



Freie Universität Bozen  
Libera Università di Bolzano  
Università Lìedia de Bulsan

# PhD-REGULATION

Approved by resolution of the Executive Council No. 99 of 10/22/2003  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 156 dated 27.01.2005  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 185 dated 07/15/2005  
Amended by resolution of the Executive Council No. 189 dated 07/15/2005  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 331 dated 07/17/2009  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 05, 07.05.2010  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 06 dated 03.02.2012  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 50 dated 06/28/2013  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 31 dated 11.04.2014  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 113 dated 09/16/2016  
Amended by emergency decree of the President Nr. 02 of 11.03.2022 and ratified by Resolution of the University Council no.32 dated 25.03.2022  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 42 of 08.03.2024  
Amended by resolution of the University Council No. 95 of 28.06.2024

## SECTION I

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### Art. 1 – Field of application

1. The present Regulation, issued in implementation of Art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 3rd July 1998, as amended by Art. 19 of Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010, applies to the establishment and operation of Italian and international Ph.D. programmes in compliance with the criteria and parameters determined by the Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14th December 2021 of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano. For anything not provided for in these Regulations, reference is made to the relevant legislation.
2. For the purposes of the present Regulation:  
"University" means the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano;  
"course" means a Ph.D. programme of at least three years' duration concerned with one or more topics that relate to broad, organic and clearly defined subject areas.

#### Art. 2 – Teaching and research institutions

1. In accordance with Article 3 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the University can request the accreditation of Ph.D. programmes and their locations also in an associated form by entering into agreements or establishing consortia, which can be the administrative headquarters of the courses, with one or more of the following corporations:
  - a. other Italian or foreign universities, with the possibility of awarding a multiple or joint final degree,
  - b. Italian or foreign, public or private research institutions holding high cultural and scientific qualification standards and equipped with suitable scientific facilities and equipment,
  - c. institutions as per Article 2, paragraph 1, Law No. 508 of 21st December 1999, accredited pursuant to Article 15 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, with the possibility of awarding a multiple and joint final qualification,
  - d. enterprises, including foreign ones, that carry out a qualified research and development activity,
  - e. public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international importance, for the implementation of specific research and development programmes or programmes of innovation.

#### Art. 3 – Aims

1. The Ph.D. provides the necessary skills to carry out highly qualified research activities at universities, public bodies or private entities, also for the purpose of access to careers in public administrations and the integration of highly innovative professional paths.
2. Doctoral education, in accordance with the principles and guidelines shared at European level, allows to:
  - a. independently conceive, design, implement and adapt research or innovation programmes;
  - b. conduct critical analyses, evaluations and syntheses of ideas and processes, new and complex, in research institutions, in the productive system, in public administration and within the private practice and the third sector;
  - c. contribute through the acquisition of new scientific, transversal and interdisciplinary skills to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations General Assembly, the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their declinations in European policies;
  - d. contribute to the realization of the European Research and Higher Education Area,

considering the relevant Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

3. In order to achieve the objectives, set forth in Paragraph 1 based on the "Principles for Innovative Doctoral Education", approved at European level, doctoral education:
  - a. pursues the advancement of knowledge through basic and applied research education and excellence based on academic standards established through peer review procedures and with full respect for the ethics of the scientific community;
  - b. is carried out in an appealing and critically stimulating institutional environment, in which autonomy and responsibility useful for the subsequent professional career can be acquired;
  - c. promotes opportunities for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training, including in non-academic fields, such as industry, public administration, services and cultural institutions, with the involvement of experts in the field in educational activities;
  - d. contributes to the strengthening of transnational and international relations in the field of research, also by activating joint doctorates and forms of co-tutorship, and ensures, consistently with the research project developed by the doctoral student, periods of mobility abroad of a duration in accordance with the doctoral project;
  - e. provides for the development of transversal skills in order to facilitate their transfer and development in the scientific and professional spheres;
  - f. is conducted within the framework of a quality assurance system, distinct from that for the first and second cycle of university education, aimed at improving the quality of the research environment and establishing transparent and accountable procedures for the admission, supervision, award of the degree and professional development of doctoral students.

## **SECTION II**

### **COURSE ESTABLISHMENT PROCEDURE**

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

1. Ph.D. programmes are accredited, established and activated pursuant to Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021.
2. Accreditation of courses is granted or denied by decree of the Ministry, based on the favourable assessment of ANVUR. It has a five-year duration and is subject to annual verification of the permanence of the requirements. Periodic monitoring and evaluation activities verify the permanence of the requirements for the accreditation of doctoral courses. These activities are carried out by ANVUR, which, for this purpose, based on the results of the monitoring activities carried out by the Evaluation Board, may also order on-site visits carried out by external experts.
3. At least yearly, the University Council determines the financial availability for the activation of Ph.D. programmes. It also determines on the proposal of each Faculty Council the maximum number of positions for each Ph.D. programme annually, after consulting the Study Committee.
4. The Faculty Council of each Faculty, also in agreement with each other, propose the establishment and activation/renewal of Ph.D. programmes with administrative headquarters at the University.
5. A proposal for renewal must be submitted if significant changes are to be made to the structure of the Ph.D. programme. Significant changes are understood to be the modification of the coordinator, a variation of more than 25% in the composition of the board of professors compared to the time of the ministerial accreditation or reaccreditation as well as the modification of the titling of the Ph.D. programme. A proposal for renewal must also be submitted after five

academic years from the establishment and activation or the renewal of the Ph.D. programme. All changes to the structure of the Ph.D. programme that are not qualified as significant by the preceding periods must be approved by the Faculty Council by specific resolution.

6. The Ph.D. form containing the proposal for establishment and activation or renewal must be drawn up in accordance with the template prepared by the Division Study and Tuition on the basis of the information required by the ministerial database.

7. The University Council, upon the proposal of the Faculty Council of each Faculty and after hearing the Study Committee and the Academic Senate, decides on the submitted Ph.D forms, approving or not the establishment and activation or renewal of Ph.D. programmes.

8. The University Council also decides, upon the proposal of the competent Faculty Council, on the suspension or deactivation of the Ph.D. programmes.

9. The start of the Ph.D. programmes is set out in the academic calendar.

#### Art. 5 – Industrial Ph.D.

1. The University may apply, at the time of initial accreditation or subsequently, for recognition of the qualification "Industrial Ph.D." also as part of the denomination, for Ph.D. programmes activated on the basis of agreements or consortia, that also include enterprises, domestic or foreign, that carry out qualified research and development activities.

2. The agreements referred to in paragraph 1 regulate:

- a. the arrangements for the coordination of research activities between the parties;
- b. the arrangements for carrying out the research activities at the enterprise, as well as, with regard to the possible positions covered by employees of the enterprises, the distribution of the employee's total commitment and the duration of the Ph.D. programme;
- c. incentive mechanisms in order to promote technology transfer and development of the results of the research activities by the partner enterprises.

3. The research themes that characterize the industrial Ph.D. programme recognize special emphasis on the promotion of economic development and the production system, facilitating joint planning in relation to research themes and the activities of doctoral students.

4. The calls for admission to industrial Ph.D. programmes, in accordance with the guidelines defined at European level and the development strategies of the national system as well as in compliance with the principles set forth in Article 1, may:

- a. indicate specific requirements for the conduct of research activities, such as interdisciplinarity, membership in international networks and intersectorality, with particular reference to the business sector;
- b. allocate a portion of the available places to employees of enterprises or partner corporations engaged in highly qualified activities, admitted to the Ph.D. programme following successful completion of the related selection.

5. In any case, the possibility set forth in Article 45 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of June 15, 2015, to activate apprenticeship contracts aimed at the training of the industrial doctorate remains intact, while still ensuring the prevalence of research activity. These apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to doctoral scholarships for the purposes of calculating the minimum number required for the activation of the course.

#### Art. 6 – Ph.D. of national interest

1. The Ministry encourages the activation of doctoral programs of national interest and provides for their co-financing arrangements.

2. A Ph.D. programme is defined as being of national interest if it meets the following requirements:

- a. contributes in a demonstrated manner to the advancement of research, also including through the achievement of specific objectives of the priority areas of intervention of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including those related to the enhancement of innovative Ph.D. programmes for public administration and cultural heritage, which means the National Research Program or related National Plans;
- b. foresees, already at the accreditation stage, the conclusion of agreements or the establishment of consortia between several universities, as well as with highly qualified research institutions of recognized international standing, including foreign ones, which provide for the effective sharing of training and research activities, the regulation of the financial support, the modalities of exchange and mobility of professors and doctoral students and possible forms of co-tutoring;
- c. foresees, already at the accreditation stage, the coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four corporation as referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021 in order to achieve highly qualified training courses and allow access to research infrastructure suitable for the realization of doctoral students' research projects;
- d. foresees, for each doctoral cycle, at least thirty scholarships, each of an amount determined in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, it being understood that the share for the support of the research and training activities of the doctoral student is increased, from the ministerial co-financing, by twenty percent of the amount of the scholarship.

3. The corporations referred to in paragraph 2, letter c) of the present Article, shall award the scholarships for the Ph.D. programme of national interest in the manner provided for in Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, after the assessment of the candidates by a commission formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of foreign external to the partner corporations components.

### **SECTION III**

#### **BODIES OF THE PH.D. PROGRAMMES**

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

1. The Board of Professors responsible for the design and implementation of the Ph.D. programme. It supervises all the doctoral training activities and guides doctoral students in their scientific research.

2. Each member of the Board may participate in only one board at the national level. It is possible to participate in an additional board only if it relates to a Ph.D. programme organized in associated form, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, including industrial Ph.D. programmes pursuant to Article 5 and Ph.D. programmes of national interest pursuant to Article 6.

3. With regard to the composition of the Board of Professors, the following criteria applies, taking into account gender balance where possible:

- a. The Board of Professors shall consist of a minimum number of members, equal to twelve, belonging to scientific fields consistent with the educational goals of the programme.
- b. At least half of the members of the Board consists of tenured university professors of the first or second rank. The remaining part consists of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions. In the case where the doctorate is established in association with public research organisations, the remaining part may also be made up of researchers belonging to the ranks of research managers, researchers or first researchers of the organisations themselves, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. In any

- case, the researchers belonging to the Board of Professors must hold a scientific qualification attested on the basis of the necessary requirements provided by the regulations in force to access the functions of second-rank professors, and the professors must hold a scientific qualification attested on the basis of the necessary requirements provided for access to the functions of the role to which they belong.
- c. The members of the Board belonging to foreign universities or research institutions must hold at least the requirements provided by the regulations in force to access the functions of professor of the second rank.
  - d. Without affecting the provisions of subparagraphs a), b) and c), up to a maximum of one third of the overall composition of the Board of Professors may include experts, even if they do not belong to universities or public research institutions, with high and proven scientific or professional qualifications in research fields consistent with the educational objectives of the doctoral course.
4. Faculty Councils appoint the members of the Board of Professors by specific resolution.
  5. Doctoral students are ensured adequate representation in the Board of Professors for the handling of teaching and organisational issues, as defined by the Regulation for the Election and Appointment of Student Representatives. These representatives will be elected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Regulations for the Election of Student Representatives. The representatives of doctoral students have voting rights when dealing with teaching and organizational issues.
  6. Each doctoral student is assigned a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom is from an academic background, chosen by the Board also from outside the Board, provided that at least one meets the requirements for members of the Board itself.

#### Art. 8 – Coordinator

1. The coordinator of the Ph.D. programme must hold a high scientific qualification, attested on the basis of the requirements provided by the regulations in force to access the functions of first-rank professors, and is chosen from among the full-time first-rank professors, or, if not available, from among the full-time second-rank professors serving at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano and who meet the requirements of Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph a), number 3) of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. The function of coordinator can be exercised in only one Board at national level.
2. The coordinator calls and heads the Board of Professors and supervises the activities pertaining to the programme, ensuring its orderly and smooth running.
3. On the new establishment and activation pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 7, the coordinator is appointed by the Faculty Council by resolution at the same time as the appointment of the Board of teachers pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 4. The term of office is a minimum of five years, and the resolution of appointment must contain the precise duration of the appointment.
4. Subsequent to the provisions of the previous paragraph for new establishment and activation, the election of the coordinator is called by the coordinator in office. Active electorate belongs to all members of the Board of Professors. The professors who are members of the Board and meet the requirements set out in paragraph 1 can be elected. In case of resignation or inability of the coordinator, the Board resolves to appoint a new one. The appointment shall be made upon designation by an absolute majority of those present from among the members of the Board within 30 days after the termination of the appointment. In the event of a tie, the member with the most seniority in office shall be designated; in the event of a further tie, the member with the most seniority in age shall be designated.
5. The elected coordinator is appointed by resolution of the Board of Professors. The coordinator may be elected for a term of office covering several cycles. The term of office is a minimum of five years and the appointment resolution must contain the precise duration of the

appointment.

## SECTION IV

### ACCESS TO Ph.D. PROGRAMMES

#### Art. 9 – Requirements and call for admission

1. For admission to the Ph.D. programme, a public selection is held at least once a year. The application for participation can be submitted by Italian or foreign citizens who, on the date of the deadline of the call for applications, are in possession of a master's degree or an appropriate degree obtained abroad. Applications may also be submitted by those who obtain the qualification required by the call for applications by the date of enrolment in the Ph.D. programme, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the programme. The suitability of the foreign qualification is ascertained by the commission for admission to the Ph.D. programme, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with the treaties or international agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the pursuit of studies.
2. The call for admission to the doctoral course, issued by the Rector, is drafted in Italian, German and English and is published, for at least thirty days, on the University website, on the European website Euraxess and on the website of the Ministry. The call indicates the criteria for access and evaluation of qualifications, the presence of any written tests, including internationally recognized tests, as well as the manner in which the interviews will be conducted, which may also include the presentation and discussion of a research project. If the announcement reserves a quota of places for graduate students from foreign universities or for scholars from foreign states or for specific international mobility programs, the accredited entities may establish differentiated ways of conducting the admission procedure and form, in that case, a separate ranking list.
3. The call for applications shall indicate the number of scholarships and any other forms of financial support available at the time of its publication and in any case by the close of the call for applications.
4. Doctoral positions may be advertised without a scholarship, with a limit of one position for every three with a scholarship.
5. In the case of national, European and international collaborations, specific admission procedures and organizational arrangements may be provided, in relation to the characteristics of each project activated within accredited Ph.D. programmes.
6. Participation in the selection procedure may be subject to age limits, if said admission requirement is related to the nature of the service or to the objective needs of the administration, such as, for example, the use of funds intended to encourage or favour education and employment of young people, subject to compliance with national and European Union regulations of the European Union.

#### Art. 10 – Commission for admission to the Ph.D. programme

1. The commission is appointed by the Faculty Counsel by resolution. Each commission is composed of at least three members, chosen from among tenured university professors and researchers pertaining to the disciplinary scientific sectors to which the programme refers, to which may be added experts, including foreign ones, chosen from public and private research institutions and organisations. The President and his or her substitute, as well as the substitute members of the Commission shall be appointed as well.
2. The composition of the commission may be integrated by resolution of the Faculty Council by



members in an advisory capacity, who do not contribute to the attainment of the quorum required to deliberate, chosen from among tenured university professors and/or researchers pertaining to the disciplinary scientific sectors to which the programme refers and/or experts, including foreign ones. Members in an advisory capacity may also be called upon to assess individual doctoral positions.

#### Art. 11 – Admission procedure

1. Admission to the Ph.D. programme is based on a public selection process designed to ascertain and evaluate the candidates' preparation and aptitude for research, which must in any case be concluded within the time limits set by the academic calendar.
2. Admission to the Ph.D. programme is made based on the merit ranking drawn up by the competent commission for admission up to the number of places established by the call for applications. If provided for in the call for applications, separate merit rankings may be drawn up for individual research topics. The ranking list is approved by decree of the Rector and published on the University's website.
3. In case of renunciation of an eligible person before the beginning of the course, the next candidate according to the order of the ranking list shall take over.
4. In case of renunciation or exclusion of the eligible person within the first 3 months of the first year of the course, the Board of Professors shall consider filling the vacancy with the next candidate according to the order of the ranking list.

#### Art. 12 – Tuition fees and scholarships

1. The University Council decides on the amount of tuition fees required for the established Ph.D. programmes as well as the number and amount of the scholarships.
2. Scholarships are awarded after comparative evaluation of merit and according to the order defined in the relevant rankings. In case of equal merit, the youngest candidate in terms of age prevails. The scholarships have a total duration of at least three years and are renewed annually upon positive verification of the completion of the yearly program of activities. The university's obligation to provide the scholarship therefore remains intact.
3. The amount of the scholarship, to be disbursed in monthly postponed instalments, shall be determined in an amount not less than that stated in the Minister's Decree. This amount shall be increased to the maximum extent of 50 percent for a total period not exceeding 12 months, if the doctoral student is authorized by the Board of Professors to carry out research activities abroad. This period may be extended up to an overall maximum of eighteen months for Ph.D. programmes co-tutored with foreign corporations or activated pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
4. For each cycle of doctorates to be activated, the availability of scholarships must correspond to an average number of at least four scholarships per activated Ph.D. programme, excluding from the calculation the scholarships assigned to Ph.D. programmes activated in agreement or consortium, it being understood that for the individual Ph.D. programme this availability cannot be less than three. In order to meet the aforementioned requirement, other forms of funding of at least the same amount, however allocated to scholarships, may be counted.
5. Each doctoral student is assured, within the framework of the existing financial resources in the budget of the University under current legislation, a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad, adequate with respect to the type of programme, and in any case not less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship. The principles referred to in this article do not apply to scholarship holders from foreign countries or recipients of financial support under specific mobility programs in relation to the provisions of the specific regulations.



## SECTION V

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

#### Art. 13 – Duration of the Ph.D. programmes

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

#### Art. 14 – Suspension, interruption and renunciation

1. Absence of more than thirty days shall in any case result in the interruption of the scholarship. It is the responsibility of the coordinator, upon report of the supervisor, to notify the Division Study and Tuition of the doctoral students' failure to comply with their attendance obligations.

2. Doctoral students may request the suspension of the course for a maximum duration of six months. For the duration of the suspension, no payment of the scholarship or other equivalent funding is provided.

The reasons are as follows:

- a. serious and documented illness;
- b. parental leave;
- c. special family situations - in this case, the Board of Professors decides on the suspension;
- d. other reasons foreseen by law.

3. The periods of extension and suspension referred to in Articles 13 and 14 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, except in specific cases foreseen by law.

4. Renunciation of studies may be presented at any time, is definitive and entails the immediate interruption of the scholarship payment. Pursuant to Art. 74 of DPR No. 382/1980, anyone who has received a scholarship for a Ph.D., postgraduate or specialisation programme may not request to receive it a second time, even if for a different title.

#### Art. 15 – Exclusion

1. The exclusion from the Ph.D. programme and the consequent loss of the right to the scholarship, by reasoned decision of the Board of Professors, is foreseen in case of:
  - a. negative judgment of the Board of Professors at the annual verification of the activities;
  - b. indefinite employment, as well as fixed-term employment or work assignments without the authorization of the Board of Professors;
  - c. unjustified and prolonged absences;
  - d. violation of the obligations set forth in Article 16 of the present Regulation;
  - e. serious reasons noted by the Board of Professors.

## Art. 16 – Rights and duties of the doctoral student

1. Doctoral students are obliged to attend courses, to carry out study and research activities within the framework of the facilities designated for this purpose and to submit a report on their research activities to the Board of Professors at the end of each year of the programme.
2. The Ph.D. programme requires an exclusive, full-time commitment, with the exception of the regulation for industrial Ph.D..
3. The Board of Professors may authorise the doctoral student to undertake paid activities that enable them to acquire skills relating to the doctoral training area, subject to an assessment of the compatibility of such activities with the profitable performance of the training, teaching and research activities of the Ph.D. programme. The doctoral student's income, in any case, must not exceed the amount of the scholarship itself.
4. For each doctoral student it is normally expected to undertake research and training activities, consistent with the doctoral project, at highly qualified institutions abroad.
5. Doctoral students may carry out, as an integral part of the educational project, with the prior authorization of the Board of Professors and without an increase in the amount of the scholarship, tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, of students in the bachelor's and master's degree courses, as well as, within the limit of forty hours per academic year, supplementary teaching activities. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, doctoral students are paid the allowances referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, subparagraph b), of Decree-Law No. 105 of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 170 of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003.
6. The scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions under separated administration pursuant to Article 2, Paragraph 26, of Law No. 335 of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1995, in the amount of two-thirds borne by the administration and one-third borne by the scholar. Doctoral students benefit from the related protections and rights.
7. Public employees admitted to a Ph.D. programme benefit, for the period of the normal duration of the programme, from the leave of absence provided by collective agreements or, if employees under public law, from extraordinary leave for study purposes, consistent with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Article 2 of Law No. 476 of 13<sup>th</sup> August 1984, with or without allowance and unless explicitly waived, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a Ph.D. programme, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the budget for research activity carried out in Italy and abroad referred to in Article 12, paragraph 5 remains unaffected.
8. The discipline of the interventions for the right to study provided for in Legislative Decree No. 68 of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, remains firm for doctoral students.
9. Without prejudice to the application of the rules for the protection of parenthood referred to in the Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Security of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007, published in the Official Gazette of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, No. 247, doctoral students on leave retain the right to the scholarship. At the end of the suspension period, the scholarship shall be disbursed upon resumption of programme attendance up to the total duration of the scholarship itself.

## Art. 17 – Visiting doctoral students

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

## SECTION VI

## OBTAINING OF THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF RESEARCH

### Art. 18 – Evaluation of the research thesis and discussion

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

### Art. 19 – Judging Commission

1. The Judging Commission is appointed, by decree, by the Rector on the proposal of the Board of Professors respecting, where possible, gender balance. The commission is composed of at least two-thirds of subjects not belonging to the administrative headquarters of the programme and no more than one-third of members belonging to subjects participating in the Ph.D. programme in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021. In any case, at least two-thirds of the commission is composed of components from academic backgrounds. At the same time, substitute members are also appointed.
2. Judging Commissions are required to complete their work within ninety days after their appointment.

### Art. 20 – Admission to the final examination

1. Before the conclusion of the programme, doctoral students enrolled in the final year submit an application for admission to the final examination to the Board of Professors. The application may be accepted or rejected.
2. The competent office shall notify the candidates at their institutional e-mail address of the names of the judging commission, also informing them of the date and time when the final examination will take place. Such notice shall be served at least thirty days before the date set for the discussion. Candidates send to each member of the judging commission a copy of the thesis accompanied by the analytical written opinion of the evaluators and any subsequent written opinion of the evaluators in case of referral necessary to make corrections or additions to the thesis.

3. The examination before the judging commission consists of the public discussion of the final thesis. The commission draws up the minutes for the exams. For each candidate admitted to the final examination it shall also prepare a report on the work based on which the award of the degree is decided.

#### Art. 21 – Awarding of the degree of Doctor of Research/ Ph.D.

1. The title of Ph.D. is awarded upon passing the final examination.
2. The title of Ph.D. is awarded by the Rector of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, who, at the request of the person concerned, certifies its achievement.
3. Within thirty days of the discussion and approval of the thesis, the University shall deposit a copy of the thesis, in electronic format, in the Registry referred to in Article 14 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, in a specific open access section open access. Subject to the approval of the Board of Professors, parts of the thesis may be made unavailable in relation to the use of data protected under current legislation on the subject. matter. Doctoral students are required to upload their doctoral theses into the University information system set up for this purpose at least 15 days before the discussion referred to in Art. 20. The competent administrative offices will, after uploading and in compliance with the terms provided for by national legislation, curate the deposit of the thesis at the national libraries of Rome and Florence.

#### Art. 22 – Entry into force

1. The present Regulation shall entry into force the day after its approval.