

## **REGULATIONS OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> CYCLE OF THE Ph.D. PROGRAM IN MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, AND LAW FOR BUSINESS**

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### **Art. 1 – Subject**

1. These regulations set out the objectives, characteristics and operational rules for the research doctorate course in **Management, Finance, and Law for Business** (hereinafter referred to as "Course"), in compliance with Article 5 of the Regulations for governing Research Doctorate courses (hereinafter referred to as "Course Regulations"), which was approved by the Senate of the Cattaneo – LUIC University (hereinafter referred to as "University") on 6 May 2013 in acknowledgement of Ministerial Decree no. 45 dated 8 February 2013.
2. These regulations, drawn up in Italian and English and approved by the University's Senate, are issued by Decree of the Rector and published on the University's web site.

### **Art. 2 – Title, general topics and educational objectives of the course**

1. The Course, with the title "Management, Finance, and Law for Business" refers to macro-sectors 09/b – manufacturing, plant and management engineering, 13/b – business economics, 12/B – commercial, shipping and labour law, and, in more detail, these Scientific/Discipline Sectors:  
ING-IND/17 Mechanical and Industrial Plants  
ING-IND/35 Economic-Management Engineering  
SECS-P/07 Business Economics  
SECS-P/07 Corporate Organization  
SECS-P/11 Economics of Financial Brokers  
IUS/04 Commercial Law
2. The basic analytical instruments, functional for a more effective achievement of the Course's objectives, which are clarified below, and the appropriate integration of the correlated skills, also draw from the knowledge and methodologies of the disciplines of the Scientific Branch Sectors:

SECS-/S01 Statistics

SECS-S/06 Mathematical methods for economics and the actuarial and financial sciences

SECS-P/01 Political Economics

IUS-12 Tax Law

which are to be considered ancillary and/or functional under the profile of the investigation and analysis methods for the subjects fundamental to the Course and not independent scientific investigation fields, and as such also covered by teachers associated with the Faculty Board in a consultative role.

3. The Course trains researchers so that they can interpret business phenomena in an integrated way, using the general methodological principles for quantitative and qualitative research in the social sciences, with the perspectives offered by the subject areas of corporate finance, management engineering and law applied to business economics.
4. The objective of combining a broad spectrum integrated view with depth of analysis is achieved in the training path project where, after an initial common stage, the Course is broken down into three curricula in distinct disciplinary areas defined broadly, clearly, and uniformly in relation to international research standards and is completed in individual doctoral theses on specific precisely identified research questions which must be of relevance for the scientific community, with explicit significant professional spin-offs.
5. In this way, the Course is placed in the trend of being at an international level with regard to research activity educational products. The tendency for the functional convergence underway in the research world, by virtue of which a same phenomenon is analysed in an ever deeper way by combining different complementary investigatory perspectives, makes the choice of joining the management engineering and corporate economics approaches a distinctive fertile characteristic of the Course, allowing its doctoral candidates to acquire a unique competence in the study of that very subject of inquiry, which is corporate and market structures and processes. Similarly, the presence of a curriculum dedicated to corporate law grafts a growing tendency at international level of linking the analysis of law to that of the essential underlying reality onto the model for important doctorates in Law & Economics or Law, Sciences & Technology.
6. The award of the research doctorate in the Management, Finance, and Law for Business certifies the clear ability to:
  - a) study corporate phenomena and market dynamics with advanced multi-purpose methodological tools so that their complexity can be best understood;
  - b) make use of robust analytical tools, as an alternative or together with the managerial, management engineering and legal area, to obtain research results that are academically rigorous and professionally significant;
  - c) identify innovative research topics and develop original results of interest to the scientific and professional community.

### **Art. 3 – Duration and structure of the course**

1. The Course lasts three academic years.
2. After a common part, the Course is organized into three curricula (reference Scientific Branch Sectors in brackets):
  - Management Science (SECS-P/07, SECS-P/10 , ING-IND/17, ING-IND/35),
  - Accounting & Finance (SECS-P/07, SECS-P/11, ING-IND/35)

- Law for Firms & Markets (IUS/04, SECS-P/07, ING-IND/35)
- Since the SECS-S/01, SECS-S/06, SECS-P/01 and IUS-12 Scientific Branch Sectors are functional and/or ancillary, under the inquiry method profile, to the subjects of the three curricula, it is not the main aim of the Course to prepare the students for original research activity in these fields.

#### **Art. 4 – Pacts and Agreements with universities**

1. With reference to the Course as of these regulations, the University can activate agreements with other Italian and foreign universities, which may be useful for broadening or deepening the research topics that are the subject of its educational objectives.
2. These cooperative solutions can be substantiated in the possibility of the doctoral candidate accessing additional educational sequences that replace or supplement those offered in house, thus allowing him/her to realise his/her research objectives better, facilitating the focus on his/her area of maximum interest or opening further main research spaces. This agreement framework also provides for the award of double qualifications or joint qualifications.

#### **Art. 5 – Agreements with businesses**

1. The Course provides that agreements can be activated with companies and institutions involved in research and development activities. The agreement defines the nature of the company's or institution's commitment in support of the programme and/or its doctoral candidates in relation to, if indicated, specific research areas that it intends to promote. The support can be subject to conditions in terms of research activities or teaching to be carried out by the beneficiary doctoral candidates and/or the teaching staff.
2. Any agreements with companies must contain all the provisions of Article 11 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013 and are approved by the University's Executive Committee.

#### **Art. 6 – Requirements and access procedures**

1. The admission announcement, drawn up Italian and English, in compliance with these Regulations and the rulings of the Senate with regard to the number of students admitted, bursaries, taxes and contributions must contain the link to the page of University's website on which it is published. The Announcement is issued by Decree of the Rector.
2. Admission to the Course is by public selection in accordance with the procedures set out in the announcement.
3. The application to participate can be submitted, without limits of citizenship, by any person who holds a master's degree, or equivalent foreign qualification, or any person who thinks he/she will be awarded it within the term indicated in the announcement, on penalty of forfeiture of admission if successful in the selection, in the following classes of master's degree or degree in the equivalent old four-year system:

LM-77 Economics/Business

LM-16 Finance

LM-56 Economics

LM-31 Industrial Engineering  
LM-59 Public and Business Communication and Advertising  
LM-63 Public Administration  
LM-76 Economics for the Environment and Culture  
LMG/01 Law

The Committee also evaluates the applications of candidates holding a degree in a different class to those listed or equivalent qualification awarded abroad. The aforesaid qualifications must demonstrate suitable basic knowledge of the Course's topics.

4. The admissions announcement indicates the curricula that will be activated. In the application for participation, the candidate specifies the curriculum that he/she intends to enrol in.

5. The announcement for admission to the course specifies the language or languages of the doctorate; it defines any qualifications to be considered in the admission judgement, the number and nature of any examinations and the scores that can be attributed to each identified assessment element.

6. The admission examinations, if required, are designed to ascertain the candidate's attitude to scientific research and his/her knowledge of English, whilst his/her basic knowledge of the topics that are the subject of the course are assessed on the basis of the curriculum and qualifications.

7. The Committee draws up the ranking on the basis of the sum of the scores obtained by the candidates through the effect of the qualifications submitted and the results of the examinations, if required. The ranking is established independent of the curriculum. This is without prejudice to the provisions of Ministerial Decree no. 45 dated 8 February 2013 on the forming of separated admission lists with reference to Agreements with Companies or foreign candidates.

8. The candidates are admitted to the Course according to their order in the ranking or rankings, until the available places are filled.

9. Applications for transfer into the course from doctoral candidates currently pursuing other doctorates are considered by the Faculty Board, which rules on any admission and in the event establishes the conditions for it based on examination of the candidate's specific situation.

#### **Art. 7 – Bursaries and exemptions**

1. The admissions announcement, structured in accordance with the content of Article 8 of Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013, shows the number and amount of the bursaries, the number and conditions of the exemptions, and the amount of the charges and contributions as determined by the University Senate.

2. Bursaries and exemptions are assigned according to the admission ranking to the Course until the available places are filled. An exception is bursaries financed by external bodies and subject to particular constraints, e.g. frequenting a certain curriculum. In these cases, the bursary is allocated to the first classified person with all the requirements. If the ranking is equal, younger age of the candidate will be taken into account.

3. The bursaries and exemptions last for one year and are renewable on condition that the doctoral candidate has successfully completed the programme of activities for the previous year, which is checked in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 13. If the doctoral candidate is not assessed positively for the purpose of renewing the bursary, or renounces it, the unused amount remains disposable to the university.

4. If a doctoral candidate enjoying a bursary continuously fails to carry out the study and research activities, the Faculty Board can at any time revoke the bursary with a suitably justified ruling.

5. Bursaries from ministerial funds cannot be accumulated with other bursaries awarded for any reason, except those granted by Italian or foreign institutions and intended to finance, in full or part, stays outside the campus, in Italy and abroad, which are consistent with, or useful to, the doctoral candidate's educational and research activity. The student receiving bursaries agreed by the University is obliged to inform the Course Coordinator of any further form of financial support obtained so that the Management Committee can assess the consistency and usefulness of the activities thus financed for the purposes of the student's educational path.

#### **Art. 8 – Procedure for establishing the Committees for the comparative assessment of candidates**

1. The Rector, having heard the Faculty Board, appoints the Committee for the comparative assessment of the candidates and this consists of five components, also from foreign institutions, selected from tenured university lectures (ordinary, associate, fixed term and open-end researchers) and experts from accredited public and private research structures within the bounds of the following constraints:

a) the majority of the components must be drawn from ordinary or associate professors (tenured, if Italian). The related ministerial decree is valid for determining the equivalence of foreign qualifications;

b) the majority of the components must be in the University staff lists;

c) there must be at least one lecturer belonging to a discipline group regarding each activated curriculum.

2. In the case of the renunciation, inability or revocation of a committee member, the Rector, by his own decree, restores the Committee with the appointment of a replacement within the constraints of the section above.

#### **Art. 9 – Rights and duties of the doctoral candidates**

1. The Course involves exclusive full time commitment from the admitted student. If the doctoral candidate cannot maintain this commitment, he/she is obliged to inform the Coordinator immediately. Acknowledging the situation, and on the basis of the term report submitted by the doctoral candidate, as specified in Article 13, section 2b, the Faculty Board consequently gives a ruling, as far as excluding the doctoral candidate from the Course.

2. The doctoral candidate follows an educational path designed for the award of an academic qualification and, as such, has the rights and duties of a student. The doctoral candidate is included

in one of the University's Research Groups and is therefore to be considered, also in consideration of the EU directives, a young researcher (early stage researcher).

3. The doctoral candidate must submit an enrolment application at the start of each year of the course and pay any taxes and contributions. Other students are required to perform, subject to ruling by the Faculty Board, tutoring activities for degree and master's degree students as well as supplementary didactic activity for a maximum of 40 hours per year of course. Other students can be required to perform, subject to ruling by the Faculty Board, tutoring activities for degree and master's degree students as well as supplementary didactic activity for a maximum of 40 hours per year of course. In this case, the didactic activity can be paid.

4. Every doctoral candidate can carry out, after getting favourable opinion from the Management Committee, activities in the University's Research Centres or Laboratories. These activities can be paid.

5. The University Senate establishes a maximum limit for the income that the doctoral candidate can receive per year in order to keep his/her commitment focused on the Course's specific topics.

6. Every doctoral candidate can carry out activities outside the University only occasionally and in any case subject to approval from the Management Committee. The Committee informs the Board members of the permits issued. For doctoral candidates with a bursary, the external activities must be limited to those which can be ascribed to the acquisition of skills within the educational framework of the doctorate.

7. The doctoral candidate may carry out a maximum of one year's research relevant to the award of the doctorate at other universities, both according to the terms of any agreements or pacts and in the capacity of free mover if he/she obtains full approval from the Management Committee for the study and research plan drawn up for the purpose and authorized beforehand by the Tutor or Supervisors. If the student is a holder of a bursary for the doctorate, he/she must recoup the 40 hours of supplementary teaching for the year outside the campus in the periods of study carried out in the university.

8. If the doctoral candidate renounces pursuing the Course, he/she is obliged to give written notice to the Coordinator. If the doctoral candidate is a bursary holder, the provision of financial support is stopped from that date and the remaining amount is at the University's disposal.

9. The doctoral candidate who finds him/herself in the condition of interrupting attendance through maternity/paternity, illness and serious documented reasons can obtain suspension of attendance based on the documentation submitted and the ruling from the Faculty Board. The rights to any bursary enjoyed are kept, apart from the interruption to the provision and subsequent recovery on resumption of attendance. The doctoral candidate is not obliged to pay taxes or contributions during the period of suspension of attendance, except for the payment of the regional tax.

#### **Art. 10 – Faculty Board, Management Committee and Coordinator**

1. The Faculty Board is in charge of designing and coordinating the Course and operates under the management of the Coordinator, as set out in the Regulations for Doctorate Courses. By the terms of those regulations, there must be a Management Committee.

2. The Faculty Board, including the Coordinator, remains in office for three years. The appointments can be renewed. The composition of the Faculty Board constitutes an attachment to these Regulations.
3. If the role of coordinator is vacant, a replacement is appointed on the basis of the appointment procedure provided for in the Regulations for Doctorate Courses. When the role of coordinator is vacant, the role is covered by the member of Management Committee who has the most seniority in the University's tenure lists.
4. If a position on the Faculty Board becomes vacant, the Rector may appoint a replacement, after hearing the Faculty Board's opinion. The Rector must appoint a replacement when the requirements set out by Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013 for the Faculty Board are not met because of the vacancy. The appointment must be ratified by the Senate in the first available meeting.
5. A representative of the doctoral candidates attends the Faculty Board meetings that deal with didactic and organizational problems. The representative is elected by the doctoral candidates in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Regulations for the election of student representatives and remains in office for the period provided for in those Regulations.
6. The Faculty Board meets at least once a semester. The Coordinator calls the meetings by email sent to the address that every member is obliged to communicate on appointment. The calls must be sent at least eight days before the date of the meeting or, in the event of an emergency, at least two days before the date of the meeting. The calls must contain the subject, place, time and date of the first call and second call, if provided for. On first call, the meetings are valid if at least a half of the members of the Faculty Board are present; on second call, at least one third of the members of the Faculty Board.
7. The Coordinator chairs the Faculty Board meetings. If he/she is absent or unable to attend, the professor most senior in tenure from among those that are part of the Management Committee replaces him/her. Resolutions are taken by the majority vote of those present. In the case of parity, the person chairing the meeting has the casting vote.
8. The Faculty Board appoints at least three of its members in the first meeting of every academic year to be part of the Course Management Committee, together and under the guidance of the Coordinator.
9. The Management Committee is called by the Coordinator, also upon request of a member, for the management of the Course's operational aspects and it gives an account to the Faculty Board in the first useful meeting.

#### **Art. 11 – Tutor and Supervisors**

1. The educational path of the first two years of the doctoral candidate's course is monitored and supported by a Tutor, the appointment of whom is approved by the Faculty Board, also upon proposal by the doctoral candidate, within three months of admission of the doctoral candidate to the first year of the course.

2. It is possible to replace the Tutor at the beginning of the second year. This replacement must be requested by the doctoral candidate, with adequate justification, from the Faculty Board and must be accompanied by the proposal for the new Tutor. Every other change of Tutor is to be constitutes an exceptional event, to be managed by the Management Committee.

3. The work on the doctoral thesis is monitored and supported by two Supervisors, chosen from tenured lecturers in Italian or foreign universities who have certified their willingness to follow said work. The Supervisor with primary responsibility must be in the University staff lists. The appointment of the Supervisors is approved by the Faculty Board at the end of the second year of the course, as specified in Article 13, section 4.

### **Art. 12 – Study programme**

1. In the first two years of the course the doctoral candidate acquires, with attendance at lectures and seminars, personal study and the university lecturers' support for research activities, skills in the subject of scientific research methodology and cutting-edge concepts within the context of managerial and legal subjects relevant to integrated business management.

2. The 1<sup>st</sup> semester consists of 6 courses of 4 CFU (University Educational Credit) each, mainly with methodological connotations, common to all the curricula and which form the following three basic sequences:

A. Quantitative Methods for Managerial Sciences	
A1. Applied Statistics	SECS-S/01
A2. Optimization Techniques	SECS-S/06
B. Business Research Approaches and Techniques	
B1. Managerial theories and management research	SECS-P/07
B2. Management research and experiment design	ING-IND/35
C. Economic & legal inquiry	
C1. Modelling Decisions and Markets	SECS-P/01
C2. Legal Comparative Analysis for business management	IUS/04

Students in the Law for Firms & Markets curriculum have the right to substitute two courses from sequence A (Quantitative Methods for Managerial Sciences) with “IUS” qualified Scientific Branch Sector courses offered in the framework of other clearly identified educational activities, even carried out outside LUIC. The substitution must be approved by the Management Committee, possibly before the start of the doctorate course, and in any case not later than the end of November in the first year of the course. The approval must give justification of the fact that, for the student, the substitution observes the principle of “equivalent effort”, assures a formal final assessment of the skills acquired and is consistent with the educational objectives of the doctorate course.

4. In the II<sup>nd</sup> semester, the students conclude the Quantitative Methods sequence, or any equivalent activities as of the point above, with the following courses, again of 4 CFU each:

A3. Cross Section Data Analysis	SECS-S/01
A4. Time Series Analysis	SECS-S/01

Depending on the curriculum chosen, the students are then obliged to follow the courses of 4 CFU in the following sequences:

#### “MANAGEMENT SCIENCE” CURRICULUM

##### D. Operations Management and Innovation

D1. Supply chain and logistics

ING-IND/17

D2. Innovation Management

ING-IND/35

##### E. Strategy and Organization

E1. Strategic Entrepreneurship

SECS-P/07

E2. Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources Management

SECS-P/10

#### “ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE” CURRICULUM

##### F. Accounting

F1. Theory of Financial Accounting

SECS-P/07

F2. Managerial Accounting and Performance Measurement

ING-IND/35

##### G. Finance

G1. Investment and Asset Pricing

SECS-P/11

G2. Corporate Finance

ING-IND/35

#### “LAW FOR FIRMS & MARKETS” CURRICULUM

##### H. Principles of legal Knowledge

H1. Start Up and Restart Up of the Firm

IUS/04

H2. Intellectual Property and Innovation

IUS/04

##### I. Practice of Law in Business and Corporate Life

I1. Field Work & Periodic Workshop 1

I2. Field Work & Periodic Workshop 2

5. In the third semester, the doctoral candidates complete the two sequences typical of every curriculum with the following courses of 4 CFU each:

#### “MANAGEMENT SCIENCE” CURRICULUM

##### D. Operations Management and Innovation

D3/E3. Technology and Information System Management

SECS-P/10

D4. Social network analysis applied to business operations

ING-IND/17

##### E. Strategy and Organization

D3/E3. Technology and Information System Management

SECS-P/10

E4. Corporate Strategy and Organizational Development

SECS-P/07;

#### “ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE” CURRICULUM

##### F. Accounting

F3. Advanced topics in Financial and Managerial Accounting

SECS-P/07 F4/G4.

Empirical Research in Finance and Accounting

SECS-P/11

##### G. Finance

G3. Theory of Financial Markets and Intermediation

SECS-P/11

F4/G4. Empirical Research in Accounting and Finance;

SECS-P/11

## “LAW FOR FIRMS AND MARKETS” CURRICULUM

### H. Business and Corporate Law

H3. Corporate Governance - Advanced Theories and Special Cases IUS/04

H4. Impact of Taxation on Firm Structure and Contract Design IUS-12

I. Practice of Law

I3. Field Work & Periodic Workshop 3

I4. Field Work & Periodic Workshop 4

6. The student must supplement the commitment of the 2nd and 3rd semester with educational activities of equal significance to a third sequence (16 CFU, in total), which must be agreed with the Tutor and approved by the Management Committee. The Management Committee's approval is issued after taking into account the consistency of the proposal with the doctoral candidate's study plan and the observance of the principles of equivalence and appreciability of the skills acquired.

6. a) Firstly, they can consist of courses taken from sequences offered by another curriculum in order to allow the student a broader vision, transversal to several disciplinary fields, of a same research field, that of business management in competitive markets, which puts forward complex problems and for the solving of which it is important to have a strong multi-discipline basis. This is the priority solution for students who intend to pursue careers outside academia.

6. b) Alternatively, students can opt for courses taken from LUIC master's degrees or doctoral courses provided by other universities with which the University maintains operational agreements or at which the doctoral candidate has secured permission to attend in his/her capacity as free mover. This is the preferred solution for students that intend to focus their preparation on narrower disciplinary fields or have particular research training requirements.

7. The student must complete the following complementary activities during the course of the first three semesters:

A IT Seminars	(2 CFU)
B Information Literacy Seminars	(2 CFU)
C Writing for Scholarly Publications Seminars	(2 CFU)
D Seminars on research management, research systems and financing	(2 CFU)
E Seminars on intellectual property valorization systems	(2 CFU)
F English language course to obtain BEC/IELTS/TOEIC certification	(6 CFU)

8. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the course, the doctoral candidate is also obliged to attend workshops on research work, as specified by Article 14, section 2. He/she must also complete the certification of knowledge of the English language by no later than the end of the second semester of the second year.

### **Art. 13 – Path of studies for the first two years and its assessment methods**

1. The Course starts with the beginning of the academic year. During the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the doctoral candidate must:

a) attend each course that he/she is obliged to follow and pass the examination for it, which is assessed on a scale of: honours, pass, low pass, fail;

b) document the activities carried out (courses and seminars, research, didactic activity held) producing a written report, signed and, if appropriate, commented on by the Tutor for submission to the Coordinator every semester. The doctoral candidate notes down every topic that he/she intends to submit to the Faculty Board in that report.

2. No later than the first of July of the first year of the course, the Faculty Board, having acknowledged the half-year reports produced and the results of the examinations, rules on the passage of the doctoral candidate to the second year of the course. If the doctoral candidate has obtained more than one “fail” assessments or more than two “low pass” assessments, the Faculty Board rules on whether to exclude the doctoral candidate from the Course. If the doctoral candidate has obtained a “fail” assessment or two “low pass” assessments, he/she must take an examination for all the courses belonging to the sequences where he/she has obtained the “fail” or “low pass” assessments. Following said examination, the Faculty Board approves admission to the second year of the course if the assessment was “pass” or “honours”; otherwise it rules the doctoral candidate be excluded from the Course.

3. At the end of the programme’s III<sup>rd</sup> semester, the Faculty Board, having acknowledged the half-year reports submitted and the results of the examinations, rules on the passage of the doctoral candidate to the stage of the programme that concentrates on research; this starts from the II<sup>nd</sup> semester of year II of the programme. If the doctoral candidate has obtained more than one “fail” assessments or more than two “low pass” assessments, the Faculty Board rules on whether to exclude the doctoral candidate from the Course. If the doctoral candidate has obtained a “fail” assessment or two “low pass” assessments, he/she must take an examination for all the courses in the III<sup>rd</sup> semester of the programme.

4. No later than September of the II<sup>nd</sup> year of the course, the doctoral candidate verbally illustrates a summary of the activity carried out, the progress made in the research area and the results obtained to the Faculty Board. He/she also proposes, with the support of a written project, the preliminary title of his/her research thesis, the objectives and the plan of work envisaged for completion of that thesis. This proposal is accompanied by the indication of the two Supervisors, who can be supplemented by an expert outside the academic tenures. The Faculty Board, acknowledging the verbal presentation, the six-monthly reports submitted, the examination results and proposed thesis project, approved by the supervisors, rules on the doctoral candidate’s passage to the third year of the course admitting him/her to the preparation of the thesis work. If the presentation is not assessed positively, the Faculty Board rules that the doctoral candidate be excluded from the Course, or authorizes him/her to submit a new presentation to be held no later than March of the following academic year in order to prove that the highlighted problems have been resolved. In this case, the doctoral candidate can be conditionally enrolled in the next year of the course. Following the new presentation, the Faculty Board approves admission to the third year of the course or rules the doctoral candidate be excluded from the Course.

5. If the passage to a next stage of the course depends on passing the special examinations shown in the previous paragraphs, the doctoral candidate forfeits the enjoyment of the study bursary.

#### **Art. 14 – Third year: thesis project and final examination**

1. During the third year of the course, the doctoral candidate is involved in drafting the thesis counting on the Supervisors' support and monitoring.

2. During the third year of the course, the doctoral candidate submits the progress of his/her thesis work and discusses the most relevant literature on the topic of the thesis in a workshop on research works, which all doctoral candidates in the second and third year of the course are obliged to attend.

3. No later than July of the third year of the course, the doctoral candidate preliminarily submits the results obtained in his/her thesis work to a Committee indicated by the Coordinator and consisting of the supervisors and an equal number of other members of the Faculty Board. Alternatively, the doctoral candidate can request an extension of no more than six months for this presentation. If the assessment is not positive, the doctoral candidate is only allowed a second possibility of preliminary presentation, to be held within six months of the first. A further negative assessment determines the doctoral candidate's exclusion from the Course.

4. Following the positive assessment of the presentation as of the section above, the Coordinator appoints two highly qualified assessors, also belonging to foreign institutions, external to the University. On indication of the Supervisors, the doctoral candidate sends a copy of the thesis to the assessors when it is complete; they express an analytical judgement on the thesis and propose admission to public discussion or send it back for a period of no more than six months if they consider significant supplements or corrections are necessary. Once that period has elapsed, the thesis is in any case admitted to public discussion, accompanied by the same assessors' new written assessment drawn up in light of any corrections or supplements made.

5. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by an abstract in Italian and English, is drafted in Italian or English and is attached to the doctoral candidate's report on the activities carried out in the course of the doctorate and any publications made. The thesis contains the statement of a maximum of three scientific disciplinary sectors to which the research work is linked with specification of which of these is the main one. The indication of the language and the chosen scientific disciplinary sectors is shown in the written thesis project as of Article 13, section 4.

6. The public discussion takes place before a Committee appointed by the Rector after hearing the Faculty Board and this consists of three members chosen from the tenured professors (the majority) and researchers, also from non-Italian universities, who are specifically qualified in the Scientific Disciplinary Sector stated for the thesis or in similar areas. The Committee can be supplemented by not more than two experts belonging to public and private research structures, also foreign, on the Faculty Board's proposal. The public discussion takes place within 90 days of the Rector's appointment decree.

7. At the end of the discussion, the thesis is approved or rejected with justified joint written judgement. In the case of approval, the Committee awards the title of doctor, abbreviated with the wording:

“Dott. Ric.” or “Ph. D.”. The curriculum is indicated in the qualification.

**Art. 15 – Closing Regulations**

For anything not provided for in these regulations, please refer to the regulations of law, the ministerial regulations and statutory regulations of the University.