



ACADEMIC REGULATIONS  
RESEARCH DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES

Issued with Rectoral Decree no. 156/2022



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#### Article 1 Purpose and scope of the regulations

These regulations govern the activation and operation of research doctoral programmes with administrative headquarters at Humanitas University (HUNIMED) and the University's participation, including in an associated form, in research doctoral programmes based at other Italian or foreign universities.

#### Article 2 General characteristics of doctoral programmes with administrative headquarters at HUNIMED

HUNIMED's doctoral programmes are based on principles of non-discrimination, with the admission of the most qualified students and the promotion of equal treatment of people.

The University adheres to the principles of integrity in scientific research and imparts methodological knowledge in OPEN and FAIR Science to its students and researchers by fostering the development of shared competencies and adherence to ethical principles that are methodologically oriented towards the sharing, quality, rigorousness, reproducibility and transferability of research activity.

The University fosters the development of highly qualified professional profiles by directly involving third-cycle university students in multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research programmes with an international and transnational focus. More specifically, HUNIMED promotes the provision of training activities aimed at fostering the development of transversal and translational competencies in the biomedical field by activating joint pathways between multiple doctoral programmes and other third-cycle higher education pathways, including residency programmes in the field of health.

In accordance with internationally agreed requirements and in agreement with the relevant teaching committee, the University may issue the Doctor Europaeus certificate to students who obtain a research doctoral degree at its campus.

#### Article 3 Establishment and renewal of doctoral programmes and adherence to doctoral programmes under special agreement

The establishment and renewal of research doctoral programmes with administrative headquarters at HUNIMED, as well as affiliations with doctoral programmes based at other universities, including those of national interest, are approved by the Board of Directors, upon the Rector's proposal, after consulting the relevant structures and bodies.

Proposals for establishment and renewal are accompanied by the opinion of the Quality Assurance Unit, which may call on the support of the evaluation committee and/or the joint committees of the relevant departments to analyse the proposal.

The proposal to join doctoral programmes with administrative headquarters at other universities must be adequately justified and must specify the University's financial and organisational commitments.

#### Article 4 Relationship with residency schools

According to the provisions of Article 7 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021, doctoral programmes may allow for places reserved for students enrolled in medical residency schools in each cycle. The available places are indicated in the call for applications to the individual doctoral programmes, and candidates are selected



based on their aptitude for scientific research, and the knowledge and competencies shown and acquired during their medical specialisation.

Successful candidates must apply for clearance from the Residency Council of the school in which they are enrolled, which is required to express an opinion on the consistency of the doctoral project with the school's teaching objectives and the compatibility of doctoral programme attendance with the activity and commitment envisaged by the school, and to certify the research activities carried out by the student during their specialisation.

Taking into account the opinion of the Residency School Council, the Doctoral Programme Teaching Committee will confirm admission to the programme and decide on any shortening of its length. However, the doctoral programme cannot be shorter than two years.

During the period of joint attendance, the discipline envisaged for physicians in specialised training must take precedence. Additionally, there is an established incompatibility between the doctoral scholarship and any emoluments, regardless of their designation, received in connection with activities at the residency school.

#### Article 5 Associate doctorate

In order to effectively co-ordinate the research activity of third-cycle education at national and international level, the University may enter into special agreements and/or establish consortia with the following entities:

- a) other Italian or foreign universities, with the possibility of awarding a multiple or joint final degree
- b) public or private research institutions, Italian or foreign, that meet high cultural and scientific qualification requirements and have appropriate scientific facilities and equipment
- c) companies, including foreign businesses, that carry out qualified research and development
- d) public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international importance, for the implementation of specific research and development or innovation programmes

In accordance with the principle of reciprocity, the agreements, including consortium agreements, must provide for effective sharing of teaching, learning and research activities, fair burden-sharing, criteria for regulating forms of financial support, the availability of adequate operational and scientific facilities, criteria for the exchange and mobility of teaching staff and doctoral students, and the possible award of multiple or joint degrees.

The partners or consortium members must undertake to ensure the activation of doctoral cycles, generally for at least three years, and to comply with these regulations, without prejudice to express exceptions provided for in the agreements or special agreements, which, in the case of international inter-university cooperation, may also concern the composition of the teaching committee.

In the case of Doctorates activated in association with public research entities, pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2, letter b) of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, researchers in the roles of leading researchers, established researchers and recognised researchers of those entities may also serve on the committee.

In the case of participation in doctoral programmes of national interest, the University may also define the terms of its participation in derogation from the previous points.



## Article 6 Industrial doctorates

Doctoral programmes may be designated as "Industrial doctorate" in consideration of the stipulation of specific special agreements or consortia that expressly provide for participation in the definition and implementation of the educational project by companies, including foreign businesses, that carry out qualified research and development activities. In such cases, the administrative headquarters of the doctorate is the university that is responsible for awarding the academic title.

This is without prejudice, however, to the possibility, provided for in Article 45 of Legislative Decree no. 81/2015, of activating apprenticeship contracts aimed at awarding a research doctoral degree. To this end, special agreements must be signed that establish the length and criteria, including those of time, of the training at the employer's expense, and guarantee the predominance of the research activity.

The possibility of concluding special agreements with public and private institutions for the funding of individual doctoral positions on existing doctorates is also confirmed.

The calls for applications may reserve a quota of the available places for employees of companies or partner institutions, even if the latter are not directly involved in the educational project's definition and



Article 8 Doctoral programme bodies with administrative headquarters at the University

The following are doctoral programme bodies:

- a) the Teaching Committee
- b) the Coordinator
- c) the Executive Committee

The composition of the Doctoral Programme Teaching Committee is determined according to current regulations and may be supplemented and assisted by other members belonging to university bodies and







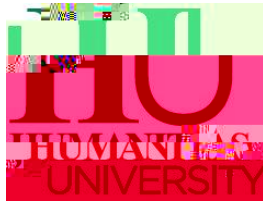


any grants will be deferred for a period equal to the duration of the suspension. The teaching committee will decide on the procedures for making up the teaching and learning activity, it being understood that under no circumstances may the normal length of the programme be shortened.



2. The call for admission to the doctoral programme is issued by rectoral decree and is advertised electronically on the University websites, on the Euraxess website and on the website of the Italian Ministry of University and Research. The call will be widely disseminated within the relevant scientific communities through appropriate means indicated by the members of the teaching committee.
3. The notice, issued in Italian and English, states:
  - a) the legal length and teaching and learning objectives of the doctoral programme
  - b) the deadline and procedure for submitting applications
  - c) the requirements for admission to the doctoral programme and the criteria for evaluating candidates
  - d) the criteria under which the selection will be carried out, specifying that the examination(s) will be conducted exclusively in English
  - e) the number of places available
  - f) the possible quota of places reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries; or specific





- d) making available to the student the instrumental and material research resources necessary

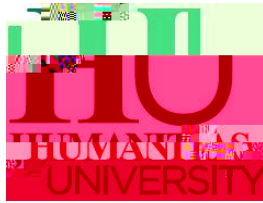


relationship with doctoral students or their internal supervisors in the previous three years before the Viva.

3. The Viva session consists of a public seminar and a private evaluation session with the aforementioned examiners.
4. The examiners are required to provide a detailed written assessment of the submitted thesis within thirty days of its receipt. This assessment should include comments and suggestions for possible improvements to be incorporated before the final submission of the doctoral thesis.
5. In the event of \_\_\_\_\_, the candidate will have to make minor corrections to the thesis and will be able to discuss their final thesis in the first available examination session, without the need for the thesis to be re-approved. Minor amendments are indicated by the examiners in the Viva Examination Report, forwarded to the doctoral office and then shared with the candidate so that they may correct their paper.
6. In the case of \_\_\_\_\_, the comments are indicated by the examiners in the Viva Examination Report, forwarded to the doctoral office and then shared with the candidate, who has a maximum of six months to substantially modify their thesis. This must then be approved a second time by the examiners before the candidate can be admitted to the examination session.
7. Once the necessary changes have been made to the thesis, doctoral students are required to submit it to the relevant offices in its final version, following the instructions provided to them in relation to the degree award application. The thesis will be forwarded by these offices to the Selection Committee members.
8. The final discussion of the thesis takes place before a Selection Committee appointed for this purpose by the teaching committee and composed of six members, at least four of whom must be external to the awarding bodies. At least two-thirds of the committee members must be from an academic background.
9. At the end of the discussion, the committee sets out a reasoned and circumstantiated opinion on each candidate's form and awards an evaluation that can be "Eccellente – Lode", "Ottimo", "Molto buono" or "Buono" (excellent with honours, outstanding, very good or good). The examination does not result in a mark.
10. Absence from the thesis discussion is justified in the event of illness, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure, to be substantiated by the appropriate documentation. Doctoral students in the above-mentioned situations are admitted to the discussion of their thesis in the following examination session. In the event of an unexcused absence from the final examination session, the doctoral student loses the right to graduate.

#### RETREAT DAY

The Retreat Day, the date of which is set each year by the programme coordinator, is the day devoted to the discussion of doctoral theses, following the Viva Session.





- a) comply with the Code of Ethics of the doctoral programme's administrative headquarters and with the Code of Ethics adopted by the structure at which they mainly carry out their activity. Any instance