DRIEI
PhD Program in Electronic and Computer Engineering
University of Cagliari, Italy

Doctoral program regulations

The DRIEI doctoral program has a nominal length of three years. The activities of the doctoral students are evaluated in credits (CR). To complete each year, it is necessary to attain a minimum number of credits and satisfy other requirements as explained in this document. The following table summarizes the main requirements.

Course year	Mandatory requirements and credits	Needed credits	Result
1	• Annual report (mandatory): 30 CR • PhD Day presentation (mandatory): 10 CR • English B2 certificate (mandatory): 0 CR • Credits for other activities: A_1 *Total year 1*: $CR_1 = 40 + A_1$	$CR_1 \geq 45$	Admitted to year 2
2	• Annual report (mandatory): 30 CR • PhD Day presentation (mandatory): 10 CR • Credits for other activities: A_2 *Total year 2:* $CR_2 = 40 + A_2$	$CR_1 + CR_2 \geq 100$	Admitted to year 3
3	• Annual report (mandatory): 30 CR • Triennial report (mandatory): 20 CR • Final video (mandatory): 10 CR • Credits for other activities: A_3 *Total year 3:* $CR_3 = 60 + A_3$	$CR_1 + CR_2 + CR_3 \geq 180$	Admitted to the final exam (defense)

The DRIEI Faculty Board appoints an *Educational Activities Committee* (EA Committee), which annually reviews credit requests submitted by students. Based on the EA Committee's recommendations, the Faculty Board approves the progression to the next year.

If the minimum number of credits is not achieved in either of the first two years, the Faculty Board, based on the proposal of the EA Committee and after considering the opinion of the student's advisor, may conditionally admit a student to the following year.

Earning credits for activities

Students will earn credits for various categories of activities.

Reporting and internal presentations: Annual reports, triennial report, PhD Day presentations, and final video. These activities are designed to track the progress of the student's work through regular checkpoints.

Research and dissemination activities: Publication of scientific articles in international journals, international conferences, presentation of research results at conferences, workshops and other meetings. These activities are intended to train students to conduct high-quality and innovative research.

Learning activities: Participation in graduate and seminar courses and summer schools. These activities are intended to encourage students to complete their education and to explore specialized topics.

Stays at institutions abroad: Periods of study abroad at leading academic and research institutions These activities are intended to support the integration and growth of the student as a member of the international research community.

Elective activities: students may earn credits with other activities specially tailored for their plan of study. To improve language skills, they may obtain advanced language certificates. To broaden their understanding of technical and societal issues, foster innovative thinking, and sharpen their problem-solving skills, students may take cross-cutting courses, with transversal, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary contents. Additionally, they may engage in individual activities not listed in this document.

In this perspective, credits are awarded as follows.

A) Reporting and internal presentations

Reports
- At the end of each year, students submit an *annual report* on the research activity carried out. Students will earn 30 CR for this activity.
- At the end of the third year, students additionally submit a *triennial report* that summarizes the entire research activity carried out during the doctoral program. This report will be forwarded to the defense committee. Students will earn 20 CR for this activity.

Presentations
- During the first and second year, students give a *presentation at the DRIEI PhD Day*, organized annually in June-July. Students will earn 10 CR for this activity.
- At the end of the third year, students submit a concise *video presentation* aimed at a broad audience, describing the topic and the main results of their thesis. Students will earn 10 CR for this activity.

Each year, the best presentations and video will receive an award.

The three annual reports (30+30+30 CR), the triennial report (20 CR), the two presentations at the doctoral day (10+10 CR) and the final video presentation (10 CR) grant a total of 140 CR.

B) Articles in international journals
Articles that can be considered are those that have been published or have received final acceptance for publication.

- *Up to C = 12 CR for articles published in international journals categorized as Q1 or Q2*
- *Up to C = 8 CR for articles published in international journals categorized as Q3 or Q4*

  If the number of DRIEI doctoral students co-authors of the same publication is N>1, the number of credits assigned to each will be C' = max{C+1- N, C/2}.

C) Articles in international conference proceedings or chapters in books
Articles that can be considered are those that have been published or have received final acceptance for publication.

- *Up to C = 12 CR for articles published in the proceedings of conferences ranked A++/A+ in the GII-GRIN ranking (Group of Italian Professors of Computer Engineering and Group of Italian Professors of Computer Science).*
- *Up to C = 5 CR for all other articles.*

  If the number of DRIEI doctoral students co-authors of the same publication is N>1, the number of credits assigned to each will be C' = max{C+1- N, C/2}.

D) Oral or poster presentations at conferences or seminars
The credits for these activities can be cumulated with those earned for publication of the related article.

  1 CR

E) Doctoral courses (including seminars and summer schools)
Credits will only be awarded to students that successfully pass the final examination.

> *1 CR per eight hours of lessons*

F) Master's degree courses (insegnamenti di laurea magistrale)
Credits will only be awarded to students that successfully pass the final examination.

> *Doctoral students will earn the same number of credits as awarded to master's students (for modules, proportionality applies)*

G) Stays at academic and research institutions abroad
Stays abroad require the authorization of the Faculty Board.

> *1 CR every 2 months of stay, up to a maximum of 6 points in the three-year period*

H) Advanced English Language Certificates
The maximum number of credits that can be recognized in this category is 2. A level B2 certificate is a minimum requirement for admission to the second year and does not entitle the student to any credits.

- *1 CR for a level C1 certificate (CEFR or equivalent)*
- *2 CR for a level C2 certificate (CEFR or equivalent)*

I) Cross-cutting courses
Courses with transversal, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary contents.

> *Number of credits to be assessed by the EA Committee.*

J) Individual activities
These are other activities proposed by the student.

> *Number of credits to be assessed by the EA Committee.*

When in doubt, students can seek prior approval from the EA Committee for all activities.

Required credits for each category
- *Reporting and internal presentations* (credits of type A): 140 credits.
- *Research and dissemination activities* (credits of type B, C, D): at least 10 credits.
- *Learning activities* (credits of type E, F): at least 18 credits.
- *Stays at institutions abroad* (credits of type G): at least 3 credits and no more than 6 credits.
- *Elective activities* (credits of type H, I and J): no minimum or maximum requirement.

Total required credits
- At least 180 credits.

<div align="right">Cagliari, December 12, 2024</div>