Spain, France, Switzerland or Germany, the reference legislation is that governing the CRUI agreements. In other cases, the co-tutelle agreement must be signed after a framework agreement has been concluded with the partner university.
4. Students enrolled in research PhD courses at the University of Calabria, as first location, may request the authorisation to start a joint final dissertation within the first year of the course and by the way, no later than the second year. After this deadline, should particular scientific interests exist, the Board of Lecturers may also authorise the co-tutelle of the dissertation.
5. Each co-tutelle programme is supported by an agreement, whose terms must be specified in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (a) PhD students, who have paid their tuition fees at their home university, shall be deemed to be duly enrolled at both universities that are parties to the agreement;
 - (b) the partner university provides PhD students with the necessary teaching and research facilities and guarantees the services provided to its PhD students whatsoever;
 - (c) the partner university shall provide PhD students with insurance against accidents;
 - (d) PhD students under co-tutelle programmes shall carry out their work under the responsibility of a dissertation supervisor at each of the partner universities;



- (e) PhD students carry out their study and research activities at the facilities of the two universities for approximately equivalent time frames and, in any case, for a minimum of 6 to 18 months over the three years of their PhD at the foreign university;
 - (f) the final examination for the PhD degree shall consist of a single test; it will be taken at one of the two universities and shall focus on the discussion of a final dissertation before a Board of Examiners made up of scientific representatives of the two countries appointed in equal numbers by the partner universities;
 - (g) after passing the final examination, PhD students are awarded the PhD degree in co-tutelle programmes, which is recognised by both universities;
 - (h) the above-mentioned PhD degree is completed with the statement "co-authored dissertation with the University of ";
 - (i) the protection of the dissertation topic, as well as its publication, use and protection of PhD students' research results, carried out at the two universities will be specified in the agreement.
6. The agreement also sets out the financial burdens related to PhD students' mobility borne by each University.

Chapter VIII Final and temporary provisions

Article 24 – Final and temporary provisions

1. The current regulations shall apply to all cycles in force on the date of the issue of the Decree.
2. These Regulations shall be published on the University's Regulations webpage. For all matters not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the provisions in force shall be applied.