



Freie Universität Bozen  
Libera Università di Bolzano  
Università Lìedia de Bulsan

# PhD-REGULATION

Approved by resolution of the Executive Council No. 99 of 10/22/2003  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 156 dated 27.01.2005  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 185 dated 07/15/2005  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 189 dated 07/15/2005  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 331 dated 07/17/2009  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 05, 07.05.2010  
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## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### Field of application Art. 1

1. These Regulations, written following the Article 4 of Law No. 210 of July 3, 1998, as amended by Article 19 of Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010, governs the institution and operation of Italian and international doctoral programs in accordance with the criteria and parameters determined by Ministerial Decree 226 of December 14, 2021 by the Free University of Bolzano.
2. For the purposes of these Regulations:  
"University" means the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano;  
"course" means a doctoral course of at least three years' duration concerned with one or more topics that relate to broad entities and clearly defined subject areas.

#### Teaching and research institutions Art. 2

1. In accordance with Article 3 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the University can request the accreditation of doctoral courses and their locations also in an associated form by entering into agreements or establishing consortia, which can be the administrative headquarters of the courses, with one or more of the following:
  - a. Other Italian universities or foreign universities, with the possibility of awarding a multiple or joint final degree;
  - b. Public or private research institutions, Italian or foreign, possessing high cultural and scientific qualification standards and equipped with suitable scientific facilities and equipment;
  - c. Institutions referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Law No. 508 of December 21, 1999, accredited by these regulations, with the possibility of issuance of the multiple and joint final degree;
  - d. Enterprises, including foreign ones, that carry out a qualified research and development activity;
  - e. Public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international importance, for the implementation of specific research and development programs or of innovation.

#### Aims Art. 3

1. The Ph.D. degree provides the skills necessary to carry out, at universities, public institutions or private entities, highly qualified research activities, including for the purpose of access to careers in public administrations and the integration of highly innovative professional paths.
2. Doctoral education, in accordance with the principles and guidelines shared at the European level, allows to:
  - a. independently conceive, design, implement and adapt research or innovation programs;
  - b. conduct critical analyses, evaluations and syntheses of ideas and processes, new and complex, in research institutions, in the productive system, in public administration and within the private practice;
  - c. to contribute, through the acquisition of new scientific and transversal skills, to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations General Assembly, the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their declinations in European policies;
  - d. contribute to the realization of the European Research and Higher Education Area, taking into account the relevant Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.
3. In order to achieve the objectives set forth in Paragraph 1, based on the "Principles for Innovative Doctoral Education" approved at the European level, doctoral education:

- a. pursues the advancement of knowledge through basic and applied research education and excellence on the basis of academic standards established through peer review procedures;
- b. is carried out in an appealing and critically stimulating institutional environment, in which the doctoral student can acquire autonomy and responsibility useful for the subsequent professional career;
- c. promotes opportunities for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training, including in non-academic fields, such as industry, public administration, services and cultural institutions, with the involvement of experts in the field in educational activities;
- d. contributes to the strengthening of transnational and international relations in the field of research, also by activating joint doctorates and forms of co-tutorship, and ensures, consistent with the research project developed by the doctoral student, periods of mobility abroad of a duration congruent with the doctoral project;
- e. provides for the development of transversal skills so as to facilitate their transfer and development in the scientific and professional spheres;
- f. is carried out within the framework of a quality assurance system, distinct from that provided for the first and second cycles of university education, aimed at improving the quality of the research environment and establishing transparent and accountable procedures for the admission, supervision, award of the degree and professional development of doctoral students.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **COURSE ESTABLISHMENT PROCEDURE**

#### **Accreditation, establishment and activation Art.4**

1. Doctoral courses are established and activated, subject to the accreditation of the course and the location where they are held, granted by the Ministry, upon the assent of ANVUR, pursuant to Article 5 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, in accordance with the guidelines shared at the European level, by subjects who develop a specific, broad, original, qualified and continuous activity, both teaching and research, adequately recognized at the international level in the fields of interest for the doctorate.
2. The system of accreditation consists of the initial authorization to activate doctoral courses and the accreditation of the institutions where these courses are held, as well as the periodic verification of the permanence of the requirements for these purposes, in the manner set forth in Article 5 of Ministerial Decree 226.  
Accreditation of courses is granted or denied by decree of the Ministry, upon the assent of ANVUR. It has a five-year duration, subject to annual verification of the permanence of the requirements. Periodic monitoring and evaluation activities verify the permanence of the requirements for the accreditation of doctoral courses. These activities are carried out by ANVUR, which, for this purpose, based on the results of the monitoring activities carried out by the Evaluation Board, may also arrange for on-site visits carried out by external experts.
3. At least yearly, the University Council determines the financial availability for the activation of PhD courses.  
The Faculty Councils of the individual Faculties, also in agreement with each other, shall propose the establishment and renewal of PhD courses having administrative headquarters at the University.  
Each proposal is forwarded to the Committee for Studies and the Academic Senate for their opinion on their scientific and cultural relevance and the survey form.  
The proposal indicates, among other things:
  - a. the research area, macro-sectors and related scientific-disciplinary fields covered by the PhD;
  - b. the specific research topics covered by the upcoming cycle;
  - c. the aims and modalities of the course, including any internships in public and private entities and study periods abroad;

- d. the minimum duration of the course;
- e. the language of the course;
- f. the number of places available;
- g. the manner of conducting the selection and the criteria for evaluating the test;
- h. the university campuses, public bodies and private entities participating in the doctoral program and their financial commitments;
- i. the names of the professors and researchers interested in composing the Board of Professors, as well as the name of the coordinator;
- j. the committee for admission to the doctoral program;
- k. any sources of external funding.

The University Council, upon the proposal of the Faculty Council of the individual Faculties and having consulted with the Committee on Studies and the Academic Senate, decides on the submitted proposals approving or not approving the establishment and activation of PhD courses.

- 4. In in case the PhD proposals do not change from the previous cycle, the approval of the activation of the new cycle by the Faculty Council and the University Council is sufficient.
- 5. The Rector issues the call for admission tests. The start of doctoral courses is set in the academic calendar.

#### Industrial PhD Art. 5

- 1. The University may apply, at the time of initial accreditation or subsequently, for recognition of the "industrial PhD" qualification, even as part of the denomination, for doctoral courses activated on the basis of conventions or consortia that also include enterprises, domestic or foreign, that carry out qualified research and development activities.
- 2. The conventions referred to in paragraph 1 regulate:
  - a. the arrangements for coordination of research activities between the parties;
  - b. the arrangements for carrying out the research activities at the company, as well as, with regard to the possible positions covered by employees of the companies, the distribution of the employee's total commitment and the duration of the doctoral course;
  - c. incentive mechanisms in order to promote technology transfer and development of the results of research activities by the contracted enterprises.
- 3. The research themes that characterize the industrial doctoral course recognize special emphasis on the promotion of economic development and the production system, facilitating joint planning in relation to research themes and the activities of doctoral students.
- 4. The calls for admission to industrial doctoral courses, in accordance with the guidelines defined at the European level and the development strategies of the national system as well as in compliance with the principles set forth in Article 1, may:
  - a. indicate specific requirements for the conduct of research activities, such as interdisciplinarity, membership in international networks and intersectorality, with particular reference to the business sector;
  - b. allocate a portion of the available places to employees of enterprises or contracted entities engaged in highly qualified activities, admitted to the doctoral program following successful completion of the related selection.
- 5. In any case, the possibility set forth in Article 45 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of June 15, 2015, to activate apprenticeship contracts aimed at the training of the industrial doctorate remains intact, while still ensuring the prevalence of research activity. These apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to doctoral scholarships for the purposes of calculating the minimum number required for the activation of the course.

#### PhDs of national interest Art. 6

- 1. The Ministry encourages the activation of doctoral programs of national interest and provides for their co-financing arrangements.
- 2. A doctoral program is defined as being of national interest if it meets the following requirements:
  - a. contributes in a demonstrated manner to the advancement of research, also including through the achievement of specific objectives of the priority areas of intervention of

- the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including those related to the enhancement of innovative doctoral courses for public administration and cultural heritage, which means the National Research Program or related National Plans;
- b. foresees, already at the accreditation stage, the conclusion of conventions or the establishment of consortia among several universities, as well as with research institutions of high qualification and recognized international level, including foreign ones, which deliver for the effective sharing of training and research activities, the modalities of regulation of forms of financial support, the modalities of exchange and mobility of faculty and doctoral students and possible forms of co-tutoring;
  - c. foresees, already at the accreditation stage, the coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four entities referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2, in order to achieve highly qualified training courses and allow access to research infrastructure suitable for the realization of doctoral students' research projects;
  - d. foresees, for each doctoral cycle, at least thirty scholarships, each of an amount determined in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, it being understood that the share for the support of the research and training activities of the doctoral student is increased, from the ministerial co-financing, by an amount of twenty percent of the amount of the scholarship.
3. The persons referred to in paragraph 2, letter c) of this article, shall award the scholarships for the doctoral program of national interest in the manner provided for in Ministerial Decree 226/2021, after the assessment of the candidates by a commission formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of foreign components or those external to the contracted entities.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **RESEARCH DOCTORATE BODIES**

##### **Board of Professors Art. 7**

1. The Board of Professors is in charge of the design and implementation of the doctoral course. It supervises the whole of doctoral educational activities and performs functions of directing and guiding doctoral students in scientific research.
2. Each member of the board may participate in only one board at the national level. It is possible to participate in an additional board only if it relates to a doctoral course organized in an associated form, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2, including industrial doctoral courses under Article 10 and doctoral courses of national interest under Article 11. In the case of doctorates activated by special-order institutions of higher education, participation in two boards related to doctoral courses organized by the same institution is possible.
3. With regard to the composition of the Board of professors, the following criteria applies, taking into account gender balance where possible:
  - a. The doctoral Board shall consist of a minimum number of members, equal to twelve belonging to scientific fields consistent with the educational goals of the course. At least half of the members of the Board consists of permanent university professors of the first or second rank, and for the remainder of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the case of a doctorate in associated form with public research institutions, also of researchers belonging to the roles of research managers, researchers or first researchers of the institutions themselves, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. In any case, the researchers belonging to the doctoral Board must possess a scientific qualification attested on the basis of the necessary requirements provided by the regulations in force for access to the functions of second-rank professors, and the professors of a scientific qualification attested on the basis of the necessary requirements provided for access to the functions of the role to which they belong.
  - b. The members of the Boards belonging to foreign universities or research institutions must possess at least the requirements provided by the regulations in force for access to the functions of professor of the second rank;

- c. Without affecting the provisions of letters a, b and c, experts, although not belonging to universities or public research institutions, who possess high and proven scientific or professional qualification in areas of research consistent with the educational objectives of the doctoral course, may be part of the doctoral Board, up to a maximum of one-third of its total composition;
  - d. Each doctoral student is assigned a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom is from an academic background, chosen by the Board also from outside the Board, provided that at least one meets the requirements for members of the Board itself.
4. Faculty Councils appoint the members of the Board of Professors with the approval of the survey forms or by separate resolution.
  5. Doctoral students shall be ensured adequate representation in the Board of Professors for dealing with teaching and organizational issues. These representatives will be elected according to the procedures stipulated in the regulations for the election of student representatives.

#### Coordinator Art. 8

1. The coordinator of the doctoral program must possess a high scientific qualification, attested on the basis of the requirements provided by the regulations in force for access to the functions of first-rank professors, and is chosen from among the full-time first-rank professors, or, failing this, from among the full-time second-rank professors serving at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano and who meet the requirements of Article 4, paragraph 1, letter a), number 3) of Ministerial Decree 226. The function of coordinator can be exercised in only one Board at the national level.
2. The Coordinator calls and heads the Board of Professors and supervises the activities pertaining to the course, ensuring its orderly and smooth running.
3. The election of the Coordinator shall be called by the Dean of the Board of Professors. Active electorate belongs to all members of the Board of Professors. The passive electorate belongs to the full and associate professors of the Board of Professors. In case of resignation or inability of the Course Coordinator, the Board resolves to appoint a new one. The appointment shall be made upon designation by an absolute majority of those present from among the members of the Board within 30 days after the termination of the appointment. In the event of a tie, the member with the most seniority in office shall be designated; in the event of a tie, the member with the most seniority in age shall be designated. The coordinator may also serve for several cycles at the same time.

## CHAPTER IV

### ACCESS TO PhD COURSES

#### Call for Admission. Art. 9

1. For admission to the doctoral course, a public selection is held at least once a year. The application for participation can be submitted by Italian or foreign citizens who, on the date of the deadline of the call for applications, are in possession of a master's degree or an appropriate degree obtained abroad. Applications may also be submitted by those who obtain the degree required by the announcement by the date of enrollment in the doctoral course, under penalty of disqualification from admission to the course. The suitability of the foreign qualification is ascertained by the commission for admission to the doctoral course, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with treaties or international agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the pursuit of studies.
2. The call for admission to the doctoral course, issued by the Rector, is drafted in Italian, German and English, is published, for at least thirty days, on the University website, on the European website Euraxess and on the website of the Ministry. The call indicates the criteria for access and evaluation of qualifications, the presence of any written tests, including internationally recognized tests, as well as the manner in which the interviews will be conducted, which may

also include the presentation and discussion of a research project. If the announcement reserves a quota of places for graduate students from foreign universities or for scholars from foreign states or for specific international mobility programs, the accredited entities may establish differentiated ways of conducting the admission procedure and form, in that case, a separate ranking list.

3. The call for applications shall indicate the number of scholarships and any other forms of financial support available at the time of publication of the call for applications and in any case by the close of the call for applications.
4. Doctoral positions may be advertised without a scholarship, with a limit of one position for every three with a scholarship.
5. In the case of national, European and international collaborative projects, specific admission procedures and organizational arrangements may be provided, in relation to the characteristics of individual doctoral projects activated within accredited doctoral courses.

#### Commission for admission to the PhD course Art. 10.

1. The Commission is indicated in the proposal (survey form) for the creation and/or activation of each doctoral course or by special resolution by the Faculty Council. Each Commission is composed of three members, chosen from among full professors and university researchers pertaining to the disciplinary scientific sectors to which the course refers, to which may be added no more than two experts, including foreigners, chosen from within public and private research institutions and structures. Alternative members are also identified.
2. The chairmanship of the Commission is assumed by the most senior full professor in service; in case of a tie, by the most senior in age. In the absence of first-rank professors, the chairmanship shall be assumed by the most senior second-rank professor on the service; in the event of a tie, by the most senior by age.

#### Admission modalities Art. 11

1. Admission to the PhD program is based on an open selection process designed to ascertain and evaluate the candidates' preparation and aptitude for research, which must in any case be concluded within the time limits set by the academic calendar.
2. Admission to the doctoral course is made on the basis of the general merit ranking drawn up by the competent Admission Board up to the number of places established by the call for applications. The ranking list is approved by decree of the Rector and published on the University's website.
3. In case of withdrawal of an eligible person before the beginning of the course, another candidate takes over according to the order of the ranking list. In case of withdrawal or exclusion of the eligible person within the first 3 months of the first year of the course, the Board of Professors shall consider filling the vacancy with another candidate according to the order of the ranking list.

#### Scholarships Art. 12

1. The University Council shall decide on the amount of fees required for established PhD programs as well as the number and amount of scholarships.
2. Scholarships are awarded after comparative evaluation of merit and according to the order defined in the relevant rankings. In case of equal merit, the female candidate prevails, if any, otherwise the youngest in terms of age. The scholarships have a total duration of at least three years and are renewed annually upon positive verification of the completion of the program of activities planned for each year verified according to the procedures established in the proposal for the establishment of each course, without prejudice to the obligation to disburse the scholarship following the passing of the verification. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the doctoral student renounces it, the unused amount of the scholarship shall be reinvested by the entity that activated the course for the funding of doctoral studies.
3. The amount of the scholarship, to be disbursed in monthly postponed instalments, shall be determined, in the first application, in an amount not less than that stated in the Minister's Decree. This amount shall be increased to the maximum extent of 50 percent for a total period not exceeding 12 months, if the doctoral student is authorized by the Board of Professors to

carry out research activities abroad. This period may be extended up to an overall maximum of eighteen months for doctoral programs co-tutored with foreign entities or activated pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.

4. For each cycle of doctorates to be activated the availability of scholarships must correspond to an average number of at least four scholarships per activated doctoral course, excluding from the calculation the scholarships assigned to doctorates activated in agreement or consortium, it being understood that for the individual doctoral course this availability cannot be less than three. In order to meet the aforementioned requirement, other forms of funding of at least the same amount, however allocated to scholarships, may be counted.
5. Each doctoral student is assured, within the framework of the existing financial resources in the budget of the University under current legislation, a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad adequate with respect to the type of course and in any case not less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship. The principles referred to in this article do not apply to scholarship holders from foreign countries or recipients of financial support under specific mobility programs in relation to the provisions of the specific regulations.

#### Transfer from other universities Art. 13

1. PhD students who have been attending a doctoral course at other universities, Italian or foreign, for at least one year may apply for prior permission to enroll in the second year of a doctoral course at the University under the following conditions:
  - a. that there is a corresponding doctoral course with similar educational and research objectives;
  - b. that the doctoral candidate documents the teachings successfully passed at the home university and that these teachings are recognized by the Board of Professors concerned, as equivalent to those required by the PhD course of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano;
  - c. that the doctoral student successfully passes an evaluation interview at the concerned Board of Professors;
  - d. that the doctoral student has been admitted to the second year by the Board of Professors of the home university.
2. In the event that the prior permission referred to in the preceding paragraph is granted, the transfer can be made through the pre-enrollment portal, after documented termination of the relationship with the university of origin, with enrollment in the second year. The possibility of scholarship will be verified by the Board of Professors in consultation with the relevant office. The mentioned study place must be among those scheduled for the receiving doctoral course.
3. The Board of Professors concerned shall determine the number of credits recognizable with reference to the courses taken with profit at the home university and identify the tutor professor.
4. PhD students at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano who intend to apply for transfer must apply by the deadline for application for admission to the second year.

## CHAPTER V

### COURSE PROCESS

#### Duration of courses. Article 14.

1. The duration of courses leading to the Ph.D. degree may not be less than three academic years.
2. For proven reasons that do not allow the submission of the PhD thesis within the timeframe of the duration of the course, the Board of Professors may grant, at the request of the PhD student, an extension of a maximum duration of twelve months, without further financial cost to the University.
3. An extension of the duration of the doctoral course for a period not exceeding twelve months may, also, be decided by the Board of Professors for justified scientific needs ensuring in that



case the corresponding extension of the duration of the scholarship with funds from the budget of the university.

#### Suspension, termination and renunciation Art. 15

1. Attendance at the activities of the Courses is compulsory as stipulated in the Article 17.
2. Absence of more than thirty days results, in any case of suspension of the payment of the scholarship. It is the responsibility of the Coordinator, upon report of the Supervisor, to notify the administrative offices in charge of the failure of students to meet their attendance obligations.
3. Doctoral students may request the suspension of the course for a maximum duration of six months. For the duration of the suspension, there is no payment of the scholarship or other equivalent funding.

The reasons are as follows:

- a. serious and documented illness;
  - b. parental leave;
  - c. special family situations - in this case, the Board of Professors decides on the suspension;
  - d. other reasons stipulated by law.
4. The periods of extension and suspension referred to in Articles 14 and 15 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

#### Exclusion from the course Art. 16

1. The exclusion from the Ph.D. course and the consequent loss of the right to the scholarship, by reasoned decision of the Board of Professors, is foreseen in case of:
  - a. negative judgment of the Board of Professors at the annual verification of the activity;
  - b. indefinite work performance, as well as the assumption of fixed-term work assignments or work assignments without the authorization of the Board of Professors;
  - c. unjustified and prolonged absences;
  - d. violation of the obligations set forth in Article 17 of these regulations;
  - e. serious reasons noted by the Board of Professors.

#### Rights and duties of the PhD student Art. 17

1. Those enrolled in doctoral courses are obliged to attend the courses, to carry out study and research activities within the framework of the facilities designated for this purpose, and to submit to the Board of Professors, at the conclusion of each year of the course, a report on the research activity carried out. The PhD course requires an exclusive, full-time commitment, subject to the provisions for the industrial PhD. The board of teachers Professors may authorize the doctoral student to engage in paid activities that allow him or her to acquire skills concerning the doctoral training area, after assessing the compatibility of such activities with the profitable performance of the training, teaching and research activities of the PhD course. The maximum income limit of the doctoral student, in any case, shall not exceed the amount of the scholarship itself.
2. For each PhD student, it is planned to carry out research and training activities, consistent with the PhD project, at highly qualified institutions abroad.
3. PhD students may carry out, as an integral part of the educational project, with the prior authorization of the board of professors and without an increase in the amount of the scholarship, tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, of students in the undergraduate and master's degree courses, as well as, within the limit of forty hours per academic year, supplementary teaching activities. This limit shall be repealed as of the end of the legal term of the doctoral course. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, doctoral students are paid the allowances referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of Decree-Law No. 105 of May 9, 2003, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 170 of July 11, 2003.
4. The PhD scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions under "particular administration" pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 26, of Law No. 335 of August 8, 1995, in the amount of two-thirds borne by the administration and one-third borne by the scholar. Doctoral students benefit from the related protections and rights.

5. Civil servants admitted to a doctoral course benefit, for the period of the normal duration of the course, from the leave of absence provided by collective bargaining or, if employees under public law, from extraordinary leave for study purposes, consistent with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Article 2 of Law No. 476 of August 13, 1984, with or without allowance and unless explicitly waived, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a doctoral course, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the budget for research activity carried out in Italy and abroad referred to in Article 12, paragraph 5, remains unaffected.
6. The discipline of the interventions for the right to study provided for in Legislative Decree No. 68 of March 29, 2012, remains firm for doctoral students.
7. Without prejudice to the application of the rules for the protection of parenthood referred to in the Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Security of July 12, 2007, published in the Official Gazette of October 23, 2007, No. 247, doctoral students on leave retain the right to the scholarship. At the end of the suspension period, the scholarship shall be disbursed upon resumption of course attendance up to the total duration of the scholarship itself.

#### Visiting PhD students Art. 18

1. PhD students from other universities, Italian or foreign, who conduct a research stay at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano are managed through a management information system and receive access to the appropriate building, library, scientific network and canteen use. No fee is charged.

## CHAPTER VI

### OBTAINING OF THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF RESEARCH

#### Evaluation of the research thesis and discussion Art. 19

1. The degree of Ph.D., abbreviated as "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.," is awarded following the successful evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study. The doctoral thesis is written in the language of the doctoral course and is accompanied by an abstract, written in English.
2. The thesis, together with the report on the activities carried out during the doctoral course and on any publications, is examined by at least two proofers, who do not belong to the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano and have highly qualified experience, at least one of whom is a university lecturer. Such professors may belong to foreign or international institutions. The proofers are appointed by the Board of Professors, upon the proposal of each doctoral student's supervisor, by the end of the last academic year of the doctoral program. Within thirty days of receipt of the thesis, the evaluators shall render a written analytical judgment, proposing admission to public discussion or postponement of the discussion of the thesis for a period not exceeding six months. After this period, the thesis, accompanied by a new written opinion rendered by the evaluators, is in any case admitted for discussion. The public discussion is held in front of a committee whose composition is defined in the following article. At the end of the discussion, the thesis, by reasoned written collegial judgment, is approved. The commission, by unanimous vote, has the right to award honors in the presence of results of particular scientific importance.
3. The training activities carried out by doctoral students at one or more locations are certified by a document attached to the final diploma (diploma supplement).

#### Judging Commission Art. 20

1. The Judging Commission is appointed, by decree, by the Rector on the proposal of the Board of Professors respecting, where possible, gender balance. The commission is composed of at least two-thirds of subjects not belonging to the administrative seat of the course and no more than one-third of members belonging to subjects participating in the PhD in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2 DM 226/2021. In any case, at least two-thirds of the commission is composed of components from academic backgrounds. At the same time, alternative members are also identified.

2. Judging Commissions are required to complete their work within ninety days after their appointment.

#### Admission to the final examination Art. 21

1. By the conclusion of the course, doctoral students enrolled in the last year of the course submit to the Board of Professors an application for admission to the final examination for the following academic year, which application may be accepted or rejected.
2. The competent office shall notify the candidates at their institutional e-mail address of the names of the selection board, also informing them of the date and time when the final examination will take place. Such notice shall be served at least thirty days before the date set for the discussion. Candidates send to each member of the Judging Commission a copy of the thesis accompanied by the analytical written opinion of the evaluators and any subsequent written opinion of the evaluators in case of referral necessary to make corrections or additions to the thesis.
3. The examination before the Judging Commission consists of the public discussion of the final thesis. The Commission draws up the minutes for the exams. For each candidate admitted to the final examination it shall also prepare a report on the work on the basis of which the award of the degree is decided.

#### Awarding of the degree of doctor of research Art. 22

1. The title of Ph.D. is awarded upon passing the final examination.
2. The title of Ph.D. is awarded by the Rector of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, who, at the request of the person concerned, certifies its achievement.
3. Within thirty days of the discussion and approval of the thesis, the University shall deposit a copy of it, in electronic format, in the Registry referred to in paragraph 1 of DM 226/2021, in a specific open access section. Subject to the approval of the faculty, parts of the thesis may be made unavailable in relation to the use of data protected under the relevant regulations. The obligation to deposit the thesis at the central national libraries of Rome and Florence remains in place.

#### Transitional rules Art. 23

1. As of the date of entry into force of these regulation, the provisions of the regulation set forth in Decree No. 45 of the Minister of Education, University and Research of February 8, 2013 no. 45 shall no longer be effective.
2. Accreditations already granted shall remain valid, until the end of the relevant five-year term, except as provided in Article 5, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of DM 226/2021.