

Guidelines for the thesis as a collection of articles

October 2022 (effective from the 38th cycle onwards; suggested for previous cycles)

The choice between a traditional thesis (a monograph) and one made up of a collection of articles must be communicated to the PhD Chairperson by the end of the first year. An email must be sent to the Chairperson and the URD Secretariat, with the PhD student's supervisor in Cc.

The thesis as a collection of articles (henceforth: Collection) should be made up of:

- **An introduction**, to cover and frame the research topic and to connect the articles that will follow the introduction.
- **At least 3 articles**. Each article will be written according to the most advanced standards and practices of the relevant academic discipline (defined by the scientific sector, SSD, of the supervisor). To reach an excellent scientific and academic quality level for each article is a goal of the utmost importance. In annex A of the document (Convenzione) that establishes the PhD programme in Urban and Regional Development it is demanded that PhD students should be encouraged to “publish their scientific results on specialized and widely acknowledged journals”. The quality level of each article cannot thus lower these standards.
- **Conclusions**, to highlight research perspectives and further hypotheses that could not be presented in each article and are relevant for the PhD research as a whole.
- The collection should also present a list of **references** and any other useful annex.

Articles that form the collection should be ready to publish, according to the supervisor and co-supervisor(s). The collection will be examined, as monographs are, by the Academic Board when admission to the final exam (defence) is discussed.



As the monograph does not need to be published, in order to grant the admission to the defence, the same shall apply to the collection.

It is however mandatory that:

- At least one article has been published, since it is a prerequisite to be admitted to the defence of the thesis (see the regulations regarding the accounting system for PhD activities).
- The above-mentioned article is part of the collection.
- All articles should be presented in their final version, ready to publish (no incomplete or draft versions are admitted).
- The monograph is by a single author (the PhD student). A similar, if not the same, balance should be considered for authoring articles that are included in the collection. In specific: articles with more than one author should have the PhD student as the first and/or corresponding author. Articles that will be published after the defence may have a different attribution, as a result of further elaboration.
- It is possible that articles in a collection are authored by more than one PhD student. However, the same article cannot be part of more than one collection.