

## REVISED TEXT OF THE ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GIRONA

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## Preamble

The present academic regulations, relating to RD 99/2011, of January 28 and its extension RD 576/2023, of July 18, which regulate the official doctoral courses, are based on a revision of all the regulations for doctoral studies at the University of Girona (UdG) in order to **adapt them to an increasingly international and interconnected society. These regulations are in line with the current social needs** of the environment and are committed to open science and to the support of citizen science practices. The modifications and adaptations that this RD has undergone up to the date of approval of this regulation have been taken into account during their preparation.

These regulations comply with the principles of good administrative practice (article 129 of Law 39/2015, of October 1): **necessity, effectiveness, proportionality, legal certainty, transparency and efficiency**. The UdG guarantees transparent and accessible information regarding admission procedures, and has student orientation systems, which are reflected in the verification report for the doctoral programs. In addition, it ensures that this information and the admission procedures take into account students with disabilities or with specific needs, who will receive adequate support and counselling services.

These regulations govern the procedure for obtaining a doctorate degree at the UdG and result in a better systematization and regulatory development of the procedures for review, deposit and defence of the doctoral thesis.

The regulations present important new points and a restructuring of some articles to improve their coherence and facilitate their reading and use. The aim is to promote the internationalization of doctoral studies at the UdG with the promotion of co-supervisors and international mention. The industrial mention in the doctoral degree will also be promoted, with the aim of **improving the transfer and exchange** of knowledge in a non-specifically academic environment.

The Doctoral School of the UdG, in accordance with its powers recognized by RD 576/2023, establishes as a requirement that the thesis supervisor must have an **active research premium, or equivalent merits** for supervisors who cannot request a research premium because they are not full-time teaching or research staff of the UdG.

The Doctoral School of the UdG sets transversal training as a requirement for doctoral students, measured in two credits. **It establishes the acquisition of research-related skills by doctoral students and establishes the obligation for them to have a personal training plan**. Doctoral students will be considered researchers or researchers-in-training, who must be accompanied and advised by the thesis supervisor for the entire process of preparing the doctoral thesis.

The guarantee of quality for the doctorate has been established with a review process of the doctoral thesis that will be carried out by two external reviewers belonging to two different institutions and, in case of disagreement, a third report will be requested. The defence of doctoral theses by videoconference has been incorporated, gender equality is favoured in the composition of the tribunals, it is determined that the assessment panel is made up of a majority of members external to the university and the doctoral program, and the conflict of interest of the members of the panel is regulated. Doctoral students with long-term medical leave (situations of incapacity, birth, adoption, or gender violence) are exempt from registration and follow-up. The regulations include a new maximum duration of doctoral studies, and considers a **degree of disability of 33%**, as well as the electronic deposit of the doctoral thesis and the electronic voting of the *cum laude* mention. A positive evaluation of a research plan, a personal training plan and a follow-up report have been added as a requirement to start the revision of the doctoral thesis. The embargo on the publication of the thesis for reasons of intellectual or industrial property is regulated. Finally, the regulations have been adapted to the UdG guide for a non-sexist use of the language. The criteria for granting extraordinary doctoral awards have also been established.

Finally, it has been established that the Management Committee of this school must have student representation.

## **Article 1. Purpose**

The purpose of these regulations is to regulate doctoral studies at the University of Girona (UdG).

## **Article 2. Access and admission**

### **2.1. Access and admission requirements**

People may access the doctoral studies when they meet the access requirements established in the current regulations and, where applicable, the additional admission requirements approved by the Academic Committee of each doctoral programme, which will appear in the verification report of the corresponding programme.

### **2.2. Submission of applications**

To access doctoral studies, it will be necessary to submit an application for admission to the Doctoral School, by the established electronic means, specifying to which line of research of the programme the person wants to be admitted, and attach the required documentation for access and admission.

### **2.3. Evaluation of applications**

1. The Academic Committee of each doctoral program, which may establish additional requirements and criteria for the selection and admission of students, will assess the applications and decide on admission to the program. In particular, a report may be requested from a researcher of the doctoral program who assesses the suitability of the applicant's training and offers himself or herself as a potential thesis supervisor.

2. The Academic Committee may ask admitted students to carry out additional specific training, in accordance with what is established in the doctoral program verification report.

These specific training supplements will have to be passed during the first academic year and will be considered doctoral training regarding public prizes and the granting of scholarships and grants.

3. If the demand for places for a doctoral programme exceeds the offer, applications will be prioritized in accordance with the evaluation criteria established in the doctoral programme verification report.

## **Article 3. Enrolment and thesis commitment**

### **3.1. Enrolment**

1. Students admitted to a doctoral program must enrol in the Doctoral School each academic year, under the relevant concept of academic tutelage and the training courses, within the term and in the manner established by the University.

For inter-university or co-supervised doctoral programs, the enrolment procedure established in the agreement signed between the higher education institutions will be followed.

2. Students must register in the academic year for which they have been admitted. Otherwise, admission will be void and they will have to reapply. From the second year, students will have to register for each academic year until presenting the doctoral thesis. Otherwise, with the exceptions established in article 4.4, they will be withdrawn from the doctoral program.

3. Students admitted to the doctoral program will be considered researchers in training.

### **3.2. Thesis commitment**

Once enrolled, the doctoral students, the rector or person to whom he/she delegates, the tutor and the

supervisor of the thesis will sign a thesis commitment in which the functions, obligations and rights of the researcher in training, the supervisor and the tutor of the doctoral thesis and their relationship with the UdG. This commitment, which must be signed once the direction of the thesis has been determined, must include the conflict resolution procedure and must provide for aspects related to intellectual or industrial property rights that may arise in the doctoral programs. It must also inform of the need for the positive opinion from the Research Ethics and Biosafety Committee (CEBRUdG) in projects with people involved (processing of personal data) and also in those that use biological agents, genetically modified or not, that may be of risk to human, animal or plant health.

#### **Article 4. Duration and dedication to doctoral studies**

1. The duration of doctoral studies is a maximum of four years, full-time, from the date of first registration to the date of deposit of the doctoral thesis.

The Academic Committee of the doctoral program can authorize the undertaking of doctoral studies on a part-time basis. In this case, the maximum duration will be seven years, counting from the date of first enrolment to the date of deposit of the doctoral thesis.

When the doctoral student is a person with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent, the duration of doctoral studies will be a maximum of six years full-time and nine years part-time.

2. If the application for the deposit of the thesis has not been submitted before the end of the terms mentioned in the previous sections, the Academic Committee responsible for the program, upon request of the doctoral student, may authorize the extension for a year, under the conditions established in the corresponding doctoral program. Once this extension has ended, the deadline for depositing the doctoral thesis will not be extended.

3. Students who have started full-time studies may apply to the Academic Committee of the doctoral program, in a justified way, for the change of dedication to part-time. The Academic Committee must issue a reasoned report accepting or denying the change of dedication.

4. The calculation of the deadline for the preparation of the doctoral thesis will be interrupted by the situations of temporary incapacity, birth, adoption, guardianship for the purpose of adoption, fostering, risk during pregnancy, risk during breastfeeding, gender violence or any other situation provided for in current regulations.

Doctoral students may request periods of temporary absence from the program up to a total of two years. This request must be justified and must be addressed to the Academic Committee responsible for the program, which must rule on the request.

When a doctoral student has a leave of absence granted by the Academic Committee for 5 or more months within the same academic year, he or she does not need to register for that year. If the student has been granted leave when he or she is already registered, the student will have to request the cancellation of the registration, for the aforementioned purposes. In these cases, students will not have to present the monitoring of that course in order to register for the next one.

5. Students who exceed the maximum duration of doctoral studies and, if applicable, the corresponding extension, will be permanently withdrawn from the doctoral program in which they have enrolled, and this will make it impossible to continue their studies in this program. However, they may request access and admission to another UdG doctoral program in the following academic year, presenting a new thesis project with a new tutor and new supervisors. If they wish to apply for access and admission to the same doctoral program, they must have completed a full academic year and must present a new thesis project with a new tutor and new supervisors.

## **Article 5. Skills that the doctoral student must acquire**

1. The doctoral studies will guarantee, at a minimum, that the doctoral student acquires the following basic skills as well as those others that appear in the Spanish Framework of qualifications for higher education:

- a) systematic understanding of an area of study and mastery of research skills and methods related to that area.
- b) ability to conceive, design or create, implement and adopt a substantial research or creation process.
- c) ability to contribute to the expansion of the frontiers of knowledge through original research.
- d) ability to carry out a critical analysis and evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas.
- e) ability to communicate with the academic and scientific community and with society in general about their areas of knowledge in the ways and languages commonly used in their international scientific community.
- f) ability to promote, in academic and professional contexts, scientific, technological, social, artistic or cultural progress.
- g) ability to promote Open Science and Citizen Science, as a way of contributing to the consideration of scientific knowledge as a common good, through the evaluation of transversal activities carried out by the doctoral student related to different dimensions of the Open Science and Citizen Science.

2. Furthermore, the obtention of a Doctor's degree must prove a high professional capacity. Doctors will have acquired, at least, the following personal capacities and skills to:

- a) resolve challenges in contexts in which there is little specific information.
- b) find the key questions that need to be answered to solve a complex problem.
- c) design, create, develop and undertake new and innovative projects in their field of knowledge.
- d) work both in a team and independently in an international and multidisciplinary context.
- e) integrate knowledge, deal with complexity and make judgments with limited information.
- f) criticize and defend intellectual solutions.

## **Article 6. Assignment of thesis tutor and supervisor**

### **6.1. Thesis tutor**

1. Once admission has been confirmed, the Academic Committee of the doctoral program will assign each doctoral student a tutor, who will be a full-time UdG professor with a doctoral degree, with accredited research experience and with links to one of the research lines of the doctoral program. Accredited research experience means a period of research activity recognized by the Comisión Nacional Evaluadora de la Actividad Investigadora (CNEAI) or the corresponding regional evaluation agency. The Doctoral School of the UdG, in accordance with the powers assigned by the applicable regulations, establishes that the tutors of the UdG have an active research premium, with the exception of that established in article 6.1.2 of these regulations. Researchers who cannot legally apply for research premiums must have merits equivalent to those required in each field to obtain a research premium. Emeritus professors cannot be designated thesis tutors, although they may exercise their function until the completion of the theses they were tutoring at the time of their access to the emeritus position.

The student may propose a tutor, who must be approved by the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme.

2. The Academic Committee of the doctoral program may establish additional requirements, where necessary, for being a thesis tutor. Likewise, the Academic Committee, if it deems it appropriate, may assign the tutoring of doctoral theses to full-time UdG professors with a doctoral degree who are considered active researchers even if they do not have a current research premium, as long as they have tutored or co-tutored a minimum of three defended theses or have three recognized research premiums.
3. It is the tutor's responsibility to ensure the doctoral student's interaction with the Academic Committee, and to assist him / her in monitoring the activities he / she carries out, through the revision of the doctoral student's activity document (DAD). In general, to ensure that all the academic aspects that affect the production, presentation and defence of the doctoral thesis are developed suitably.
4. The tutor who, during the production of the thesis, ceases to have a current research premium will be able to exercise his / her function until the end of the thesis, but will not be able to be appointed as a tutor of new theses.

## **6.2. Thesis supervisor**

1. The Academic Committee of the doctoral programme will assign a thesis supervisor to each doctoral student within a maximum period of three months from the enrolment.
2. The thesis supervisor will be a doctor with accredited research experience, regardless of the university, centre or institution where he/she provides his/her services. Accredited research experience means a period of research activity recognized by the Comisión Nacional Evaluadora de la Actividad Investigadora (CNEAI) or the corresponding regional evaluation agency. The Doctoral School of the UdG, in accordance with the attributions assigned by RD 576/2023 in article 12.2, also establishes that the UdG's thesis supervisors have a current research activity or research premium, with the exception of that indicated in article 6.2.4 of these regulations. Researchers who cannot legally apply for research premiums will have to prove merits equivalent to those required to obtain a research premium.
3. A supervisor who, during the production of the thesis, ceases to have a current research premium may exercise his / her function until the end of the thesis, but may not be appointed to supervise new theses, except in the case provided for in next section.
4. The Academic Committee of the doctoral programme may establish additional requirements, as necessary, to be a thesis supervisor. Likewise, the Academic Committee, if it deems it appropriate and in a justified manner, may assign the supervision of doctoral theses to full-time UdG professors with a doctoral degree who are considered active researchers even if they do not have a current research premium. However, they must have supervised or co-supervised a minimum of three defended theses or have three recognized research premiums.
5. The thesis supervisor is responsible for guiding the doctoral student in the research activities leading to the realization of the doctoral thesis, for the coherence and suitability of the training activities, for the impact and novelty of the topic of the doctoral thesis in its field and of the guiding in planning and its adaptation, if applicable, to other projects and activities to which the doctoral student is linked. The thesis supervisor has the obligation to accompany and advise the doctoral student throughout the development of his or her thesis in all those tasks included in the research plan and in the personal training plan. The supervisor must state at the start of the revision process of the thesis that, as far as they know, it does not contain any plagiarized elements. The supervisor will ensure, if necessary, that the doctoral student obtains a favourable evaluation report from the Research Ethics and Biosafety Committee of the UdG (CEBRUdG). It will also monitor the activities of the doctoral student through the review of the DAD (See Article 7.1.1).

## **6.3. Co-supervision of the thesis**

1. The doctoral thesis may be co-supervised by a maximum of three supervisors for academic reasons,

such as thematic inter-disciplinarity or when programmes are undertaken in national or international collaboration, at the request of the doctoral student and the supervisor, and with the authorization of the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme. This authorization may be revoked later if, in the opinion of the Academic Committee, the co-supervision does not benefit the development of the thesis.

2. If the thesis is co-supervised, at least one of the supervisors must have a current research premium or, in the case of external researchers, equivalent research experience, and the others may be active researchers in accordance with UdG regulations or have equivalent research experience.

#### **6.4. Change of thesis tutor or supervisor**

The Academic Committee, at the request of the doctoral student, the tutor or the supervisor, with a prior hearing from all of them, may change the tutor or the supervisor of the doctoral thesis, provided there are justified reasons.

To do this, the Academic Committee will send its resolution to the academic management secretariat of the Doctorate School.

### **Article 7. Monitoring and Assessment of the doctoral student**

The Doctoral School will establish a procedure for monitoring and assessing theses that will include the aspects detailed in the following sections.

#### **7.1. Monitoring**

##### **7.1.1. Doctoral student activity document (DAD)**

Once enrolled in the program, doctoral students will have access to their DAD, which is an up-to-date record of all the training and research activities carried out within the framework of the doctoral program they are taking. This document will be in the current curriculum management application at the UdG. Doctoral students have the obligation to keep their DAD up to date.

This document will be reviewed annually by the tutor and the thesis supervisor and evaluated by the Academic Committee responsible for the doctoral programme.

##### **7.1.2. Research plan and personal training plan**

Before the end of the first year, starting from the date of enrolment, doctoral students, with the assistance of their supervisor and tutor, will prepare a document that includes a research plan and a personal training plan according to the models established by the Doctorate School.

The research plan must include the title of the thesis, the methodology that will be used and the intended objectives to be achieved, as well as the means and time planning to achieve this.

The personal training plan will contain proposed training activities that will be developed during the doctorate (courses, mobility and other activities) necessary to be able to carry out the research and achieve the competencies specific to the doctoral training. The plan will include training in transversal courses offered by the Doctoral School equivalent to a minimum of 2 credits.

The document, with the two plans, can be improved and detailed during the development of the doctoral thesis and must be endorsed by the supervisor and the tutor. In the case of doctoral students with Industrial Honors, the provisions of article 8.5 will also be taken into account.

##### **7.1.3. Monitoring report**

From the second year onwards, the Academic Committee of the program will evaluate a report submitted by the doctoral students annually in relation to their progress in terms of the research plan and the personal training plan, and the DAD. This report must be issued by the supervisor.

## 7.2. Assessment

A positive result of the assessment is an indispensable requirement to continue in the program. In the event of a duly motivated negative result in the assessment, the doctoral student must draw up a new research plan and/or a new personal training plan if it is the first year or, from the second year, a new report, so that it can be re-assessed within a maximum period of six months from the notification of the subsequent evaluation. If this second assessment is again negative, after hearing any claim from the person concerned within a maximum period of ten days, the Academic Committee will have to issue a reasoned report, and the doctoral student will be permanently withdrawn from the program.

## Article 8. Doctoral thesis

### 8.1. Content

1. The doctoral thesis must be an original research work, in one of the lines of research of the doctoral programme, authored by the doctoral student.
2. The doctoral thesis can be a monograph or a compendium of at least two accepted or published publications, plus the minimum requirements that determine each doctoral program, the result of the doctoral student's own research and of which the doctoral student is the main author.
3. The Doctoral School will establish the criteria for the format of these types of theses.
4. In the case of a compendium of publications, the publications must have been accepted or published after the first enrolment in the doctoral program and belong to the same line of research.

The doctoral thesis must include the objectives or hypothesis of the work, an introductory chapter, a general discussion and final conclusions.

In accordance with the Code of Good Practices in research, development and innovation of the UdG, which fully applies to doctoral research, it is necessary that all articles from the date these regulations come into force contain the affiliation of the doctoral student, and of the supervisor if it is the case, to the University of Girona. The Institution must always be cited as such. No translations or abbreviations may be used. It is the author's responsibility to declare affiliation honestly and truthfully.

In the case that the articles have been published openly or that permission to copy has been obtained from the publisher, they must appear in the thesis in the same format as in the journal where they were published. Otherwise, the *postprint* version must be uploaded, which is the version that was accepted by the journal before being modified by the publisher.

5. If the articles included in the thesis by compendium are published in open access, the full text may be disseminated in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories. If they are published in restricted access, their dissemination will be that of the version allowed by the publisher and, where appropriate, with embargo in the institutional repositories.

### 8.2. Language

The thesis can be developed and defended in any of the usual languages of scientific communication in the corresponding field of study. In the event that the language of writing and defence of the thesis is not Catalan, Spanish or English, it will be necessary for the doctoral student to inform the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme in advance.

### 8.3. Co-tutoring

1. A doctoral thesis can be co-tutored between the UdG and one or more foreign universities or higher education institutions, through a co-tutoring agreement, with the aim of creating and developing scientific cooperation between research teams of the universities or institutions of higher education

involved and facilitate the mobility of doctoral students. The joint supervision agreement, which will always be in favour of a single doctoral student, will be signed by the doctoral student, the thesis supervisors of each university and the corresponding rectors, and will be signed during the first academic year of the doctorate.

2. A supervisor of the UdG who wishes to supervise a co-tutored thesis will be considered the sole promoter of the agreement and will be responsible for its drafting, in accordance with the model provided by the Doctoral School of the UdG.

3. Students under co-tutorship must be enrolled at the UdG, and at the other higher education institutions that participate in the agreement, for each of the academic years for the duration of the doctoral studies and until the thesis is defended. They will be for all intents and purposes UdG students. The terms of payment of the enrolment will be explained in the co-tutoring agreement. If this is not the case, the full enrolment fee (administrative fees and academic fees) will be paid to the UdG as long as and when the thesis is defended there. If the thesis is not defended at the UdG, only the administrative fees must be paid for each academic year, except for one academic year in which full enrolment must be done, preferably the one in which the doctoral student will be conducting a research stay at the UdG.

4. The certificate of Doctor will include “Thesis co-tutored with [name of the university]” on the reverse when the following circumstances are met:

- a) That the doctoral thesis is supervised by staff of the UdG and of one or more foreign universities.
- b) That, for the doctoral thesis work, the doctoral student obtains two or more degrees, one from each of the higher education institutions responsible for the development of the thesis.
- c) That, during the training period necessary to obtain the Doctor’s degree, the doctoral student has completed a minimum stay of six months at each of the institutions with which the co-tutoring agreement is established, carrying out research work, either in one single period or in several periods. The stays and activities will be reflected in the co-tutoring agreement. The doctoral student must provide the supporting documentation consisting of a respective certificate issued by individual supervisors, detailing the stays in the centres during the doctoral thesis.

5. It is the responsibility of the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme to authorize the co-tutoring of doctoral theses.

6. The thesis may be defended at any of the universities participating in the co-tutoring. The defence of the thesis will be carried out following the regulations of the university in which it is carried out and the corresponding report will be issued, in accordance with the regulated documentation of the university in which the thesis is defended, and a certified or authentic copy will be sent to the other university or universities.

7. In the event that the thesis is not defended at the UdG, once the composition of the panel has been approved by the other university, the doctoral student must request authorization to defend the thesis from the Academic Committee of the doctoral program of the UdG.

To request this authorization, the doctoral student must complete the deposit procedure before the defence of the thesis by presenting the following documentation:

- a) an electronic file with the full content of the thesis in PDF format.
- b) a *Curriculum Vitae* in electronic format.
- c) the document approving the composition of the panel by the other university (the composition must conform to the legislation applicable to the university where the thesis is defended), and
- d) permission to defend at the other university.

The Academic Committee of the doctoral program of the UdG must authorize the defence of the doctoral

thesis within a maximum period of 30 working days, if it considers it appropriate,

In the event that the Academic Committee of the doctoral program does not authorize the reading, or in the event that the doctoral student does not request this authorization, through the corresponding procedure and before the defence of the thesis, the doctoral student will not be able to apply for the title of doctor by the UdG.

With the approval of the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme, and once the thesis has been defended, the supervisor of the UdG thesis must send the Doctoral School a copy of the documentation accrediting its reading. This documentation states the qualification awarded in the system established in the corresponding country, together with the official minutes of the UdG provided by the Doctoral School prior to the defence. In the event that the grade awarded by the panel is the highest possible grade in the system established in the corresponding country, the panel may propose by secret ballot that the thesis obtain the mention of “cum laude” by the University of Girona. To this end, the procedure described in article 10 of these regulations will be followed and the mention “cum laude” will be granted when the unanimous vote results favourably. The thesis supervisor will be provided with the instructions on how to vote and will be responsible for sending them to the members of the panel.

8. The payment of the expenses of the members of the panel is the responsibility of the university where the panel sits.

9. Co-tutored theses may also result in the inclusion of the mention “International Doctor” on the Doctorate certificate if research stays take place in institutions of countries other than those of the formalized agreement and provided that it complies with the circumstances expressed in section 8.4 of this regulation. The revision of theses under co-tutoring that aspire to the mention of “International Doctorate” will require, like the rest of theses, single reports drawn up by two doctors who are experts in the field, who in these specific cases cannot belong to any of the universities participating in the co-tutoring, nor can they be the tutor of the stay in the third university required to obtain this mention of International Doctorate.

10. A co-tutored thesis may also be eligible for the mention of “Industrial Doctor”, provided it complies with the provisions of section 8.5 of this article.

11. For co-tutored theses defended at the UdG, the full text will be disseminated to the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories. Co-tutored theses defended at a foreign university are not obliged to disseminate the full text in the institutional repositories.

#### **8.4. International mention**

1. The certificate of doctor may include the words “International Doctor” on the reverse, provided that the following circumstances apply:

- a) That, during the training period necessary to obtain the doctor’s degree, the doctoral student has completed one or more research stays of a total duration of at least three months outside of Spain in one or more institutions of higher education or prestigious research centres, with the aim of complementing and strengthening their research training. In the case of several stays, at least one of them will have a minimum duration of one month. The stay and the activities must be endorsed by the thesis supervisor and authorized by the Academic Committee. Once completed and validated by the host organization, they must be incorporated into the DAD.
- b) That a part of the doctoral thesis, at least the summary and conclusions, has been written and defended in one of the usual languages for scientific communication in its field of study, and not any of the official languages in Spain. This rule will not be applicable when the stays have taken place in another Spanish-speaking country and the reports and experts also come from there.
- c) That the thesis has been reviewed by at least two doctoral experts belonging to a different non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre. In the case of theses with a co-tutoring agreement defended outside the UdG, they must also be external to the other universities that

are part of this agreement. These experts cannot coincide with the researchers who received the doctoral student and carried out tutoring or supervision tasks in the host institution.

If one of the reports issued by the experts states that the thesis is not in a position to be defended, the Academic Committee will appoint a third expert, belonging to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research institute. If two of the reports are negative, the process will be closed and the doctoral student and the supervisor or supervisors will be notified so that the thesis can be improved and then the review procedure can be restarted, if necessary, as long as it is within the maximum period of permanence in the doctoral programme.

- d) That at least one expert belonging to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre, with a doctoral degree, and different from the person responsible for the stay mentioned in section a), has been part of the assessment panel of the thesis. In the case of theses with a co-tutoring agreement defended outside the UdG, this person must also be external to the other universities that are part of this agreement.
2. The defence of the thesis must be carried out at the UdG or, in the case of co-tutoring, at any of the participating universities, in the terms established in the collaboration agreements.
  3. The application for the international mention in the doctoral degree will be made at the time the revision of the doctoral thesis is requested. The interested party must provide documentation proving the circumstances described in point 1 of this section, at the time as submitting the doctoral thesis. Proof of the circumstance referred to in subsection a) of point 1 of this section shall consist of a certificate for each stay issued by the researcher responsible for that stay.
  4. The Academic Committee of the doctoral programme will decide on the awarding of the international mention of the doctoral degree.

### **8.5. Industrial mention**

1. This mention will be obtained by carrying out doctoral studies through the collaboration in social and economic areas in order to promote collaboration and the transfer and exchange of knowledge between the academic world and the social and economic world, either in the public or private sphere.
2. The doctoral degree certificate may include the mention “Industrial Doctor” as long as the following requirements are met:
  - a) That the thesis has developed a research project of industrial, commercial, social or cultural interest for an entity, public or private company or public administration. Universities, public research bodies (national or regional) and university hospitals are excluded. Exceptionally, this mention can be made in any of these institutions, except for universities, as long as the content of the thesis is eminently applied. The direct relationship between the doctoral thesis and the work carried out by the doctoral student in the entity or company must be formalized in a scientific-technical report that must be approved by the university.
  - b) That an agreement has been signed between the entity, company or public administration and the university for the academic development of the doctoral thesis, which will establish, as a minimum, the obligations of the parties and the industrial property rights that may be generated.
  - c) That the doctoral student has been hired by the entity, company or public administration where the research project is carried out, for at least one year between the date of registration for the first year and the date of the defence of the thesis, and it being necessary that a substantial part of this takes place in the entity, company or public administration.
3. The doctoral student will have a thesis tutor appointed by the university and a person appointed by the entity, company or public administration who will be responsible for the student. This person may also be the thesis supervisor in accordance with what is established in this regulation. Under no circumstances may this person appointed by the company be part of the thesis assessment panel.

4. The request for the industrial mention in the doctoral degree will be made at the time of requesting the revision of the doctoral thesis. In the event that the doctoral student has not already been granted the recognition of an Industrial Doctor, within the framework of the call by the AGAUR-Generalitat de Catalunya or the corresponding Ministry, the student must present the supporting documentation of the circumstances described in point 2 of this article at the time of the deposit of the doctoral thesis.

5. The Academic Committee of the doctoral programme will check if the thesis meets the requirements to obtain the industrial mention for the title of Doctor.

6. After the defence of the doctoral thesis, the supervisor will agree with the doctoral candidate on the decision to publish and disseminate the doctoral thesis in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories with embargo, and this will be indicated in the Declaration of authorship. If this was not indicated at the time of the deposit procedure, a modification must be made online, using the form in the UdG's Electronic Register.

### **8.6. Revision of the doctoral thesis**

1. To begin the process of reviewing a doctoral dissertation, the doctoral student must have received at least a positive evaluation of his or her research plans and personal training, and a monitoring report. The last monitoring report submitted must also have been approved, and curricular data entered in the Doctoral Student Activities Document (DAD). In order to guarantee the quality of a doctoral thesis prior to the submission of the thesis, the University will follow the procedure established in the following sections.

2. When the doctoral thesis is complete, the doctoral student must request the Doctoral School to begin the process of reviewing the doctoral thesis. To do this, the corresponding application must be accessed, which can be found on the university's website, and entering the student record. The application must indicate whether it is for the international or industrial mention, or both, in the doctoral degree and whether the thesis is presented as a compendium of publications. The application must be accompanied by an authorisation to use the information from the current curriculum management application at the UdG. This will be accompanied by a statement from the supervisors on the ethical aspects of the doctoral thesis that is being reviewed. The electronic file of the thesis will be attached in PDF format. The doctoral student must also inform if it is a co-tutored thesis or if it is to be presented with data or information that is considered confidential.

In the event that the thesis is presented as a compendium of publications, the following documents must also be attached to the application:

- a) a report from the thesis supervisor or supervisors indicating the suitability of this format and demonstrating the relevance of the doctoral student's specific contribution to the publications submitted,
- b) the acceptance by the co-authors of the publications, if any, that the doctoral student presents them as part of the thesis, and
- c) the waiver of non-doctoral co-authors of publications to present them as part of their doctoral thesis.

In the event that the thesis is presented with data or information that is considered confidential, the provisions of Article 14 [\\*](#) must be taken into account.

In order for the review process to continue, the thesis supervisor and the tutor (in the case that all the supervisors are external) must give their approval and state that, as far as their knowledge goes, the thesis faithfully reflects the work carried out by the doctoral student, and has been drawn up in accordance with the University of Girona's Code of Good Practice of the Doctoral School and does not contain plagiarized elements.

3. Subsequently, the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme will check, within a maximum

period of five working days from the approval of the thesis director and the tutor, if it meets the requirements established in these regulations, the specific formal requirements for each field, as well as the criteria for the format approved by the Doctoral School Management Committee.

4. The thesis must receive at least two reports from two doctoral experts belonging to two different higher education institutions or institutes or research centres and external to the UdG through an anonymous review process. These may be members of the panel that assessed the thesis. The experts will be appointed by the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme and must have an active research background or equivalent research merits. In the event that there are publications derived from the thesis, none of the co-authors of the publications may act as an expert in the review of the doctoral thesis. In the case of interuniversity doctoral programmes, neither of these two experts may be part of any of the universities participating in the programme.

5. The reports issued by the experts must refer both to the formal aspects of the doctoral thesis and to its adequacy to the theoretical framework, objectives, methodology, results, discussion, conclusions and references, and they should highlight, where appropriate, the repercussions that the results may have in the scientific and social field. Reports should indicate any issues that should be addressed. Finally, taking into account the aforementioned aspects, the conformity or non-conformity of the presentation and defence of the doctoral thesis must be stated.

6. The Academic Committee must ensure that the process of issuing reports of the experts is completed within a period not exceeding two months, starting from the day after the date of appointment of the experts.

7. If one of the reports issued by the experts states that the thesis is not in a position to be defended, the Academic Committee will appoint a third expert from by a higher education institution or research centre external to the UdG and different from the two previous experts. If two of the reports are negative, the process will be closed and the doctoral student and the supervisor or supervisors will be notified so that the thesis can be improved and then the review procedure can be restarted, if necessary, as long as it is within the maximum period of permanence in the doctoral programme.

8. The Academic Committee must send a copy of the anonymous reports prepared by the experts to the doctoral student, the thesis supervisor and the tutor. The doctoral student must introduce the modifications proposed by the Academic Committee or experts or, if necessary, provide in the response to the reports the reasons why he / she considers that the proposed modifications cannot be incorporated. The aforementioned response must also state the modifications made. This response must be submitted at the time of deposit.

9. In the event that the student aspires to the international mention in the doctoral degree, it is necessary to bear in mind, with respect to external experts, the aspects mentioned in point 8.4.1 of these regulations. For those doctoral students who aspire to the title of doctor in co-tutoring with international mention, they must comply with point 8.3.9 of these regulations.

10. In the event that the research requires an ethical evaluation report from the CEBRUdG, a favourable report will be attached at the time of the review.

### **8.7. Submission of the doctoral thesis**

1. Once the procedure for reviewing the doctoral thesis has been completed, the doctoral student may submit it, within a maximum period of three months. If this period is exceeded, the procedure will be terminated and the doctoral student, the tutor and the supervisor or supervisors will be informed. In this case, if the doctoral student wants to defend the thesis, he / she will have to start the review process again.

2. The application for the submission of the doctoral thesis will be made by the doctoral student through the corresponding procedure on the university's website. Once the student has identified himself / herself, and entered in his / her record, the following need to be attached:

- a) The electronic file of the thesis in PDF format (not signed or password protected). In the case of doctoral theses prepared with the participation of companies in the doctoral program, or those that are subject to confidentiality agreements, or their content is subject to processes of protection or transfer of technology or knowledge because they may be patents or industrial secrets, a second electronic file of the encrypted doctoral thesis is required which should allow the reader to get an idea of the work carried out. It will only be necessary to encrypt the elements that are indispensable to ensure the protection or transfer of the results.
- b) If the doctoral thesis is presented as a compendium of publications and/or includes works published with restricted access, publication authorization from the original publisher will be requested, if applicable.
- c) The electronic file with an informative summary (of approximately one page) of the thesis in Catalan and in English with a publishable image representative of the subject of the doctoral thesis.
- d) The electronic file of the doctoral student's response to the reports of the Academic Committee, if applicable, and of the external experts, which clearly indicate the modifications introduced to the doctoral thesis.
- e) Data of the doctoral student and of the doctoral thesis in the “Declaration of authorship” document with the necessary information for the publication and dissemination of the thesis in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories.
- f) Academic data for the introduction of thesis information in the TESEO database
- g) Electronic *Curriculum Vitae* taken from the curriculum management application used at the UdG
- h) To add an international mention to the doctoral degree, it is also necessary to attach the accreditation of the research stay (or stays) of at least three months in one or various higher education institutions or research centres outside of Spain (in the case of various research stays, at least one of them will have a minimum duration of one month), signed by the person in charge of the reception centre or centres.
- i) To apply for an industrial mention, in the case of not already being recognized for having obtained an industrial doctorate grant from the Government of Catalonia or the Government of Spain, you must provide documentation proving the circumstances described in the requirements set out in article 8.5.
- j) If the thesis is submitted with data or information that is considered confidential, the provisions of Article 14 <sup>\*</sup> must be taken into account.

In order for the submission process to continue, the thesis supervisor and the tutor (in the case that all supervisors are external) must give their approval.

3. By publishing an edict on the notice board of the electronic office, the Doctoral School will open a period for public exhibition of 3 working days, starting from the day after publication. During this period the thesis may be examined at the Doctoral School by anyone who accredits the status of doctor, and within 2 working days, starting from the day following the last day of public exhibition, may present any considerations deemed appropriate to the Doctoral School, which will send them to the corresponding Academic Committee.

4. The doctoral thesis document that is included in the Doctoral School deposit process is the one that is published in the institutional repositories (TDX, DUGi) and corresponds to the one sent to the members of the thesis panel.

If the thesis includes the participation of companies in the doctoral program, or is subject to confidentiality agreements, or its content is subject to processes of protection or transfer of technology or knowledge, such as patents or industrial secrets, the thesis document will be published encrypted, or

with the full text embargoed, in the institutional repositories (TDX, DUGi).

## **Article 9. Composition of the panel of the doctoral thesis**

1. The thesis supervisor or supervisors will propose the panel to the Academic Committee of the doctoral program, justifying the curricular suitability of each of the members.
2. The thesis panel will be composed of three full members (a president, a secretary and a member) and two substitute members, all with a doctorate and accredited research experience, appointed by the Academic Committee of the programme. UdG researchers will be considered to have accredited research experience if they have an active research background or equivalent merits. Researchers outside the UdG must accredit research merits equivalent to those required of UdG researchers.
3. The panel will be made up of a majority of members external to the program and the university where the thesis is defended (in the case of co-tutors, see article 8.3.6 and 8.3.7). Retired teaching staff, teaching staff on leave, teaching staff in special services and honorary emeritus teaching staff will be considered external members of the UdG, but not emeritus teaching staff hired by the UdG. The secretary of the panel will be from the UdG, in order to simplify the procedure. In the case of inter-university doctoral programmes, the majority of members of the panel must be external to the universities participating in the programme. The active external members of the panel must belong to different higher education institutions or research centres.
4. There must be at least one woman among the full members of the panel. Considering all members, including substitutes, there must be at least two women. If duly substantiated and objective reasons are given, the Doctoral Academic Committee, following a report, may waive compliance with this point.
5. The Academic Committee of the programme will appoint the president, the secretary and the third member, and substitutes from among the members, in accordance with the criteria of suitability derived from the curriculum presented. The president will generally be the doctor with the highest accredited academic or research level. In the event of a member of the panel resigning for just cause, the president shall replace him or her with one of the substitutes.
6. Neither the thesis supervisor or supervisors, nor the tutor, may be part of the panel, except for theses presented within the framework of co-tutoring agreements with foreign universities.
7. In the event that there are publications derived from the thesis, none of the co-authors of the publications may form part of the panel.
8. If the doctoral student requests the international mention in the doctoral degree, at least one of the members of the panel must belong to a non-Spanish higher education institution or research centre, and must not be responsible for the stay mentioned in section 8.5, subsection 1. a).
9. In the case of theses under co-tutoring, the international member of the panel cannot belong to any of the universities involved in the co-tutoring agreement.

## **Article 10. Authorization of the defence, designation and appointment of the doctoral thesis panel**

1. Once the period of public exhibition has passed, the Academic Committee of the doctoral program will authorize, if applicable, the defence of the doctoral thesis, and will appoint the panel, naming a president, a member and a secretary, and two substitutes.
2. Once the defence is authorized and the panel appointed by the Academic Committee of the doctoral program, the Doctoral School will notify the doctoral student, the thesis supervisor or supervisors, the tutor and members of the panel within five working days. The Doctoral School will send all members of

the panel the electronic copy of the thesis together with the notification of appointment and the rest of the relevant documentation. The members of the panel must notify the Academic Committee of the existence of possible conflicts of interest. The Academic Committee of the doctoral program will evaluate this and, if it deems it appropriate, propose a new panel or replace the affected member with one of the substitutes.

3. In the event that the defence of the doctoral thesis is not authorized, the Doctoral School must notify this following the adoption of the agreement within a maximum period of five working days (along with a reasoned report), to the doctoral student, to the thesis supervisor or supervisors and the thesis tutor.

### **Article 11. Call for the defence of the doctoral thesis**

Following notification of the authorization to defend the thesis and the designation of the panel, the president of the panel must convene the defence act and communicate this to the Doctoral School. In all cases, this must be done at least 15 working days before the date set for the defence. The School will ensure compliance with this deadline. The president must also communicate whether the thesis will be defended in person or by videoconference. If it is by videoconference, the doctoral student must submit the relevant application and the procedure established by the Doctoral School will be followed.

### **Article 12. Defence and assessment of the doctoral thesis**

1. The maximum period for defending the doctoral thesis is four months from the appointment of the panel. The Academic Committee of each doctoral programme may authorize an extension of this period when unforeseen justified causes occur. The president of the panel must convene the act of defending the thesis.

2. In general, the defence of the doctoral thesis must be in person and must be done in public session in any UdG centre or research centre affiliated to the UdG or mixed research centre with UdG participation, within the academic period established for the reading of theses and on a working day. In order to be able to start the defence of the thesis, the presence of all the members of the panel and the doctoral student will be required.

3. If authorized by the President of the Academic Committee, the act of defence and qualification of the doctoral thesis may be done with the participation of one or all mandatory attendees (panel, doctoral student) by non-face-to-face means (synchronous videoconference). This must be in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral School, to the extent that the means necessary for the proper functioning and assurance of the academic quality of the defence of the thesis are guaranteed, as is the public session of the act, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 14 regarding theses with confidential content.

4. If the doctoral student does not attend the thesis defence without justified reason, it will be recorded in the corresponding report with the qualification of “no show”.

5. If the defence cannot be carried out due to some justified circumstance or due to withdrawal, the president may make a new call for the defence of the thesis. This defence must be carried out within a maximum period of 15 working days, and the Doctoral School must be notified of the date of the new call at least two working days in advance.

6. The act must consist of the doctoral student’s presentation of the research work carried out, the methodology used, the results and the conclusions, with a special mention of their original contributions.

The members of the panel may ask the doctoral student any questions they deem appropriate. Likewise, the doctors present at the public defence act may ask questions at the time and in the manner indicated

by the president of the panel.

7. The panel that assesses the thesis will have the information from the DAD (courses, seminars received and/or given, mobility, etc.) with the training activities carried out by the doctoral student and the reports of external experts, as well as any response from the doctoral candidate to these. The DAD will not give rise to a quantitative score, but it will constitute a qualitative evaluation instrument that will complement the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

8. Once the defence and discussion of the doctoral thesis has been completed, the panel will produce a written assessment report. The panel will award an overall grade to the thesis according to the following scale: “fail”, “pass”, “very good” and “excellent”. The members of the panel may propose that the theses rated as “excellent” be awarded “*cum laude*” by secret ballot, in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) The Doctoral School will provide the secretary of the panel with the minutes and all the documentation for the defence of the thesis and a link to an application where each member of the panel will cast their vote in relation to the awarding of the mention “*cum laude*”, individually, secretly and irrevocably, before 10 am on the working day following the day on which the thesis is defended.

The secretary will send the minutes of the defence of the thesis with the original handwritten signatures to the Doctoral School. The minutes can only be sent electronically if all the signatures of the members of the panel are digital. Reports signed by each of the members of the panel will also be sent. These may be electronically signed or with an original handwritten signature.

The secretary of the panel will ensure that all members of the panel cast their vote regarding the granting, or not, of the *cum laude* mention.

- b) The Doctoral School will scrutinize and record the result of the vote in a report signed by a representative of the academic secretariat and the director of the Doctoral School.
- c) The “*cum laude*” mention will be granted when the results from the scrutiny of the votes cast are unanimous. The minutes of the scrutiny of the votes cast by the members of the panel shall be kept together with the other documentation generated by the act of defence and evaluation of the thesis.
- d) The Doctoral School will communicate to the interested party the final grade resulting from the scrutiny; it will also send a copy to the thesis supervisor or supervisors, to the members of the panel and to the Academic Committee of the doctoral program.

### **Article 13. Publication and archiving of the doctoral thesis**

1. Once the doctoral thesis has been defended and approved, the University Library and the Doctoral School will be responsible for

- a) the incorporation of the thesis and its dissemination in open access in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories,
- b) send the corresponding Ministry the academic data for dissemination, together with all mandatory complementary information to TESEO.

2. In cases where the doctoral student and the supervisor have foreseen the possibility of partially restricting the publicity of the thesis, the doctoral student must have informed the Doctoral School and must have provided a second electronic file with an encrypted version of the doctoral thesis, which must allow the reader to get an idea of the work carried out (only the elements that are indispensable to ensure the protection or transfer of the results should be encrypted).

3. The doctoral student may request in the Declaration of authorship document the embargo of the full text of the doctoral thesis in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories, for reasons of intellectual or industrial property, for a period of 6 or 12 months and up to a maximum of 24. After the 24 months of embargo, the thesis will be able to be viewed in full. A modification can be made to the embargo conditions by means of a request in the UdG's electronic register.
4. The doctoral student must fill in his or her academic data in TESEO. After the defence and once it has been published in the institutional repositories (TDX and DUGi) from the UdG Library, the URL link to download the file will be added for the purpose of sending the electronic file.
5. In the event that errors are detected in the thesis file or the doctoral thesis assessment panel considers that it is necessary to add the recommendations that the same panel or other doctors have made during the public defence, the request must be made to the electronic registry of the UdG; the same will be done for any other change in the temporary embargo or publishing license (prior knowledge by the evaluating court, doctoral committee or doctoral school).
6. If the file (pdf) of a doctoral thesis does not meet the appropriate data protection, anonymization or encryption measures, the Doctoral School may request modifications from the doctoral student, and these must be made through a request to the electronic register of the UdG.

#### **Article 14. Procedure for doctoral theses that are subject to data protection processes or the transfer of technology or knowledge**

For theses that are affected by confidentiality agreements or subject to data protection or knowledge transfer processes, the Doctoral School establishes a procedure that guarantees both this protection and the quality of the review and deposit process specified in the following points:

1. When doctoral students submit their thesis for the first time in order to start the revision process, they must state in the options of this application that the thesis contains data or information that is considered confidential information.

In this case, students must attach the confidentiality commitments and, where appropriate, the confidentiality agreements signed with the companies. In addition, if there is a possibility of generating patents, students must also attach a report from the Office of Research and Technological Transfer of the UdG.

The Academic Committee will only accept this request when it is proven that secrecy is absolutely essential for the success of the protection or transfer process. Otherwise, the agreement will be notified to the doctoral student and the supervisor or supervisors of the thesis and the doctoral student will have to start the procedure again without stating this option in the revision request.

At the time of the deposit, the doctoral student will have to present again a complete file of the thesis and another with encryption, which must allow the reader to get a clear idea of the research work carried out (therefore, it is only necessary to encrypt the elements that are indispensable to ensure the protection or transfer of the results).

2. Once the thesis request with confidential information is accepted, the coordinator of the Doctoral Program, the experts external to the UdG who carry out the revision of the thesis and the members of the panel who judge it will be expressly warned that the thesis is subject to processes of protection or transfer. These will have access to the complete version of the doctoral thesis and will have the obligation to maintain secrecy and absolute confidentiality about its content. Before having access to the thesis, each of the mentioned persons will deliver to the president of the Academic Committee the corresponding commitment of confidentiality, duly signed, for the period of time necessary to protect it.
3. Before concluding the defence of the doctoral thesis, the president of the panel may request the

audience present to leave the room if they consider that the panel should ask the doctoral student questions about confidential aspects of their doctoral thesis.

4. If the doctoral student considers that the answer to any of the questions from the panel may reveal data and information that may be considered confidential information, he / she may request the president to answer the question in the second part of the defence, when there is no public audience present in the room.

5. The publication of the thesis in the TDX and DUGi institutional repositories will be carried out when the process of protection and transfer of knowledge has been completed, a circumstance that the doctoral student indicated in the Declaration of authorship document when depositing the thesis with a temporary embargo, and the encrypted file provided at the time of deposit will be published. The embargo conditions can be modified by means of a request in the UdG electronic register. Also see Article 8.5, Article 8.7 and 13 of these doctoral regulations.

### **Article 15. Extraordinary doctoral awards**

1. The Doctoral School will promote the announcement of extraordinary doctoral awards every calendar year and for each doctoral programme of the UdG.

Prizes will be awarded as long as at least five theses have been read within the stipulated period, and at least three theses have received the mention “cum laude”. If the number of theses for a calendar year in a doctoral programme is less than five, or there are not three theses that have obtained the mention “cum laude”, this number is added to that of the following year or years, to a maximum of five courses or years, until a number is reached that allows the prize to be awarded.

If the number of theses aspiring to an extraordinary prize in a given doctoral programme is greater than ten, another prize may be awarded for every ten more theses or fraction of ten.

2. All doctoral theses with a “cum laude” mention that have been read during the stipulated period can be entered for the prize.

3. To be awarded a prize, the following will be valued, among others: the publications derived from the thesis, the patents or activities of knowledge transfer, the impact of the research in its field, the doctoral research stays carried out and the international mention.

Each Academic Committee will propose the grading criteria for each of the merits mentioned in the previous paragraph and the additional merits that it considers justified to add. The Commission will also set the minimum scoring threshold in order to obtain the extraordinary prize. The grading criteria will be made public at the time of the call.

4. The Delegate Commission for Research, Transfer and Doctorate approves the juries that award the prizes at the proposal of the Management Committee of the Doctoral School and appointed by the rector.

5. The composition of each jury will be five members: a president, a secretary and three members, who must be teaching and research staff who hold a doctorate with an active research premium or equivalent. A substitute will also be appointed. The supervisors or tutors of the theses aspiring to the award and the co-authors of the publications derived from these theses may not be members of the jury.

### **Article 16. Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Girona**

1. The UdG may confer the title of doctor honoris causa to those persons who, in consideration of their exceptional academic, scientific, cultural, social or specifically personal merits, it wishes to award this distinction.

2. The awarding of this degree means recognition by the University:
  - a) of the value of the person for their contribution to science, to the progress of knowledge or to cultural and artistic creation.
  - b) of their projection of mastery in their specialised field.
  - c) of their scientific and personal relations with the UdG and of their projection in the field of our culture.
  - d) of their human values (such as their attitude towards the great issues of humanity, their consideration and love for our country, etc.).
3. The Governing Council is the body that awards the title of doctor honoris causa. Due to the exceptional nature of this figure, the Governing Council may not award more than three honorary doctorates in a year. The gender perspective is taken into account in the awarding of the degree.
4. Teaching centres and research departments or institutes may present a candidate each year. Once the candidate has been nominated, they will have to wait two years to present another candidate.
5. The initiative for the award must come from the rector, a teaching centre or a department or research institute of the University. Unless the initiative comes from the rector, it must be defended at least by the absolute majority of the members that constitute the Managing Commission of the educational centre or the Council of the department or institute.
6. In addition to the scientific value of the candidate, teaching centres and research departments and institutes must take into account the aspects mentioned in section 15.2.
7. The proposal will be submitted to the Governing Council of the University by the dean of the Faculty, by the director of the School or by the director of the department or institute, accompanied by the voting certificate provided for in section 5 of this article and by a justifying report that outlines the merits of the candidate in relation to the mentioned aspects
8. The Governing Council will ask the Doctoral School to assess the academic, professional and personal profile of the candidate and, based on the report of the Doctoral School, will agree on the awarding or not of this maximum academic degree.
9. No one who has been part of the UdG staff for the last 10 years may be nominated as an honorary doctor of the UdG.
10. The conferment of the degree of doctor honoris causa will be made during a formal sitting.
11. People who have received the title of doctor honoris causa from the UdG will become honorary members of the university community.

### **Exceptional additional provision**

The new RD 576/2023, of July 4, comes into effect the day following its publication in the BOE (July 19, 2023).

The provisions contained in this RD, given that it is of higher rank than the academic regulations for doctoral studies of the UdG, have been applied immediately before the approval of these regulations of the UdG.

Doctoral students who have started doctoral studies on the date this Royal Decree comes into force are subject to the doctoral regulatory provisions in force at the time of the start of the aforementioned studies. However, the regime relating to the panel, defence and assessment of the doctoral thesis provided for in this Royal Decree is applicable to these students from the 2024-2025 academic year.

## **Repeal**

The regulations for the organization of doctoral university studies at the University of Girona (approved by the Governing Council in session 3/2012, of 26 April, and their subsequent modifications), the academic regulations for doctorate studies at the UdG (approved by the Governing Council in session no. 3/2017, of 31 March, and its subsequent modifications) and everything that opposes these regulations are repealed.

## **Final provision**

These modifications will enter into force the day after the publication of the Revised Text of the Regulations for the Organization of Doctoral Studies at the University of Girona in the Official Gazette of the University of Girona.

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\* Reference corrected with respect to the regulations published in the BOU (Official Gazette).