UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

University Regulations on PhDs in compliance with Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021

English translation of the revised version 2026 – please note that only the Italian version is legally binding

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ART. 1 - Subject matter, scope, and definitions

1. These Regulations govern the establishment and operation of doctoral research programmes at the University of Siena, on the basis of the criteria and parameters established by Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021 on the accreditation of doctoral locations and programmes, and criteria for the establishment of doctoral programmes by accredited bodies.
2. The doctoral programme provides the necessary skills to carry out, at universities, public bodies or private entities, highly qualified research activities, also for the purpose of access to careers in public administrations and the integration of highly innovative professional paths.
3. For the purposes of these Regulations:
   a) University means The University of Siena
   b) MUR means the Italian Ministry for University and Research
   c) ANVUR means the National Agency for the Evaluation of the Universities and Research Institutes.

ART. 2 - Proposal and establishment of doctoral programmes

1. The proposal for the establishment of a doctoral research programme is formulated and presented by one or more departments jointly.
2. Doctoral programmes may also be established in cooperation with other universities and/or public or private bodies, whether Italian or foreign, through specific agreements (stipulation of agreements and establishment of consortia, including "doctoral programmes of national interest" regulated by art. 11 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021).
3. The Board of Directors approves the establishment of a doctoral programme in accordance with the procedure established by the University Academic Regulations, having obtained the opinion of the Academic Senate.

ART. 3 - Accreditation, activation, duration, and operation of doctoral programmes

1. For doctoral programmes whose activation has been approved by the Board of Directors, the application for accreditation shall be submitted to the Ministry in the manner and in compliance with the requirements of the law in force.
2. Doctoral programmes have a minimum duration of three years, subject to any reduction in duration provided for by specific regulations. Programmes generally commence on 1 November of each year.
3. A primary Department shall be designated for each doctoral programme.
4. Within doctoral programmes, specific *curricula* corresponding to broad and clearly defined research areas characterising the programme may be offered upon proposal of the relevant Academic Board.
5. Doctoral programmes may be organised in doctoral schools, which are responsible for coordinating programmes and managing joint activities.
6. Doctoral programmes may be deactivated by Rectoral decree, in accordance with the procedure established by the University Academic Regulations.

ART. 4 - Industrial doctorates

1. On the basis of agreements (agreements or founding documents of consortia) entered into at the time of initial accreditation or subsequently, application may be made for recognition of the status of "industrial doctorate" – including as part of the doctoral programme title – for doctoral programmes established under agreements or consortia involving entities referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2, letter d) of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021 that carry out research and development activities.
2. The agreements referred to in the preceding paragraph shall govern:
   a) the arrangements for coordinating research activities between the parties;
   b) the procedures for conducting research activities within the company, as well as, with regard to

the possible positions filled by employees, the allocation of the employee's overall time commitment and the duration of the doctoral programme;

c) incentive mechanisms to promote technology transfer and the commercialisation of research results by partner enterprises.

3. Industrial doctorate research topics shall place particular emphasis on economic and industrial development, fostering joint design of research activities of doctoral students.
4. Calls for applications for industrial doctoral programmes, in accordance with European guidelines, national development strategies, and the principles set out in Article 1 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, may:
   a) Specify particular requirements for conducting of research activities, such as an interdisciplinary approach, involvement of international networks and cross-sectoral engagement, with particular reference to the business sector;
   b) allocate a proportion of available positions to employees of companies or affiliated entities engaged in highly qualified activities, who are admitted to the doctorate upon passing of the relevant selection process.
5. In any event, the option to establish higher education apprenticeship contracts aimed at industrial doctorate training remains preserved, provided that research activity is guaranteed to predominate. Such apprenticeship contracts are deemed equivalent to doctoral scholarships for the purpose of calculating the minimum number required to activate the programme.

ART. 5 - Doctoral programme bodies

1. The Academic Board and the Coordinator are the bodies of the doctoral programmes.

ART.6 - Academic Board

1. The doctoral Academic Board shall consist of a minimum number of twelve members belonging to scientific disciplines consistent with the educational objectives of the programme. At least half of the Board shall comprise Full Professors and Associate Professors; the remaining portion shall consist of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutes or—in the case of doctoral programmes operated in agreement with public research bodies—Research Directors, Senior Researchers, or Researchers from those institutions, without prejudice to the minimum quota reserved for university professors. In any event, all members of the Academic Board must satisfy the scientific qualification requirements laid down by current legislation for their respective roles (or equivalent to at least Associate Professor level). Members of the Academic Board affiliated with foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum statutory requirements for access to the role of Associate Professor (second-level professor).
2. The Academic Board is responsible for the design and delivery of the doctoral programme. Each member of the Academic Board may serve on only one Academic Board nationwide. Participation in an additional Academic Board is permitted only when it relates to a doctoral programme operated in a joint or associated form, including industrial doctorates and doctoral programmes of national interest.
3. Teaching activities, scientific or corporate tutoring and thesis supervision, when certified and carried out by university professors and researchers within doctoral programmes, shall count towards the fulfilment of the institutional duties pursuant to Article 6 of Law 30 December 2010, no. 240.
4. Academic staff of the University of Siena may join the Academic Board of a doctoral programme hosted by another university with the authorisation of the department of affiliation. For academic staff from other universities, participation in the Academic Board of a doctoral programme hosted by the University of Siena is subject to approval by their home institution, in accordance with current legislation.
5. Certified teaching and tutoring activities carried out by academic staff of the University of Siena in doctoral programmes at other universities shall contribute towards the fulfilment of institutional teaching duties only if prior authorisation has been granted by their department of affiliation.

6. When deliberating on matters concerning the organisation of training activities, the composition of the Academic Board is supplemented by a representation of two Doctoral students, elected in accordance with the provisions of the University Regulations governing the elections to university bodies.
7. The remits and responsibilities of the Academic Board shall include:
   - defining admission criteria and selection methods for doctoral competitions;
   - allocating doctoral scholarships;
   - identifying research topics and appointing supervisors;
   - proposing agreements with other universities, research institutes and enterprises for the funding additional scholarships, and joint thesis supervision (*co-tutelle*);
   - planning individual training and research pathways for each doctoral student;
   - setting the procedures and criteria for the annual review of the activities and research outcomes achieved by doctoral candidates;
   - approving the exclusion of doctoral candidates, subject to the reasoned opinion of the supervisors;
   - authorising remunerated activities compatible with the doctoral programme;
   - authorising periods of study and research abroad;
   - appointing external reviewers of doctoral theses;
   - authorising requests for extensions to thesis submission deadline pursuant to art. 15 paragraph 3;
   - granting extensions to programme duration for justified scientific requirements, pursuant to art. 15, paragraph 4, subject to verifying the availability of dedicated funds;
   - approving the admission of doctoral candidates to the final examination, following positive evaluations by the reviewers, proposing the appointment of the final examination board referred to in art. 15, paragraph 8, and scheduling the date of the final examination.
8. The Academic Board shall be responsible for any other function relating to the operation of the doctoral programme that is not explicitly assigned to another body.

ART. 7 - The Coordinator

1. The coordination of the Academic Board shall be entrusted to a full-time full professor. Where no full professor is available, eligibility shall be extended to full-time associate professors. The coordinator of the doctoral programme must possess high scientific qualifications, demonstrated by meeting the statutory requirements for access to the position of full professor (*professore di prima fascia*).
2. The Coordinator shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the University Electoral Regulations. A Coordinator may serve in this capacity on only one Academic Board nationwide.
3. The Coordinator shall be appointed by a Rectoral decree, shall serve a three-year term and may be re-elected for a maximum of one consecutive term.
4. The Coordinator shall oversee all activities of the doctoral programme and shall convene and chair the Academic Board.

ART. 8 - Assembly of doctoral coordinators

1. An Assembly of doctoral programme coordinators is established at the University, exercising advisory and consultative functions.
2. The Assembly shall be convened and chaired by the Rector or the Rector's delegate.

ART. 9 - Dual enrolment in doctoral programmes and medical specialisation schools

1. Trainees enrolled in a medical specialisation school may be admitted to concurrent enrolment in a doctoral programme, provided that:

   a) they pass the competitive selection process for a doctoral programme offered by the University;

   b) the Medical Specialisation School Board and the doctoral Academic Board certify the compatibility of the activities and overall workload required by both programmes, taking into account the distance

between locations.

2. The Doctoral scholarship is incompatible with any remuneration, however whatever title received, for the activities of the medical specialisation school. Consequently, the resident may receive the doctoral scholarship only during periods in which concurrent enrolment does not apply.
3. In the event of admission to concurrent enrolment, the doctoral candidate may request a reduction in doctoral activities and in the overall duration of the doctoral programme, which shall not, under any circumstances, be less than two years. The request for reduction of doctoral activities shall be granted provided that the doctoral Academic Board deems the research activities already completed during the medical specialisation programme to be consistent with the doctoral project, and that the Medical Specialisation School Board considers the doctoral project compatible with its educational objectives.

ART. 10 - Quality assurance system

1. The quality assurance system of teaching and research in doctoral programmes shall be guaranteed in accordance with the current statutory regulations. Specific University Quality Assurance policies shall be established by the Governing Bodies, in particular by the Board of Directors and the Academic Senate.

ART. 11 - Access to doctoral programmes

1. Admission to doctoral programmes shall be by competitive selection.
2. Applications for doctoral positions may be submitted, without restriction as to citizenship, by individuals holding a master's degree (*laurea magistrale / specialistica)*, a degree obtained under the pre-reform system (v*ecchio ordinamento*), or an equivalent foreign qualification, provided it complies with the requirements set out in the call for applications and is obtained prior to the start of the programme.
3. The suitability of the foreign qualification shall be assessed by the doctoral admission committee, in compliance with applicable Italian legislation, the laws of the issuing country, and international treaties of agreements governing the recognition of qualifications for higher education.
4. Admission to each doctoral programme shall be conducted through the creation of one or more merit ranking lists, according to the following criteria:
   a) a ranking list for general positions not tied to particular lines of research;
   b) a ranking list for each curriculum, where applicable;
   c) a ranking list for each theme/project offered in the call for applications.
   Where separate ranking lists are not required, the committee shall compile a single ranking list. The award of the scholarships shall be approved by the Academic Board.
5. The call for application, drafted in Italian with an abridged version in English, shall be published online on the University website, on the *Euraxess* portal and on the MUR website. It shall specify the admission criteria, evaluation procedures for qualifications, and any written tests, including internationally recognised examinations, or oral examinations required.
6. The call for applications shall specify the number of doctoral scholarships, any other financial support available, and the number of positions without a scholarship, adhering to the requirement that at least 75% of the total positions must be funded.
7. Candidates benefiting from funding under international training and mobility programmes may be admitted as supernumerary candidates without being required to participate in the general selection procedure of pass admission tests, provided they have been selected through competitive benchmarking procedures and receive a favourable assessment of scientific suitability from the Academic Board.
8. A portion of the scholarships and other financial awards may be reserved for candidates who obtained their qualification at a foreign university. The Academic Board may establish distinct admission procedures for these candidates; in such cases, a separate ranking list shall be complied. Subject to approval by the Academic Board, any unallocated reserved scholarships may be awarded to eligible candidates on other ranking lists for the same doctoral programme.

9. In the event of withdrawal or failure to enrol by an eligible candidate prior to the start of the programme, or should additional funding become available within the deadlines specified in the call for applications, candidates shall be drawn from the ranking lists referred to in paragraph 4. Beyond this deadline, admitting candidates from the ranking lists is permitted only with the favourable opinion of the Academic Board. No admission shall be permitted after two months have elapsed from the start of the doctoral programme.
10. The selection committee is appointed by a Rectoral decree, upon proposal of the Academic Board, and shall consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members. These must include at least three tenured academic staff members and no more than two external experts, who may also be foreign nationals, selected from public and private research organisations.

ART. 12 - Fees and contributions

Fees and contributions for access to and attendance of doctoral programmes shall be set annually in the University Regulations governing tuition fees and contributions.

ART. 13 - Scholarships

1. The University shall provide funding for doctoral programmes, within the limits of available budget resources, including scholarships, research budgets allocated to doctoral students, and annual operational costs, as specifically determined by the competent University Governing Bodies, which also govern the conditions of payment, expenditure, and reporting. Scholarships may also be funded by other universities, public, or private entities through dedicated agreements entered into by the University of Siena with the funding bodies, or by University Departments using research funds.
2. Scholarships, particularly when funded by other national or international, public or private entities may be linked to the development of specific research topics. Scholarships that require the execution of a specific research activity shall bind the recipient to undertake that activity and comply with the provisions of the relevant agreement.
3. Scholarships shall have a total duration of at least three years and shall be renewed annually, provided that the doctoral student has completed the activities scheduled for the preceding year, as verified in accordance with paragraph 4 below, without prejudice to the right to receive the scholarship pending such evaluation. Where a scholarship is not renewed or is relinquished by the doctoral student, the unspent portion shall be reallocated by the University to fund another scholarship within the same doctoral programme, unless it proves impossible under the founding agreements for externally funded scholarships or under specific terms of the research project from which the funding originates.
4. The annual review referred to in paragraph 3 shall be conducted by the Academic Board, which shall evaluate the work carried out by the end of the academic year concerned. Following a positive evaluation, the Academic Board shall admit the doctoral student to the subsequent year of the programme. A doctoral student who receives a negative assessment in the end-of-year review shall be excluded from the doctoral programme.
5. Doctoral students receiving a scholarship shall benefit from a 50% increase in their scholarship amount for research periods spent abroad authorised by the Academic Board. The increase is paid for periods lasting at least 15 days and up to a maximum total duration of 12 months. This period may be extended up to an overall maximum limit of 18 months for joint thesis supervision (*co-tutelle*) agreements established with foreign entities or programmes activated pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 226/2021. In the case of scholarship recipients, the stipend increase is guaranteed by the funding entity of the scholarship; in the case of non-scholarship recipients, a contribution equivalent to the increase provided to scholarship holders is guaranteed 50% by the University and 50% by the relevant Academic Department of the doctoral programme.
6. Requests for authorisation for stays abroad must be submitted by the doctoral student to the Academic Board, which shall issue its decision as promptly as possible and notify the relevant

administrative offices at least 20 days prior to the start of the stay. Upon completion of the period abroad, the doctoral student shall submit a report to the Academic Board detailing the attendance period and the results outcomes achieved.

7. In addition to the scholarship, all doctoral students, whether receiving a scholarship or not, shall be allocated an individual budget for research activities in Italy and abroad. This budget shall be proportionate to the type of doctoral programme and in any case no less than 10% of the scholarship amount. The procedures for allocating, spending, and reporting the research budget shall be established by the University's governing bodies. For scholarships funded through Department resources and for non-scholarship positions, the research budget allocated to the doctoral student shall be covered 50% by University funds and 50% by Department funds. For externally funded scholarships, the budget shall be provided by the funding body in accordance with the relevant agreements.
8. For the continuation of higher education apprenticeship contracts and other financial awards referred to in art. 2, paragraph 5, of these Regulations, in the subsequent programme years, the same renewal principles as set out for scholarships in paragraph 3 shall apply.
9. The principles set out in this article shall not apply to research fellows from foreign States or beneficiaries of financial support under specific mobility programmes governed by dedicated regulations.
10. The doctoral scholarship cannot be combined with any other scholarship or grant, except for those awarded by national or foreign institutions to support research stays abroad.
11. Recipients of scholarships for doctoral programmes shall be required to register with the INPS Separate Management scheme (*Gestione Separata INPS*).
12. Doctoral students who have previously benefited, even partially, from a doctoral scholarship shall not be eligible to receive a second scholarship.

ART. 14 - Supervisor

1. Within the first six months of the programme, each doctoral student shall be assigned a supervisor and one or two co-supervisors, and at least one of whom must hold an academic appointment. The supervisor(s) shall be appointed by the Academic Board, which may select external experts, provided that at least one supervisor meets the eligibility requirements for members of the Academic Board.
2. The supervisor shall act as the thesis advisor and shall be responsible for all scientific activities pertaining to the doctoral student. The supervisor ensures that activities outlined in the study plan are carried out effectively and fruitfully, oversees the execution and monitoring of the overall research project, including practical activities, and identifies any external institutions to be attended or mandatory/voluntary internships to be undertaken. The doctoral Coordinator, or a designate delegate chosen among the members of the Academic Board, shall monitor the effectiveness of the collaborative relationship between the supervisor and the doctoral student.

ART. 15 - Procedure and requirements for awarding the doctoral degree

1. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (*Dottore di ricerca*, abbreviated as "*Dott. Ric.*" or "*Ph.D.*") shall be awarded upon the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study.
2. During the last year of the programme, and at least one month prior to the conclusion of the formal training activities, the doctoral candidates shall submit application for admission to the final examination to the Academic Board. The Academic Board shall deliberate upon individual application, subject to the favourable opinion of the supervisor.
3. For proven reasons preventing the submission of the doctoral thesis within the timeframe prescribed by the programme duration, the Academic Board may grant, upon request by the doctoral student, an extension of up to a maximum of twelve months, without additional financial costs.

4. An extension of the duration of the doctoral programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be granted by the Academic Board for justified scientific requirements. In such cases, the corresponding extension of the scholarship shall be guaranteed, subject to verifying the availability of dedicated funding.
5. The doctoral thesis shall be written in Italian or English, or in another language subject to prior authorisation by the Academic Board, and shall be accompanied by an abstract in English.
6. The thesis, together with a report on the activities completed during the doctoral programme and any publications, shall be evaluated by at least two highly qualified reviewers, at least one of whom must be a university professor. In the case of doctoral programmes operated under joint agreements, the reviewers must not belong to the institution or entities awarding the doctoral degree. Reviewers may be affiliated with foreign or international institutions. Within thirty days of receiving the thesis, the reviewers shall submit a detailed written assessment, recommending either admission to the public defence or a postponement of the defence for a period not exceeding six months. Upon expiry of this period, the thesis, accompanied by a new written opinion provided by the reviewers, shall in any event be admitted to the defence.
7. Doctoral theses must be uploaded electronically by doctoral students bearing a digital signature pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 82 of 7 March 2005 as amended, to the university repository designated for legal deposit with national libraries.
   Access to the doctoral thesis may be subject to an embargo for one of the following reasons:
   a) portions of the thesis have already been submitted to a publisher or are pending publication;
   b) the doctoral scholarship is funded by external entities that claim rights over part of the contents of the thesis;
   c) the thesis contains innovative elements for which patent protection procedures have been initiated.
   In the cases specified under points (a), (b), and (c) above, access may be restricted for up to 12 months from the date the degree is awarded. Upon a reasoned request, the Academic Board may grant an extension of this period for an additional 6 months. Any further extensions for exceptional and duly justified cases shall be evaluated and potentially granted by the Academic Board. In any case, the total embargo may not exceed three years from the date the degree is awarded. Upon expiry of this period, the thesis shall in any case be made freely accessible and open to consultation.
8. The defence is carried out publicly before an examination committee, appointed by Rectoral Decree upon proposal of the Academic Board, ensuring gender balance where possible. The examination committee shall be composed of:
   - a minimum of three to and a maximum of seven members;
   - at least two-thirds academic staff;
   - no more than one-third belonging to participating partner institutions or entities, pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 226/2021.

   Upon completion of the defence, the committee shall issue a reasoned written evaluation of the thesis and, in recognition of exceptional scientific merit, by unanimous decision, may award the distinction *cum laude*. The evaluation of the committee shall be graded according to the following scale: “fail” (*insufficiente)*, “satisfactory” (*sufficiente)*, “good” *(buono)*, “very good” (*ottimo*), “excellent” (*eccellente*).
9. The examination committee shall complete its duties within 90 days of its appointment.
10. The procedures for awarding the degree in the case of joint thesis supervision (*co-tutelle*) shall be governed by dedicated agreements, pursuant to Article 19 below.
11. Training activities carried out by doctoral students across one or more locations shall be certified by a document attached to the final diploma (*diploma supplement*).

ART. 16 - Rights and duties of doctoral students

1. Admission to a doctoral programme shall require an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 and Article 2, paragraph 2, letter b).
2. The Academic Board may authorise the doctoral student, upon a reasoned request, to carry out remunerated activities, provided that such work is fixed-term and part-time. The Academic Board shall certify that these activities enable the acquisition of skills relevant to the doctoral training field and verify that their compatibility with the effective performance of the training and research activities of the programme. In any event, the doctoral student's income derived from authorised remunerated activities shall not exceed the amount of the scholarship. Undertaking employment that has not received prior authorisation from the Academic Board shall result in forfeiture of doctoral candidate status, termination of the scholarship, if awarded, and the recovery of any amounts not due.
3. Each doctoral student is ordinarily expected to carry out research and training activities consistent with their doctoral project at highly qualified foreign institutions for a cumulative period of at least 180 days, which need not be continuous. The Academic Board may grant an exemption from this requirement only on serious and justified grounds.
4. As an integral part of their training programme and subject to authorisation by the Academic Board, doctoral students may carry out tutoring activities—including paid tutoring—for bachelor's and master's degree students without any increase in the scholarship amount, as well as supplementary teaching activities up to a maximum of 40 hours per academic year. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, doctoral students shall be awarded the allowances specified in Article 1, Paragraph 1, Letter b) of Decree-Law No. 105 of May 9, 2003, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 170 of July 11, 2003.
5. Public sector employees admitted to a doctoral programme shall be entitled, for the standard duration of the programme, to the leave provided for by collective bargaining agreements or, in the case of public law employees, to extraordinary study leave, compatible with operational requirements of the employing administration, pursuant to Article 2 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984. Such leave may be granted with or without financial remuneration (unless explicitly waived) only if the employee is enrolling for the first time in a doctoral programme, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the individual research budget for research activities in Italy and abroad referred to in Article 13, paragraph 7, shall remain unaffected.
6. Interventions and provisions governing higher education financial support and welfare services (*diritto allo studio*) for doctoral candidates shall remain governed by Legislative Decree 29 March 2012, n. 68.
7. Doctoral students shall belong to the primary Department of the doctoral programme hosted at the University of Siena.
8. Suspension from attendance of the doctoral programme shall be granted in the event of:
   a) illness;
   b) parental leave; specifically, the maternity protection provisions set out in the decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of 12 July 2007, published in the Official Gazette no. 247 of 23 October 2007, as amended, shall apply;
   c) civilian service;
   d) attendance in accredited teacher training programmes;
   e) serious personal or family reasons; in which case the suspension may not exceed a cumulative total of 6 months.

   No scholarship payments shall be made for the duration of the suspension. Upon completion of the suspension period, and subject to formal notification of resumption of attendance by the doctoral student, scholarship payments shall resume up to the total cumulative duration of the scholarship itself.
9. Prior to the end of each academic year, doctoral students must submit the documentation required for the annual review of activities carried out outcomes achieved to the Academic Board for the purpose of progression to the subsequent year.

10. The exclusion of the doctoral student shall be pronounced by a reasoned resolution of the Academic Board in the event of:
    - an unfavourable evaluation of the Board at the end of the academic year;
    - performance of unauthorised employment or outside work;
    - serious failure to meet the requirements of the doctoral training programme.
11. In the case of concurrent enrolment in university master's programmes or non-medical specialisation schools, the respective governing bodies must verify that attendance requirement are mutually compatible with acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the educational objectives of each programme.
12. Enrolled doctoral students shall be covered by an insurance policy contracted by the University against accidents and third-party public liability for activities carried out as part of their doctoral programme, including off-campus activities, provided they have been authorised by the Academic Board.
13. Until the thesis defence, doctoral students are authorised to use University facilities to complete activities related to finalising their doctoral thesis.
14. Doctoral student shall forfeit their place in the programme if, without providing valid justification, they fail to submit their thesis by the deadline for academic activities or by the end of any extension granted by the Academic Board. Furthermore, a doctoral student shall be excluded if the thesis is not defended within 12 months of its submission.

ART. 17 - Accumulation of extensions and suspensions

1. The combined duration of any extension periods, referred to in art. 15 paragraphs 3 and 4, and the suspension periods, referred to in art. 16 paragraph 8, may not exceed a total duration of 18 months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

ART. 18 - Register of doctorates and doctoral thesis database

1. Within its sphere of competence, the University shall assist the Ministry in updating and integrating the national register of doctoral candidates and PhD holders.
2. Within 30 days of the successful defence and approval of the thesis, the University shall deposit an electronic copy of the thesis in the Register referred to in paragraph 1, within a dedicated open-access section.
3. Subject to authorisation by the Academic Board, portions of the thesis may be withheld from publication if they contain data protected under applicable legislation. The obligation to deposit the thesis with the national central libraries of Rome and Florence shall remain unaffected.

ART. 19 – Joint thesis supervision agreements

1. Subject to approval by the Academic Board and the relevant Department of the doctoral programme, the University may enter into joint thesis supervision (*co-tutelle*) agreements with foreign universities, which may provide for procedures differing from those set out in these Regulations. These agreements shall be individual in nature and established for doctoral candidates already enrolled at the University of Siena or at a foreign partner university.
2. The joint thesis supervision agreement shall govern the following aspects:
   a. the duration of the respective doctoral programmes;
   b. the administrative arrangements for payment of tuition fees and contributions;
   c. the period(s) of study and research activities to be spent at the host institution, which must be a at leat 180 days, whether continuous or not, up to a maximum of 18 months;
   d. the applicable insurance scheme;
   e. the research topic, to be carried out at both locations according to a schedule agreed upon by the supervisors;
   f. the designation of two supervisors, one from the home institution and one from the host institution;

g. the procedures and location of the final examination;
h. the criteria for the composition of the final examination committe, ensuring equal or balanced representation of both contracting universities;
i. the title of the degree awarded upon successful completion of the final examination by each contracting university, explicitly indicating the award of a joint or double degree under joint thesis supervision.

3. Joint thesis supervision agreements shall preferably be concluded during the first year of the doctoral programme.

ART. 20 - Final and transitional provisions

1. This Regulation shall be issued by Rectoral Decree and shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following the date of publication of the relevant decree of issuance on the University's online notice board (*Albo on line*).
2. For any aspects not expressly governed by these Regulations, the provisions of the relevant regulations, the specific ministerial provisions and the University regulations shall apply.