

REGULATION

*of doctoral studies at the
University of Vigo*

2024



REGULATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIGO

Version approved by the Management Committee on 30/05/2024 and ratified by the Governing Council on 20 June 2024.

Explanation of reasons

Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March, on the University System, structures university education in three cycles: Bachelor's Degree, University Master's Degree and Doctorate. Doctoral studies, corresponding to the third cycle and leading to the award of the Doctor's Degree, are aimed at acquiring the competences and skills related to research within a field of scientific, technical, humanistic, artistic or cultural knowledge. According to the aforementioned regulation, these studies shall be organised in the manner determined by the Statutes or rules of organisation and operation of the respective universities, in accordance with the criteria for obtaining the Doctor's Degree approved by the Government, by Royal Decree, following a report by the Council of Universities.

On the other hand, Royal Decree 822/2021 of 28 September, which establishes the organisation of university education and the procedure for quality assurance, incorporates references to interdisciplinarity and the acquisition of skills concerning research that must be contemplated in these regulations.

The regulatory framework is completed at state level with relevant texts whose contents were considered when drafting this text, such as Law 14/2011 of 1 June, on science, technology and innovation, or Royal Decree 1791/2010 of 30 December, which approves the Statute of the university student and Royal Decree 1027/2011 of 15 July, which establishes the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education. Likewise, at regional level, Law 6/2013 of 13 June, on the Galician University System (*SUG*), Law 5/2013 of 30 May, on the promotion of research and innovation in Galicia, and Decree 222/2011 of 2 December, which regulates official university education in the Autonomous Community of Galicia, are also applicable.

The regulations governing doctoral studies are more specifically developed in Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies, and in Royal Decree 576/2023 of 4 July, which amends Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January, and which includes the new regulations contained in the recent Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March, on the University System, which affect doctoral studies; in particular, those directly related to the reinforcement of the internationalisation of university studies, their connection with social needs and with their local and global environment, as well as the commitment to open science and citizen science. The new organic law also expressly regulates the International and Industrial Mentions of doctoral degrees, while reinforcing the autonomy of universities.

This regulation is in line with the key principle of Royal Decree 640/2021 to ensure the strengthening of quality in doctoral schools and in particular with the institutional accreditation process in order to streamline and make more transparent and efficient the processes of verification and renewal of accreditation of degrees.

The experience of recent years and the need to modify aspects of the functioning of doctoral programmes are the reasons for the introduction of a series of additional changes that will undoubtedly improve the conditions in which doctoral students carry out their studies.

Firstly, and in line with European recommendations, the role of doctoral schools in the supervision and monitoring of doctoral activities should be emphasised. On the one hand, doctoral schools must provide advice to their students for their integration into doctoral programmes, establishing the obligation to have a personal training plan. On the other hand, doctoral students will be considered as research staff in training, and the obligation of the thesis supervisor to accompany and advise the doctoral student throughout the thesis preparation process is reinforced. In addition, the management committees of doctoral schools must include representation of doctoral students.

Also, given the evident connection between higher education and research in doctoral programmes, the regulation integrates the advanced research standards in the European Research Area established by the European Commission in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and developed through the HRS4R programme (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers), in particular with regard to early-stage researchers (R1). Thus, persons admitted to a doctoral programme have the dual status of doctoral students and pre-doctoral research staff in training, in accordance with the requirements established in the aforementioned European standards and national legislation (Law 14/2011 on Science, Royal Decree 103/2019 EPIF and Royal Decree 191/2010 University Student Statute).

In addition, Royal Decree 576/2023 modifies the maximum duration of doctoral studies both for full-time and part-time studies, establishing the possibility of a one-year extension. In the case of people with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent, the duration of doctoral studies will be a maximum of six years full-time and nine years part-time. Likewise, the causes for the suspension of the calculation of time for the completion of doctoral studies as a result of temporary disability, birth, adoption, guardianship for the purpose of adoption, foster care, risk during pregnancy, risk during breastfeeding and gender-based violence are revised.

Furthermore, a series of measures linked to the supervision and evaluation of the work carried out by the doctoral student and the guarantee of its quality have been introduced. Thus, for example, each doctoral thesis is required to have a minimum of two reports issued by experts in the field and external to the university where the thesis is registered. These reports may propose aspects for improvement. It is also foreseen that the examining board that evaluates the doctoral thesis will be formed by a majority of members external not only to the university where the thesis is defended but also to the programme in which the doctoral student is enrolled, and it is guaranteed that this examining board will have a balanced composition between men and women.

Finally, various aspects related to access and admission requirements, the International Mention in the Doctor's Degree, joint supervised theses, as well as the Industrial Mention are regulated, with the aim in the latter case of improving the transfer and exchange of knowledge in a non-specifically academic environment; lastly, a new article is added concerning the Extraordinary Doctorate Award.

In view of the above, in order to adapt and update the University's regulations concerning doctoral studies to the new national regulations, the Governing Council, at its meeting of 20 June 2024, agreed to approve these Regulations.

Preliminary Chapter. General Principles

Article 1. Purpose and scope of application

Doctoral studies and the awarding of the doctoral degree at the University of Vigo shall be governed by the provisions of Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System and its implementing regulations; Royal Decree 822/2021 of 28 September, which establishes the organisation of university education and the procedure to ensure its quality and Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies, as amended by Royal Decree 576/2023 of 4 July, and Royal Decree 195/2016 of 13 May, which establishes the requirements for the awarding of the European supplement to the university doctoral degree; Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, which approves the Statute of pre-doctoral research staff in training; the Statutes of the University of Vigo and other provisions enacted by the State, adapted to the Autonomous Community of Galicia and the University of Vigo within the scope of their respective competences and, in particular, by these regulations.

The purpose of this regulation is to regulate the organisation of doctoral studies leading to the award of the doctor's degree at the University of Vigo, which shall be official and valid throughout the national territory.

Chapter 1. Doctoral studies

Article 2. Structure of doctoral studies

A doctoral programme is the set of activities leading to the award of a doctoral degree. The aim of this programme shall be to develop the different training aspects of doctoral students and shall establish the procedures and lines of research for the development of doctoral theses.

Doctoral studies will be organised through doctoral programmes in various scientific, technological, humanistic-artistic and social fields, with an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge, in the manner determined by the Statutes of the University of Vigo and in accordance with the criteria established in Royal Decree 99/2011. The aim is to acquire the knowledge, competences and skills necessary to enable doctoral students to carry out research in their field of knowledge independently and with the utmost rigour.

Doctoral programmes will include organised aspects of research training that will not require structuring in ECTS credits and will include both transversal and specific training in the field of each programme, although, in any case, the essential activity of doctoral students will be research.

Doctoral programmes may be organised exclusively by the University of Vigo or jointly by several universities, with the collaboration, expressed through an agreement, of other public or private, national or foreign organisations, centres, institutions and entities with R&D&i activities.

In any case, the doctoral programme's verification report will include the list of training activities, with an express indication, if applicable, of those that are compulsory for all students on the doctoral programme.

Chapter 2. Organisation of doctoral studies

Article 3. Organisation through Schools for Doctoral Studies

The School for Doctoral Studies of the University of Vigo (EIDO) assumes the organisation, planning, management, supervision and monitoring of the overall offer of doctoral activities at the University of Vigo, as well as being able to manage open research training activities. In relation to this, EIDO will develop, disseminate and review its strategy, which includes the quality policy and objectives, as well as the goals and measurement indicators.

EIDO shall organise the training offer, defining its own strategy for doctoral training in accordance with Article 12. EIDO and the doctoral programmes shall plan the offer of activities aimed at the transversal and specific training of doctoral students, providing them with advice on all those aspects necessary for their full integration into doctoral programmes. Its aim is to develop a flexible, interdisciplinary and quality doctoral training model, aimed at promoting the lines of research of greatest interest and projection of the university.

In accordance with Royal Decree 99/2011, doctoral schools will have a management committee. Both its composition and its functions shall be set out in the EIDO's Internal Regulations. The rector shall appoint the director of the school, who shall be a researcher of recognised prestige belonging to the university's teaching staff. This condition shall be supported by proof of at least three periods of recognised research activity in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1086/1989 of 28 August 1989.

The university shall provide the infrastructure and resources it deems appropriate to provide the doctoral schools with the capacity required to carry out their functions.

EIDO shall have internal regulations that shall establish, among other aspects, the rights and duties of the people who supervise and tutor theses and of the doctoral students, as well as the composition and functions of the academic commissions of its programmes.

Chapter 3. Organisation of doctoral programmes

Article 4. Academic commission of the doctoral programme

Each doctoral programme shall have a doctoral programme academic commission (hereinafter referred to as CAPD), which shall be responsible for the design, implementation, updating, organisation, quality and coordination of said programme.

The CAPD shall be composed, whenever possible, of at least seven members, including the chairperson and the secretary. The secretary shall record the resolutions adopted by the commission and draw up the minutes of the CAPD's meetings. Its members shall be renewed, whenever possible, generally every six years, in accordance with the procedure agreed by the management committee of the School for Doctoral Studies.

In the case of inter-university doctoral programmes, or programmes in which organisations, entities, centres or institutions with R&D&I activities participate, the composition of the CAPD will be that which appears in the corresponding collaboration agreement. In any case, its composition will include at least one member from each of the universities responsible for the development of the programme.

The CAPD will be made up of doctoral teaching staff with permanent ties to the university and full-time dedication, in possession of at least one period of recognised research activity in accordance with Royal Decree 1086/1989. In the case of doctoral programmes that have the collaboration of other public, private, national or foreign bodies, centres, institutions and entities with R&D&i activities, research staff linked to these organisations may form part of the CAPD,

provided that they can accredit that they meet the same requirements as those assigned to the university, or comparable merits in the event that the period of research activity is not applicable. All members of the CAPD must be registered as teaching staff assigned to the doctoral programme. The composition of the CAPD shall aim for a balanced presence of women and men.

Article 5. Powers of the academic commission

The functions of the academic commission of a doctoral programme are:

- 1 Design, organise, coordinate and propose to the School for Doctoral Studies the set of activities that make up the programme, including lines of research, training activities, additions to and deletions from the list of research staff who will undertake the direction and supervision of doctoral theses, criteria for admission and selection of students, and all other information required in compliance with current regulations.
- 2 Review and keep the information on the doctoral programme up to date and inform the School for Doctoral Studies within the established deadlines and procedures.
- 3 Carry out the process of merit assessment and admission of students to the doctoral programme, by applying the selection criteria and procedures established in the verification report, which shall be made public.
- 4 Assign students admitted to the programme a tutor and, within a maximum period of three months after enrolment, a supervisor, confirming and communicating the authorised profile responsible for supervision in the academic management computer application. The CAPD is also responsible for modifying these appointments and, if applicable, for authorising the joint direction of the thesis when there are reasons of an academic nature that justify it.
- 5 Establish, if applicable, the specific training complements that students must take in order to be admitted to the doctoral programme.
- 6 Establish, if applicable, the cross-disciplinary and specific training requirements in the field of the programme that students must take after admission to the doctoral programme.
- 7 Temporarily schedule and annually supervise the activities document and the research plan of each doctoral student, taking into account the reports to be issued for this purpose by the authorised profile. It shall also approve the recognition of training activities and inform the tutors, directors and doctoral students of the results of the assessment.
- 8 Authorise stays and activities outside Spain in prestigious higher education institutions or research centres, including those necessary for the international mention and joint supervision of the doctoral degree. These stays and activities will be previously informed and evaluated by the director and tutor. It will also authorise stays by external doctoral students. It will also formalise the academic agreement with the host or home institution.
- 9 Evaluate the report required to accredit the relationship of theses with an industrial mention with an industrial research or experimental development project carried out in a company or in a public administration.
- 10 Authorise part-time doctoral studies on the programme when appropriate.
- 11 Authorise, where applicable, extensions to the duration of doctoral studies and the granting of temporary withdrawals, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 99/2011 and articles 27 and 28 of this regulation. It shall also draw up proposals for the definitive withdrawal of teaching staff from the DP and inform doctoral students and authorised profiles.
- 12 Make proposals for the modification and/or suspension/extinction of the programme, which will be sent to the School for Doctoral Studies for assessment.

- 13 Provide academic and/or scientific advice to doctoral students and thesis supervisors.
- 14 Identify the attention and guidance needs of the PD, transmit them to the management of the doctoral school and execute the specific activities of reception and guidance, if necessary.
- 15 Propose recognition for thesis supervision, coordination and management in accordance with the regulations of the University of Vigo.
- 16 Issue the report authorising the start of the procedure for the presentation and public defence of the doctoral thesis and to approve, if applicable, the quality requirements for doctoral theses.
- 17 Draw up and approve the proposal for the composition of the doctoral thesis examining board.
- 18 Draw up the report to verify and/or modify the doctoral programme in accordance with current regulations and to carry out any actions for improvement that may arise.
- 19 Draw up the quality reports on the doctoral programme (in particular, those on monitoring and accreditation), as well as carrying out the actions arising therefrom.
- 20 Any other function entrusted to it by the School for Doctoral Studies or assigned to it in compliance with these regulations and other legal provisions in force.

Article 6. Doctoral programme coordinator

Each doctoral programme shall have a coordinator appointed by the rector, who shall act as chairperson of the academic commission of the doctoral programme, who jointly fulfils the following requirements: (i) has supervised or joint supervised at least two doctoral theses, (ii) has at least two periods of research activity recognised in accordance with Royal Decree 1086/1989, and (iii) has a permanent link with the university and full-time dedication. The coordinator may only exercise the functions derived from their position in a single doctoral programme.

In the case of inter-university programmes, the appointment of the coordinator will be by agreement between the rectors, in the case of joint programmes, or in the manner indicated in the agreement with other institutions, when the programme is developed in collaboration with them.

The programme coordinator shall sign the commitment to supervise the programme's doctoral students and the joint supervision or industrial doctorate agreements referred to in articles 44 and 45.

Article 7. Doctoral programme teaching staff

All doctoral students formally assigned to one of its lines of research are considered to be teaching staff on the programme, without prejudice to the possible collaboration in certain specific activities of other people or professionals by virtue of their relevant scientific or professional qualifications in the corresponding field of knowledge. Teaching staff may be assigned to a programme at the time of its start-up by means of their inclusion in the verification report or, subsequently, after approval by the CAPD.

Teaching or research staff from outside the university may be incorporated into the programme provided that they meet the requirements established in article 8. In this case, the CAPD shall

accredit this condition and guarantee the necessary resources for these incorporations, and shall inform the university of this fact.

A professor or researcher may only be assigned to one doctoral programme in general, without prejudice to the possibility of collaborating in the training activities of other programmes as an invited guest. Exceptionally, in justified cases of development or participation in differentiated lines of research, this professor or researcher may be assigned to more than one doctoral programme. The participation of teaching staff from the University of Vigo as a member of the teaching staff of a doctoral programme at another university will require the formal authorisation of the EIDO.

Article 8. Accreditation of Research Experience

For the purposes of this Regulation, accredited research experience is understood to mean the possession of at least one period of research activity recognised by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (hereinafter, CNEAI) in application of Royal Decree 1086/1989 of 28 August, on the remuneration of university teaching staff, or fulfilling at the time of application or in a previous application any of the following requirements:

- Accredit sufficient merits that guarantee the positive evaluation of a six-year period of research activity according to that established by the CNEAI for each scientific field.
- Be, in the last six years, the principal investigator of a research project funded by a public call for proposals (excluding projects from the university's own calls for proposals).
- Have authored or joint authored at least three publications in journals included in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) or in the *Scimago Journal and Country Rank* (SJR). In areas where this criterion is not traditionally applied, it will be replaced by a requirement comparable to the second one established by the CNEAI in these scientific fields.
- Proof of authorship or joint authorship of an operating patent.
- Having supervised at least one doctoral thesis with the qualification of outstanding (or equivalent to the highest qualification in its absence) that resulted in at least one publication in journals indexed in the JCR or a contribution of equivalent relevance in their scientific field according to the criteria of the CNEAI.

Article 9. Tutoring of doctoral programme

The definitive admission of a doctoral student to a doctoral programme involves the assignment of a tutor designated by the corresponding CAPD.

The tutor may or may not coincide with the thesis supervisor and will have the following tasks:

- (i) Ensure the interaction between the doctoral student and the CAPD and, jointly, with the thesis supervisor
- (ii) Ensure that the doctoral student's training and research activity are in line with the programme.

In order to be a thesis tutor, the Teaching and Research Staff must meet the following requirements:

- a) Have accredited research experience as indicated in article 8.
- b) Be part of the teaching staff of the doctoral programme in which the person to be tutored is enrolled.
- c) Have a permanent link with UVigo or with any of the collaborating entities in the doctoral programme. If there is no permanent link, this Teaching and Research Staff may be assigned as a tutor during the time that their contractual relationship with UVigo is maintained.

A tutor may not be a tutor if he/she has a marital or similar *de facto* relationship, a blood relationship within the fourth degree or an affinity within the second degree with the person being tutored.

The CAPD, having heard the doctoral student, may modify the appointment of the tutor at any time during the period of the doctorate, provided that there are justified reasons.

The tutoring work will be recognised as part of the teaching and research dedication of the teaching staff.

The 'authorised person' or 'authorised profile' will be considered to be the tutor or director of the doctoral student at the university who, at the CAPD's discretion, is authorised to transfer all evaluation reports or procedures via the university's computer platform. This authorised profile will inform the supervision commitment, the research plan, the activities document, the annual evaluation, the extension requests, the stay requests and, finally, the thesis to be presented.

Article 10. Guidance of a doctoral thesis

Within a maximum of three months of enrolment, the CAPD will assign each doctoral student a thesis supervisor. This person will be responsible, in accordance with the highest professional standards, for the coherence and suitability of the training activities, for the impact and novelty of the subject matter of the doctoral thesis in their field, and for guiding the planning and, if necessary, bringing it into line with other projects and activities in which the doctoral student is enrolled. Therefore, they must have the necessary time, knowledge, experience, technical aptitude and dedication to be able to attend the student. As supervisors of the research work, they must create a constructive and positive relationship with the students in order to establish the necessary conditions for an effective transfer of knowledge and for the future good development of their research career.

The thesis supervisor may be any Spanish or foreign doctor, with accredited research experience as indicated in article 8, regardless of the university, centre or institution in which they provide their services, and who does not incur in any of the causes for abstention established in article 23 of Law 40/2015 of 1 October.

Persons who are retired, on leave of absence, on special service or on secondment may continue to supervise a thesis provided that it is jointly supervised by a member of the doctoral programme.

No one who has a marital or similar relationship, a blood relationship within the fourth degree or an affinity within the second degree with the doctoral candidate may be a director.

In the case of the joint supervision theses referred to in article 44, compliance with the requirements for each supervisor shall be those applicable in their institution, which may be recognised in the other institution by virtue of the joint supervision agreement exclusively for the thesis that is the subject of the specific agreement.

The CAPD may modify the assignment of the thesis supervision, after hearing the doctoral candidate and/or the person(s) in charge of supervising the thesis, provided that there are justified reasons, by sending the CAPD a duly justified report and requesting the modification of the assignment, during the first two years of the training period. Exceptionally, this may be done later, with the approval of the School for Doctoral Studies. Under no circumstances may the assignment of the directorship be modified to leave it vacant.

The maximum number of people who may supervise a thesis will be two, except in the following circumstances, when it may be three:

- a) When the thesis is clearly interdisciplinary in nature.
- b) When the thesis is carried out within the framework of a national or international research project obtained through a competitive call for applications in collaboration with another national or foreign centre or institution.
- c) When the thesis is carried out in joint supervision with more than one foreign university.
- d) When the thesis is awarded the mention of industrial doctorate.
- e) When the thesis has a co-director from a foreign institution.

In such cases, one of the three directors must necessarily act as a tutor.

The authorization of EIDO will be required for the assignment of a director, following a proposal from the CAPD, in the following cases:

- a) Inclusion of a second director thirty-six months after the start of the doctoral studies when the doctoral student is full-time, or sixty-three months when he/she is part-time. For mixed time commitments, the corresponding calculation shall be applied using the formula set out in Article 21.1. This incorporation must be accompanied by a modification of the research and/or training plan of the doctoral student, reflecting the contributions of the new supervisor to the supervision of the thesis work. The inclusion of a new supervisor would have prevented the thesis from being deposited within the following 6 months. This inclusion is not possible for doctoral students who are in the extension period of their doctoral studies.
- b) Inclusion of a third person to supervise the thesis.

In the case of joint direction, the persons who exercise it will have the same rights and duties and will have to meet the requirements for accrediting research experience in accordance with the requirements indicated in article 8 of this regulation. For the joint direction of the thesis, prior authorisation of the Academic Commission will be required. This authorisation may be revoked at a later date if, in the opinion of the Academic Commission, joint direction does not benefit the development of the thesis.

The thesis supervisor will sign the report verifying the originality of the thesis. The doctoral student in training will be ultimately responsible for the originality of the thesis.

The work of thesis direction or joint direction will be recognised as part of the teaching and research dedication of the teaching staff.

The maximum number of University of Vigo theses that can be simultaneously supervised by teaching and research staff is ten, regardless of whether they are single or shared supervision.

The EIDO Code of Good Practice will include the guidelines applicable to the supervision of doctoral thesis in line with the provisions of these Regulations.

The tutor will preferably be assigned to one of the directors. A different tutor may only be appointed in the event that the supervisors do not meet the requirements set out in Article 9 of these regulations.

Chapter 4. New proposals for doctoral programmes and modification of existing ones Management of Doctoral Programmes

Article 11. Organisation of the training offer

EIDO shall define its own strategy for doctoral training, linked to the university's research strategy, which shall be articulated through doctoral programmes and shall carry out appropriate management for its purposes. To this end, it will organise, within its area of management, the teaching and activities inherent to the doctorate and will plan the necessary range of activities inherent to the training and development of doctoral students.

EIDO has a Quality Assurance System (QAS) which, among other purposes, supports the operation of doctoral programmes throughout their life cycle (procedures for verification, monitoring, modification and accreditation, as well as suspension and termination, if necessary).

Article 12. Submission and processing of proposals

Each university shall annually establish the calendar and procedure for the approval within each university of new proposals for doctoral programmes and/or modification of existing ones. The calendar will be agreed annually among the SUG universities in order to facilitate the administrative and academic management of the preparation and approval of proposals.

The proposal of a new doctoral programme will be the responsibility of the EIDO, which may channel any initiative of the university community and transfer it to the Governing Council as an expression of interest or declaration of intent, according to the procedure that the university has established for the incorporation of new degrees. The declaration of intent, which will be approved by the EIDO Management Committee, will include the proposal for the initial composition of the CAPD.

The proposal for the modification of a doctoral programme may originate from the EIDO or be submitted to it at the initiative of the CAPD and will be materialised in the presentation of a declaration of intent or interest according to the established format.

The university may establish criteria and requirements for the evaluation of proposals in the exercise of its responsibility in the planning of its offer of doctoral studies.

In both new proposals and modifications, EIDO shall ensure that the general requirements established in Article 4 of Decree 222/2011 are met and that they are in line with the principles of the university's R&D&I strategy and doctoral training. In the case of proposed modifications, it shall issue, on the basis of this assessment, a favourable or unfavourable report on the respective declaration.

In the case of new proposals, the issue of a favourable report by the Governing Council implies the formal appointment of the academic commission of the doctoral programme, which empowers it to develop the final proposal in the terms established by the Council of Universities, the autonomous community and the university itself.

Once the CAPD has approved the final proposal of the doctoral programme (which will include at least the proposal of the report, according to the established format, and the set of documents that define and support the training project), the proposal will be submitted to the EIDO for a report, after the public exhibition to the university community according to the established procedure and timetable, and the approval of the Governing Council and the Social Council of the University of Vigo

Article 13. Joint doctoral programmes

The University of Vigo may, by signing an agreement with other national or foreign universities, organise doctoral programmes leading to the award of a single doctoral degree. The signed

agreement shall include, at least: (i) the list of participating universities with an express indication of the university that assumes the coordination of the programme; (ii) the composition of the academic commission of the doctoral programme and of the sub-commissions delegated to each university and the functions of both bodies; (iii) the description of student and/or teaching staff mobility; (iv) enrolment and file custody; (v) the university responsible for issuing and registering the doctoral degree; (vi) the procedure for modifying and/or terminating the doctoral programme; and (vii) the programme's financial resource management system. In order to facilitate the management of inter-university doctoral programmes, the SUG universities shall undertake to approve a standard model of collaboration agreement that includes the agreements relating to the terms referred to in the previous paragraph.

The participating universities will recognise for academic and administrative purposes the training activities of the doctoral programme taken at any of the participating universities in the terms set out in the corresponding degree verification report.

In the case of doctoral programmes organised jointly by SUG universities, the corresponding declaration of interest shall be submitted to each of the participating universities at the initiative of the doctoral schools themselves or of one or more research groups from the participating universities. When a declaration of interest is received for an inter-university doctoral programme, it will be assessed by the unit/body responsible for doctoral studies at each of the participating universities. The issuing of a favourable report by all the participating universities will be an essential requirement for continuing with the development of the proposed doctoral programme.

Once the CAPD has approved the final proposal for the doctoral programme (which includes at least the proposal for the report -according to the established format-, the proposal for the collaboration agreement and the set of documents that define and support the training project), it will be submitted for a report from the unit/body responsible for doctoral studies at each university and for approval by the Governing Council and the Social Council of the participating universities.

The academic commission of an inter-university doctoral programme will be made up of a balanced representation of the universities participating in the programme and its members will meet the same requirements as those established for the members of the academic commissions of doctoral programmes organised only by the University of Vigo. The declaration of interest must state the university that is coordinating the programme and the details of the general and local coordinator(s) at each university.

It is the responsibility of the coordinating university to assume the following functions, in addition to those that appear in the corresponding programme collaboration agreement:

- a. Coordinate the process of drawing up and approving the doctoral programme and try to ensure the proactive and balanced participation of the participating universities.
- b. Carry out the administrative procedures and formalities related to the authorisation procedure before the autonomous community and the verification before the Council of Universities, as well as to inform the participating universities of the status of the aforementioned procedures.
- c. Promote the collaboration agreement for the doctoral programme.
- d. Carry out the formal procedures for registration of the corresponding degrees in the register of universities, centres and degrees (hereinafter RUCT).
- e. Send the participating universities the evaluation and/or authorisation reports issued by the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ACSUG), by the department responsible for universities in the autonomous region and by the Council of

Universities, as well as the documents that make up the programme report once authorised and verified.

- f. Coordinate the procedures for monitoring and renewing the accreditation of the doctoral programme.
- g. Coordinate, if necessary, the procedure for modification and/or termination of the doctoral programme.

By agreement of the participating universities, local academic commissions may be appointed with the delegation of functions assigned to them by the joint academic commission, which shall have a local coordinator and, optionally, a local academic secretary. The local academic commissions shall have at least three members: chairperson, secretary and member; the first two members shall coincide with the local coordinator and the local academic secretary of the programme, respectively. All members must meet the same requirements as those applicable to the University of Vigo's own programmes.

The proposal to modify the doctoral programme may come from the respective Schools for Doctoral Studies or be submitted to them at the initiative of the CAPD and will be materialised in the presentation of a declaration of intentions or interest in the established format.

Article 14. Monitoring and accreditation of doctoral programmes

In accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 822/2021 of 28 September, the institutional assessment of the centres is an essential part of the quality assurance system, and institutional accreditation is the recognition of the centre's capacity to guarantee academic quality. Therefore, the accreditation of the degrees taught in the centres that have obtained institutional accreditation through the procedure established in article 14 of Royal Decree 640/2021 will be renewed for as long as the institutional accreditation is maintained. Institutional accreditation shall be renewed before the end of the six years following the last accreditation. The monitoring of degrees shall be carried out in accordance with Article 14 of Royal Decree 640/2021.

The accreditation of official doctoral degrees taught at centres that are not institutionally accredited must be renewed within a maximum period of six years from the start date of the doctoral programme or from the renewal of the previous accreditation. The evaluation process shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure and deadlines established by the Autonomous Community of Galicia.

Three years after the actual implementation or renewal of the accreditation, a follow-up report must be drawn up.

The accreditation renewal process may lead to the implementation of improvement actions, which may also be the subject of a request for modification of the degree if the School for Doctoral Studies so determines.

Article 15. Termination of doctoral programmes

A doctoral programme may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

1. If so decided by the Governing Council of the university in the exercise of its powers.
2. Failure to pass the accreditation renewal process established in Article 10 of Royal Decree 99/2011.
3. Failure to accredit compliance with the basic requirements established by the government in accordance with the provisions of Organic Law 6/2001 on universities.
4. Failure to meet the requirements established in article 6 of Decree 222/2011 or if it is affected by the provisions of article 18 of the aforementioned decree.

5. That a proposal for the termination of the programme is made under the review and improvement processes of the degree in accordance with the system approved by the university.
6. When any exceptional situation occurs that prevents the correct development of the doctoral programme.

Termination will have the following effects:

- a. The loss of its official status and withdrawal from the RUCT.
- b. New students may not enrol in the doctoral programme.
- c. In any case, all affected students will be informed of the termination and its consequences in relation to the development of their studies.

The university will adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the academic rights of students who are pursuing the aforementioned studies under the terms established in the resolution to terminate the study plans and will approve the procedure for the termination of doctoral programmes within the university.

Chapter 5. Access and admission to doctoral studies

Article 16. Access

In general, to access an official doctoral programme, it will be necessary to hold the official Spanish Bachelor's degrees, or equivalent, and University Master's degrees, or equivalent, provided that at least 300 ECTS credits have been passed in these two courses.

Access is also open to those who are in one of the following situations:

- a) Holding official Spanish university degrees or equivalent Spanish degrees provided that they have passed at least 300 ECTS credits in the whole of these courses and accrediting a level 3 of the Spanish Framework of Qualifications for Higher Education. Students with a Spanish master's degree and a non-Spanish bachelor's degree may access doctoral studies even if they have not reached 300 ECTS credits or five courses of joint duration of their official university studies.
- b) Students in possession of a degree obtained in accordance with foreign education systems belonging to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) may apply for admission to doctoral studies provided that, without the need for recognition, they accredit a level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework as long as the said qualification entitles them to access doctoral studies in the country in which the qualification was issued. This admission shall not imply, in any case, the recognition of the previous degree held by the person concerned nor its recognition for purposes other than that of access to doctoral studies.
- c) Students in possession of a degree obtained in accordance with foreign education systems outside the EHEA may apply for admission to doctoral studies without the need for recognition and after verification by the University of Vigo that this accredits a level of training equivalent to that of the official Spanish Master's degree that entitles access to doctoral studies in the country of issue of the degree. This admission will not imply, in any case, the recognition of the previous degree held by the person concerned nor its recognition for any other purposes than that of access to doctoral studies.
- d) Being in possession of another doctoral degree.

- e) Likewise, university graduates who, after obtaining a place in training in the corresponding entrance examination for specialised health training places, have successfully completed at least two years of training in a programme for obtaining the official degree in one of the specialities in Health Sciences, may also be admitted.

Article 17. Admission

Additional requirements and criteria for the selection and admission of students may be established in the verification report and in the programme offer. The criteria shall, in all cases, respect the constitutional principles of merit and ability together with those of equality and non-discrimination.

In this regard, each doctoral programme shall reserve at least 5% of the places offered for students with a recognised degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, as well as for students with permanent special educational needs and who in their previous studies have required resources and support for their full educational normalisation. The places that are not filled in this special quota will become part of the general offer of places in the programme.

In the event that students do not have the complete prior training required by the programme, admission may be conditional on passing the specific training complements.

If this is the case, the programmes, through their report, will determine the training complements that the CAPD will specify for each student with the publication of the provisional list of student enrolment, without exceeding 15 ECTS credits. These complements will be carried out prior to or simultaneously with enrolment in academic supervision on the programme. In the case of simultaneous completion, students must enrol in these complements at the time of formalising their enrolment in academic supervision in the programme. If prior, only these complements will be enrolled and the supervision commitment referred to in article 32 of this regulation will not be signed, nor will the doctoral student's activities document be opened until they have been passed.

The training complements must be completed within a maximum period of two consecutive four-month periods. Failure to do so will result in the student being withdrawn from the programme.

These specific training complements may include subjects or modules from master's and bachelor's degrees and, for the purposes of public prizes and the awarding of grants and study aids, they will be considered doctoral level training. In the case of prior completion, its development will not be counted for the purposes of the time limit established for the thesis. These credits will not be counted for the purposes of the common requirements for access to the doctoral programme.

Article 18. Admission of students with foreign degrees

Students with degrees equivalent to official bachelor's and master's degrees and which give access to doctoral studies in their country of origin, issued by a foreign university or higher education centre, may apply for admission to doctoral studies after having their degree recognised by the relevant ministry or university, as appropriate.

Students with a foreign degree that has not been recognised may apply for admission to doctoral studies provided that they can accredit a level of education equivalent to that of the official Spanish university master's degree and that entitles them to access doctoral studies in the country in which the degree was awarded. This admission shall not imply, under any circumstances, the recognition of the previous degree or recognition for purposes other than access to these studies.

The student's application for admission will also include the possibility of simultaneously applying for equivalence, if necessary. The CAPD will assess the academic suitability of the studies taken by the applicant and will include this circumstance in the proposal for admission to the programme.

Decisions on equivalence will be included in the student's file and may be certified as any other point.

Students may enrol without waiting for the equivalence resolution, but their enrolment will be conditional on this declaration.

Each programme may establish a quota for students with foreign qualifications, establishing and agreeing, prior to the pre-enrolment deadlines, pre-admissions conditioned on compliance with the requirements and selection criteria.

Article 19. Admission of students with special needs

For students with special educational needs, appropriate support and counselling systems and services will be established by the University of Vigo. These services are aimed at supporting the integration of students with special needs, which may determine the need for educational support or possible curricular adaptations, itineraries or alternative studies.

Article 20. Admission procedure

- a. The academic commissions may establish additional requirements and criteria for the selection and admission of students to a doctoral programme. In particular, the endorsement of a researcher as possible Director of the doctoral thesis may be established.
- b. Students who meet the access and admission requirements may apply for admission to a doctoral programme, for which a pre-enrolment period shall be established. The aforementioned application shall be submitted at the place indicated in the call for application.
- c. After this period, the CAPD will make a proposal of persons admitted, indicating the training complements, if applicable, with the corresponding waiting list, in accordance with the selection criteria established in the programme. This proposal shall be considered as a provisional list of persons admitted and excluded and shall be published.
- d. Applicants who are not admitted may submit a complaint within the period and in the manner established in the corresponding call for enrolment. Once the period for complaints has elapsed and these have been resolved, the list of admitted students will be sent to the corresponding administrative management unit so that they can formalise their enrolment within the period indicated. Failure to formalise enrolment will result in the applicant's rights lapsing.

Article 21. Acknowledgements

Students who had previously completed doctoral studies under regulations prior to Royal Decree 99/2011 may apply for admission to a programme verified in accordance with the aforementioned Royal Decree. Once admitted, they must complete all the procedures for new students in the programme and pay the corresponding public fees, and the deadlines for the thesis stage will begin to be calculated.

The courses, seminars, stays and research work carried out during the thesis stage and which had not formed part of the training programmes of Royal Decree 778/1998, Royal Decree 56/2005 or Royal Decree 1393/2007, or the completion of other works carried out in doctoral programmes at a Spanish or foreign university, may be recognised as equivalent to a doctoral programme.

Students who change from a doctoral programme regulated by Royal Decree 99/2011 to another programme with the same regulations may apply for recognition of the activities carried out in the programme previously studied.

In order for the academic commission to authorise such recognition, there must be sufficient affinity in terms of duration and content with the training activities of the programme. Once they have been recognised, they will be included in the personalised activities document and, if applicable, they may be attributed as the completion of a training activity of the programme.

The School for Doctoral Studies will establish the bases and procedure for the recognition of activities.

Chapter 6. Enrolment in doctoral studies

Article 22. Enrolment in the doctoral programme

Doctoral students admitted to a doctoral programme will enrol, if applicable, in the training activities determined by the CAPD and annually for the concept of academic supervision of the doctoral programme, after a positive evaluation by the CAPD. Enrolment will be processed in the management unit and in accordance with the procedure and timetable established by the University of Vigo. If a doctoral student does not complete the annual registration in an academic year, they will be permanently withdrawn from the programme, except in the cases foreseen for temporary discharge. Registration for academic supervision grants the doctoral student the right to academic supervision, to the use of the resources necessary to carry out their work and to the full range of rights provided for in the regulations for doctoral students.

The Autonomous Community of Galicia shall be responsible for setting the academic fees for studies leading to the award of official degrees in university education, which shall be considered public prices.

In the case of joint programmes, the agreement included in the programme's verification report shall determine the manner in which this enrolment shall be carried out.

In the case of student exchange programmes, the agreement signed by the participating universities shall determine how the enrolment shall be carried out.

Article 23. Enrolment periods

There will be two common enrolment periods for new doctoral students: one at the beginning of the first semester and the other at the beginning of the second semester of the same academic year. The second period is subject to the existence of vacant places and to the CAPD's request to the Postgraduate Studies Management Service.

The deadlines for paying the public prices will be those established in the resolution of the rector of the corresponding university.

The three SUG universities will try to establish a common registration calendar.

Article 24. Full-time and part-time enrolment

Doctoral students may enrol on a full-time or part-time basis. For part-time enrolment, it will be an essential requirement to have the status of part-time doctoral student granted, if applicable, by the CAPD. This condition will be requested from the CAPD by means of supporting documents. For part-time doctoral student condition, reasons of an occupational, family or personal nature will be taken into account.

- a) Employment-related reasons will preferably be situations of a permanent or stable nature, but not temporary situations, such as temporary contracts, internships or collaboration grants lasting less than six months.

- b) Family or personal reasons may include, but are not limited to, situations of dependency, care for the elderly or disabled children, large families with school-age children and situations of gender violence.
- c) Students with a degree of disability of more than 33% will obtain, if they request it and provide documentary proof to the CAPD, the status of part-time student.

The change of enrolment modality may be requested during common enrolment periods, subject to a favourable report from the CAPD, and exceptionally in other periods due to changes in the work, family or personal circumstances of the doctoral student.

The procedure for part-time enrolment will be the one established in the annual call for enrolment.

The university, at the proposal of each CAPD, may establish a maximum percentage of part-time doctoral students enrolled in the programme out of the total number of students.

Article 25. Simultaneous enrolment in a doctoral programme and in other university studies

For simultaneous enrolment in a doctoral programme and in other official university studies (bachelor and/or master), the following will be taken into account:

- a) That enrolment in a full-time doctoral programme generally counts as 60 ECTS credits for assessing simultaneous studies in one academic year. However, exceptionally, it will be 45 ECTS credits specifically for simultaneity with Master's studies. This exception may only be applied during one academic year.
- b) That the sum of the ECTS credits of full-time enrolment in the doctoral programme and in other official university studies (bachelor and/or master) in the same academic year may not exceed the maximum established in the University of Vigo regulations for those studies.

Chapter 7. Duration of doctoral studies

Article 26. Maximum and minimum duration of full-time and part-time doctoral studies

The duration of doctoral studies shall be a maximum of four calendar years full-time and seven calendar years part-time, counting from the date of enrolment of the doctoral student in the programme until the date of submission of the doctoral thesis, which may be extended by means of an extension as provided for in Article 27.

When the doctoral student is a person with a recognised degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, the duration of the doctoral studies shall be a maximum of six years full-time and nine years part-time.

In the case of concurrent full-time and part-time periods, the maximum duration of the doctoral studies shall be that which corresponds according to the following formula for calculating the total time spent:

Total time = full time + 0.571 \square part time.

For persons with a recognised degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, the maximum duration of doctoral studies shall be calculated, in the case of a combination of full-time and part-time periods, using the formula:

Total time = full time + 0.667 \square part-time time

The minimum duration of doctoral studies shall be 18 months full-time, and in the case of concurrent full-time and part-time periods, the corresponding period as indicated for the total calculation of the time in this same article. The calculation shall be made from the admission of the doctoral student until the submission of the application for the deposit of the doctoral thesis.

In the case of students from doctoral studies governed by previous regulations or transferring their transcripts from other universities, the period under academic supervision prior to registration in the doctoral programme at the University of Vigo will be counted for the purposes of the previous paragraph.

Article 27. Extensions for full-time and part-time doctoral studies

If the application for the deposit of the doctoral thesis is not submitted after the deadline, the CAPD may authorise its extension, following the application of the doctoral student. The extension would be one year for full-time doctoral studies and two years for part-time doctoral studies. The request for authorisation of such an extension will be made in a reasoned manner and in accordance with the regulations of the University of Vigo.

Article 28. Temporary withdrawal from a doctoral programme

There are two types of temporary leave, which will not be counted in relation to the minimum and maximum time spent in doctoral studies:

- a) For situations of temporary disability, birth, adoption, guardianship for the purpose of adoption, fostering, risk during pregnancy, risk during breastfeeding, care for dependent persons, gender violence, geopolitical circumstances or any other situation contemplated in the regulations in force. Requests must be documented and addressed to the Academic Management Service, who will resolve the request and inform the CAPD. The duration of the leave will be determined by the cause of the leave, according to the guidelines set by the Academic Management Service.
- b) At their own request. The doctoral student may request a temporary leave from the doctoral programme, and the overall total of all requests shall not exceed two years.

Approval of a temporary leave of absence will require prior approval by the CAPD of the doctoral student's research and training plan. Requests for temporary leave of absence must be addressed and justified to the CAPD, which will decide on their procedure.

The activities carried out during the temporary leave will not be included in the activities document and the periods of temporary leave from the programme will not be counted in the period of development of the thesis referred to in article 26 of these regulations.

Article 29. Permanent withdrawal from a doctoral programme

Permanent withdrawal from a doctoral programme implies the impossibility of enrolment in the same programme for three academic years.

Permanent withdrawals may be administrative or teaching-related. The following are reasons for definitive administrative withdrawals:

- Failure to complete the annual enrolment in an academic year.
- Failure to submit the research plan within the established deadlines.
- Failure to pass the training complements in two consecutive semesters.

In this type of definitive withdrawal, the affected students may request, just once, the reinstatement to the same doctoral programme three academic years after the withdrawal. This reinstatement implies the cancellation of all the actions of the previous file.

The following are educational reasons for permanent withdrawal:

- Having two consecutive negative reports in the annual evaluation or for the approval of the initial research plan.
- Not having passed the thesis defence within the established deadlines.

In the case of definitive withdrawals for educational reasons, the affected students may only apply for enrolment in the same doctoral programme three academic years after the withdrawal, but they may apply, only once, for enrolment in a different programme.

After leaving a doctoral programme, if a student joins another one, the time already spent on the preparation of the thesis will be counted, unless the following circumstances occur:

- That the assigned direction does not coincide with any of the persons assigned in the previous programme.
- That it is a new research plan on a different subject.

However, the above two conditions may be waived for theses funded through publicly announced pre-doctoral contracts, provided that the terms and conditions of the call allow it and with the agreement of the academic commissions involved and the doctoral school.

In any case, admission to a doctoral programme will be at the discretion of each CAPD.

Chapter 8. Organisation of training and student's records

Article 30. Competences and skills to be acquired by students

Doctoral studies shall guarantee, as a minimum, the acquisition by students of the basic competences, skills and abilities set out in Article 5 of Royal Decree 99/2011, as well as others that appear in the Spanish qualification framework for higher education.

Article 31. Doctoral student's activities document

Once each doctoral student has enrolled in the programme, a personalised activity document will be drawn up for the purposes of individual registration. This document will include all the activities of interest for the development of the doctoral student as established by the EIDO and will be supervised annually by the CAPD.

This document must conform to the established format, be registered in the computer application and provide documentary evidence of the activities carried out by the doctoral student.

The doctoral student will have access to the doctoral activities document to record and update the activities carried out in the context of the programme. Their records will be validated by the corresponding academic body after assessment by the tutor and the director, following verification by the administration of the authenticity/veracity of the alleged merits, if applicable.

The doctoral activities document will be accessible, for the corresponding functions in each case, to the doctoral student, their tutor, thesis supervisor and the secretary of the doctoral programme, as well as to the persons involved in the evaluation and management of the file.

Article 32. Research plan and personal training plan

Within six months from the date of enrolment, the doctoral student will draw up a research plan that will include an introduction, the methodology used and the objectives to be achieved, as well as the means and timetable for achieving them. The plan will be presented and endorsed by the report of the director and the tutor, and approved by the CAPD. This plan may be improved and detailed in the annual evaluation process with the endorsement of the tutor and the director. The training plan must be submitted during the same period.

The doctoral student's training plan will contain a forecast of the different training activities that will be carried out during the doctoral thesis to complement the academic training, in terms of knowledge, competences and skills, both transversal and specific, and research training. As a minimum, the training plan must contain the compulsory training activities established by the doctoral programme in its report. The plans must be approved by the CAPD, following a report from the authorised profile, who must inform the other directors and/or tutors, as appropriate.

Each year the CAPD will supervise the research plan, the training plan and the activities document, and will use the reports issued for this purpose by the tutor and the director to carry out the supervision. A positive evaluation shall be an essential requirement for continuing in the programme. In the event of a negative evaluation, which shall be duly motivated, the doctoral student shall be entitled to a new evaluation within a period of six months, for which a new research and/or training plan shall be drawn up. In the event of a new negative evaluation, the student will be permanently withdrawn from the programme.

Failure to comply with the deadline for submission of the plans will result in the enrolment being archived. The aforementioned enrolment file will be transformed into a definitive withdrawal if the research plan is not submitted at the end of the academic year in which it should be submitted.

Article 33. Supervision commitment

The functions of supervision, tutoring and monitoring of students will be reflected in a supervision commitment. This commitment will be signed, on the corresponding computer platform, by the doctoral student, the authorised profile and the coordinator once enrolled.

The supervision commitment specifies the academic relationship between the doctoral student and the University of Vigo, their rights and duties, including possible intellectual and/or industrial property rights derived from the research, as well as the acceptance of the conflict resolution procedure and its duration. The duties of the person(s) supervising and directing the thesis are also included.

In the event of a change in the conditions for carrying out the thesis, a new documentary supervision commitment must be signed. Likewise, in the event of a change in the tutor and/or the incorporation or change of a director, a new documentary supervision commitment must be signed by the tutor and/or thesis director.

Article 34. Conflict resolution

Any doubts or disputes that arise in relation to the agents involved in the development of the doctoral programme will be brought by the interested parties first to the CAPD.

In the event that disputes result in a conflict, the resolution will be the responsibility of the body designated by the EIDO, following the protocol of the EIDO's good practice guide. The parties concerned will be informed of the agreement by resolution of the director of the EIDO. The entitled persons may lodge an appeal against this resolution before the rector of the university or the person they delegate.

Likewise, a complaint may be lodged with the University Defensor, under the conditions established in Article 60 of the Statutes of the University of Vigo, or by making use of the official complaint procedures provided for in the regulations of the University of Vigo.

Chapter 9. Doctoral thesis

Article 35. The doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis will consist of an original research work related to the scientific, technical or artistic fields of the doctoral programme studied by the doctoral student.

As a general rule, the doctoral thesis will be written in Galician, Spanish, English or Portuguese, or in the language commonly used in the scientific, technical or artistic field in question. However, the doctoral school may authorise it to be written in another language, after the CAPD has issued a favourable report and ensures that the examining board is in a position to judge it. If the thesis is written in a language other than Galician or Spanish, it must include a summary of at least 3000 words in Galician or Spanish.

The doctoral thesis will include, in general, an abstract, introduction, objectives, methodology, results, and/or discussion, conclusions and bibliography, as well as a list of the publications that provide content for the thesis, with a description of the student's contribution to each of these publications and the assessment reports of the thesis by the supervisor and tutor. The EIDO will publish a good practice guide for supervising doctoral theses and a style guide for presenting them.

Article 36. Procedure for authorising the thesis for defence

Once the thesis has been completed and after a favourable report from the person or persons supervising the thesis and, if applicable, the tutor, the doctoral student will ask the CAPD for the deposit of the thesis and authorisation to defend it in accordance with the procedure established in each case. To this end, the CAPD will send a copy of the thesis and the supporting documentation of the mentions that are not already included in the system to the competent academic area. This request for deposit provisionally stops the maximum time limit for the deposit of the thesis for a period of no more than 4 months.

The thesis must have a minimum of two reports issued by doctoral experts in the subject, external to the university and the doctoral programme, who may propose aspects for improvement. The thesis will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1) Scientific, technical, legal-social, humanistic or artistic quality, depending on the subject matter.
- 2) Novelty and originality.
- 3) Methodology used.
- 4) Structure, format and drafting.

These reports will be managed through the CAPD in accordance with the procedure established by it. Experts may form part of the examining board evaluating the thesis.

The CAPD will have a maximum period of two months from the thesis deposit request by the person to send to the EIDO its report authorising the thesis for its defence.

If deemed necessary, the CAPD may request a third report from a person external to the university before issuing its thesis authorisation report.

This report may be:

- a) Favourable.
- b) Conditional on the need for a new version of the thesis. In this case, the report will indicate the necessary corrections, with an indication of the deadline set for the doctoral candidate to present the arguments and/or the requested modifications, which may not exceed three months.
- c) Unfavourable, which must be sufficiently academically motivated. An unfavourable report reactivates the calculation of the maximum time limit for depositing the thesis. The thesis may be requested to be deposited again once only.

In the case of a conditional report, failure by the doctoral student to submit the required modifications within the deadline set by the CAPD will automatically result in an unfavourable report. In the event that the doctoral student submits the modifications or corrections to the thesis within the deadline, the CAPD will have a maximum period of one month from the date of submission by the doctoral student to send the report, in this case favourable or unfavourable, to the EIDO.

The EIDO will establish the procedure to verify that the documentation is complete, that the format of the thesis is appropriate and that the originality of the research is guaranteed, for which an anti-plagiarism programme may be used.

Once the CAPD has authorised the submission of the thesis for defence, the CAPD will inform the EIDO and send it a proposal for the composition of the examining board that will judge the thesis approved by the CAPD, made up of doctors who are specialists in the subject of the doctoral thesis, with accredited research experience in accordance with Article 8 and as established in Article 38 of this regulation.

Once all the thesis documentation has been received and after the competent unit has checked that the file is complete and correct, a public exhibition period of ten working days will be opened during the academic year. The maximum institutional dissemination will be guaranteed so that any doctor can examine the thesis and send in writing the considerations that they deem appropriate to the EIDO. In order to facilitate the consultation of theses, the university will consider the possibility of enabling a telematic procedure, provided that there are no limitations derived from article 14.6 of Royal Decree 99/2011.

At the end of the public exhibition period, the body designated by the EIDO shall evaluate the thesis, taking into account the CAPD report and the arguments received, if applicable. At the same time, the aforementioned body may summon the doctoral student and/or the director or request a reasoned response to the allegations or other information it deems necessary, and may consult the CAPD and/or rely on the collaboration of other external doctors to advise on the evaluation of the thesis.

After the evaluation of the thesis, the body designated by the EIDO will decide whether to approve or deny the continuation of the procedures and assign the thematic area of research, which will be recorded in the student's activity document. This decision will be communicated to the supervisor of the doctoral thesis, to the student and to the CAPD.

In the event of a refusal to continue with the procedures, which will be duly justified, the body designated by the EIDO will inform the doctoral student of the ways in which their doctoral thesis can be suitably corrected, before proceeding with a new deposit request.

In the event of continuity, the body appointed by the EIDO will assess the proposed examining board and approve it in accordance with the terms set out in Article 38 of this regulation.

The appointment of the examining board and alternates will be communicated to the CAPD and the director, will be included in the TESEO application, and each of them will be notified of their appointment. In addition, a copy of the doctoral thesis and the student's file will be sent to each member of the examining board.

The appointment of the examining board will imply authorisation for the public defence of the thesis.

The public defence shall take place within a maximum period of three months from the authorisation of the defence by the body designated by the EIDO, except for duly justified reasons. If this period is exceeded, the procedures for authorisation of the thesis for defence will begin again.

Article 37. Theses with protection of rights

The documentary commitment will include the appropriate clauses to guarantee the non-dissemination of the contents in the case of doctoral theses in which there are confidentiality clauses with companies or those that may give rise to industrial and intellectual property rights, and of which the dissemination of contents cannot be carried out before they are duly protected.

This type of thesis will be formalised in two versions: the reduced version, in which the contents affected by the duty of non-dissemination or by the duty of secrecy or confidentiality will be eliminated, and the complete copy, which will be archived at the university under the confidentiality commitment.

The reduced copy will be deposited for consultation by the scientific community of doctors. This version will coincide with the content of the presentation and the public defence of the thesis.

The full version will be the one given to the members of the examining board for evaluation. The members will sign the corresponding confidentiality agreement regarding the contents that cannot be made public.

If the examining board wishes to ask the doctoral student questions about the protected contents, these interventions will be made in a private session, before or after the public session.

Once the thesis has been approved, the reduced copy will be published in the institutional repository. After the appropriate protections have been carried out or the confidentiality period has expired, the doctoral student may request, after accreditation of these circumstances, that the thesis be replaced by the full copy.

Article 38. Evaluation board

The CAPD, after hearing the thesis supervisor (and/or tutor, if applicable), will propose a list of seven members of the examining board to evaluate the thesis.

Once the doctoral thesis has been accepted for processing by the CAPD, the body appointed by the EIDO will evaluate the proposal for the examining board submitted by the CAPD.

The examining board will be appointed by the body appointed by the EIDO from among the specialists proposed by the CAPD and will be made up of three full members and two substitutes. A president and a secretary shall be appointed from among the members of the committee. In the event that no member of the examining board is from the University of Vigo, the CAPD will appoint a professor from the doctoral programme of the University of Vigo to be responsible for receiving the minutes and subsequently submitting them to the corresponding administrative unit.

In the event of resignation for justified reasons of a full member of the examining board, they will be replaced by a substitute in the order of the proposed substitutes of the examining board.

The following requirements must be observed in the composition of the examining board:

- a) All members shall be doctors with accredited research experience in accordance with the provisions of article 8.
- b) The university teaching staff may form part of doctoral thesis examining boards even if they are on leave, retirement, special services or on secondment, and in the latter case shall be considered as belonging to the university where they are providing their services. Contract teaching staff may sit on doctoral thesis examining boards even if they are in employment situations equivalent to those of university teaching staff.
- c) The examining board shall be made up of a majority of members from outside the University of Vigo and the doctoral programme. No more than one member from the same institution may be a member of the examining board.
- d) Under no circumstances may the supervisor or joint director of the thesis or, if applicable, the tutor form part of the examining board, except in the case of theses presented within the framework of bilateral joint supervision agreements with foreign universities that have so provided or in the case of theses presented in joint doctoral programmes with foreign universities, by virtue of the corresponding agreements.
- e) Persons who are joint authors of publications derived from a thesis may not form part of the examining board.
- f) In the case of the international mention in the doctoral degree, at least one expert with a doctoral degree who works in a higher education institution or research centre of prestige outside of Spain must be a member of the examining board. The examining board will be made up of a majority of members from outside the universities participating in the programme and the institutions where the stay(s) was (were) carried out. The tutors of the stays will not be allowed to be part of the examining board. A doctor working abroad shall be appointed to the main committee and another doctor who fulfils the same conditions shall be appointed as an alternate, whenever possible. This doctor working abroad must be different from the two experts referred to in Article 43 c).
- g) The person responsible for the thesis designated by the entity, company or public administration in theses with the mention 'Industrial Doctorate' may not form part of the thesis examining board.
- h) A minimum of one member of each sex will sit on the examining board, and a minimum of two members of each sex will constitute the examining board and the substitutes combined.
- i) Any person who incurs in any of the causes for abstention established in article 23 of Law 40/2015 of 1 October, may not be part of the proposal of a board.

Article 39. Public defence of the thesis

Once the public defence of the thesis has been authorised, the doctoral student must pay the fees for the doctoral degree examination at the administrative unit to be determined.

Once these fees have been paid, the body designated by the EIDO will send the secretary of the examining board the documents to be filled out at the doctoral thesis defence:

- Minutes of the session.
- Official envelopes containing the confidential reports on the thesis for the purposes of the *cum laude* mention, if applicable.

Once agreement has been reached on the date and place of the defence, the secretary will inform the EIDO at least ten days in advance of the date, place and time of the aforementioned event. The latter, in turn, shall inform the CAPD, the student, the thesis supervisor and shall publicise the event accordingly. The chairperson of the examining board shall summon the student and the members of the examining board to the doctoral thesis defence event.

Prior to the public defence of the thesis, the examining board will be provided with the doctoral student's activities document with the training activities carried out and the reports of the external experts, as well as, where appropriate, the doctoral student's response to them. The activities document will not give rise to a quantitative mark but will constitute a qualitative evaluation instrument that will complement the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

The defence of the thesis will take place in a public session during the academic calendar term and will take place at the University of Vigo or, in the case of joint doctoral programmes, under the terms indicated in the collaboration agreements. Any other option will require the express authorisation of the CAPD and will ensure, at all times, compliance with these regulations and the processes established for their evaluation.

The EIDO management may authorise the thesis to be defended in a distance or blended mode. The EIDO will establish the procedure to be followed in these cases.

If a member of the examining board is not present at the defence and public presentation of the thesis, the substitutes who meet the requirement of a majority of members from outside the University of Vigo and the institutions participating in the doctoral programme will join the examining board. If this is not possible, the chairperson of the examining board will suspend the reading and inform the EIDO of this fact. The body designated by the EIDO may authorise the defence within the following twenty-four hours and may authorise the thesis to be defended in a distance or blended mode, establishing the procedure to be followed in this case. If this is not feasible, the chairperson shall reconvene the defence of the doctoral thesis under the terms established in this regulation. If this is not feasible, or after three months have elapsed, the procedure for the appointment of the examining board shall be repeated.

The members of the examining board shall express their opinion on the thesis and may present as many questions and objections as they deem appropriate, to which the doctoral student shall reply. Likewise, the doctors present at the event may ask questions and raise objections, and the doctoral student will respond to these at the time and in the manner indicated by the chairperson of the examining board.

Article 40. Grading of the doctoral thesis

Once the doctoral student has completed their thesis defence, the board will issue a report on the thesis and the overall grade awarded according to the following scale: fail, pass, good and outstanding. The secretary of the examining board will draw up the certificate of conferral of the doctoral degree, which will include information on the development of the defence and the grade. If the student applies to opt for the international mention of the doctoral degree, the secretary of the examining board will include in the certificate of compliance with the required requirements. The chairperson of the board will announce the grade in a public session.

The examining board may award the thesis a *cum laude* mention if the overall grade is outstanding and a positive secret vote is cast unanimously in this regard. The secretary of the examining board will inform the members of the examining board of the scope of this mention, especially foreigners. The EIDO will regulate the procedure for awarding this mention in a session other than that corresponding to the defence of the doctoral thesis. In no case will the *cum laude* mention be made public at the defence event.

The secretary of the examining board will be responsible for the documentation corresponding to the defence of the doctoral thesis, and will send it duly completed to the administrative unit responsible for doctoral studies at the University of Vigo, within a maximum period of five working days after the day of presentation and defence of the thesis in order to file and document it.

Article 41. Archive of the doctoral thesis

Once the doctoral thesis has been approved, the University of Vigo, through the unit responsible for the university archive, will archive it in electronic format open to the public in an institutional repository and will send a copy, in electronic format, as well as all the complementary information that may be necessary, to the competent ministry in the matter for its publication in a national repository.

In the circumstances established in article 37, EIDO will establish procedures to ensure compliance.

Publication in this repository will comply with the anti-plagiarism regulations of the publishers that have published articles by the doctoral student.

In order to guarantee the possible publication or industrial protection of the results of the thesis, the student may request, with justification, a one-year postponement of publication in the institutional repository. Exceptionally, and also with justification, the student may request an extension of the aforementioned postponement for another year.

Article 42. Thesis that includes research articles

The doctoral thesis may contain a set of works that the doctoral student has published, or that have been definitively accepted for publication. The text of the thesis that coincides with the published works will follow the same archiving rules as the works themselves, so only the post print of the articles can be deposited, which can be the version sent by the author before publication, the version published by the editor or any other that determines the copyright and self-archiving policy of the journal/publisher.

At the time of deposit of the thesis in the body designated by the EIDO, the doctoral student will present the following additional documentation:

- 1 Report from the person or persons who direct the thesis with the approval of the CAPD specifying the suitability of the inclusion of the research articles, the list of publications, the contribution of the doctoral student, in the event that there are more joint authors, and indications of the quality of the publications presented.
- 2 Authorization from the journal/publisher for the use of the publication in the doctoral thesis, only if the publication is not open access. In the event that this authorisation is not obtained, the written acceptance of the joint authors that the doctoral student presents the work as part of the thesis will be presented.

Regardless of the number of articles included, the thesis will contain, as a minimum:

- An introduction, which will specifically contain a reasoned justification of the unity and thematic and methodological coherence of the thesis and the objectives to be achieved.
- A specific chapter containing a general discussion that provides coherence and unity to the different works.
- Conclusions and a common bibliography.

If a chapter or part of a chapter is a literal copy of a publication (already published or accepted), the names and affiliations of all joint authors, their order, as well as the full reference of the publication, the publisher and the ISSN or ISBN must be clearly stated in the introduction of the chapter. In the case of articles that have been definitively accepted for publication and which have not yet been published at the time of submission of the thesis, their identification code (DOI in digital publications) will be added. It will also include the authorisation of the journal/publisher for the content to appear in the thesis.

If the journal/publisher's authorisation is not provided, the doctoral student will provide a version that can be published in the repository without the articles that do not have this authorisation. In this case, it is recommended that they be included as annexes.

The university shall recognise as a 'thesis by compendium of publications' when, in addition to complying with all the provisions of this article, the thesis includes a minimum of three research articles published or with definitive acceptance for publication. The articles must be published in journals indexed in the list of the corresponding field of the *Journal Citation Reports*. In areas where this criterion does not apply, it may be replaced by the bases listed by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI) for these areas.

Chapter 10. Mentions

Article 43. Mention of international doctorate

The title of doctor may include on its front the mention of international doctorate, provided that the following circumstances occur:

- a) That during the stage of completion of the thesis, the doctoral student has made one or more stays for at least three months outside Spain in a higher education institution or research centre of prestige, studying or carrying out research work.

In the case of several stays, at least one of them must have a minimum duration of one month and none of them less than seven days. The stay and the activities must be endorsed by the director and authorised by the CAPD, and will be included in the student's activities document. In no case may the total stay of three months be broken down into more than five separate periods.

- b) That part of the thesis (at least the introduction, summary and conclusions) must be written and presented and defended in public in one of the usual languages for scientific communication in their field of knowledge, other than any of the official languages in Spain.
- c) That an opinion must be issued on the thesis by a minimum of two doctoral experts belonging to a higher education institution or research institute other than the Spanish institution where the stay was carried out. The experts who write the opinions cannot be members of the thesis examining board. These opinions will replace those referred to in article 36 of this regulation.
- d) That at least one expert belonging to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre, with a doctoral degree, and other than the two experts referred to in section c), must form part of the thesis evaluation board. The person responsible for the stay referred to in section a) may not form part of the board. The examining board will be made up of a majority of members from outside the universities participating in the programme and the institutions where the stay(s) was/were carried out.
- e) The defence of the thesis must be carried out at the University of Vigo or, in the case of joint doctoral programmes or joint theses, at any of the participating universities or under the terms indicated in the collaboration agreements.
- f) That the stay mentioned in section a) constitutes a genuine mobility action of the doctoral student, to a country other than that in which they have or have had their habitual residence and other than that in which they had developed their academic training prior to the doctorate.

The doctoral student will upload to the Virtual Secretariat the documentation accrediting the stay, their authorisation to carry it out and the reports of the two external experts, together with the rest of the documentation, so that the defence of the doctoral thesis can be authorised.

Article 44. Thesis under international joint supervision

The certificate of the doctoral degree may include on the front the statement 'Thesis under joint supervision', provided that the following circumstances are met:

- a) That the doctoral thesis is supervised by two or more doctors from two universities, the University of Vigo and another foreign university, which will formalise a joint supervision agreement.
- b) That during the training period required to obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student has spent a minimum of six months at the institution with which the joint supervision agreement is established, carrying out research work in a single period or in several periods. Stays and activities will be reflected in the joint supervision agreement.

The legislation in force for doctoral subjects in each country will be respected.

A framework agreement will be signed between the University of Vigo and the institution concerned establishing the general lines of cooperation. A specific agreement based on the principle of reciprocity will be signed for the first two years of doctoral training, for a maximum duration of four years. Under the specific agreement, each institution will recognise the supervision of the thesis by its research staff, regardless of the place of defence of the thesis.

Candidates for the joint supervised doctoral programme will work under the supervision and responsibility of a thesis supervisor at each of the institutions concerned.

The doctoral student shall enrol in each institution and fulfil the training requirements of the programmes at both institutions.

The preparation time for the thesis shall not exceed four years from the signature of the specific agreement and shall be divided between the two institutions by alternative periods of stay in each of them. The minimum period of stay at one of the two institutions shall not be less than six months, and the remaining period shall be completed at the other. Such a stay may be carried out at one time or in several periods.

Under the joint supervision agreement, and on the basis of a single defence of the doctoral thesis, each university undertakes, if so agreed, to issue its own corresponding doctoral degree, after payment of the fees, and with indication of the existence of the joint supervision by means of the procedure laid down in the regulations of each institution.

Regardless of the place where the thesis is defended, if it is agreed that a doctoral degree will be awarded by the University of Vigo, the thesis must apply for admission to the University of Vigo.

EIDO will monitor and control the thesis carried out under joint supervision, as well as the authorisation for the defence of the thesis. If the defence of the thesis is not authorised by one of the two universities, the specific joint supervision agreement will be without effect, which does not prevent the thesis from being processed at the university where it was authorised.

Once the thesis has been accepted for processing, the examining board before which the thesis is to be defended will be proposed according to what has been agreed in the specific joint supervision agreement. All members of the examining board shall hold a doctoral degree and shall have accredited research experience in accordance with the provisions of Article 8. The examining board shall be made up of a majority of members from outside the signatory universities and the institutions collaborating in the doctoral programme. The examining board shall be appointed by the institution where the doctoral thesis is to be read and shall have the agreement of the other institution. This examining board may include a representative of both institutions, including the thesis supervisors if the agreement so provides.

The specific joint supervision agreement shall comply with the current legislation on doctoral studies at both institutions, and shall contain an agreement on the following aspects:

- a) Duration.
- b) Length of stay at each university, which shall not be less than six months at each university.
- c) University where the fees will be paid in each academic year. The doctoral student will enrol at each of the institutions, but may be exempted from payment at one of them. In the event that the waiver corresponds to the University of Vigo, the specific agreement will indicate the budget item to which the fee will be charged.
- d) Person in charge of supervising the thesis at each of the universities. Compliance with the requirements for each supervisor will be those applicable in their institution, which may be recognised in the other institution by virtue of the joint supervision agreement exclusively for the thesis for which the specific agreement is signed.
- e) Language in which the thesis will be written. If applicable, the regulations for obtaining the international doctorate mention in the doctoral degree will be taken into account.
- f) Place of defence of the thesis.
- g) Agreement on the awarding of the degree(s).
- h) Structure of the examining board. Although there may be more than three members, three of them must comply with the University of Vigo's own regulations regarding examining boards.
- i) Financing of the expenses of the teaching staff that form part of the examining board. The maximum amounts established by the University of Vigo will be respected or the budget item where the excess will be charged will be indicated.
- j) Rules for the drafting the minutes and documents relating to the defence of the thesis. In the event that the qualification scales do not coincide, it shall be specified how the valid qualification will be established in each of the universities. The system for awarding or not awarding the *cum laude* mention will also be established, in a way that is compatible with the regulations of the University of Vigo.
- k) Administrative aspects regarding the communication of information and documentation to be transferred between the signatory universities. The provisions of Article 44 of this regulation shall be observed.

The EIDO shall monitor and control the thesis carried out under joint supervision and shall supervise the drafting of the specific agreements.

Joint supervised thesis may also give rise to the inclusion of the mention 'International Doctorate' in the Doctor's Degree if stays are carried out in institutions other than those of the formalised agreement, as established in section a) of Article 43, and provided that the circumstances set out in Article 43 are met.

Article 45. Industrial doctorate

This mention will be obtained by carrying out doctoral studies with the collaboration of the social and economic fabric with the aim of promoting collaboration and the transfer and exchange of knowledge between the academic world and the social and economic world, whether this be in the public or private sphere. Universities, public research organisations (national or regional) and university hospitals are excluded.

The CAPD may authorise the joint direction of the thesis by doctoral students who have directed or participated in industrial research and/or experimental development projects and/or contracts, in which important technological developments involving innovative aspects have been carried out and are recognised as such by the scientific-technical community. The degree of innovation

will be taken into account by means of their level of technological maturity, which will have to correspond to a TRL 6 or higher.

The mention 'Industrial Doctorate' will be awarded provided that the following circumstances are met:

- a) The existence of an employment or commercial contract signed by the doctoral student with a company in the private or public sector or by a public administration. A minimum duration of eighteen months during the enrolment period is established for the duration of this contract.
- b) The doctoral student must participate in an industrial research or experimental development project carried out in the company or public administration in which they work. The industrial research or experimental development project in which the doctoral student participates must be directly related to the thesis. This relationship will be accredited by means of a report evaluated by the University of Vigo through the EIDO or the unit responsible for the doctoral programme.
- c) The collaboration agreement between the parties, personalised for each doctoral student, will indicate the duties of both parties, the aspects relating to the intellectual and industrial property of the potential results of the thesis, as well as the selection procedure for doctoral students, if applicable. This agreement will be processed during the first two years of doctoral training.
- d) The doctoral student will have a tutor appointed by the University of Vigo and a person in charge appointed by the company or public administration, who may, where appropriate, be the thesis supervisor, provided that they meet the requirements set out in the article. The person in charge of the company may not form part of the examining board.
- e) In the case of theses developed within the framework of a public or private call for industrial doctorate funding, it must comply with the requirements set out in the aforementioned call.

Chapter 11. Extraordinary Doctoral Award

Article 46. Extraordinary Doctoral Award

Doctoral theses defended at the University of Vigo that have achieved the qualification of outstanding with the mention *cum laude* may be subject to the special mention of extraordinary doctoral award, with a proposal for an Extraordinary Award for every ten theses defended or fraction thereof.

The University of Vigo shall establish annually the number of extraordinary awards to be awarded and the deadlines and procedure for their announcement. This call will include the list of specific criteria to be applied in the selection of thesis with regard to the granting of the extraordinary award.

The Rector, at the proposal of the EIDO, shall annually appoint the examining board(s) responsible for drawing up the proposal for the granting of extraordinary doctoral awards. The following requirements must be met in order to be a member of the board:

- a) To have been granted at least one six-year research period.
- b) Not be one of the persons directing, joint directing or tutoring the theses that are eligible for the extraordinary award.
- c) Not be joint author of any of the patents, articles or works of the doctoral students competing for the award.
- d) No one who has a marital or similar relationship, blood relationship within the fourth degree or affinity within the second degree with the doctoral student may be a member of the board.

Each examining board shall consist of at least three full members and three substitutes. The composition of the examining board shall seek to ensure a balanced presence of the areas concerned. Once the examining board has been constituted and after examining the documentation provided and the appropriate deliberations, it shall decide by majority vote on the proposal for the qualifications of the theses, which shall be adjusted to the maximum number foreseen.

In order to grade the theses, the examining board will be based on the evaluation criteria established annually by the body designated by the doctoral school, criteria that will be published in the call for applications for the award, and under no circumstances may the candidates for the aforementioned award be subjected to additional exercises or tests. In any case, these criteria will take into account the contributions derived from the thesis.

The examining board will send the qualification of the theses to the body designated by the EIDO to assess them, and the latter will send its proposal for the granting of the awards to the Secretary General's Office for approval by the Governing Council. The competent administrative unit will send a formal notification of the agreement to the student who obtained the award, which will be recorded in their academic record. The corresponding mention of the extraordinary doctoral award shall be included in the academic certificates and in the doctoral degree.

Doctoral students who are granted the extraordinary doctoral award will be exempt from paying public fees for the awarding of the doctoral degree and will receive the documentary recognition established by the University of Vigo.

Chapter 12. Issuing of degree certificates

Article 47. Degree certificates

The successful completion of doctoral studies will entitle the holder to the doctor's degree, with the name that appears in the RUCT.

Prior to the issuing of the degree certificate, the interested parties will be given a supplementary certificate of this, in accordance with the official model. This document will accredit the completion of the studies and the right to the issuance of the degree.

The name of the doctoral degree will be Doctor of the University of Vigo, in the case of degrees organised by the University of Vigo. In the case of inter-university programmes, the name of the degree will be that established in Royal Decree 1002/2010 of 5 August, on the issuance of official university degrees.

Likewise, the material issuance of the degree certificate will include information on the doctoral programme taken, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1002/2010 of 5 August, on the issuance of official university degrees, and Royal Decree 195/2016 of 13 May, which establishes the requirements for the issuance of the European supplement to the university doctoral degree.

Interested persons may apply, provided that the university is technically able to issue it, for a Diploma Supplement (DS).

For Erasmus Mundus programmes and joint degrees, the established conventions and agreements and the state legislation on these degrees shall apply.

The doctoral degree of foreign students will produce all the effects granted by current legislation.

Chapter 13. Rights and duties of doctoral students

Article 48. Specific rights of doctoral students

- 1 In addition to the rights recognised by state, regional or university regulations, doctoral students have the following specific rights:
 - a) To receive quality research training, which promotes scientific excellence and addresses equity and social responsibility.
 - b) To have a tutor to guide their training process and a supervisor and, where appropriate, joint director(s) to supervise the completion of the doctoral thesis.
 - c) To ensure the integration of doctoral students in research groups and networks.
 - d) To be aware of the professional career in research and to have opportunities for the development of a research career promoted.
 - e) To receive professional and employment guidance from their supervisor, regardless of their contractual situation.
 - f) To participate in programmes and calls for grants for research training and for national and international mobility.
 - g) To be recognised and to be aware of the mechanisms for the protection of intellectual property and copyrights of the results of the doctoral thesis and research work.
 - h) To be recognised, mentioned and/or cited, within their actual contributions, as joint author of reports, patents, etc., and to publish the results of their own research independently of their supervisors. In any case, the provisions of Article 49 (i) of this regulation shall be respected.
 - i) To be considered as research staff in training, in accordance with the Statute of Research Staff, with the European Charter for Researchers and with that established in the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation.
 - j) To be represented in the governing bodies as research staff under the terms established in the Statutes of the University of Vigo and in the regulations and electoral rules of the university.
 - k) To collaborate in the monitoring of doctoral programmes and in institutional evaluation processes, under the terms established in the quality assurance systems and other regulations in force.
 - l) To participate in mobility programmes during the research period of their doctoral programme, if they are international doctoral students. The duration of these stays shall be as established in their regulatory regulations.
- 2 The rights and duties contained in this agreement may be developed and specified by EIDO in its internal regulations.
- 3 The supervision agreement signed by the University of Vigo and the doctoral student will refer to these rights and to the conflict resolution system and procedure. It will also include the specific aspects relating to intellectual or industrial property rights that may be generated in the specific field of the doctoral programme.

Article 49. Specific duties of doctoral students

The duties of doctoral students are those established in Article 13 of Royal Decree 1791/2010 of 30 December, which approves the Statute of the University Student, and those established in the Statutes of the University of Vigo and, where appropriate, those established for researchers in training.

Doctoral students undertake to carry out the training activities programmed in the doctoral studies, to document them in the individualised control register and to carry out the research object of the research plan, under the monitoring and supervision of the tutor and/or thesis supervisor.

They must also assume the following duties which, by way of example, are as follows:

- a) Observe the recognised ethical practices and fundamental ethical principles corresponding to their disciplines, as well as the ethical standards contained in the various national, sectoral or institutional codes of ethics.
- b) Make every effort to ensure that their work is relevant to society and does not duplicate work previously carried out, avoiding plagiarism of any kind and respecting the joint intellectual property of data when the research is carried out in collaboration with their directors or other researchers.
- c) Make their research activities known to society at large in a way that can be understood by non-specialists and thus enhance public understanding of science.
- d) Follow safe working practices at all times, in accordance with national legislation, including taking the necessary health, safety and computer accident recovery precautions, e.g. by preparing appropriate backup strategies.
- e) Carry out the training activities, which must be completed and passed in each programme.
- f) Sign and respect the documentary commitment.
- g) Pay attention to, observe and follow the indications and recommendations made by their tutor and/or thesis supervisor in relation to the training activities scheduled or not in the doctoral programme.
- h) Regularly inform the tutor and/or thesis supervisor of the performance of such activities and of the progress of the research work, the results obtained and any problems that may arise in its development.
- i) Be aware of their funding mechanism, if any, requesting all the necessary permissions before starting their work or accessing the resources provided and mentioning this funding in all publications resulting from the research. They will also report and be accountable to their employer if the research objective is delayed, redefined, completed, abandoned or suspended.
- j) Present the research plan and the individualised activity document within the deadlines established by the academic commission in order to undergo evaluation of the activity carried out within the period established by the regulations.
- k) Dedicate the number of hours established in the documentary commitment to the doctoral programme, including the thesis.
- l) Submit to the rules of organisation and the use of goods and equipment of the centre where the research will be carried out.

m) Comply with the deadlines and duties established in these regulations.

Single additional provision

All professors and researchers previously included in the Register of Directors of the University of Vigo at the date of entry into force of this Regulation may continue to supervise their doctoral students. In addition, all professors and research staff who are active in the register of supervisors at the date of entry into force of this Regulation may be assigned as joint supervisors of theses, with their merits being assimilated to those established in article 11 of this Regulation.

First transitional provision. Application of certain sections from the start of the academic year 2024/25

Doctoral students who began their doctoral studies before the academic year 2023/2024 shall be subject to the doctoral regulations in force at the time they began their doctoral studies. However, the rules governing the examining board, defence and evaluation of doctoral thesis provided for in this regulation shall apply to these students as of the 2024/2025 academic year.

Therefore, the obligation to have two external reports on the thesis, set out in article 36 of this regulation, will be applicable to all doctoral students from the 2024/25 academic year, in accordance with the first transitional provision of Royal Decree 576/2023 of 4 July.

Sole repealing provision. Regulatory repeal

Any provisions, resolutions or regulations opposed to the provisions of this regulation are hereby repealed, without prejudice to the provisions of the transitional provision.

Final provision. Entry into force

This regulation will enter into force on 1 October 2024.

ENDO