



## **Guidelines PhD Thesis**

12 November 2024

### **A - DRIEI- (PhD Engineering Electronics and Computer Engineering)**

These are specific articles of the Cagliari University regulation which discipline the final PhD Thesis;  
Here the [Link](#) if you want see the full regulations.

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

2. The academic board ... is responsible for designing and implementing the PhD program in particular the Academic board:

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- e) designates at last two referees of the thesis for each PhD student, pursuant to art. 14, par. 2
- f) designates the members of the Selection Committee for the final examination of the PhD
- g) programme, referred to in art. 14, par. 3;proporre provides the Examination Committee with the list of the PhD degree candidates, together with an overall assessment on PhD students' scientific personality and work.

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#### **Art. 14 - Award of PhD degree**

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





3. The public defence takes place in front of a Committee appointed with Rector's decree upon proposal of the Academic Board of the PhD programme, respecting, if possible, the gender balance. It should count three or five members and two substitutes, selected among professors, university researchers and experts in possession of a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in the disciplinary fields of the PhD programme. At least two out of three members, or three out of five members, must belong to Italian and foreign academic institutions not participating in the doctorate and cannot be members of the Academic Board. For those PhD programmes structured in curricula, the Academic Board can propose the appointment of different examination committees for each curriculum. In the case of PhD programmes established on the basis of international agreements, the examination committee is made according to the procedures set out in the agreements. On the proposal of the Academic Board, the external committee members can participate remotely, without prejudice to the mandatory presence at the defence location of a member with the role of chairman and another with role of secretary. The appointment decree is published on the University website.
4. At the end of the defence, the PhD thesis is approved or rejected, with a motivated joint written assessment. Unanimously the Examination Committee can award the honours in case of significantly important scientific results. In case of a negative result, the defence cannot be repeated.
5. The date for the defence of the doctoral thesis cannot be disregarded. Unjustified absence from the final examination session results in the forfeiture of the right to obtain the PhD title. However, the PhD student who is unable to attend the defence, for proven health reasons or other special circumstances, may submit an application to the Rector to allow the defence to take place on another date. In the case of acceptance of the application, the PhD student will be allowed to take the final examination at a later date, even remotely if authorized by the Academic Board.
6. The title of PhD is awarded by the Rector.
7. The diploma certifying the award of the PhD degree is issued together with a document in which the training activities carried out by the PhD students in one or more institutions are reported (Diploma Supplement).
8. For proven reasons that do not allow the presentation of the PhD thesis within the time limits set for the duration of the PhD programme, the Academic Board may grant, at the request of the PhD student, to be submitted in the manner and within the deadline communicated with a specific internal circular, an extension of a maximum duration of twelve months, without further financial charges to be borne by the University.
9. An extension of the duration of the PhD programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be approved by the Academic Board for justified scientific needs, with a corresponding extension of the scholarship, drawn from funds from the Department of the PhD programme or from external subjects, or residually on University funds, subject to the authorization of the Academic Authorities, issued in consideration of the high quality and originality of the research work and the possibility of further development.

#### **Art. 15 - Doctor Europaeus**

1. The University of Cagliari awards the Doctor Europaeus (DE) additional certification only in case the four conditions established by the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, recognized by the European Universities Association (EUA), are present:





- a. at least two reviewers, appointed according to art. 7 par. 2 letter e, coming from two European countries other than the one where the PhD student is enrolled, have given their review of the manuscript
  - b. at least one member of the jury, appointed according to art. 14 par. 3, should come from a higher education institution in another European country, other than the one where the PhD student is enrolled;
  - c. a part of the defence must take place in a language other than the one(s) of the country where the PhD student is enrolled;
  - d. the thesis must partly have been prepared as a result of a research period of at least one trimester spent in another European country.
2. The research period must be certified by a formal declaration from the host supervisor, on letterhead of the European institution, proving the work carried out by the PhD student.
  3. The issue of the Doctor Europaeus certification is proposed, together with the awarding of the PhD degree, by the Examination Committee, which draws up the report in Italian and English, certifying the compliance with the four conditions specified in par. 1.
  4. For the purposes of issuing the additional Doctor Europaeus certification, the PhD student submits, within the first semester of the third year, a specific application to the PhD and Professional Master's Office and to the Academic Board of the PhD programme, which must decide on the acceptance of the request.

## B – GUIDELINES FOR PHD THESIS EVALUATION

In accordance with Article 14 Rector's Decree no. 296 of 21st March 2022, the doctoral thesis is written in Italian or English, or in another language, subject to authorisation by the academic board, and is accompanied by a synthesis in English.

The thesis is reviewed by at least two examiners appointed by the Academic Board, who are not members of the University and have high-level scientific or professional experience consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD course. One of these examiners must be a university professor. In order to ensure the independence of the evaluators, it is advisable to select persons who have no conflicts of interest, such as those that might arise from having served as a foreign supervisor or from frequent publication with the student to be evaluated.

Within thirty days of receipt of the thesis, the evaluators shall express a written analytical judgement, proposing the admission of the thesis for public discussion or the postponement of the discussion for a period not exceeding six months, if they deem significant additions or corrections to be necessary.

### Procedure adopted by DRIEI Academic Board :

- The supervisors identify the evaluators, contact them to check their availability and forward their names and affiliations to the coordinator.
- The Academic Board decides on: the names of the evaluators; the date by which the doctoral candidates must submit manuscripts to the evaluators; the date by which the evaluators must submit reports to the coordinator.
- PhD students send the manuscript to the evaluators, usually as a pdf file via e-mail. If requested, it may be necessary to send the evaluators a printed version.





- The evaluators prepare their reports and send them by e-mail to the Coordinator. Reports are to be prepared on the letterhead of the reviewer's institution or, if preferred, on the form provided by the PhD DRIEI and available at [1]. In all cases, the report must specify whether it is proposed that the thesis be admitted for public discussion
- At the same time as the evaluators' reports, the supervisors must send their evaluation of the thesis work to the coordinator. The form for these reports is available at [1].

[1] Form

The deadlines are set by the DRIEI Academic board in accordance with the calendar established each year by the Didactics and Guidance Division.

### C –DRIEI requirements for admission to the final thesis examination

According to the DRIEI regulations [2] at the end of their training, PhD students must:

- Fill in a list of the activities carried out during the three-year period through which they have earned **Research Training Credits** (CFR). The total number of credits earned in the three-year period must be no less than 180 CFR and must observe the constraints indicated in the regulation.
- Draw up a report on the research activity carried out during the last year (*annual report*).
- Draw up a report summarising the entire research activity carried out during its course (*three-year report*). This report must be sent to the commissioners taking part in the final examination and **must be written in English**.
- Make a final presentation, explaining in summarised terms (5-10 minutes) the topic and main results of their thesis

[2] Credit Regulation DRIEI

The final presentation consists of a video that can be published on DRIEI's YouTube channel. A special committee evaluates the videos and awards a prize to the best work.

Requirements for final presentation.

- The video shall be last 8 minutes (with maximum tolerance 30 seconds).
- The format must be informative, as the video should address young people who want to approach a PhD, motivating them to embark on such a path.
- The video must describe the activity carried out during the doctoral course, presenting the *scientific results* obtained but also *explaining how and why research is carried out*, possibly mentioning experiences of doctoral life (e.g. the period abroad, a conference or project in which one took part, etc.).

