



University of Cagliari - Rules and Regulations on PhD Programmes

Rector's Decree no. 296 of 21st March 2022

Art. 1 - Field of application, purpose and duration

1. These Rules and Regulations govern the establishment, implementation and operation of study programmes awarding the PhD degree of the University of Cagliari, in accordance with the principles and criteria set out in the current Ministerial Decree and Accreditation Guidelines.
2. PhD programmes provide PhD students with the skills needed to carry out highly qualified scientific research activities, also with the purpose of accessing public administration careers and integrating highly innovative professional paths, at universities, or public and private institutions.
3. The duration of PhD programmes cannot be less than three years, except as provided for in art. 21, as regards the joint attendance of a PhD programme and a medical specialization course.

Art. 2 - Establishment of PhD programmes

1. The establishment of a PhD programme at the University of Cagliari - as a single head office or under a convention/consortium - requires the presence of a reference scientific community with a strong research and educational experience, also at international level, in the specific field of the PhD programme, and a scientific production certifiable on a quality/quantity basis on research fields traceable to large, organic and clearly defined disciplinary areas.
2. After accreditation according to the Ministerial Decree in force, PhD programmes are established with a Rector's decree, under a proposal of one or more Departments, following the favourable opinion of the Academic Senate and the approval of the Board of Directors.
3. PhD programmes can also be established in association under a convention/consortium, which can be head office of the programme, with one or more subjects below:
 - a. other Italian or foreign Universities, considering the possibility of awarding double, multiple or joint degrees;
 - b. public or private research institutions, either in Italy or abroad, holding highly qualified requirements at cultural and scientific level, provided with appropriate staff, facilities and equipment. In this case, the head office of the PhD programme is the University of Cagliari, which awards the PhD degree;



- c. Accredited higher education institutions for Arts, Music and Dance, referred to in art. 2, par. 1, of Law no. 508 of 21st December 1999, considering the possibility of awarding double, multiple or joint degrees;
 - d. enterprises, also abroad, carrying out qualified R&D activities, provided with appropriate staff, facilities and equipment. In this case, the head office of the PhD programme is the University of Cagliari, which awards the PhD degree;
 - e. public administrations, cultural institutions and prominent European and international research structures, to carry out specific R&D or innovation programmes.
4. PhD programmes can be organized in PhD schools, exclusively conferring them tasks related to the management and administrative coordination of common educational and training activities.

Art. 3 - Planning of PhD programmes

1. In the framework of the annual planning, the Board of Directors allocates the resources needed to establish new PhD programmes and to renew those already accredited, as well as to participate in PhD programmes with external head office, in accordance with the relevant Rules in force and the Ministerial Guidelines.
2. The distribution of financial resources to be allocated to PhD programmes is made on the basis of the University policies for higher education and possibly the results of the annual evaluation of the University Evaluation Committee.
3. PhD programmes start at the beginning of each academic year. It may have a different starting date in the case of calling more selections for the admission to PhD programmes of the same cycle, of doctoral paths to be activated as part of national, European and international collaboration projects, and industrial PhD programmes.

Art. 4 - Accreditation of PhD programmes

1. Accreditation consists in the initial authorization of the Ministry of University and Research, with the assent of the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes, to activate PhD programmes, as well as in the periodic verification of the permanence of the requirements for these purposes.

Necessary requirements to have a PhD programme accredited are:



a. compliance with the following criteria relating to the composition of the Academic Board, taking into account, where possible, gender balance:

a1) a minimum number of twelve members, who guarantee the permanence of the requirements set out in this article for at least three years, of which at least half are university first or second level tenured professors, and the rest is made of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the case of PhD programmes in association with public research institutions, also researchers belonging to the roles of research managers, researchers or first researchers from the same institutions, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors;

a2) a proven scientific qualification of the members in the disciplinary areas of the of PhD programme, certified as follows: for researchers, on the basis of the requirements of current legislation for access to the role of second-level professor; for professors, on the basis of the requirements for access to the role they already belong to; for Board members belonging to universities or foreign research institutions, on the basis of the minimum requirements provided for by current legislation for access to the role of second-level professor;

a3) a high scientific qualification of the Coordinator of the PhD programme in the disciplinary areas of the PhD programme, certified on the basis of the requirements established by the current regulations for access to the role of first-level professor;

a4) the opportunity for experts, including those not belonging to universities or public research institutions, holding a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in research fields consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD programme, to participate in the PhD Academic Board, up to a maximum of one third of its overall composition;

b. compliance with the following criteria relating to the number of scholarships, for each cycle of PhD programmes to be activated:

b1) the availability of an average number of at least four scholarships for each planned PhD programme, excluding from the calculation the scholarships reserved for PhD programmes in agreement/consortium, considering that for a single PhD programme this availability cannot be less than three;

b2) for those PhD programme to be activated in associated form pursuant to art. 2, par. 3, in the event that there are two members in convention/consortium, the funding of at least two scholarships by each of them; in the case of more than two participants, the funding of at least



two scholarships by the subject acting as home office of the PhD programme and at least one scholarship by each of the others;

b3) in order to satisfy this requirement, other forms of funding of at least equivalent amount reserved for scholarships can be considered;

c) the availability of adequate and stable funding for the sustainability of the PhD programme, with specific reference to the availability of scholarships referred to in letter b), and to the support of the PhD students' activities, which must be guaranteed with funds allocated by the Departments of the PhD programmes or by external subjects;

d) the availability, certified by the Departments of the PhD programmes, of specific and qualified operational and scientific facilities for carrying out the study and research activities of the PhD students, adequate to the number of scholarships provided, including, in relation to the type and peculiarities of the PhD programme, welfare facilities, scientific laboratories, adequate librarianship, databases and IT resources;

e) carrying out advanced research and higher education activities, including seminars, or carried out in laboratories or research facilities of international level and interest;

f) scheduling of activities, also in common with other PhD programmes, related to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary education, linguistic and IT development, as well as, in the field of education, research management and knowledge of European and International research systems, exploitation and dissemination of research results, intellectual property, open access to data and research products and the fundamental principles of ethics and integrity;

g) the provision of a quality assurance system for the design and management of doctoral training in compliance with the Standards for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), according to the indications of ANVUR.

4. The requirements referred to in paragraph 1 also apply to PhD programmes to be activated in associated form pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3. In such cases, the participants guarantee to the PhD students, on an ongoing basis, the effective sharing of higher education and research facilities and activities, and schedule common training activities, also alternately among the offices.

5. Ministerial accreditation has a five-year duration, without prejudice to the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the permanence of the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, carried out by



ANVUR also on the basis of the results of the control activity carried out by the University Evaluation Committee.

6. The loss of one or more requirements involves the revocation of the accreditation, ordered by Ministerial decree, with the assent of ANVUR.
7. In case of revocation of accreditation, the University of Cagliari suspends, with immediate effect, the activation of new cycles of PhD programme, without prejudice to the completion of the programmes already activated.

Art. 5 - PhD programmes under an agreement of collaboration and consortium

1. The University of Cagliari promotes the activation of PhD programmes in collaboration with other subjects pursuant to art. 2, par. 3.
2. The agreements signed for these purposes with universities, other institutions and public and private research bodies, must ensure, for each PhD programme, the possession of the accreditation requirements referred to in art. 4, par. 1, specifying, for each partner under collaboration/consortium, the contribution in terms of teaching, the availability of financial resources and operational and scientific structures that guarantee the sustainability of the programme and the contribution of scholarships provided for by art. 4, par. 1, letter b), in relation to each PhD cycle they undertake to activate.
3. Agreements relating to PhD programmes to be activated in association with universities and highly-qualified and internationally recognized research institutions, in order to effectively coordinate research at a high international level, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity, must provide for an effective sharing of training and research activities, the fair distribution of costs, the procedures to regulate the forms of financial support, the procedures of exchange and mobility of professors/researchers and PhD students, and the award of joint, double or multiple PhD degree. The programmes established in this way are subject to the discipline provided for in the relevant agreement and in any preliminary framework agreement, also as an exception to this Regulation.
4. The agreements aimed at the activation of industrial PhD programmes, in collaboration with companies that carry out R&D activities, must govern: the methods of coordination of research activities between the parties; the methods of carrying out research activities at the company; any reserve of positions in favor of company employees engaged in highly qualified activities, to



be admitted to the PhD programme after passing the relevant selection; in relation to these positions, the distribution of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the PhD programme; the incentive mechanisms in order to promote technology transfer and the development of the results of research activities by the collaborating companies.

5. For the purposes of training in industrial PhD programmes, the possibility, according to art. 45 of Legislative Decree no. 81 of 15th June 2015, to activate apprenticeship contracts, while ensuring the prevalence of research activity, remains. Apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to PhD scholarships for the purpose of calculating the minimum number necessary for the activation of the PhD programme.
6. The University of Cagliari promotes the activation of PhD programmes of national interest, in accordance with current legislation.

Art. 6 - Establishment procedure

1. The Departments, independently or together with other Departments, submit proposals for the establishment and/or renewal of the PhD programmes, approved by their respective Councils by 1st February of each year.
2. The proposals approved by the Departments are sent to MUR and ANVUR, through the appropriate online procedure available in the National Doctoral Registry, within the deadline established annually by MUR, accompanied by the opinion of the University Evaluation Committee, when necessary, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, upon the favorable opinion of the Academic Senate.
3. Each proposal must respect the relevant rules in force and indicate:
 - a. name and head office of the PhD programme;
 - b. the research topics of the PhD programme, which must refer to broad, organic and clearly defined disciplinary areas, and the possible articulation of the programme in curricula;
 - c. purposes and operating methods of the PhD programme, with educational programmes and activities;
 - d. participation requirements for the PhD programme;
 - e. PhD students' training time and locations;
 - f. available facilities for PhD students' study and research activities;
 - g. available resources for supporting the PhD programme;



- h. the subjects referred to in article 2, paragraph 3, possibly in convention or consortium, and their contribution in the educational, organizational and financial context
 - i. composition of the Academic Board, in accordance with the provisions of art. 4, par. 1, letters a and b, and art. 8, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4;
 - j. the indication of the PhD Coordinator in accordance with the provisions of art. 4, par. 1, letter a) and 7, par. 6;
 - k. Coordinator's and Academic Board members' highly qualified and objectively documented scientific production;
 - l. number of PhD students - no less than three - admissible to the first year, defined on the basis of available facilities, teaching staff and resources.
4. Proposals for establishing PhD programmes at the University of Cagliari under an agreement of collaboration and consortium with other Universities should indicate:
- a. the presence in the Academic Board of a number of university professors usually equal to 60 percent of its overall composition;
 - b. the commitment of all the Institution under a collaboration or consortium, to comply with the provisions of these Regulations in managing the PhD programme.
5. In the case of a joining proposal of the University of Cagliari, under an agreement of collaboration or consortium pursuant to art. 2, par. 3, for a PhD programme established at another University, the joining agreement must indicate:
- a. research topics;
 - b. scientific units involved, either at UniCa or at the partner institution(s) under an agreement of collaboration or within a consortium;
 - c. purposes and operational methods of PhD programmes;
 - d. composition of the Academic Board, with at least 20 percent members from UniCa, in accordance with the provisions of the head office Regulations and with the relevant rules in force;
 - e. UniCa contribution in the educational, organizational and financial context of the PhD programme, also in relation to the number of UniCa professors/researchers and PhD students involved in research activities mainly at UniCa.
 - f. commitment to respect the Rules in force at the head office of the PhD programme.



6. Interested Departments submit their participation proposal with a motivated deliberation. It will be subject to the Board of Directors' approval, following the Academic Senate's favourable opinion.
7. Participation may be renewed only if the conditions indicated in par. 5 remain.
8. Every year the Evaluation Committee assesses the PhD programmes established at UniCa. ANVUR may use the assessment results for its annual monitoring activity (ref. to art. 4, par. 3).

Art. 7 - PhD programme Authorities: Academic Board and Coordinator

1. Academic Board and Coordinator are Authorities of the PhD programme.
2. The Academic Board, established pursuant to art. 4, par. 1, letter a), is responsible for designing and implementing the PhD programme. In particular, the Academic Board:
 - a) appoints the members of the Selection Committee for the admission to PhD programmes, referred to in art. 10, par. 11;
 - b) plans the programme activities;
 - c) assigns to the PhD students the research topic and a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, of which at least one is academic, identified also among subjects external to the Academic Board, provided that at least one is in possession of the requisites required for the members of the Academic Board;
 - d) evaluates PhD students' activity annually, through proper monitoring methods;
 - e) designates at last two referees of the thesis for each PhD student, pursuant to art. 14, par. 2;
 - f) designates the members of the Selection Committee for the final examination of the PhD programme, referred to in art. 14, par. 3;
 - g) provides the Examination Committee with the list of the PhD degree candidates, together with an overall assessment on PhD students' scientific personality and work.
3. Those interested in joining an Academic Board at the University of Cagliari can submit their application to the reference Coordinator, together with their scientific and educational curriculum, and a list of publications, as well as in case they pertain to other universities or public research institutions, the authorization of the institution to which they belong. The Academic Board can allow or dismiss the application, after evaluating the connection between the applicant's research activity and the research topics of the PhD programme, as well as his/her scientific qualification.



4. The members of a PhD Academic Board having their head office at the University of Cagliari cannot be part of another Academic Board at national level, unless it relates to a PhD programme organized in an associated form, pursuant to art. 2, par. 3, including industrial PhD programme and PhD programme of national interest.
5. A representation of the PhD students - one PhD student for each active cycle, and no fewer than two students - designated by the PhD students, participates in the meetings of the Academic Board, with an advisory function in relation to educational and organizational problems.
6. Upon a proposal of the Academic Board, the Department(s) Council designates a PhD programme Coordinator among first-level full-time professors with a high scientific qualification, certified on the basis of the requirements provided for by current legislation for access to the role of first-level professors; or, if absent or reasonably unavailable, among full-time second-level professors, satisfying the same requirements. A Coordinator is appointed through Rector's decree, serves three academic years and can be reconfirmed only once.

One year before the expiry of the Coordinator-in-Office's mandate, under a proposal of the Academic Board, the reference Department(s) Council, appoints a Coordinator for the next 3-year academic period, who takes on the role upon termination of the former Coordinator's term.

7. A Coordinator covering two consecutive terms can be appointed again only after a period equal to the duration of a full term.
8. The Coordinator is responsible for the managing and working of the PhD programme, calls and chairs the Academic Board, preparing the agenda and organizing the meeting, and handles the issue of the related resolutions.

The position of Coordinator of a PhD programme at the University of Cagliari is incompatible with that of Coordinator of another PhD programme at national level.

9. The Coordinator can appoint a vice-Coordinator serving as a substitute to all his/her functions in case of absence or impediment.
10. Any change in the Academic Board's composition and the Coordinator becomes effective from the following year for all the operative cycles, except in urgent cases if duly motivated.

In the event of resignation or early anticipation, under a proposal of the Academic Board, the reference Department(s) Council appoints an alternate, who remains in office until the expiry of the substituted Coordinator's mandate. In case of renewal, the terms equal or exceeding the half of the duration of the term referred to in par. 7 can be considered.



11. If a PhD programme is closed, its Coordinator and Academic Board serve until the completion of all the open cycles.
12. University professors' and researchers' certified educational and tutoring activity in the context of PhD programmes contributes to the fulfilment of the institutional obligations referred to in art. 6 of Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010.

Art. 8 - Internal Rules of procedure

1. Each PhD programme can have its own internal regulations to govern, in accordance with these Regulations and current legislation, the organization and working of the programme. The rules are approved by the Department(s) Council involved in the PhD programme, based on a proposal by the Academic Board.
2. The internal rules, for the purpose of better managing efficiency of the programme and support to the Coordinator, may provide for the possibility of delegating some of the tasks of the Academic Board to a smaller organization, with the exclusion of PhD students' periodic and final evaluation, and general planning of the programme.

Art. 9 - UniCa professors'/researchers' participation in other Academic Boards

1. The professors and researchers of the University of Cagliari who are not included in the Academic Board of the PhD programmes of the University can participate, on a personal basis, in the Academic Board of other universities, with the authorization of the Council of the relevant Department, provided that such participation does not affect the institutional activity for which they are responsible.

Art. 10 - Admission to PhD programmes

1. Admission to the PhD programme is subject to passing a public selection, to be held at least once a year, which must normally end no later than 30th September. The application form can be submitted by Italian or foreign citizens who, on the expiry date of the call, are in possession of a master's degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004, of master's degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999, of a degree obtained according to the previous educational system, or of a suitable academic qualification obtained at a foreign university,



comparable in duration, level, nature and content to Italian qualifications, and suitable for allowing access to doctoral programmes in the awarding country.

The suitability of the foreign qualification is ascertained by the Selection Committee for admission to the PhD programme in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications. for the continuation of studies, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD programme. The application form can also be submitted by those who are going to obtain the admission qualification by the date of enrollment in the PhD program, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the course in the event of a positive outcome of the selection.

2. The call for applications for admission to the PhD programme, in Italian and English, is published for at least thirty days on the University website, on the Euraxess website and on that of the Ministry, contains the following information:

- the access requirements and the evaluation criteria of the qualifications referred to in paragraph 4;
- the instructions on how to conduct the admission tests;
- the total number of available positions;
- the total number of scholarships, equal to at least 75% of the available positions;
- the number of positions, with or without scholarship, possibly reserved for foreign candidates who have obtained the qualification required for admission to the PhD programme at a foreign university; or for scholarship recipients from foreign countries or specific international mobility programmes, for which the admission procedure is carried out according to the criteria referred to in paragraph 4 and a separate ranking is drawn up;
- the number of apprenticeship contracts, referred to in art. 45 of Legislative Decree no. 81 of 15th June 2015, and any other forms of financial support from research funds or other university resources, including research grants referred to in art. 22 of Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010, which can be attributed to one or more candidates who are suitable for the selection procedures;
- fees and contributions for access and attendance of PhD programmes;
- the amount of the scholarships;



- information on each PhD programme: name; scientific-disciplinary areas; Coordinator; head office; partner institutions; duration; educational objectives and research topics; necessary specific qualifications; number of ordinary and reserved positions in the competition; available scholarships, indicating the source of funding; procedures for carrying out the admission tests and topics on which they will focus; contact person for information on the PhD programme;
 - the deadlines for submitting the application form and for enrolling in the PhD programme;
 - the possibility of increasing the available positions in the event of additional public and/or private funding for scholarships, provided that the related administrative procedure is completed prior to the conclusion of the enrollment procedures;
 - the scrolling of the rankings in the event of non-registration within the deadline or renunciation or forfeiture of the winners.
3. The public selection is intended to verify candidates' competence and aptitude for scientific research. The Academic Boards of each PhD programme choose one of the following selection methods:
- a. Qualification and CV evaluation, written test and interview;
 - b. Qualification and CV evaluation, and presentation and discussion of a research project proposed by the candidate;
 - c. Qualification and CV evaluation, and interview.
4. The selection Committee defines the evaluation criteria and has 100 points available, distributed as follows:
- Up to 45 points: ▫ university career (single-cycle *Laurea Magistrale*; *Laurea Magistrale/Laurea Specialistica* plus *Laurea*; *Laurea* awarded according to the regulations in force before Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999):
- ≈ weighted average of exam grades
 - ≈ degree mark
 - ≈ length of study
- Up to 15 points: ▫ experiences and other qualifications:
- ≈ study, research or professional experiences completed abroad before and/or after the degree
 - ≈ other possible candidate's qualifications related to a period of maximum five years before the selection announcement (postgraduate qualifications,



language certifications, other qualifications and/or activities relevant for the admission to the PhD programme)

≈ publications and professional experiences

Up to 40 points: ▪ interview/presentation and discussion of a research project proposed by the candidate or written test and interview.

For foreign candidates holding a degree awarded abroad, applying for a reserved position covered by a scholarship, with or without a personal scholarship:

Up to 40 points: ▪ CV

Up to 20 points: ▪ letters of introduction

Up to 40 points: ▪ interview

5. Candidates can give their interview in a language other than Italian. If expressly requested in their application to participate in the selection, candidates resident abroad can attend their interview by videoconference, through suitable ways for allowing their identification, as well as the transparency and publicity of the exam. Candidates not living in Cagliari, unable to give their interview at the University of Cagliari for motivated reasons, can do their interview by videoconference, if expressly indicated in the selection announcement.

6. Candidates can give their interview or present and discuss their research project if they obtain:

- at least 30 points in the evaluation of their qualifications, in the cases referred to in par. 3, letters b and c;
- at least 30 points in the evaluation of their qualifications and a minimum score of 6 out of 10 points which can be assigned by the selection committee for the written test, in the cases referred to in par. 3, letter a.

Candidates obtaining a minimum score of 60/100 are successfully selected.

7. At the end of the selection procedure, the selection Committee provides a merit ranking of successful candidates, considering the total amount of scores assigned to each of them after the evaluation carried out following the criteria stated in par. 4.

8. Candidates are admitted to the PhD programme following the order of the ranking, up to the completion of the available positions. Where there is equal merit, the younger candidate is admitted.



In the case of useful placement in several rankings, the candidate must opt for only one PhD programme.

9. In the event of failure to register within the prescribed term or of the renunciation of the successful candidates before the start of the courses, or of forfeiture due to failure to obtain the qualification to access the PhD programme, other candidates will succeed according to the order of the ranking. Succeeding after the start of the PhD programme can be allowed no later than the following two months, subject to obtaining the favorable opinion of the Academic Board.
10. Admission to the PhD programme may be allowed, outside the call for applications referred to in par. 1, to subjects selected through specific procedures in the context of community and international collaborative projects in which the University of Cagliari participates, as well as to the PhD students of the international courses at partner universities and foreign universities with which agreements have been stipulated concerning the creation of cotutelle programmes, with the favorable opinion of the Academic Board of the involved PhD programme, subject to verification of the prescribed access requirements.

Special training programmes can be defined for the PhD students admitted in these ways, in accordance with the provisions of the projects and of the agreements.

11. The Selection Committee for admission to PhD programmes is appointed by Rector's Decree, on the proposal of the Academic Body of the PhD programme and is made up - respecting, if possible, the gender balance - of three or five effective members and two substitutes, identified from professors, university researchers and experts in possession of a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in the disciplinary areas of the PhD programme. The appointment decree is published on the University website.

Art. 11 - Fees and contributions, exonerations and scholarships

1. PhD students are exempt from paying the contribution for access and attendance of the PhD programmes. For the purposes of enrollment in each of the years of the programme, the annual payment of the stamp duty and the regional tax for the right to university study are required.
2. Scholarships are awarded, by Rector's decree, according to the order defined in the ranking lists formulated by the Selection Committees for admission to the PhD programme. Scholarships with a specific research topic can only be assigned to candidates who have been usefully placed in the



ranking list who have obtained the best score and a positive evaluation regarding the suitability of their curriculum for the purpose of the research topic connected to the scholarship.

3. Scholarships have a three-year duration and are renewed every year, through managerial order, if the Academic Board verifies the completion of the PhD student's activity programme decided for the previous year. This step is necessary also to maintain apprenticeship contracts and other financial supports after the first academic year of the PhD programme.
4. The amount of the scholarship, established by the current Ministerial Decree on the subject, is increased by 50 percent in relation to and in proportion to the stays abroad at universities or research institutes authorized by the Academic Board, or by the Coordinator in the hypothesis referred to in art. 12, par. 3, for a period not exceeding 12 months, extendable up to 18 months in case of cotutelle agreements with foreign universities, and for those in an associated form with one or more of the subjects listed in art. 2, par. 3.

The increase cannot be received for stays spent in the country of origin or in the country of residence of the PhD students, except for dispensations granted by the Rector in relation to particular cases.

The scholarship is paid in deferred monthly installments.

5. . The scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS contributions under separate management in accordance with the current provisions on social security, to the extent of two thirds paid by the administration and one third by the scholarship owner. The PhD students benefit from the protections and related rights.
6. The scholarship is incompatible with the possession of an overall gross personal annual income higher than the annual amount of the scholarship referred to in par. 4. Exceeding the income limit entails the loss of the right to the scholarship and the obligation to return any monthly payments already received in the year in which the exceeding occurred.
7. The scholarship is revoked in the event of failure to carry out the compulsory period abroad provided for in art. 12, par. 2. The revocation determines the obligation, for the beneficiary, of total or partial reimbursement of the received sums.
8. Anyone who has benefited, even partially, from a scholarship for a PhD programme cannot benefit from it a second time.



9. The PhD scholarship cannot be combined with other scholarships, awarded for any reason, with the exception of those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for integrating, with stays abroad, the training or research activity of the PhD student, nor with research grants.
10. Each PhD student, with or without a scholarship, is ensured a budget, aimed at supporting the research activity in Italy and abroad and the expenses pertaining to the PhD programme, adequate for the type of activity, of an amount not lower than 10% of the amount of the PhD scholarship, financed with the resources available in the budget of the PhD reference subjects, who handle its management.
11. In the event that the scholarship is not renewed, or a recipient renounces to it, the unused amount is reinvested by the University for the funding of PhD programmes, unless otherwise agreed with the funding bodies, for resources allocated by them.
12. Without prejudice to the verification of the completion of the programme of activities scheduled for each year, the provisions of this article do not apply to PhD students from foreign countries benefiting from scholarships or financial support under specific mobility programmes, according to the provisions of specific regulations.

Art. 12 - PhD students' rights and obligations

1. A PhD programme entails an exclusive and full-time commitment, except as provided for in par. 6 and art. 5, par. 4 and 5.
2. PhD students are required to carry out their activities assiduously and to fulfill their educational obligations according to the programme and in compliance with the deadlines approved by the Academic Board, also with reference to the level of English to reach at the end of the PhD programme, and upon carrying out, over the three-year period, research and training activities consistent with the doctoral project, at highly qualified foreign universities or research institutions, for a minimum compulsory period of 6 months.
3. PhD students can carry out part of their research and training activity outside the University of Cagliari or affiliated institutions, at other universities or institutions, public or private, in Italy or abroad, and participate in schools and conferences. These outside activities cannot exceed 12 months, or 18 in the cases provided for in art. 11, par. 4, and must be authorized by the Academic Board or, upon its delegation, by the Coordinator if lasting no longer than 3 months, after consulting the supervisor.



4. PhD students can carry out, as an integral part of the training project, subject to authorization of the Academic Board and without increasing the amount of the scholarship, the following activities:

- a) (paid) tutoring of students of bachelor's and master's degree courses;
- b) supplementary teaching activities within the limit of 40 hours for each academic year.

For the activities above, PhD students are paid the grants referred to in art..1, par. 1, letter b), of the Law Decree no. 105 of 9th May 2003, converted, with modifications, by the Law no. 170 of 11th July 2003.

5. PhD students can also carry out paid activities that allow the acquisition of skills relating to the specific training area of the PhD programme, with the authorization of the Academic Board, subject to verification of the compatibility of these activities with the profitable and regular performance of the training, teaching and research activities of the PhD programme.

6. Public employees admitted to PhD programmes benefit, for the normal duration of the doctorate, from the leave provided for by collective agreements. If employed under public law, they benefit from extraordinary leave for study reasons, compatibly with the needs of the administration, pursuant to art. 2 of Law no. 476, with or without grants and unless explicitly waived, only if enrolled for the first time in a PhD programme, regardless of the subject area.

7. The provisions of the Legislative Decree no. 68 of 29th March 2012, on interventions for the right to education, apply to PhD students.

8. The provisions for the protection and support of maternity and paternity referred to in the decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Security of 12th July 2007 apply to PhD students.

9. PhD students are required to comply with the current legal provisions on industrial and intellectual property and the Patent Regulations of the University of Cagliari.

Art. 13 - Admission to 2nd and 3rd year, exclusion and suspension

1. At the end of each academic year, Academic Boards assess PhD students' activity through proper assessment methods, as they established. On the basis of this assessment, they propose their admission to the next year or the exclusion from the PhD programme, upon justified decision.

2. Academic Boards can exclude PhD students from a PhD programme in case of:

- a. failure to participate in the training activities organized by the PhD programme;
- b. negative assessment on PhD students' activity at the end of the year of attendance;



c. work activity without the Academic Board's authorization, as in art 12, par. 5;

d. prolonged absences without permission.

3. Exclusion leads to the loss of PhD student's status and the right to scholarship, if any. The excluded PhD student cannot enroll again in the same PhD programme.
4. Attendance and scholarship (if any) are suspended in case of maternity, paternity or parental leave, or prolonged duly documented disease.

Upon PhD student's request accompanied by Academic Board's favourable opinion, activities can also be suspended for a maximum of six months, for serious and proven family reasons.

The suspension period, during which the PhD student retains the right to any scholarship received, must be recovered at the end of the three-year legal duration of the programme.

At the end of the suspended period, the payment of the scholarship will start from the resumption of attendance of the PhD programme, up to its total duration.

5. The suspension periods, together with the extended periods referred to in art. 14, par. 8 and 9, cannot exceed eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

Art. 14 - Award of PhD degree

1. At the end of the PhD programme, as a result of a final examination consisting of the defence of a PhD thesis which contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of research, the University of Cagliari awards its PhD degree - short forms '*Dott.Ric.*' or '*Ph.D.*'
2. The PhD thesis is written in Italian or English, or in another language authorized by the Academic Board. A summary in English and the PhD student's report about his/her activity in the frame of the PhD programme, as well as possible publications, are provided together with the PhD thesis, which is assessed by at least two reviewers, appointed by the Academic Board. The reviewers do not belong to the University of Cagliari and are in possession of a high and proven scientific or professional qualification experience in research fields consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD programme; one of them must be a university professor. Within thirty days of receipt of the thesis, the reviewers express a written analytical assessment, proposing the admission of the thesis to the public defence or the postponement of the defence for a maximum period of six months if they consider significant additions or corrections necessary.



After this period, the PhD thesis is admitted to public defence anyway, together with a new assessment by the same reviewers, written after the PhD student has provided possible revisions and integrations.

3. The public defence takes place in front of a Committee appointed with Rector's decree upon proposal of the Academic Board of the PhD programme, respecting, if possible, the gender balance. It should count three or five members and two substitutes, selected among professors, university researchers and experts in possession of a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in the disciplinary fields of the PhD programme. At least two out of three members, or three out of five members, must belong to Italian and foreign academic institutions not participating in the doctorate and cannot be members of the Academic Board.

For those PhD programmes structured in curricula, the Academic Board can propose the appointment of different examination committees for each curriculum. In the case of PhD programmes established on the basis of international agreements, the examination committee is made according to the procedures set out in the agreements. On the proposal of the Academic Board, the external committee members can participate remotely, without prejudice to the mandatory presence at the defence location of a member with the role of chairman and another with role of secretary. The appointment decree is published on the University website.

4. At the end of the defence, the PhD thesis is approved or rejected, with a motivated joint written assessment. Unanimously the Examination Committee can award the honours in case of significantly important scientific results. In case of a negative result, the defence cannot be repeated.
5. The date for the defence of the doctoral thesis cannot be disregarded. Unjustified absence from the final examination session results in the forfeiture of the right to obtain the PhD title. However, the PhD student who is unable to attend the defence, for proven health reasons or other special circumstances, may submit an application to the Rector to allow the defence to take place on another date. In the case of acceptance of the application, the PhD student will be allowed to take the final examination at a later date, even remotely if authorized by the Academic Board.
6. The title of PhD is awarded by the Rector.



7. The diploma certifying the award of the PhD degree is issued together with a document in which the training activities carried out by the PhD students in one or more institutions are reported (Diploma Supplement).
8. For proven reasons that do not allow the presentation of the PhD thesis within the time limits set for the duration of the PhD programme, the Academic Board may grant, at the request of the PhD student, to be submitted in the manner and within the deadline communicated with a specific internal circular, an extension of a maximum duration of twelve months, without further financial charges to be borne by the University.
9. An extension of the duration of the PhD programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be approved by the Academic Board for justified scientific needs, with a corresponding extension of the scholarship, drawn from funds from the Department of the PhD programme or from external subjects, or residually on University funds, subject to the authorization of the Academic Authorities, issued in consideration of the high quality and originality of the research work and the possibility of further development.

Art. 15 - Doctor Europaeus

1. The University of Cagliari awards the Doctor Europaeus (DE) additional certification only in case the four conditions established by the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, recognized by the European Universities Association (EUA), are present:
 - a. at least two reviewers, appointed according to art. 7 par. 2 letter e, coming from two European countries other than the one where the PhD student is enrolled, have given their review of the manuscript;
 - b. at least one member of the jury, appointed according to art. 14 par. 3, should come from a higher education institution in another European country, other than the one where the PhD student is enrolled;
 - c. a part of the defence must take place in a language other than the one(s) of the country where the PhD student is enrolled;
 - d. the thesis must partly have been prepared as a result of a research period of at least one trimester spent in another European country.
2. The research period must be certified by a formal declaration from the host supervisor, on letterhead of the European institution, proving the work carried out by the PhD student.



3. The issue of the Doctor Europaeus certification is proposed, together with the awarding of the PhD degree, by the Examination Committee, which draws up the report in Italian and English, certifying the compliance with the four conditions specified in par. 1.
4. For the purposes of issuing the additional Doctor Europaeus certification, the PhD student submits, within the first semester of the third year, a specific application to the PhD and Professional Master's Office and to the Academic Board of the PhD programme, which must decide on the acceptance of the request.

Art. 16 - Joint supervision of PhD thesis (Cotutelle)

1. UniCa can sign agreements with foreign universities to promote the joint supervision of PhD thesis by a supervisor from the University of Cagliari and a supervisor from a partner university.
2. Every cotutelle agreement requires an international framework agreement.
3. The reference Regulations are the agreements provided by the Italian Rectors' Conference (CRUI) if the cotutelle agreement is signed between an Italian university with an institution of one of the following Countries:
 - Spain
 - France
 - Switzerland
 - Germany.

In the absence of such agreements, the partner universities will sign a framework agreement before the individual cotutelle agreement.

4. In order to start a joint supervision of PhD thesis, by the first semester of the second year the PhD student should submit a specific application to the PhD and Professional Master's Office and to the Academic Board of the PhD programme, the latter having the task of approving the request.
5. The PhD student will be enrolled at both universities and will stay at the partner University for a period between 6 and 18 months, during the 3-year PhD programme.
6. A single defence will take place in one of the partner universities.
7. The Examination Committee is appointed according to the Regulations in force at both universities. It must guarantee an equal proportion of members from both universities; the two supervisors are normally included.



8. At the end of the cotutelle experience, the PhD student receives a double PhD degree recognised by both Universities.

Art. 17 - Fulfilments for the award of PhD degree

1. For the purposes of obtaining the PhD degree, within fifteen working days before the date of the final examination, PhD students must submit online the application for the admission to the final examination and deposit the thesis in digital format in the open-access institutional archive of the University, which will guarantee its conservation and public consultation. The University will take care of its filing, in accordance with the law, at the National Libraries of Rome and Florence, and in the specific open-access section of the National Registry of PhD students and PhDs.
2. Through the online procedure, PhD students can ask, with their supervisor's approval, that the thesis will not be available for consultation by third parties for a period not exceeding three years, for the protection and economic exploitation of intellectual and/or industrial property.
3. After the communication of the appointment of the Examining Committee and the date of the final examination, PhD students must send the thesis to the Committee members, together with the referees' evaluations.

Art. 18 - Ownership of industrial property rights on innovations achieved in the context of PhD programmes

1. Current legal provisions on industrial and intellectual property and the Patent Policy of the University of Cagliari regulate the industrial property rights resulting from the innovations achieved by PhD students.
2. Agreements signed by the University of Cagliari for the establishment of PhD programmes (ref. to in art. 2, par. 3) must include that possible hypothesis of patent and economic consequences of the PhD research activity, including possible confidentiality obligations in disclosing results, are regulated in specific agreements.

Art. 19 - PhD Coordinators' Board

1. UniCa PhD Coordinators, Directors of PhD Schools (if any) and local representatives of PhD programmes under an agreement of collaboration or a consortium, with their head office in another University, are members of the PhD Coordinators' Board.



2. The PhD Coordinators' Board is a proactive and advisory body, connecting the government authorities at the University of Cagliari as regards PhD matters.
3. The PhD Coordinators' Board appoints a Coordinator. At least once a year, the Rector calls him/her to analyse any general possible problem connected with PhD programme working.

Art. 20 - Incompatibility (TO BE MODIFIED ACCORDING TO LAW NO. 33 OF 12th APRIL 2022)

1. Enrolling in a PhD programme is incompatible with enrolling in another degree, PhD, post-graduate or professional master programme and in specialization schools of non-medical areas at UniCa or other Italian/foreign universities.
2. The study courses of students enrolled in non-medical specialization schools, admitted in a PhD programme, are suspended until the end of their PhD career.

Art. 21 - PhD programmes and medical specialization schools

1. Joined attendance of a PhD programme of the University of Cagliari and a medical specialization course is allowed, with a possible reduction in the PhD programme duration up to a minimum of two years, if the following conditions are met:
 - a) compatibility, also in consideration of the distance between the respective institutions, of the activities and commitment provided by the specialization school and the PhD programme, certified by the Board of the medical specialization school and by the PhD Academic Board;
 - b) incompatibility between the PhD scholarship and the compensation, however denominated, received in relation to the activities of the specialization school.
2. The request for reduction of doctoral activities is accepted by the Academic Board, after a positive evaluation of the consistency of the research activities, already carried out in the medical specialization course, with the doctoral project, as well as after a positive evaluation of compatibility of the doctoral project with the educational purposes of the medical specialization school, expressed by the Board of the medical specialization school.

Art. 22 - Final and temporary provisions

1. From the date of entry into force of these Regulations, the provisions contained therein apply to PhD programmes that will be opened from the academic year 2022/2023.



2. Accreditations already granted remain valid until the end of the relevant five-year deadline, except for the provisions of art. 5, par. 4, 5 and 6 of the Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14th December 2021.
3. The PhD programmes of those cycles which are already active at the date referred to in par. 1 are subject to the legislation in force at the time of their activation.
4. The provisions of these Regulations also apply to the PhD programmes referred to in par. 3, when they provide a more favorable discipline than the provisions of the regulation adopted with Rector's Decree no. 946 of 5th July 2013 and subsequent amendments, and do not involve additional financial charges for the University of Cagliari, nor financial charges and additional training obligations for the PhD students, subject to different ministerial provisions.