

## **Appendix**

### **Rules for the regulation of official doctoral studies of the University of Murcia.**

(Approved by the Governing Board on 27 January 2012 and modified at the meetings of the Governing Board of 26 July 2013, 4 October 2013, 26 March 2014 and 30 April 2015)

#### **Contents**

##### **Chapter I. General provisions**

1. Aim
2. Doctorate
3. Doctoral programme
4. Designation of degree
5. Duration of the doctorate
6. Organisation of doctoral studies
7. Requirements for access to a doctoral programme
8. Criteria for selection and admission to a doctoral programme
9. Enrolment
10. Rights and duties of doctoral students
11. Tutoring
12. Thesis supervision
13. Record of activities
14. Monitoring
15. Commitment document
16. Conflict resolution procedure

##### **Chapter II. The doctoral thesis.**

17. The doctoral thesis
18. Writing of the thesis
19. Format of the doctoral thesis
20. The thesis as a compendium of publications
21. Submission and deposit of the thesis
22. The doctoral thesis examination board
23. Defence and examination of the doctoral thesis
24. Remote intervention at the viva by the student, via electronic media
25. Remote intervention at the viva by members of the examination board, via electronic media
26. Filing of doctoral theses
27. The doctoral thesis under joint supervision

##### **Chapter III. Extraordinary prizes and other honorary mentions.**

28. Extraordinary doctoral prizes
29. Convocations and presentation of candidates
30. Composition of the committee for the assessment of extraordinary prizes
31. International doctoral research component of the degree certificate

#### **Chapter IV. Doctoral studies bodies.**

32. Determination of the doctoral studies bodies
33. General Committee for Doctoral Studies
34. Faculty committees
35. Academic committee of the doctoral programme
36. Doctoral programme coordinators
37. Schools for doctoral Studies
38. Management Committee of the School for Doctoral Studies

#### **Additional provision**

#### **Transitional provisions**

#### **Single repealing provision**

#### **Single final provision**

#### **Appendices**

The Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities, structures official university studies in three cycles: Undergraduate Degree, Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree. Doctoral studies, corresponding to the third cycle, lead to the award of the Degree of Doctor, which is official in nature and valid throughout Spain.

Pursuant to article 38 of the Organic Law on Universities, doctoral studies shall be organised and undertaken in the manner determined by the statutes of the universities, pursuant to the criteria for the award of the degree of Doctor approved by the Government.

The development of these legal provisions has passed through different and successive regulations. Currently, they are essentially covered by Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies. In its articles, this regulatory provision allows the universities themselves to specify many of their provisions. It is particularly striking that its first transitional provision establishes that the system relative to the examination board, defence and examination of the doctoral thesis contemplated by the royal decree shall be applicable one year after its entry into force (that is, as from 12 February 2012) to doctoral students who, on the date of entry into force of such rule, have commenced their doctoral studies pursuant to the previous regulations.

Likewise, in relationship with this basic state regulatory framework, it is established that official studies at Master's and Doctorate level shall be organised and undertaken via the procedure approved by the Governing Board, pursuant to the criteria and requirements established by the legislation in force.

In view of the foregoing, it is necessary to issue new regulations of its own with regard to doctoral studies, owing to which the main aim of these regulations is to develop, in the scope of the University of Murcia, the guidelines set by Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

The regulations are issued under the auspices of the powers of academic and administrative self-organisation of the University of Murcia, included in the concept of university autonomy pursuant to article 2.2 of the Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities.

By virtue thereof, at the proposal of the Vice-Chancellor, the Governing Board of the University of Murcia, at a meeting held on 27 January 2012 and subsequent to deliberation, has approved the following regulations:

## **Chapter I**

### **General Provisions**

#### **Article 1.- Aim.**

Pursuant to the applicable basic state regulations, and in the scope of the University of Murcia, the aim of these regulations is to develop and specify the regulation of:

- a) The organisation of doctoral studies.
- b) The procedures for the preparation and approval of doctoral programmes.
- c) The preparation, monitoring and defence of the doctoral thesis.

#### **Article 2.- Doctorate.**

1. A doctorate is deemed to be the third cycle of official university studies, leading to the acquisition of competences and skills related with high-quality scientific research.

2. Doctoral studies are organised via programmes, in the manner determined by the Statutes of the University of Murcia, approved by Decree 85/2004, of 27 August, and pursuant to the criteria established in Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral studies and in these regulations.

3. Doctoral studies shall conclude, in all cases, with the preparation and defence of a doctoral thesis that incorporates original research results.

#### **Article 3.- Doctoral Programme.**

A doctoral programme is deemed to be a set of activities leading to the acquisition of the necessary competences and skills to obtain the degree of Doctor. The objective of said programme shall be the development of the different educational aspects of the student and it shall establish the procedures and lines of research for the preparation of the doctoral thesis.

#### **Article 4.- Designation of degree.**

Successful completion of the doctoral studies at the University of Murcia shall entitle the student to obtain the degree of Doctor. The designation of the qualification shall be Degree of Doctor awarded by the University of Murcia. The certificate shall include, moreover, the information specified by the discipline for which the doctoral thesis has been prepared and the information regarding the doctoral programme completed.

#### **Article 5.- Duration of the doctorate.**

1. Pursuant to Article 3.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, the maximum duration of the doctoral studies shall be three years, full time, from admission of the student onto the programme until the submission of the doctoral thesis.

2. Notwithstanding the above, and subject to authorisation by the academic committee responsible for the programme, doctoral studies may be completed on a part-time basis. In this case such studies may have a maximum duration of five years from admission to the programme until submission of the doctoral thesis.

3. If upon completion of said term of three years the request for submission of the thesis has not been presented, the academic committee responsible for the programme may authorise an extension to this term for one more year, which may exceptionally be extended by an additional year, in the conditions established in the corresponding doctoral programme. In the case of part-time studies, the extension may be authorised for two more years which may likewise, exceptionally, be increased by another additional year.

4. Calculation of the above period shall not take into account leave for illness, pregnancy or any other cause contemplated by the regulations in force.

5. Likewise, the student may request temporary leave from the programme for a maximum period of one year, which may be extended by one further year. Said request must be addressed and justified to the academic committee responsible for the programme, which shall pronounce on the appropriateness of agreeing to that requested by the student.

#### **Article 6.- Organisation of the doctoral studies.**

1. Doctoral programmes shall take into account the general principles that should inspire the design of the new qualifications, established in Article 3.5 of Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October, which establishes the regulation of official university studies.

2. **Doctoral** programmes shall include organised aspects of research training that do not require structuring in ECTS credits and which shall include both transversal training and training that is specific to the scope of each programme, although in any case the essential activity of the student shall be that of research.

3. The organisation of said training and the procedures for its control must be expressed in the specifications for the verification of doctoral programmes included in Appendix I of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January which, pursuant to Article 4.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, shall be part of the subsequent assessment for the purposes of renewal of the approval of said programmes.

4. The training activities performed by the student shall be included in the activity document, which is the individual control record of said activities, documented on the corresponding medium, which shall be reviewed regularly by the tutor and the thesis supervisor and assessed by the academic committee responsible for the doctoral programme.

#### **Article 7.- Requirements for access to a doctoral programme.**

1. In general, pursuant to Article 6 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, for access to an official doctoral programme it shall be necessary for the candidate to hold an official Spanish degree, or equivalent, and a university master's degree.

2. Those who meet the following requirements may also be granted access to the programme:

a) Those who hold an official Spanish university degree, or a university degree from another European Higher Education Area country, that grants access to a master's degree pursuant to Article 16 of Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October and who have completed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits in official university studies, at least 60 of which must be at master's degree level.

b) Those who hold an official Spanish qualification at graduate level, the duration of which, pursuant to European Community Law, must be at least 300 ECTS credits. These graduates must complete the compulsory background credit referred to by Article 7.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, unless the syllabus of the degree course includes credits for research training, equivalent in educational value to the research credits awarded on master's degree courses.

c) University graduates who, having obtained a place via the corresponding entrance exam for specialised health courses, have successfully completed at least two years of a programme for obtaining the official qualification of any of the specialisations in Health Sciences.

d) Those who hold a qualification obtained via foreign education systems, without the need for official recognition, subsequent to verification by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies that said qualification accredits a level of education equivalent to that of an official Spanish University Master's Degree and which, in the country in which the qualification was awarded, entitles the holder to gain access to doctoral studies. Such admission shall in no case imply the official recognition of the previous qualification held by the interested party, or its recognition for purposes other than that of access to doctoral studies.

e) Those who hold another Spanish doctoral qualification obtained pursuant to previous university regulations.

**Article 8.- Criteria for selection and admission to a doctoral programme**

1. Notwithstanding that which is established in Article 7 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, selection and admission to a doctoral programme is subject to the following rules:

a) Selection for a doctoral programme shall be carried out by the academic committee of the corresponding doctoral programme.

To perform the selection, the academic committee shall use the criteria previously established in the verification specifications which must take into account, without prejudice to other matters, the following:

a.1) An assessment of the academic curriculum.

a.2) An appraisal of the merits of special relevance or significance with regard to the doctoral programme applied for.

a.3) Any other criterion or procedure previously explained and reasoned that, in the opinion of the academic committee, allows verification of the suitability of the applicant to complete said studies.

b) The ruling regarding admission to a doctoral programme shall be issued by the vice-chancellor, at the proposal of the academic committee of the corresponding doctoral programme and without prejudice to the delegations of authority or signature that may be issued in favour of the deans of the centres or the directors of the schools for doctoral studies.

2. Admission to doctoral programmes may include the requirement for specific compulsory background credit, the design of which must be included in the corresponding verification specifications and completion of which shall not count for the purposes of the limit established for its duration in Article 3.2 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January. For the purposes of public prizes and the award of grants and study aids, said background credit shall have the consideration of education at doctoral level.

3. The lists of those admitted to the doctoral programme shall be published on the TOUM (official notice board) of the University of Murcia. Other means of publication may be established by a resolution of the vice-chancellor.

4. The admission procedure shall be subject to that which is established in the admission and enrolment regulations and instructions of the University of Murcia approved for the academic year in question.

5. In the case of students with special educational needs deriving from a disability, the systems and procedures for selection and admission must include the appropriate support and assessment services, which shall assess the need for possible curricular or itinerary adaptations or alternative studies.

#### **Article 9.- Enrolment.**

1. Students admitted onto a doctoral programme shall enrol annually at the University of Murcia, for the concept of academic tutoring of the doctorate. In the event of joint doctorates with another university or institution authorised for such purpose, the agreement shall determine the form in which enrolment will take place.

2. Enrolment shall be completed at the management unit authorised for such purpose, pursuant to the requirements established in the complementary rules and instructions for admission and enrolment approved by the University of Murcia for each academic year.

#### **Article 10.- Rights and duties of doctoral students.**

1. A doctoral student is deemed to be a person who, subsequent to proof of compliance with the requirements established in Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, has been accepted and has enrolled on a doctoral programme.

2. Doctoral students have the following rights:

a) The rights common to university students and the rights specific to doctoral students established in the University Students' Statute, approved by Royal Decree 1791/2010, of 30 December.

b) The rights that, in their capacity as students of the University of Murcia, are recognised in the Statutes of the University of Murcia, insofar as they are applicable to students of the third cycle.

3. Doctoral students have the following duties:

a) Those of a general nature established in Article 13 of the University Students' Statute and in the Statutes of the University of Murcia, insofar as they are applicable to doctoral students.

b) Those that specifically result from the contractual legal system to which they are subject, if applicable.

4. In particular, doctoral students, as third cycle students, are subject to the following specific duties:

a) To complete the educational activities and research seminars established in the doctoral programme.

b) To present the work completed to the supervisor, in the format and with the frequency previously agreed, and to present the manuscript of the thesis to the supervisor for final review, sufficiently in advance of the date agreed for submission.

c) To consult with their supervisor prior to performing any other additional activity in the university, in order to jointly assess the possible repercussions of this on the student's dedication to the doctoral thesis.

d) To comply with occupational safety requirements or any other specific requirements of the place where the research is carried out.

e) To comply with the ethical rules established by the university.

f) To complete, if applicable, the specific compulsory background credit included in the specifications of the programme.

#### **Article 11.- Tutoring of the thesis.**

1. Once students have been admitted onto the doctoral programme and their enrolment has been verified, the academic committee responsible for the programme must assign a tutor to each student. The academic committee, after a hearing with the student and, if applicable, the tutor, may modify the appointment of the tutor at any time during the period of completion of the doctorate, provided that the reasons are justified.

2. The tutor must be a doctor and a lecturer of the doctoral programme with proven research experience, connected to the university unit or school that organises the programme. The tutor is responsible for safeguarding the student's interaction with the corresponding academic committee.

3. The duties of the tutor are as follows:

a) To review the student's personal activity document regularly, together with the thesis supervisor.

b) To approve, together with the thesis supervisor and prior to completion of the first year, the research plan prepared by the student.

c) To sign the commitment document, together with the university, the student and the supervisor.

d) To issue annually and communicate to the academic committee the report contemplated in Article 11.7 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

4. The work of the student's tutor shall be recognised as part of the teaching and research work of teaching staff in the terms established in the rules for the assessment of the activities of University of Murcia teaching staff.

#### **Article 12.- Thesis supervision.**

1. In a period of three months from enrolment, the academic committee responsible for the programme must assign a doctoral thesis supervisor to each student. The thesis supervisor may be the same person as the tutor. The academic committee, after a hearing with the student, the supervisor and the tutor, may modify the appointment of doctoral thesis supervisor for a student at any time during the completion period of the doctorate, provided that the reasons are justified.

2. The thesis supervisor or co-supervisor may be any doctor, Spanish or foreign, who has proven research experience and a minimum of three years at the level of doctor, regardless of the university, centre or institution where he/she provides his/her services. Professors emeritus may co-supervise doctoral theses.

3. The academic committee of the doctoral programme or, if applicable, the school for doctoral studies, may establish additional requirements, which must be published, for the position of thesis supervisor or co-supervisor.

4. Subsequent to authorisation by the academic committee, the thesis may be co-supervised by other doctors owing to reasons of an academic nature, such as the case of interdisciplinary topics or programmes developed with national or international cooperation. The authorisation to intervene as a co-supervisor and the corresponding appointment may be revoked by the academic committee at any time during the completion of the programme, subsequent to a hearing of the student, the tutor and the co-supervisors, if there are justified reasons for this, such as the lack of benefit of the co-supervision to the development of the thesis.

5. In the event of jointly-supervised theses, the maximum number of supervisors shall be three, of which only two may be from the same university or institution. The decisions and reports of the co-supervisors must be adopted and issued unanimously.

6. The thesis supervisor is supremely responsible for ensuring the coherence and suitability of the educational activities, the impact and innovative nature of the theme of the doctoral thesis in its field and for providing guidance in planning and adaptation, if applicable, to that of other projects and activities for which the student is enrolled.

7. Without prejudice to other duties, the thesis supervisor is responsible for the following:

a) Reviewing the student's personal activity document regularly, together with the tutor.

b) Approving, together with the tutor and prior to the end of the first year, the research plan prepared by the student.

c) Signing the commitment document together with the university, the student and the tutor.

d) Issuing annually and communicate to the academic committee the report contemplated in Article 11.7 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

e) Approving the stay and activities required for the inclusion, if applicable, of the mention "International Doctoral Research Component" pursuant to Article 15.1.a of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

8. Without prejudice to other duties, the thesis supervisor is responsible for the following:

a) Assisting the student in defining the theme of his/her doctoral research which shall culminate in the doctoral thesis.

b) Helping the student to confront the different aspects related with the research and to establish the specific details with regard to such research, as well as the means required and, if applicable, the design of experiments.

c) Indicating to the student those educational activities that are most suitable for the research.

d) Communicating to the student any rule or ethical aspect that may bear a relationship with the research.

e) Establishing the programme for supervision of the research work undertaken and to schedule regular meetings.

f) Reading, correcting and commenting on the thesis manuscript, in the successive versions, prior to the date agreed for submission.

g) Knowing the administrative and academic requirements for the defence of the thesis and the deadlines corresponding to the entire process, and ensuring that the student is aware of them.

9. The supervision of theses shall be recognised as part of the teaching and research work of teaching staff in the terms established in the regulations for the assessment of the activities of University of Murcia teaching staff.

**Article 13.- Record of activities.**

1. After enrolment on the programme, a personal activity document must be prepared for each student for the purpose of the individual control record referred to by Article 2.5 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January. Such document must record all the activities of interest for the completion of the doctorate according to the rules of the university, the school or the academic committee itself and it must be reviewed regularly by the tutor and the thesis supervisor and assessed by the academic committee responsible for the doctoral programme.

2. The personal activity document must be prepared according to the form designed for such purpose pursuant to a ruling by the vice-chancellor.

**Article 14.- Monitoring.**

1. Prior to completion of the first year, the student must prepare a research plan, in accordance with the form designed for such purpose, approved by the tutor and by the supervisor. The student may improve and add to the research plan throughout the completion of the programme and it must include at least the following sections:

a) Identification details of the student and the supervisor or co-supervisors of the proposed thesis.

b) Title of the proposed thesis.

c) Summary of the proposal.

d) Contemplated aims.

e) Work schedule with an estimation of the time span and means to achieve the objectives proposed and with express mention, if applicable, of the specific background credit that must be completed.

f) Methodology to be used.

g) Bibliography.

2. The academic committee of the programme shall assess the research plan and the activity document annually, together with the reports that must be issued for such purpose by the tutor and the supervisor. The results of the assessment, positive or negative, signed by the chair of the committee, shall be included in the student's academic record. Positive assessment is an indispensable requirement for continuation on the programme. In the event of a negative assessment, which must be duly reasoned, the student shall be assessed again in the term of six months, for which purpose he/she must prepare a new research plan. In the event of another negative assessment, the student shall be withdrawn from the plan definitively. To this end, the vice-

chancellor shall issue the appropriate ruling, at the proposal of the academic committee responsible for the doctoral programme and subsequent to a hearing with the student and the report of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

**Article 15.- Commitment document.**

1. The duties of supervision of the students are established via a commitment document signed by the deputy vice-chancellor competent for doctoral studies, the student, his/her tutor and his/her supervisor or co-supervisors. The commitment must be signed as soon as possible after admission and enrolment and, in any case, in the maximum term of three months from appointment of the tutor and supervisor.

2. The commitment document must include the unconditional acceptance of the student and the supervisor with regard to the system of respective rights and duties contemplated in these regulations. It must likewise include a procedure for conflict resolution, pursuant to the provisions of Article 16, and must contemplate the aspects relative to intellectual or industrial property rights that may be generated in the scope of the doctoral programme.

3. The commitment document, once signed by the parties, is filed in the student's academic record.

4. The commitment document must comply with the form established by virtue of a ruling by the vice-chancellor.

**Article 16.- Conflict resolution procedure.**

1. In the event of a possible breach of any of the details included in the commitment document or the occurrence of any other disagreement related with the completion of the doctoral programme with regard to each student, any of the parties may communicate this to the doctoral programme coordinator, who shall act as mediator with a view to achieving a unanimous agreement that puts an end to the controversy.

2. If the mediation has not enabled the conflict to be resolved in the term of two months from its communication to the doctoral programme coordinator, it shall be communicated to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, which must issue a ruling in the term of three months, subsequent to a hearing of the parties and of the doctoral programme coordinator.

3. An appeal against the resolution of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies may be brought before the vice-chancellor, in the terms contemplated in the Law 30/1992, of 26 November, on the Legal System of the Public Administrations and Common Administrative Procedure.

## **Chapter II**

### **The doctoral thesis**

**Article 17.- The doctoral thesis.**

The doctoral thesis consists of an original research study conducted by the candidate in any field of knowledge. The thesis must prepare the student to work independently in the scope of R&D.

**Article 18.- Writing of the thesis.**

1. The student may opt to write and, if applicable, defend the thesis in Spanish or in English.

2. At the request of the student, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies may authorise the writing and, if applicable, defence of the thesis in a language other than Spanish or English, if it can be justified that said language is habitually used for scientific communication in the field of knowledge in question. For this, a favourable report is required from the academic committee responsible for the doctoral programme.

3. The request to write and, if applicable, defend the thesis in a language other than Spanish or English must be presented to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies prior to the arrangements for submission of the thesis.

4. As an exception, and without the need for prior authorisation, doctoral theses prepared in the fields of philology other than Spanish or English or of translation and interpretation may be written and, if applicable, defended in the language corresponding to the specialisation in question.

5. The title of the thesis must appear in the original language in which it is written and in Spanish, on the cover and on the title page.

6. If the thesis is written in a language other than Spanish, it must include an abstract in Spanish. This abstract must be at least two thousand words in length and must be bound as part of the thesis.

#### **Article 19.- Format of the doctoral thesis.**

The preparation of the doctoral thesis must comply with the formal requirements determined by virtue of a ruling by the vice-chancellor, which shall establish rules that guarantee uniformity of presentation, title pages, electronic formats of the theses, permissions for access to their contents and any other aspect considered relevant.

#### **Article 20.- The thesis as a compendium of publications.**

1. The option of submitting their thesis in the mode of compendium of publications is available to students who, in the period between the approval of their research plan pursuant to Article 11.6 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, and the submission of their thesis and with the express authorisation of their thesis supervisor or co-supervisors, have had a minimum number of three studies published or accepted in journals indexed in international databases of recognised prestige or in scientific journals or published books of justified importance, according to the quality guidelines established by the National Agency for Quality Evaluation and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) for each of the five academic disciplines in the assessment of research activity. Said studies must have intrinsic scientific value and, at the same time, must configure scientific unity.

2. Prior to submission of the thesis and together with a favourable and reasoned report by the academic committee of the doctoral programme and the approval of the faculty committee or, if applicable, of the school for doctoral studies, the student must request from the General Committee for Doctoral Studies the authorisation for submission of the doctoral thesis as a compendium of publications.

3. In order to obtain the authorisation of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, the student must provide the following documents:

a) Copies of the studies published.

b) A report by the thesis supervisor, justifying the presentation of the compendium of publications as a doctoral thesis.

c) A report by the student specifying his or her contribution to each article, which shall be approved by the thesis supervisor.

d) Signed documentation which shows:

d.1) The approval of the co-authors of each one of the articles submitted with the submission of the corresponding article by the student for the purpose of formulating the thesis as a compendium of publications.

d.2) The commitment of each of the co-authors not to submit the articles they have co-authored as part of another doctoral thesis.

d.3) The declaration of each one of the co-authors regarding the relevance of the contribution of the student in the research for which the results were included in the articles co-authored.

4. Pursuant to Article 18 regarding the writing of theses and the language thereof is applicable to theses formulated according to the mode of compendium of publications.

5. Theses submitted under the mode of compendium of publications must necessarily contain the following additional sections:

a) A general introduction, which presents the studies and justifies the scientific unity of the thesis.

b) An overall summary of the aims of the research and the final conclusions, which shall unify the partial results presented in each one of the studies.

c) A complete copy of the studies (articles, book chapters, books, etc.). This must include the complete reference of the studies, the personal details of all the authors and of the journal in which they were published. The student must specify his/her contribution to the studies included.

d) Copies of the acceptance letters for the publications that comprise the thesis, in the event of studies pending publication.

6. Each doctoral programme may establish in its specifications any additional criteria considered appropriate for the admission of doctoral theses in the form of a compendium of publications.

7. The co-authors of the studies presented may not be part of the examination board of the thesis.

#### **Article 21. Submission and deposit of the thesis.**

1. Upon completion of the doctoral thesis, the student shall request authorisation for submission by means of a document addressed to the academic committee of the doctoral programme, together with:

a) A favourable report by the thesis supervisor or by all the co-supervisors. Should none of these have an academic connection to the University of Murcia, the favourable report by the tutor shall also be required.

b) A copy of the thesis.

2. Upon request for authorisation, the academic committee of the doctoral programme must:

a) Formulate the proposal of experts in the subject matter who may be part of the board responsible for examining the thesis. This proposal must be accompanied by a reasoned report regarding the suitability of the experts proposed, with an indication of the proposed president and secretary of the

thesis examination board. The academic committee of the doctoral programme or, if applicable, the school for doctoral studies, may establish additional requirements, which must be published, in order to be a member of the board that is to judge the thesis.

b) Request a report from the corresponding faculty committee or, if applicable, the management committee of the school for doctoral studies, regarding the suitability of the experts proposed to form the board that is to judge the thesis.

3. Upon examination of the student's complete academic record, which shall include the activity document, the academic committee of the doctoral programme shall authorise, if applicable, the submission of the thesis, issuing a resolution in the maximum term of one month. Should authorisation be denied, the student may lodge an appeal with the vice-chancellor, who shall rule subsequent to a report by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

4. Upon authorisation for submission of the doctoral thesis, the academic committee of the doctoral programme shall communicate the decision to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies by sending the following documentation:

a) The student's activity document, with the educational activities completed by the student.

b) The report of the faculty committee or of the management committee of the school for doctoral studies regarding the proposed experts who may form the board.

c) The authorisation of the academic committee of the doctoral programme.

5. Upon authorisation for submission of the thesis, the student shall apply to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies for authorisation for its defence, attaching the following documents:

a) A printed copy of the thesis according to the specifications with regard to format, binding and others pursuant to a ruling by the vice-chancellor.

b) A copy of the thesis in open digital format as specified in a ruling by the vice-chancellor.

c) The authorisation of the academic committee responsible for the doctoral programme.

6. Upon verification of receipt of the file, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies must:

a) Verify the formal regularity of the file.

b) Communicate the submission of the thesis to all the doctors of the university community.

c) Ensure, via the competent administrative services, that the copy of the thesis is submitted at the General Library of the University of Murcia for a period of fifteen working days, so that it may be inspected by any doctor. For the purposes of said term of fifteen working days, Saturdays and Sundays, any bank holidays in the municipality of Murcia and the days corresponding to the Christmas, Easter and spring holidays, as well as the month of August, shall be considered non-working days.

7. Upon completion of the regulatory period of public dissemination, and subsequent to communication of the academic committee responsible for the

doctoral programme, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies shall rule on the authorisation for defence of the thesis. For such purpose, it shall consider the administrative or non-academic aspects of the file, unless allegations have been formulated in the period of public dissemination, in which case it shall resolve as it considers legally appropriate, subsequent to a report by the academic committee responsible and subsequent to a hearing with the student. Should authorisation be denied, the student shall be notified and the decision shall be communicated to the thesis supervisor or co-supervisors and the academic committee of the doctoral programme. The student may appeal to the vice-chancellor, who shall rule subsequent to a report by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

8. Upon authorisation for defence of the thesis, no more than six months may elapse between the registration date of the application for submission and the date for the viva.

#### **Article 22. The doctoral thesis examination board<sup>1</sup>**

1. The doctoral thesis examination board is appointed by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, after authorisation for the defence of the thesis, according to the proposal formulated by the academic committee of the doctoral programme and taking into consideration especially that which is reasoned in this respect in the report of the faculty committee or, if applicable, the school for doctoral studies.

2. The doctoral thesis examination board shall comprise three incumbent members (a chair, a secretary and a member) and three alternate members, according to the following criteria:

a) All the members must be doctors, have proven research experience and be specialists in the subject matter to which the thesis refers or in another that bears affinity therewith.

b) The board shall be formed by a majority of members from outside the University or Murcia or the institutions that collaborate with the doctoral school or programme in question.

c) In no case may the tutor, supervisor or co-supervisors of the thesis be part of the board, except in the event of a thesis presented on a joint doctoral programme with a foreign university or universities, for which the requirements contemplated in the corresponding agreement must be met.

d) Lecturers permanently connected to universities or research centres may be part of the boards of doctoral theses, even if they are in a situation of unpaid leave or retirement.

3. In the event of resignation of a member of the board for a justified cause, the chair of the board must proceed to replace such member with the corresponding alternate member.

4. The ruling of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies by which the board is appointed must be notified to the body responsible for the doctoral programme and to the thesis supervisor. The thesis supervisor shall then have a term of seven days in which to deliver the thesis to the members of the board, accompanied by the student's activity document indicated in Article 21.

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<sup>1</sup> The wording of this Article was approved by the Governing Board on 30 April 2015.

### **Article 23. Defence and examination of the doctoral thesis.**

1. The doctoral thesis will be examined at the viva.

2. The viva for the thesis:

a) Must take place on a day or days considered working days according to the academic calendar of the University of Murcia.

b) Must be called by the chair of the board and communicated by its secretary to the other members, to the student and to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies at least seven days in advance of the viva, pursuant to the definition established in Article 21.6.c.

2. Once the board has been constituted, the defence and examination must take place in a public session and will consist of the presentation by the student of the work performed, the methodology, the contents and the conclusions, with special mention of his/her original contributions.

3. The student's educational activity document may not give rise to a quantitative score, but may constitute an instrument of qualitative assessment that complements the examination of the doctoral thesis.

4. The members of the board may formulate any questions they consider appropriate, which the student must answer. Likewise, the doctors present at the viva may formulate questions at the time and in the manner stated by the chair of the board.

5. Upon completion of the defence and discussion of the thesis, each member of the board must issue a report on it in writing.

6. The board shall issue a report and the overall grade given to the thesis according to the following scale: Fail, pass, good and very good.

7. The board may grant the mention "cum laude" if the overall qualification is distinction and if, by means of specific voting, the positive secret ballot is unanimously cast in this respect. The vote issued by each member of the board shall be safeguarded by the secretary of the board. The board must proceed to examine the secret votes cast in this respect at a different meeting.

8. The result of the examination must be included in the minutes which shall be addressed to the deputy vice-chancellor's office competent for doctoral studies, and it shall include the results of the examination and be accompanied by the votes cast.

### **Article 24. Remote intervention at the viva by the student, via electronic media.**

1. Exceptionally, and subject to the discretionary appreciation and prior approval of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, the thesis may be defended by the student remotely, without his/her physical presence at the place where the board has met. In this case, the student will intervene by means of telecommunication technologies such as videoconferencing or others that allow the necessary immediacy and simultaneous exchange of information via image and sound and, if applicable, the transmission of other data.

2. For this purpose, upon authorisation of the defence and the appointment of the examination board, the student must send an application to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, at least one month in advance of the date set for the viva. The application must be accompanied by documentation justifying the following circumstances:

a) That the habitual place of residence or professional occupation of the student is in a place from which travel is especially onerous in financial terms or that the student is affected by a pathology or disability that seriously hinders or impedes such travel.

b) The approval of the university or higher education or research institution from the premises of which, and by virtue of the technical resources of which, the intervention is to take place.

c) **That the** technical resources enabled for such purpose by the institution from which the intervention of the student is to take place meet the technical specifications stated for such purpose by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

3. The General Committee for Doctoral Studies must rule on the application within ten days. An appeal against the denial may be brought before the vice-chancellor, although the appeal shall in no case suspend the process.

4. Upon authorisation of the remote intervention of the student, this must be communicated without delay to the latter and to the board, as well as to the administrative unit responsible for providing the necessary technical assistance.

5. On the date and at the time stated, the student must appear before the board by virtue of the appropriate technical media for remote communication. The board must then confirm the identity of the student, for which purpose it may rely on its members knowing him/her personally or on specific accreditation given for such purpose by the institution from where the intervention takes place. Signing of the certificate of reading must take place pursuant to the general instructions issued for such purpose by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

6. The supervening occurrence of technical impediments authorises the chair of the board to suspend the viva for the time strictly necessary for its recommencement. The chair of the board shall likewise resolve as applicable at his/her best discretion, regarding any technical incidents that may interfere with the performance of the viva.

7. **The** defence of the thesis by the student pursuant to this article is otherwise subject to the same requirements and produces the same effects as defence with personal attendance.

**Article 25. Remote intervention at the viva by members of the examination board, via electronic media.**

1. In the same exceptional conditions as those stated in Article 24, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies may agree that a maximum of one member of the board, who may not be the chair or the secretary, may attend the viva by electronic media.

2. For this purpose, the interested party must address an application to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies via, if applicable, the chair of the board, at least one month in advance of the date set for the viva.

3. The application must be based on any justified cause of relevant professional occupation, pathology, disability or special expense of the travel from a financial point of view.

4. The General Committee for Doctoral Studies shall rule and proceed in similar terms to those stated in Article 24. Should more than one application have been made, authorisation will be given, if applicable, to the one considered

a priority owing to personal and professional circumstances.

5. Pursuant to the general instructions to be prepared for such purpose by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, the board must adopt appropriate measures to confirm the identity of the interested party and so that the signing of the certificate of the viva, the preparation of the report that the board must issue and the secret ballot can be verified adequately and remain, if applicable, at the disposal of the secretary of the board.

**Article 26. Filing of doctoral theses.**

1. Upon approval of the doctoral thesis, the university will file it in open electronic format in the institutional DIGITUM repository and will send a copy thereof, in electronic format, together with all the complementary information that may be necessary, to the Ministry competent for university matters and for the appropriate purposes.

2. For the purposes of filing and conservation, a printed copy and a digital copy of each doctoral thesis approved must be kept in the General Library of the University of Murcia. Furthermore, the corresponding file of the thesis should be sent to the Ministry competent for university matters, pursuant to that which is established by regulation.

**Article 27. Doctoral theses under joint supervision.**

Doctoral theses under joint supervision shall be governed by that which is established in the Regulations for the joint supervision of doctoral theses, approved by the Governing Body of the University of Murcia, in the meeting of 26 November 2010, and the rules by which they are implemented, amended or replaced.

### **Chapter III**

#### **Extraordinary prizes and other honorary mentions**

**Article 28. Extraordinary doctoral prizes.**

1. Doctoral theses that possess exceptional merits may opt for an extraordinary doctoral prize in the programme in which they have been read.

2. **One** extraordinary prize may be awarded per ten doctoral theses, or fraction of ten comprising five or more, that have been read in the corresponding period. When the minimum number of theses is not submitted an extraordinary doctoral prize may be awarded every two years. In no case may the number of prizes be increased, or accumulated with those of other programmes, or those of previous programmes that have been declared void. Prizes may not be awarded ex aequo.

3. Only those theses that, among those read within the programme, have obtained "cum laude" may opt for the extraordinary prize.

4. The extraordinary doctoral prize may not be opted for by theses presented under joint supervision pursuant to the Regulations for Joint Supervision of Doctoral Theses of the University of Murcia, when the thesis has been defended at the foreign university and in the event of participation on the examination board of the person or persons who have performed the supervision or co-supervision of the thesis.

**Article 29. Calls and presentation of candidates.**

1. At the end of each academic year, the academic committee of the doctoral programme must open a call aimed at the presentation of doctoral

theses for the extraordinary prize. The call must be published on the Official Notice Board of the University of Murcia (TOUM), via the deputy vice-chancellor's office with authority with regard to the doctorate or, if applicable, via the school for doctoral studies.

2. The call must state the criteria for the evaluation of the merits. These must be at least the following:

a) A report prepared by the candidate, with the approval of the supervisor or co-supervisors of the thesis, which must highlight the main contributions of the work, the most relevant findings and the possible repercussions that justify the award of the extraordinary prize.

b) The scientific production deriving from the thesis submitted.

c) A confidential report prepared by the members of the board and addressed to the deputy vice-chancellor's office with authority with regard to the doctorate, in which they record their reasoned opinion regarding the appropriateness of awarding the extraordinary prize to the thesis that they have examined, according to the original elements and the contributions made in the corresponding area of knowledge or discipline.

3. The confidential report prepared by the members of the board will be issued in the same conditions as those contemplated in Article 23.7 and, if applicable, in Article 25 for the case of remote intervention of a member of the board.

### **Article 30. Composition of the committee for the assessment of extraordinary prizes.**

1. The candidacies for the award of the extraordinary doctoral prize are evaluated by a specific committee for each call, formed by three, five or seven members. The members of the committee are appointed by the drawing of lots from among the lecturers that are part of the doctoral programme and who have not been tutors or supervisors of the theses opting for the extraordinary prize.

2. The members of the committee, at their first meeting, shall elect from their members a chair and a secretary, who must take minutes with the approval of the chair.

3. Each member of the committee has one vote and the president does not have the casting vote.

### **Article 31. International doctoral research component of the degree certificate.**

1. Pursuant to Article 15 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, the doctoral certificate may include on its obverse side the mention "International doctoral research component" provided that the following circumstances apply:

a) During the study period necessary for the obtaining of the degree of doctor, the student must have spent at least three months at a prestigious higher education institution or research centre outside Spain, taking a course or conducting research. The stay and the activities must be endorsed by the supervisor and authorised by the academic committee, and shall be added to the student's activity document. The stay may be undertaken over different periods, provided that each stay is for a minimum of one month.

b) Part of the doctoral thesis, at least the abstract and the conclusions, must be written and submitted in a language that is customarily used for

scientific communication in the field of knowledge, other than any of the official languages of Spain. This rule shall not apply when the stays were taken in, and the reports and experts are from, a Spanish-speaking country.

c) At least two expert doctors belonging to a higher education institution or research institute outside Spain must have submitted a report on the thesis. Said reports must include the suitability of the thesis to be considered for a doctorate.

d) At least one expert doctor who belongs to a higher education institution or research centre outside Spain, other than the coordinator of the stay referred to in the first section, must have been a member of the thesis examination board.

2. For the administration of the mention of international doctoral research component, the interested parties must present when submitting the thesis:

a) An application, pursuant to the form approved by a ruling of the vice-chancellor, with the approval of the programme coordinator.

b) The reports contemplated in section 1. c), with a certified translation into Spanish, if applicable.

c) Certificate of the stay referred to in section 1. a) issued by the host institution or centre, with a certified translation into Spanish.

3. The General Committee for Doctoral Studies shall assess the documents presented and, if applicable, shall authorise the handling of the thesis with the mention.

4. The thesis must be defended at the Spanish university at which the student was enrolled or, in the case of joint doctoral programmes, at any of the participating universities or in the terms set forth in the appropriate collaboration agreement.

5. Upon completion of the defence, the secretary of the doctoral thesis examination board must certify that the board has been constituted pursuant to the requirements established in this article.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Doctoral studies bodies**

#### **Article 32. Determination of the doctoral studies bodies.**

The following are the doctoral studies bodies of the University of Murcia:

- a) General Committee for Doctoral Studies.
- b) Committees of every field of study.
- c) Academic committee of each doctoral programme.
- d) Doctoral programme coordinators.
- e) International School for Doctoral Studies of the University of Murcia.

#### **Article 33. General Committee for Doctoral Studies.**

1. The General Committee for Doctoral Studies comprises:

- a) The deputy vice-chancellor with authority regarding the third cycle or the civil servant to whom he/she delegates, who will be the chair.
- b) The deputy vice-chancellor with authority with regard to research.
- c) The chairs of the faculty committees.
- d) The director or directors, as applicable, of the schools for doctoral

studies.

e) If applicable, the coordinator responsible for doctoral studies, who will act as secretary.

f) A representative of the Academic Management Area.

2. The duties of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies are the following:

a) To establish the general criteria that are to govern the actions of the committees of field of study.

b) To report on the proposals for new doctoral programmes, formulated by the schools for doctoral studies or by the centres.

c) To authorise the defence of the doctoral theses, subsequent to authorisation by the academic committee of the doctoral programme and appointment of the thesis examination board, pursuant to Articles 21 and 22

d) To propose the common admission and enrolment periods relating to doctoral studies.

e) To ensure compliance with the terms established in these regulations which are necessary to proceed to the reading of the doctoral thesis.

f) To report on the framework rules applicable to the award of extraordinary doctoral prizes, prior to their approval, if applicable, by the Governing Board.

g) To resolve, subsequent to a report by the corresponding faculty committee, regarding the applications for verification of qualifications obtained pursuant to university systems outside the European Higher Education Area that, without the need for official recognition, accredit a level of training equivalent to the official Spanish degrees and which would serve as a means of access to postgraduate study in the country in which they were awarded; or those corresponding to the official Spanish master's degree and which would serve as a means of access to doctoral studies in the country in which they were awarded.

h) To resolve the incidents, proceedings or matters that are not attributed to a school for doctoral studies or a faculty committee or which exceed the scope thereof, or which are shared by two or more of such committees, as well as any other matter that may be submitted to its consideration.

i) Any other matter that may be attributed to it by legislation or, in the framework thereof, by the governing bodies of the University.

#### **Article 34. Committees of field of study.**

1. On the basis of the provisions of appendix II of Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October, five faculty committees are constituted at the University of Murcia: Arts and Humanities; Sciences; Engineering and Architecture; Health Sciences; and Social and Legal Sciences.

2. The faculty committees are formed by seven members, all doctors and university lecturers, belonging to disciplines covered by the corresponding group pursuant to Appendix I of these regulations. They are elected for a term of four years by and from among the doctors who lecture in the corresponding group who have completed at least one six-year research period.

3. Each faculty committee elects from among its members a chair, who must have completed at least two recognised six-year research periods, and a secretary. The duration of their term of office shall be subject to the system contemplated for elected offices, in general, in the Statutes of the University of

Murcia.

4. The duties of the faculty committees are as follows:

a) To report on the doctoral programmes for their subsequent approval, if applicable, by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, in the event that the programme has not been proposed by a school for doctoral studies.

b) To issue a report on equivalent educational level for access to official master's degrees or doctoral studies for qualifications awarded for university studies outside the European Higher Education Area.

c) To issue a report prior to authorisation for submission of the doctoral thesis, including their reasoned opinion regarding the proposal for appointment of the board that is to examine the thesis.

d) Any other matter that may be assigned to them by legislation, by the governing bodies of the University of Murcia or by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

5. Any controversies that may arise regarding the classification of a specific specialisation as appertaining to one or another faculty committee shall be subject to a ruling by the Governing Board, subsequent to a report by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

**Article 35. Academic committee of the doctoral programme.**

1. Each doctoral programme must have an academic committee, comprised as follows:

a) The chair, who shall be the coordinator of the doctoral programme appointed by the vice-chancellor, pursuant to that which is established in Article 8.4 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

b) A maximum of six incumbent members and two alternate members, elected by and from among the doctors who are part of the programme. To be eligible it is necessary to meet the conditions necessary to be a doctoral thesis supervisor, pursuant to Articles 12.2 and 12.3

c) One representative of the centre or of the school for doctoral studies who meets the same conditions of aptitude as those required to supervise doctoral theses.

The following shall attend meetings as guests, with the right to speak but not to vote:

- One students' representative.

- Representation of the companies and institutions involved in the programme, if applicable.

2. Where required by the dimensions and complexity of the programme, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies may authorise the inclusion of a higher number of members on the academic committee.

3. The members indicated in paragraph b shall hold office for a term of four years. After the first two years half of the members shall be renewed by a resolution of the committee itself. If no agreement is reached, lots shall be drawn. Adequate representation must be sought in the composition of this group by means of the proportional participation of the different departments, centres or university research institutes that intervene in the programme.

4. The students' representative shall hold office for a period of two years.

5. All the members of the academic committee, who act in representation of the different departments or institutes, must be listed in the specifications of

the qualification, and they must be dedicated full time to the University of Murcia with a permanent connection.

6. The duties of the academic committee of each doctoral programme are the following:

a) To assist the doctoral programme coordinator in the management of the programme.

b) To approve the proposal for the selection of students.

c) To authorise extensions to the term of three years for completion of the thesis.

d) To authorise part-time studies.

e) To authorise temporary leave from the programme that may be requested by the students.

f) To assign a tutor to each student, after admission to the programme.

g) To assign a thesis supervisor or co-supervisors to each student in the maximum term of three months from enrolment on the programme.

h) Subsequent to a hearing with the student, the supervisor and the tutor, to amend the appointment of the doctoral thesis supervisor at any time during the period of completion of the doctorate, provided the reasons are justified.

i) To assess the research plan and the activity document of the students annually, together with the reports that must be issued for such purpose by the tutor and the supervisor.

j) To authorise the submission of the doctoral thesis.

k) To formulate the proposal for the appointment of members of the thesis examination board.

l) To establish the criteria for the use of the economic resources allocated to the funding of the doctoral programme, pursuant to the guidelines established by the University.

m) To appoint the subcommittees it deems appropriate for the optimum functioning of the doctoral studies offered, the activities and proposals of which shall be subject to approval by the academic committee.

n) To analyse, in cooperation with the quality coordinator of the centre, the results of the programme indicated by the quality assurance system and report to the quality assurance committee of the centre.

o) Whatsoever other matters as may be assigned to it pursuant to the applicable regulations or by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

#### **Article 36. Doctoral programme coordinators.**

1. Each doctoral programme must have a coordinator. The coordinator is appointed by the vice-chancellor, after a hearing with the academic committee; or by an agreement among vice-chancellors, in the event of joint programmes; or, if applicable, pursuant to that indicated in the agreement with other institutions when a doctorate is developed in cooperation.

2. The doctoral programme coordinator must be a relevant researcher, who must previously have supervised at least two doctoral theses and who can justify the completion of at least two recognised periods of research activity pursuant to the provisions of Royal Decree 1086/1989, of 28 August, on the remuneration of university teaching staff. Should said researcher hold a position that is not subject to the aforementioned assessment criterion, he/she must have proven

merits equivalent to those stated, appreciation of which corresponds to the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

3. The duties of the doctoral programme coordinator are the following:

- a) To act in representation of the respective academic committee.
- b) To report to the corresponding centre regarding the planning of the doctoral programme.
- c) To chair the academic committee of the corresponding doctoral programme.
- d) To communicate to the management unit authorised for such purpose, within the established periods, the list of students accepted on the doctoral programme.
- e) To coordinate the development and monitoring of the programme.
- f) To assist the quality coordinator of the centre in the processes for quality assessment of the qualification.
- g) To disseminate among the teaching staff of the doctoral programme any relevant information relative to its academic management.
- h) Any other matters that may be assigned to him/her by the applicable regulations or by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

**Article 37. School(s) for doctoral studies.**

1. Pursuant to Article 9 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, in the Statutes of the University of Murcia, approved by Decree 85/2004, of 27 August, and in the Law 3/2005, of 25 April, on Universities of the Region of Murcia, the University of Murcia shall adopt the necessary measures and shall obtain the required authorisations if applicable in order to create at least one School for Doctoral Studies, for the purpose of organising, within the scope of its management, the studies and activities inherent to the doctorate, corresponding to the doctoral programmes offered thereat.

2. Each of these structures shall have internal regulations which shall establish, among other aspects, the rights and duties of the students, pursuant to the University Students' Statute, approved by Royal Decree 1791/2010, of 30 December, and those of the tutors and the thesis supervisors, as well as the composition and duties of the academic committees and their programmes. The internal regulations shall be approved, if applicable, by the Governing Board at the proposal of the General Committee for Doctoral Studies of the University of Murcia.

3. The School shall draw up and adopt a code of good practices. All members of the school must sign their commitment to compliance with the code of good practices adopted.

4. Other universities, organisations, centres, institutions and entities with R&D activities, public or private, national or foreign, may participate in or cooperate with the School. Participation by these bodies shall require the approval of the Governing Board, subsequent to a report by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies.

5. The School shall plan the necessary supply of activities inherent to the training and development of the students. Its training strategy with regard to the doctorate shall in all cases be linked to its research strategy.

6. The School and the programmes ascribed thereto must guarantee leadership and a sufficient critical mass of lecturing doctors and of students in the scope of its knowledge.

7. To ascribe a doctoral programme to a School the following shall be valued as a priority:

a) That all participating lecturers have proven research experience.

b) That the lecturers who participate prove public or private funding in their lines of research and quality scientific production. It shall be positively assessed that research groups participating in a programme have at least one competitive project (at international, national or regional level) in the topics of the lines of research of the programme. Funding for one programme may not be used in the proposal of any other. In order for funding to be accepted as ascribed to a programme, the lead researcher or person responsible must be a lecturer on said programme or on the staff of a body that collaborates therewith.

c) That among the lecturers of each doctoral programme there are at least five who comply with the minimum requirements established to be a coordinator of a doctoral programme pursuant to Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

d) As a general rule, no lecturer of a doctoral programme ascribed to a School may participate in other doctoral programmes of the school itself or of the University of Murcia. When there are reasons that justify this, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies may waive the application of this limitation. This authorisation shall not be necessary in the event of participation in inter-university doctoral programmes.

8. The following shall also be valued:

a) That the lines of research of the programme include the participation of national and international external teaching staff of recognised prestige, who are supported by accredited research.

b) That it is an inter-university programme that represents a relevant critical mass within an entire area of knowledge.

c) That it is an international programme with the presence of universities of recognised prestige.

9. Pursuant to the Statutes of the University of Murcia and the Law 3/2005, of 25 April, and the regulations by which it is implemented, the School for Doctoral Studies may include studies leading to official master's degrees with fundamentally scientific contents, as well as other open activities for research training.

**Article 38. Management committee of the school(s) for doctoral studies.**

1. The school shall have a management committee, which shall perform the duties relative to the organisation and management of the school and which shall be formed by, as a minimum, the director of the school, the coordinators of its doctoral programmes and representatives of the cooperating bodies.

2. The management committee shall also include representatives of the Research Committee; the deputy vice-chancellor's office responsible for international relations; the deputy vice-chancellor's office responsible for

doctoral studies; doctoral students, who must be on competitive scholarship programmes at a regional, national or international level; and, the administration and services personnel linked to the school.

3. The director of the School shall be appointed by the vice-chancellor, or at the consensus of the vice-chancellors when various universities participate in the school. He/she must be a researcher of recognised prestige who belongs to the University of Murcia. This condition must be supported by proof of completion of at least three periods of research activity recognised pursuant to the provisions of Royal Decree 1086/1989, of 28 August.

**Single additional provision. Admission to doctoral studies established in Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.**

1. Pursuant to the second additional provision of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, students who began their doctoral programme pursuant to university regulations in force prior to Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, may have access to the doctoral studies regulated in said Royal Decree subject to acceptance by the University of Murcia.

2. Likewise, graduates, architects or engineers in possession of the diploma for advanced studies obtained pursuant to that set forth in Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April, or those who have obtained the research sufficiency regulated by Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January, may be admitted to the doctoral studies regulated by Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

**First transitional provision. Students pursuant to previous regulations.**

1. Pursuant to the first transitional provision of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, students who on the date of entry into force of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, had commenced doctoral studies pursuant to previous regulations, shall be subject to the application of the provisions regulating the doctorate and the issue of the degree certificate under which they commenced such studies. In any case, as of 12 February the system contained in Chapter II of these regulations shall be applicable.

2. In any case, those who upon entry into force of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, are completing doctoral studies, have five years in which to submit and defend their doctoral theses. Upon completion of such term, students who have not produced their theses shall be definitively withdrawn from the programme.

**Second transitional provision. Doctoral programmes verified previously or currently being processed.**

Prior to commencement of the 2013-2014 academic year, the doctoral programmes already verified pursuant to Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October, must be adapted to that set forth in Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, and in these regulations, and they must be verified pursuant to Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January. In any case, programmes originating under Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October, must be completely withdrawn prior to 30 September 2017.

**Third transitional provision. International doctoral research component of theses originating in doctoral programmes verified pursuant to Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October.**

The requirements for inclusion on the certificate of the mention "International Doctoral Research Component" for theses originating in doctoral programmes verified pursuant to Royal Decree 1393/2007, of 29 October, shall be those contemplated in these regulations.

**Fourth transitional provision. Extraordinary doctoral prizes pursuant to previous regulations.**

In the event of programmes governed by royal decrees 778/1998, of 30 April; 56/2005, of 21 January; and, 1393/2007, of 29 October, extraordinary doctoral prizes shall be regulated by the Regulations for the Official University Studies of Master's and Doctor's Degrees of the University of Murcia, approved by the Governing Board at its meeting on 23 May 2008 (amended at meetings of 18 December 2008 and 6 July 2009).

**Fifth transitional provision. Initial assessment of doctoral programmes for their incorporation in school(s) of doctoral studies.**

From the creation of the School and until the constitution of its management committee, the General Committee for Doctoral Studies of the University shall assess the programmes to be registered at the school.

**Sixth transitional provision.- Procedures commenced prior to entry into force.**

The regulatory amendment performed pursuant to Article 28.4 shall not be applicable to theses under joint supervision for which the joint supervision agreement was signed prior to entry into force of these regulations.

**Single repealing provision.- Repeal of regulations.**

The Regulations on Official University Studies of Master's and Doctor's Degrees of the University of Murcia, approved by the Governing Board on 23 May 2008 (amended at meetings of 18 December 2008 and 6 July 2009) are repealed with regard to the doctorate and without prejudice to the transitional application of their system regarding extraordinary doctoral prizes pursuant to that contemplated in the fourth transitional provision.

**First final provision.- Amendment of the Regulations for assessment of the activity of University of Murcia teaching staff.**

The following points are added to Appendix 2 paragraph b of the Regulations for the assessment of the activity of University of Murcia teaching staff, approved by the Governing Board on 29 July 2008:

8) Supervision and monitoring of students in the last academic year (pursuant to RD 99/2011 or subsequent legislation).

For tutors: 0.3 credits per doctoral student. Maximum: 0.6 credits.

For doctoral thesis supervisors: 0.4 credits per student. Maximum: 1.5 credits.

If the supervisor and the tutor coincide, 0.7 shall be counted.

9) Doctoral theses supervised and defended in the last three academic years (pursuant to RD 99/2011 or subsequent legislation): 2 credits per thesis (to be shared between the supervisors). 1 credit shall be added (to be shared between the supervisors) if the thesis includes the mention "International Doctoral Research Component". Maximum: 6 credits.

**Second final provision.- Defence of the thesis in exceptionally confidential circumstances.**

In the term of one year, subsequent to a report by the General Committee for Doctoral Studies, the vice-chancellor shall propose to the Governing Board the regulation of the procedural specialities to be implemented owing to the circumstances contemplated in Article 14.6 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January.

**Third final provision.- Entry into force.**

These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Gazette of the Region of Murcia.

The proposals regarding the board formulated pursuant to that which is established in Article 21.4 of these Regulations shall be governed, as from 1 June 2015, by that which is established in this amendment.

## Appendix I

### Committee of Fields of Study

#### Committee of Arts and Humanities

<b>Code</b>	<b>Area of Study</b>
0010	REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
0030	SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
0033	ARCHEOLOGY
0085	HISTORIOGRAPHIC SCIENCES AND TECHNIQUES
0260	SCULPTURE
0270	AESTHETICS AND THEORY OF ARTS
0285	ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES
0320	GERMAN PHILOLOGY
0335	FRENCH PHILOLOGY
0340	GREEK PHILOLOGY
0350	ITALIAN PHILOLOGY
0345	ENGLISH PHILOLOGY
0355	LATIN PHILOLOGY
0360	ROMANCE PHILOLOGY
0375	PHILOSOPHY
0383	MORAL PHILOSOPHY
0430	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
0435	HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
0445	ANCIENT HISTORY
0450	CONTEMPORARY HISTORY
0455	HISTORY OF AMERICA
0465	HISTORY OF ART
0485	MEDIEVAL HISTORY
0490	MODERN HISTORY
0567	SPANISH LANGUAGE
0575	GENERAL LINGUISTICS
0583	SPANISH LITERATURE
0585	LOGIC AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
0690	PAINTING
0695	PREHISTORY
0796	THEORY OF LITERATURE AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
0814	TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

#### Committee of Sciences

<b>Code</b>	<b>Area of Study</b>
0005	ALGEBRA
0015	MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS
0028	PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
0038	ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS
A819	ANIMAL BIOLOGY
0050	CELL BIOLOGY
A060	BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY A

B060	BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY B
0063	BOTANY
0120	CRYSTALLOGRAPHY AND MINERALOGY
0220	ECOLOGY
A240	PEDOLOGY
0247	ELECTROMAGNETISM
0250	ELECTRONICS
0265	STATISTICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH
0385	APPLIED PHYSICS
0390	ATOMIC, MOLECULAR AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS
0395	CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS
0405	THEORETICAL PHYSICS
0398	PHYSICS OF THE EARTH
0412	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY
0420	GENETICS
0440	GEOMETRY AND TOPOLOGY
0595	APPLIED MATHEMATICS
0630	MICROBIOLOGY
0647	OPTICS
0720	ENGINEERING PROJECTS
0750	ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
B240	AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY
0755	PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY
0760	INORGANIC CHEMISTRY
0765	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
0819	ZOOLOGY

**Committee of Health Sciences**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Area of Study</b>
0020	PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY
A025	VETERINARY PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY
B025	VETERINARY ANATOMY
0025	ANATOMY AND COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY
0027	ANATOMY AND HUMAN EMBRYOLOGY
0090	SURGERY
0183	DERMATOLOGY
0255	NURSING
0275	STOMATOLOGY
0310	PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY
0315	PHARMACOLOGY
A315	PHARMACOLOGY VETERINARY
A410	ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY
B410	HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY
C410	VETERINARY PHYSIOLOGY
0413	PHYSIOTHERAPY
0443	HISTOLOGY

0460	HISTORY OF SCIENCE
0566	IMMUNOLOGY
0610	MEDICINE
0613	LEGAL AND FORENSIC MEDICINE
0615	PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
0617	ANIMAL SURGERY AND MEDICINE
0620	METHODOLOGY OF SCIENCES AND BEHAVIOUR
0640	NUTRITION AND BROMATOLOGY
0645	OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
0646	OPHTHALMOLOGY
A646	OPTOMETRY
A647	OPTOMETRY
0653	OTOLARYNGOLOGY
A050	HUMAN PATHOLOGY
0670	PEDIATRICS
0680	PERSONALITY, EVALUATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT
0700	ANIMAL PRODUCTION
0725	PSYCHOBIOLOGY
0730	BASIC PSYCHOLOGY
0735	EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION
0740	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
0745	PSYCHIATRY
0770	RADIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL MEDICINE
0773	ANIMAL HEALTH
0780	FOOD TECHNOLOGY
0807	TOXICOLOGY
0830	TRAUMATOLOGY AND ORTHOPEDICS
0817	UROLOGY

#### **Committee of Social and Legal Sciences**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Area of Study</b>
0040	LIBRARIANSHIP AND DOCUMENTATION
0070	POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION
0095	MARKETING AND MARKET RESEARCH
0105	AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION AND ADVERTISING
0125	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
0130	CIVIL LAW
0135	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
0140	LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAW
0145	ECCLESIASTICAL LAW OF THE STATE
0150	FINANCE AND TAX LAW
0160	PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
0155	PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW
0165	COMMERCIAL LAW
0170	CRIMINAL LAW
0175	PROCEDURAL LAW

0180	ROMAN LAW
0185	DRAWING
D185	DRAWING (IN DIDACTICS OF PLASTIC EXPRESSION)
B187	DIDACTICS OF CORPORAL EXPRESSION - SAN JAVIER
0189	DIDACTICS OF MUSICAL EXPRESSION
0193	DIDACTICS OF PLASTIC EXPRESSION
B195	LANGUAGE DIDACTICS B (ENGLISH)
C195	LANGUAGE DIDACTICS C (FRENCH)
D195	DIDACTICS OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SPANISH)
0200	DIDACTICS OF MATHEMATICS
0205	DIDACTICS OF EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES
0210	DIDACTICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
0187	DIDACTICS OF CORPORAL EXPRESSION
0215	DIDACTICS AND SCHOOL ORGANIZATION
A225	APPLIED ECONOMICS A
D225	APPLIED ECONOMICS D
0230	FINANCIAL ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING
0245	PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS
0381	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
B230	FINANCE
B650	FINANCE
0415	FUNDAMENTALS OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
C225	FINANCE AND PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS
0480	HISTORY AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS
0470	HISTORY OF LAW AND INSTITUTIONS
B475	HISTORY OF THOUGHT AND OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
0475	HISTORY OF THOUGHT AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POLITICS
0623	QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
0625	RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSIS METHODS IN EDUCATION
0635	MUSIC
0650	BUSINESS ORGANIZATION
0675	JOURNALISM
0775	SOCIOLOGY
0805	THEORY AND HISTORY OF EDUCATION
0813	SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SERVICES

#### **Committee of Engineering and Architecture**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Area of Study</b>
0035	ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY OF COMPUTERS
0075	COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
0305	GRAPHIC EXPRESSION IN ENGINEERING
0500	AGROFORESTRY ENGINEERING
0520	AUTOMATIC AND SYSTEM ENGINEERING
0540	HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING
0545	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

0555 CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
0560 TELEMATICS ENGINEERING  
0570 LANGUAGES AND IT SYSTEMS  
0590 THERMAL MACHINERY AND ENGINES  
0710 PROSPECTING AND MINING RESEARCH  
0785 ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY  
0800 COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNAL THEORY