



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Politecnico di Torino: Regulations for doctoral programmes

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The English translation of this document is provided as a support to the student community and has no legal effects. The Italian version shall constitute the sole authentic text and will be referred to for any legal matters.

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GLOSSARY

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following terms are given the following meanings:

Accreditation: the procedure referred to in Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021, *Regulations on the modalities for the accreditation of doctoral programmes and criteria for the establishment of doctoral programmes by accredited institutions.*

Catalogue of third-level doctoral courses: all the courses (technical-specialized courses, courses on soft skills and guest lectures) planned and offered by the University specifically for its doctoral programmes.

Doctoral cycle: all the doctoral programmes offered in a given academic year .

Advisory Board: a body composed of professors and representatives of the world of work, culture and research. It may be set up as a stable representation of the stakeholders of one or more doctoral programmes. It plays a key role in the design and update of the educational paths. It liaises with employers in order to assess the progress of the programmes, make proposals for the design and improvement of the course catalogue and of the learning objectives.

Doctoral research programme: the third level of university education. Doctoral programmes train doctoral candidates in scientific research and provide them with the necessary skills to carry out research and hold high-level professional positions, including at international level

Co-tutelle doctoral programme: enables doctoral candidates to carry out part of their research at a foreign university and to obtain a double doctoral degree valid in two countries.

Curricula: specialised research paths in which a doctoral programme may be organized.

Declaration of Intent (DoI): a document in which the Supervisor and the doctoral candidate share the principles and organisation of the training programme.

Diploma Supplement: a supplementary document released on top of the official degree awarded at the end of a course of study at a university or higher education institution. It provides a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies undertaken and completed by the student according to a standard 8-point model, developed at the initiative of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

Doctoral candidate: the status that a person obtains by enrolling in a doctoral programme, starting from the beginning of the programme until the conferral of the doctoral degree.

Doctoral degree: academic qualification obtained after attending a doctoral programme and passing the final examination.

Operating procedures for the application of the Regulations for doctoral programmes: document (or set of documents) setting out the procedures for the implementation of the various rules introduced by the Regulations. The Regulations make specific reference to the Operating Procedures that are approved by the Doctoral School Board.

MUR: Ministry of University and Research.

Quality Awards: merit-based prize contributions awarded to doctoral candidate

Title I – General principles

Art. 1 – Scope

1. The present Regulations govern the creation and functioning of doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino in accordance with the provisions set forth in: art. 4 of Law no. 210 dated 3rd July 1998, amended by art. 19, paragraph 1 of Law no. 240 dated 30th December 2010, Ministerial Decree no. 226 dated 14th December 2021, Ministerial Decree no. 301 dated 22nd March 2022 and the Statute of Politecnico di Torino.
2. The present Regulations also govern the functioning of the Doctoral School of Politecnico di Torino, established pursuant to Article 26 of the Statute.
3. The present Regulations define the general principles which govern the activities of the Doctoral School at Politecnico di Torino. The technical modalities of application are contained in the document "*Operating procedures for the application of the Regulations for doctoral programmes*" (hereinafter referred to as "*Operating Procedures*") approved by the Doctoral School Board, in accordance with the present Regulations and subject to the favourable opinion of the Academic Senate.
4. When doctoral programmes are organized in agreement or consortium with other universities and public or private research institutions, the rules laid down by these specific agreements are also applicable.
5. In organising its doctoral programmes, Politecnico di Torino is inspired by the principles of the European Charter for Researchers, in order to guarantee the best conditions for the development, transfer, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and technological development, as well as the training and professional growth of doctoral candidates.
6. Doctoral programmes are implemented within the framework of a monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance system, distinct from that provided for the first and second level of university education. Such system seeks to continuously improve the quality of the research environment and doctoral training, as well as the transparency and effectiveness of the procedures for admission, supervision, degree conferral and professional development of doctoral candidates, in order to ensure the national and international accreditation and reputation of the programmes.

Art. 2 - Goals

1. The goal of a doctoral programme is to train highly-qualified researchers by providing them with the skills they need to engage in research in universities, in private and public organisation or for a career in the public administration.
2. In line with the principles and guidelines shared at European level, doctoral programmes prepare graduates to:
 - a. independently conceive, design, implement and adapt research or innovation programmes;

- b. conduct critical analyses and evaluations of ideas and processes, both new and complex, in research institutions, in industry, in the public administration and as free-lance professionals.
 - c. contribute, through the acquisition of new scientific and transversal skills, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations General Assembly, of the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their declination in European policies;
 - d. contribute to the creation of the European Higher Education and Research Area, considering the relevant Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.
3. In order to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1, based on the "Principles for Innovative Doctoral Education" approved at European level on 26th June 2011 by the Steering Group on Human Resources of the European Research Area, doctoral programmes:
- a. pursue the advancement of knowledge through education to basic and applied research and strive for excellence on the basis of academic standards established through peer review procedures;
 - b. are organized in an attractive and stimulating academic environment where doctoral candidates learn autonomy and responsibility useful for their future professional career;
 - c. promote opportunities for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training, including in non-academic fields, such as industry, public administration, service and cultural institutions, with the participation of experts in the training activities;
 - d. contribute to the strengthening of transnational and international relations in the field of research, also by running joint and co-tutelle doctoral programmes. Doctoral programmes also give candidates the opportunity to spend periods of study and research abroad consistent with their research projects;
 - e. allow doctoral candidates to gain transversal skills that can be transferred and developed in scientific and professional fields;
- f. are carried out within the framework of a quality assurance system that is different from the systems of Bachelor's and Master's education and seeks to improve the quality of the research environment and to foster transparent and accountable procedures for admissions, supervision, doctoral degree conferral and professional development of doctoral candidates

Title II – Doctoral School

Art. 3 – Scope

1. The Doctoral School of Politecnico di Torino (hereinafter referred to as the “School”), has been established within the meaning of art. 24 of the Statute of Politecnico. Its objective is to promote, organize and manage teaching related to doctoral programmes and the Postgraduate School, in accordance with the guidelines identified by the Governing bodies of the University.
2. The School seeks to harmonize the various doctoral programmes while preserving their necessary specificity. The School's objective is also to coordinate training and cultural activities, monitor their quality, promote and manage strategies and scientific policies which

have an impact on doctoral programmes, as defined by the Governing bodies of the University. The Doctoral School, in consultation with the Departments, organizes third-level courses and promotes the development of soft skills, in addition to highly-specialized scientific and technological knowledge provided by each doctoral programme.

3. The School, in cooperation with the Collegi of the doctoral programmes, ensures that all information on doctoral programmes is made public, accessible and up-to-date through the University website.
4. The School promotes, also through the Collegi of the doctoral programmes, the interaction between doctoral candidates in order to foster interdisciplinary research.

Art. 4 - Organization of the Doctoral School

1. The bodies of the Doctoral School are: the Director, the Doctoral School Board and the Doctoral School Executive Committee.

4.1 Director

1. The Director of the Doctoral School:
 - a. is the head of the School;
 - b. guides the School and its activities;
 - c. identifies the strategies to promote the School activities;
 - d. represents the School in the university bodies and outside Politecnico;
 - e. chairs the Doctoral School Board and the Executive Committee;
 - f. represents the School in the University Committee for Research, Technology Transfer and Services to Community;
 - g. identifies the Selection Committee which appoints the lecturers of soft skills courses from the Roster of eligible lecturers or by publishing vacancy notices;
 - h. approves the decisions of the Selection Committee for the conferral of teaching appointments through the Roster or vacancy notices for all doctoral programmes;
 - i. signs the agreements for the funding of doctoral scholarships by external bodies and/or for the activation of doctoral programmes for company employees in compliance with the standard schemes approved by the University bodies;
 - j. approves and signs the thesis co-tutelle agreements referred to in art. 21;
 - k. monitors that the activities of the doctoral programmes and the admission requirements are given clear and appropriate visibility on the University website.
2. The Director can designate a Deputy Director to replace him/her in all functions in case of absence or impediment. As part of a coordinated programme of activities, the Director can make use of delegates, in the maximum number of six, chosen from among tenured professors and permanent researchers of Politecnico. The Director identifies their tasks and responsibilities.

4.2 Doctoral School Board

1. The Doctoral School Board promotes the cultural aspects of teaching and research cooperation with other universities, institutions and research centres, both at national and international level. The Board:

- a. identifies the guidelines for the activities of the Doctoral School and of the Postgraduate School, even on a multiannual basis;
 - b. determines and coordinates the teaching framework related to doctoral programmes and specialization programmes;
 - c. approves the catalogue of third-level doctoral courses;
 - d. approves the list of the faculty members and appoints the external lecturers who are responsible for all third-level courses;
 - e. decides to directly appoint the faculty members who will teach the doctoral seminars or decides to choose the seminar lecturers from the Roster of eligible lecturers or by publishing vacancy notices;
 - f. expresses a binding opinion about the opening of new doctoral programmes;
 - g. expresses a binding opinion about the opening of doctoral programmes organized in agreement with other universities;
 - h. decides on the admission requirements for doctoral programme and the criteria to evaluate candidates;
 - i. makes proposals to the Board of Governors about the allocation of funds for doctoral scholarships;
 - j. approves the *Operating Procedures* used to manage doctoral programmes, including admission requirements and the rules for the attainment of the doctoral degree;
 - k. approves the procedures and criteria used to offer quality awards to doctoral candidates and manages the budget allocated to this end by the Board of Governors;
 - l. defines the responsibilities of the Executive Committee;
 - m. appoints the members of the Executive Committee.
2. The Doctoral School Board is composed of:
 - a. the Director of the Doctoral School;
 - b. the Coordinators of the Academic Boards of Politecnico doctoral programmes and the Director of the Postgraduate School;
 - c. three representatives of doctoral candidates and Postgraduate School students, elected according to the procedures defined in the “Regulations for the election of student representatives in the governing bodies and in other bodies of the University”;
 - d. five university professors, also not on the staff of Politecnico di Torino, who are widely well-known for their scientific activity; they are appointed by the Rector upon nomination of the Academic Senate.
 3. The members of the Doctoral School Board referred to in point b) of the preceding paragraph hold office for three years. The members of the Doctoral School Board referred to in point d) hold office for two years and can be renewed only once, provided that they maintain their status of doctoral candidate / Postgraduate School student.
 4. The composition of the Doctoral School Board may be extended to include some representatives with an advisory role from research institutions, local authorities, corporations and associations that contribute to fund the activities of the School. The Board can also appoint representatives from doctoral programmes organized in agreement with other universities in which Politecnico is not the administrative headquarters.
 5. The same rules governing the operation of the university bodies set out in the General Regulations of the University also apply to the Doctoral School Board.

4.3 Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee consists of the Director of the School and five members of the Doctoral School Board identified by the Board in a way that ensures gender balance. The Executive Committee includes at least one doctoral candidate or one Postgraduate School student.
2. The Executive Committee decides on all matters for which it has been delegated by the Board

Art. 5 - Appointment of the Doctoral School Director

1. The Director/Director of the School is a tenured faculty member of the University appointed by the Dean upon the recommendation of the Doctoral School Board. The term of office lasts three years and is renewable once.
2. Nominations are submitted with the support of at least fifteen and not more than twenty signatures of faculty members belonging to at least three different Departments of the University. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae from which it can be inferred:
 - a. high scientific profile;
 - b. demonstrated organizational-managerial skills in the area of scientific research and teaching;
 - c. demonstrated ability to activate international collaborations and exchanges.
3. The candidacy must also be accompanied by a declaration of willingness not to hold, in the event of appointment, any other positions that appear clearly incompatible with the charges of the Directorate or lead to a conflict of interest.
4. The Dean/Dean of the Coordinators of the Doctoral Courses shall call a meeting of the Council of the School, at which the Doctoral School Board shall nominate its candidate by secret ballot and qualified majority of two-thirds of the eligible voters; in the event that no candidate obtains this majority, a runoff shall be held at the same meeting between the two candidates who have obtained the highest number of votes. The candidate who achieves an absolute majority of the votes will be the faculty member whom the Doctoral School Board will indicate to the Dean for consideration for appointment as Director/Director of the Doctoral School.
5. For the purposes of the procedures indicated in the preceding paragraph, only the components (b), (c) and (d) of the School Council, as defined in Article 4.2 paragraph 2, shall have the right to vote. With reference to the components referred to in letter b), the Coordinators/Coordinators of the Doctoral Courses activated in the same academic year in which the voting takes place express

their vote.

6. Those who assume the position of Director/Director of the Doctoral School must exercise the full-time option prior to appointment.
7. There is incompatibility between the position of Director/Director of the School and Director/Director of Department or Coordinator/Coordinator of a Doctoral Course.

TITLE III Creation, opening and evaluation of doctoral programmes

Art. 6 – Creation, renewal and opening of doctoral programmes

1. The annual doctoral catalogue (cycle) is made up of: 1) new doctoral programmes (their activation is subject to ministerial accreditation) and/or b) existing accredited programmes subject to periodic ministerial assessment on the accreditation requirements.
2. The Doctoral programmes are offered, subject to verification of the existence of adequate human, infrastructural and financial resources to guarantee their functionality and the control of the related activities, in the following cases:
 - a. in the event of a new programme, by a sufficiently large group of professors (at least equal to the minimum number of members of the Academic Board required for accreditation), subject to the approval of all the Departments involved which ensure the availability of their facilities and resources.
 - b. in the event of renewal, by the Co-ordinator, after consultation with the Academic Board subject to the positive opinion of the Department where the programme is implemented.
3. Each proposal for the creation of a doctoral programme must be submitted by June 30th of each year and must specify the scientific-disciplinary fields or areas of reference, the learning outcomes, the research topics, the related research and teaching programmes. The proposal must be drafted with the support of the Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee and must specify:
 - a. the Department that manages the doctoral programme, if it is an interdepartmental programme;

- b. the motivation for establishing the new doctoral programme (scientific and economic effectiveness), also considering the national and international scenario on the basis of sector studies.
 - c. the training project of the doctoral programme, drafted in cooperation with the representatives of the social, economic and cultural context;
 - d. the names of the university professors and researchers proposed as members of the Academic Board;
 - e. the specific operational and scientific facilities explicitly dedicated to doctoral candidates;
 - f. the financial resources made available by the proposing bodies for the doctoral programme (grants, operating funds, research and internationalization funds);
 - g. possible collaborations with public and private bodies, both Italian and international, also in order to ensure more financial resources for the programme implementation and for doctoral candidates' placement;
 - h. a reference to the possible composition of an *Advisory Board*, made up of representatives of the social, economic and cultural context, which will be established after the programme accreditation.
 - i. the overall number of doctoral candidates that can be admitted per cycle;
 - j. any curricula into which the programme is divided.
4. The procedure for opening a new doctoral programme includes the following steps:
- a. approval of the Department or Departments which offer their facilities ~~referred to in point c.2;~~
 - b. mandatory opinion of the Doctoral School Board;
 - c. favourable opinion of the University Evaluation Board about its compliance with the accreditation requirements;
 - d. mandatory opinion of the Academic Senate.
 - e. resolution of the Board of Governors requesting the opening of the new programme.
5. Doctoral programmes may be organized as joint programmes by signing agreements or establishing consortia with other Italian and foreign universities, highly-qualified public or private research institutions, companies working in the field of high-level research and development, public administrations, cultural institutions and internationally renowned research institutions in accordance with current regulations. In any case the cultural and scientific educational purpose of the doctoral programme must be safeguarded as well as the reciprocity in the provision of resources among the parties. The methods for the creation and operation of these doctoral programmes are set forth in a special agreement, approved by the Board of Governors upon favourable opinion of the Doctoral School Board and submitted to the approval procedure referred to in paragraph 4 of this article.
6. It is the Doctoral School Board's responsibility to fulfil the administrative requirements of the new doctoral programme, in cooperation with the Directors/Directors of the Departments supporting the proposal. Representatives of the newly established programme are invited to attend the meetings of the School Board, without the right to vote, in the phases preceding accreditation and establishment.
7. The procedure for renewing a doctoral programme includes the following steps:

- a. Coordinator's proposal, having heard the Academic Board and upon favourable opinion of the Department which hosts the programme;
 - b. mandatory opinion of the Doctoral School Board;
 - c. mandatory opinion of the Academic Senate;
 - d. resolution of the Board of Governors.
8. The renewal proposal must be submitted to the Doctoral School by the deadlines indicated in the *Operating procedures*. The Doctoral School must inform the programme Coordinators about these procedures in order to meet the ministerial deadline.
 9. It is the Doctoral School's responsibility to submit the application for accreditation to MUR for all doctoral programmes which have administrative offices at Politecnico di Torino. The application must include the supporting documents that prove that the programmes meet the requirements and the maximum number of places for which accreditation is requested.
 10. After receiving the ministerial accreditation, the doctoral programmes are established by means of a Rector's decree.

Art. 7 – Financial resources

1. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 - letter b - of article 4 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, it is a prerequisite for accreditation to have, for each cycle of doctoral programmes, an average number of at least four scholarships per doctoral programme, excluding from the calculation the scholarships assigned to doctoral programmes organized in agreement or consortium with other universities, it being understood that for each doctoral programme this availability cannot be less than three.
2. Depending on the resources available in the University budget and based on the proposal for the allocation of the scholarships made by the bodies of the Doctoral School, each year, when a new doctoral cycle begins, the Board of Governors decides the plan for the allocation of the scholarships. The decision is taken by the Board of Governors subject to the mandatory opinion of the Academic Senate, taking into account the results, in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, of each Doctoral programme as they emerge from the internal evaluation process to be carried out pursuant to art. 13 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021.
3. Additional doctoral scholarships may also be funded or co-funded by the Departments of Politecnico di Torino by means of agreements with public and private organizations.

Art.8 – Evaluation of doctoral programmes

1. The periodic evaluation of the doctoral programmes is carried out by the University Evaluation Board in collaboration with the Doctoral School and with the support of the Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee. The evaluation is conducted as part of the process of quality assurance, design, planning and organisation, monitoring and improvement of activities related to doctoral training in accordance with the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
2. The Doctoral School periodically reports to the governing bodies on issues regarding the efficiency and proper functioning of its doctoral programmes.

TITLE IV – Organization of doctoral programmes

Art. 9 – Bodies of doctoral programmes

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

9.1 Coordinator

1. The Coordinator is a professor who meets the requirements imposed by current legislation. He/she is elected by the members of the Academic Board of the doctoral programme, chosen from a list of eligible candidates approved by a Committee pursuant to par. 4.
2. The Coordinator may also be the Research Director of an Italian or international institution. In all cases, the Coordinator must have a number of years of service which is at least equal to the term of office before the date of his/her retirement; moreover, the Coordinator needs to meet the scientific requirements provided for by the Ministerial guidelines for the accreditation of doctoral programmes.
3. A professor can be the Coordinator of only one Academic Board at Italian level.
4. After the submission of the candidatures, the Doctoral School Board appoints a Committee which verifies that the candidates meet the eligibility criteria and prepares a certified list of all candidates. When a doctoral programme is jointly organized with other universities, the Coordinator is chosen according to the rules set forth in the agreement between the parties.
5. The Coordinator holds office for three years and can be renewed only once, including in the event that his/her first mandate has lasted less than three years. In the event of early resignation of the previous Coordinator, the new Coordinator will hold office until the mandate of his/her predecessor comes to an end.
6. The Coordinator is the director of the doctoral programme and has the following tasks:
 - a. coordinates and organizes doctoral training and related administrative activities;
 - b. promotes the programme in order to attract new doctoral candidates and funds;
 - c. designs the course catalogue for the third-level courses of the programme, in cooperation with the Academic Board, and submits the planning to the Doctoral School Board;
 - d. is responsible for the organization and overall functioning of the doctoral programme and the courses provided therein
 - e. participates in the internationalization activities organized by the Doctoral School
 - f. expresses his/her opinion on the activation of doctoral scholarships;
 - g. convenes and chairs the Academic Board;
 - h. convenes the *Advisory Board* of the doctoral programme at least once a year;
 - i. is in charge of the internal communication among the Academic Board, the School and the Departments involved;
 - j. ensures that the information on the doctoral programme and on the research activities is updated and published on the university web site;
 - k. authorizes doctoral candidates to carry out activities outside Politecnico;
 - l. each year reports on the activities of the doctoral programme to the Council of the Department involved;
 - m. may appoint a Vice-Coordinator, chosen from among the members of the Academic Board, who can replace him/her in all his/her duties in case of absence or impediment;

- n. may appoint some advisors for specific issues (i.e., authorization of external activities of doctoral candidates);
- o. carries out the tasks entrusted to him/her by the Academic Board.

9.2 Academic Board

1. The Academic Board is responsible for the design and implementation of the doctoral programme. It supervises the training activities of the programme; it provides guidance to doctoral candidates through the identification of their Supervisors; it verifies the achievement of their educational goals.
2. Taking into account, where possible, the gender balance, the Board must be composed of a minimum of twelve members, at least half of which must be tenured full or associate professors, and the remainder must be tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the event of doctoral programmes jointly organized with public research institutions, they can also be research managers or researchers of the institutions themselves, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. For the purposes of accreditation, the researchers referred to in art. 24, par. 3 letter B) of Law 240/2010 are considered as tenured researchers.
3. Experts who are not on the staff of any university or public research institution, with proven scientific or professional expertise in research areas consistent with the educational objectives of the doctoral programme, may be part of the Academic Board, up to a maximum of one third of its overall members.
4. Some representatives of the doctoral candidates also sit on the Board and are elected by the doctoral candidates enrolled in each programme, in order to discuss academic issues, in accordance with the “Regulations on the election of student representatives in the university governing bodies”. These representatives do not take part in discussions and decisions on the annual evaluation of doctoral candidates and on the organization of the final examination. They hold office for two years.
5. At the discretion of the Academic Board, in cases of proven scientific interest, the composition of the Board can be enlarged to include also some representatives of public and private institutions where the research activity is conducted and some representatives of the external institutions which offer funding for doctoral scholarships. These representatives can participate in the work of the Academic Board without the right to vote, and only for meetings related to them.
6. The composition of the Academic Board has to comply with the ministerial regulations on accreditation requirements. In any case, researchers who are members of the Board must have a scientific qualification in line with the necessary requirements for access to the functions of associate professor. Associate and full professors must have a scientific qualification in line with the necessary requirements for access to the functions of the role they belong to. The members of the Board on the staff of foreign universities or research institutions must meet the minimum requirements for access to the functions of associate professor.

7. For doctoral programmes jointly organized with other institutions in the Academic Board composition has to ensure the equal representation of the teaching staff pertaining to all the institutions involved and has to comply with the ministerial requirements for accreditation.
8. Each year the composition of the Academic Board is updated by the Council of the Department to which the doctoral programme pertains. The specific regulations of each doctoral programme set the rules for the presentation and acceptance of candidates to the Academic Board pursuant to the principles of transparency and publicity. In case of nomination of teaching staff pertaining to other universities, their admission is subject to the authorization of the competent body of their university.
9. Each member of the Collegio may participate in only one Collegio at national level. It is possible to participate in an additional Collegio only if it relates to a doctoral programme jointly organised with other institutions, as indicated in art. 6 par. 5 of these Regulations, including Industrial doctoral programmes and Doctoral programmes of national interest, as referred to respectively in articles 17 and 18 of these Regulations.
10. The faculty of Politecnico di Torino can take part in the Collegio of doctoral programmes offered by other Universities if authorized by the Academic Senate. Professors who meet the minimum requirement as per art. 4 paragraph 1 letter of Ministerial Decree 226/2021 may not be members of other Collegi on a national basis.
11. The Academic Board performs the following tasks of proposal and control over the activities of the doctoral programme and, in accordance with the operating procedures of the Doctoral School, it makes the following decisions:
 - a. approves the research and training curriculum of each doctoral candidate and it identifies his/her Supervisor/s;
 - b. proposes the third-level course catalogue related to the specific doctoral programme to the Coordinator;
 - c. proposes the names of the internal and external teaching staff, after receiving the positive opinion of the Head of the Department when its internal teaching staff is concerned;
 - d. proposes to appoint external lecturers on the staff of other universities or experts with proven expertise (that can be deduced from their CV) who will be responsible for teaching some courses;
 - e. approves co-teaching appointments and chooses the internal teaching staff who is assigned to perform these tasks, after receiving the positive opinion of the Head of the Department when its internal teaching staff is involved. If no internal teaching staff is available, he appoints external lecturers or experts with proven expertise (that can be deduced from their CV) or chooses them from the Roster of eligible lectures or by publishing vacancy notices, upon proposal of the professor in charge of the course and in compliance with the “Regulations for teaching appointments and seminars in the field of education”.
 - f. authorizes doctoral candidates to carry out remunerated activities, after verifying that these activities are compatible with the teaching and research activities of the doctoral programme;
 - g. defines the minimum criteria for training and research of doctoral candidates within the limits imposed by the present Regulations;
 - h. periodically monitors the performance of doctoral candidates (continuity and quality) and intervenes in case of deviation from the criteria defined;

- i. upon reasoned recommendation of the Supervisor, it may resolve the forfeiture from the programme of a doctoral candidate, even during the year;
 - j. evaluates the activity report submitted by each doctoral candidate at the end of the year and decides whether the candidate can be admitted to the following year of the programme or to the oral defence;
 - k. evaluates the satisfaction questionnaires submitted by the doctoral candidates each year and takes the necessary measures;
 - l. approves the proposals submitted by the principal investigators for the opening of new doctoral programmes offered in the apprenticeship format or with Executive Path;
 - m. proposes new partnerships and exchange programmes with other Italian and foreign universities and public and private organizations which carry out specific high-level research in order to improve the opportunities offered to doctoral candidates;
 - n. annually evaluates the academic performance of doctoral candidates to assign quality awards;
 - o. approves extensions to the duration of doctoral programmes (art. 36);
12. The Academic Board meets at least twice a year, also remotely. Minutes are kept of the meetings, which are transmitted to the competent office of the University central administration and made available to the members of the Departmental Council which hosts the doctoral programme.
13. Teaching and tutoring activities for doctoral programmes carried out by the members of the Academic Board count towards the institutional teaching workload in accordance with the University Regulations.

Art. 10 – Doctoral programmes Regulations

1. All doctoral programmes must have their own Regulations which govern the following, in compliance with the legislation in force and with the *Operating Procedures*:
 - a. criteria for the acceptance of applications to the Academic Board;
 - b. internal organisation of the Academic Board (e.g. possible Commissions, delegations);
 - c. procedures for defining, monitoring and reviewing training objectives and research topics;
 - d. procedures for defining and updating the course catalogue of doctoral programmes;
 - e. rights and duties of doctoral candidates, as far as not provided for in these Regulations, ensuring equal opportunities for female and male doctoral candidates;
 - f. type of admission tests and minimum scores; procedures and criteria for passing the year, for admission to the final examination and for its organization;
 - g. in the event of programmes organized in various curricula, the possible modalities for the identification of a scientific director.
2. The Regulations of each doctoral programme may also include provisions on teaching, scientific and organisational activities.
3. The Regulations, drafted in compliance with the template adopted by the University Bodies, is proposed for approval to the Academic Senate by the Academic Board (subject to the opinion of the Board of Governors), after obtaining the opinion of Doctoral School Board.

Art. 11 – Course catalogue

1. With an eye to promote interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinarity, the Doctoral School defines, organizes and manages the following catalogue of third-level courses, also in cooperation with one or more Departments:
 - a. **Technical/Specialized courses (hard skills):** specific courses offered in the framework of the third-level course catalogue. They aim to strengthen technical and specialized skills. The Academic Board of each doctoral programme proposes the list of third-level courses to the Doctoral School Board which is in charge of approving them annually, also in accordance with the process for teaching assignments for first and second level courses.
 - b. **Courses on soft skills:** courses on transferable skills (soft skills) offered in addition to the Technical/Specialized course catalogue. These courses are proposed by the Director of the Doctoral School, upon consultation with the Academic Boards. They are approved by the Doctoral School Board on the basis of specific criteria (priority and consistency) and within the limits of the resources annually allocated by the Board of Governors.
 - c. **Guest lectures:** shorter than hard and soft skills courses, taught by external instructors of proven international scientific excellence on frontier technology topics and innovative issues. They are proposed by the Coordinator of the doctoral programme, upon favourable opinion of the Head of the Department where the course will take place with the list of applicants and their CVs. Within the limits of the resources allocated annually by the Board of Governors, the Doctoral School Board approves the list of these courses and decides how much funding should be transferred to the Department which will organizethem.

2. The courses referred to in letters a., b. and c. of the previous paragraph are normally delivered in person at the University. The Doctoral School may also decide that these courses may be delivered as remote courses.
3. All third-level doctoral courses must have a final examination.
4. The catalogue of the third level courses is organised according to a calendar of lessons communicated to the doctoral candidates well in advance.

Art. 12 – Educational project

1. The educational project of a doctoral candidate consists in:
 - a. developing an individual research project in a disciplinary field specific to the doctoral programme, under the guidance of one or more Supervisors.
 - b. attending doctoral-level lectures and activities that are complementary to research. The educational project may include second or third-level courses provided that the doctoral candidate has never taken them before. The educational project must be approved by the Supervisor.
2. The educational project must be approved by the Academic Board.
3. Admission to the final examination is decided by the Academic Board subject to the fulfilment of the minimum attendance requirements and/or grades for hard skill and soft skill courses as well as the minimum requirements for research activity. These requirements are defined in the *Operating Procedures* approved by the Doctoral School Board.
4. In compliance with these constraints, the Regulations of each doctoral programme may provide for specific attendance requirements and/or minimum grades for being admitted to the following year.
5. Training activities of a technical-specialist and transversal nature attended outside the University are subject to an authorisation procedure, as per the *Operating Procedures*. Foreign language courses and courses run by professional bodies are not recognised.
6. Politecnico recognizes a maximum of thirty hours for each external teaching activity, normally subject to a final examination. The Academic Board of the doctoral programme may reduce the number of hours recognised on the basis of criteria established by the Regulations of the specific doctoral programme.
7. The training activities carried out by doctoral candidates in one or more locations must be certified by a document attached to the final diploma (Diploma Supplement).

Art. 13 - Doctoral programme duration

1. The period of study for doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino is three years, except for the cases referred to in art. 7 of Ministerial decree no. 226/2021. The duration of doctoral programmes can be extended when there are international agreements or specific agreements signed by the University with companies or institutions.

Art. 14 – Supervisor and Co-supervisor

1. The Academic Board provides each doctoral candidate with a research topic and with an Academic Supervisor who supervises his/her doctoral education, as well as with one or more Co-supervisors.

2. The Co-supervisors are chosen by the Collegio and can be individuals who do not pertain to Politecnico.
3. At least one between the Supervisor and Co-supervisor must meet the requirements to become a member of the Academic Board.
4. The Supervisor, assisted by one or more Co-supervisors, is responsible for:
 - a. guiding and assisting the doctoral candidate in the definition of his/her study plan, also with the support of the Declaration of Intent (DoI);
 - b. monitoring the availability of sufficient funds and equipment to carry out the research activity included in the educational project proposed to the doctoral candidate;
 - c. helping the doctoral candidate to choose the external teaching activities and off-site activities, verifying that they are in line with his/her educational project;
 - d. supervising the entire educational path, being the doctoral candidate's focal point within the Academic Board and being responsible for the research activities and progress of the doctoral candidate as well as for his/her compliance with the ethical principles of the international scientific community and the Code of Ethical Conduct of the University;
 - e. providing a report and an evaluation to the Academic Board which constitute the basis for admitting the doctoral candidate to the following year of the programme or to oral defence;
 - f. Reporting in writing any critical situations to the Coordinator, including any unjustified absence of the doctoral candidate. The Coordinator must inform the Academic Board, which may decide on the forfeiture of the doctoral candidate even during the course of the year.
5. In order to support the doctoral candidate in the planning of his/her study plan and to facilitate discussion, the Supervisor and the Co-supervisor must sign the Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the doctoral candidate as soon as possible and, in any case, within the first six months of activity, updating it, if necessary, at the beginning of the next two years.
6. Supervisors and Co-supervisors who do not pertain to the Academic Board can be invited to participate to its meetings, without the right to vote.
7. The Supervisor and the Co-supervisor/s can be replaced only under exceptional circumstances that must be justified by a formal and documented request submitted to the Academic Board.

Title V – Cooperation with companies and external organizations

Art. 15 - Cooperation with companies and external organizations

1. The Doctoral School promotes the interaction with the socio-economic system. It fosters the active involvement of the most technologically advanced enterprises in the development of joint research and training activities, through an intensive exchange of knowledge and the integrated use of skills.
2. The Doctoral School promotes cooperation agreements focused on the financing of one or more doctoral scholarships with large, medium and small enterprises, craft enterprises and others institutions outside the University administration.
3. The agreements referred to in this article and in articles 16 e 17 must be approved by the Board of Governors and must provide for the following:

- a. the training of the doctoral candidate is under the responsibility of the University, it being understood that the Supervisor chosen by the Academic Board can be supported by an external Co-supervisor on the staff of the partner organizations. The Co-supervisor is responsible for supervising the activities carried out by the doctoral candidate within the organization;
- b. Any rights of industrial and intellectual property are governed by specific agreements.

Art. 16 - Doctoral programmes offered in apprenticeship format

1. Pursuant to art. 45 of Legislative decree no. 81 of 15th June 2015 and Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010 and further amendments, an individual can participate in a higher education programme offered in apprenticeship format for the attainment of a doctoral degree and be hired by a company with an apprenticeship contract at the same time.
2. The selected candidates are admitted to the doctoral programme without any scholarship and are hired by the company with an apprenticeship contract which has the same duration of the doctoral programme.
3. Politecnico di Torino and the company adopt appropriate forms of coordination and integration (governed by a specific agreement) along the entire duration of the contract in order to deliver training and supervision to the doctoral candidate.
4. The apprenticeship contract, signed in accordance with current legislation, ends after the conferral of the doctoral degree and/or at the end of the doctoral programme.
5. The doctoral candidate has the same obligations of the other doctoral candidates attending the same programme. In the event that the doctoral candidate withdraws from the doctoral programme, his/her apprenticeship contract will also be terminated and vice versa.
6. Applicants intending to apply for a doctoral programme offered in apprenticeship format need to meet the requirements for admission to the doctoral programme and the requirements for being hired with an apprenticeship contract. A special admissions committee is created to evaluate the applications received and to publish the results of the selection process. This committee, in which gender balance must be ensured, can also include some company representatives.

Art. 17 – Industrial doctoral programme and Executive paths

1. The University, at the time of initial accreditation or later, may request that a doctoral programme is given the recognition of "industrial doctoral programme", as part of its denomination. This is possible for doctoral programmes organized on the basis of agreements or consortia that also include companies, including foreign businesses, engaged in research and development.
2. These agreements regulate:
 - a. how to coordinate the research activities between the parties;

- b. how the doctoral candidates will carry out the research activities at the company. If the doctoral candidate is an employee of the company, the agreement must specify the total workload and the duration of the doctoral programme;
 - c. how the company will promote technology transfer and development of the results of the research activities.
- 3. The research topics that are specific to industrial doctoral programmes must emphasize the promotion of economic development and must facilitate joint planning of the research topics and activities of doctoral candidates.
- 4. The calls for applications for admissions to industrial doctoral programmes, in accordance with the guidelines defined at European level and the development strategies of the national system and in compliance with the principles set forth in article 2, may:
 - a. indicate specific requirements for conducting research, such as interdisciplinarity, membership in international networks and cross-sectoriality, with particular reference to the business sector;
 - b. reserve a number of doctoral positions to the employees of the companies or institutions, who can be admitted to the doctoral programme after the selection process.
- 5. In order to foster interaction and integration between research in universities, businesses and external bodies, it is possible to activate, in addition to the programmes referred to in the preceding paragraphs, single doctoral positions, called Executive Paths, within existing doctoral programmes, for employees of companies through the stipulation of appropriate agreements. The employees who apply for such positions will be admitted to the doctoral programme upon passing the relevant selection process.

Art. 18 – Doctoral programmes of national interest

1. A doctoral programme is considered of national interest if it meets the following requirements:
 - a. demonstrably contributes to the advancement of research, including through the achievement of specific objectives belonging to the priority areas of intervention of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including the programmes related to the promotion of innovative doctoral programmes for public administration and cultural heritage, or the National Research Programme or related National Plans;
 - b. provides, already at the accreditation stage, for the signing of agreements or for the establishment of consortia among several universities, as well as with high-level research institutions recognized at international level, including foreign organizations. These agreements shall govern the effective sharing of training and research activities, the terms and forms of financial support, the procedures for exchange and mobility of faculty and doctoral candidates and possible forms of co-tutelle;
 - c. provides, already at the accreditation stage, for the coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four subjects referred to in art. 7, par. 4 of the present Regulations, in order to deliver high-level training and to

facilitate access to research infrastructures that are suitable for the research projects of doctoral candidates

- d. provides for at least thirty scholarships for each doctoral cycle. The amount of each scholarship is determined in accordance with current legislation. The share of the scholarship for research and training is increased by 20 per cent with ministerial funds.
2. Scholarships for doctoral programmes of national interest are awarded in accordance with the terms illustrated in the Call for applications by a Committee composed in a way that ensures gender balance and the participation of foreign or external members who are not on the staff of the organizing institutions.

Art. 19 – Affiliation to doctoral programmes offered by other universities

1. The University may take part in doctoral programmes with administrative offices in other universities, in the forms indicated in article 3 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021.
2. The proposal of affiliation, submitted by the interested teaching and research staff, must contain the favourable opinion of the Councils of the Departments to which they belong, and must be approved by the Board of Governors, subject to the mandatory opinion of the Academic Senate. Affiliation to external doctoral programmes is approved if an adequate number of Politecnico lecturers take part in the doctoral programme.
3. Teaching and research staff who do not participate in any doctoral programme at Politecnico are allowed to collaborate in doctoral programmes offered by other Universities, subject to the authorisation of the Academic Senate.

Title VI – Internationalization

Art. 20 – Internationalization of doctoral programmes

1. Politecnico considers the internationalization process of doctoral programmes to be of strategic importance for the University. It fosters the creation of a European higher education and research area. It promotes and supports international mobility for doctoral candidates, faculty members and researchers; it encourages doctoral candidates to participate in international training and research projects and also confers double degrees or joint degrees according to specific agreements.
2. In the call for applications for Politecnico doctoral programmes a number of doctoral positions may be reserved to applicants who graduated from foreign universities, scholarship recipients from foreign countries or candidates involved in specific international programmes; some doctoral scholarships and other funding sources can be reserved to applicants who have been awarded the degree required for admission to the doctoral programme from a foreign university.
3. In case of reserved doctoral positions, as explained in paragraph 2, the procedure for admissions to doctoral programmes may vary from the standard procedure. International or

European collaborative projects can provide for specific organizational rules that take into account the peculiarities of the various projects, provided that these programmes previously receive the due accreditation.

4. For a better coordination of international high-level research activities, Politecnico is entitled to jointly organize doctoral programmes with foreign universities and internationally renowned research institutions, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity.

Art. 21 - Co-tutelle agreements

1. In order to promote and facilitate international cooperation in the framework of doctoral programmes, Politecnico enters into agreements with foreign universities or institutions. These agreements regulate the cooperation procedures and in particular the rules for co-tutelle theses.
2. In the framework of a co-tutelle agreement the doctoral candidate is expected to alternate research periods at Politecnico and at the partner university. The doctoral candidate writes his/her thesis under the supervision of two different Supervisors, one from each university, and is awarded the doctoral degree by both institutions. As a general rule, the doctoral candidate shall not spend less than 18 months at Politecnico di Torino.
3. A special agreement, signed by the Director of the Doctoral School in accordance with the guidelines of the Board of Governors, regulates the forms in which the doctoral candidate carries out his/her research and training and the requirements for the attainment of the co-tutelle degree. The details are illustrated in the *Operating procedures*.

Title VII – Admissions to doctoral programmes

Art. 22 – Admission requirements

1. The admission process for doctoral programmes begins with a preliminary verification conducted by a university committee to ascertain whether the applicants meet the admission requirements. Decisions for admissions are made based on a comparative evaluation of the applicants based on a public selection process. This comparative evaluation is carried out by the Admissions Committee of each doctoral programme – composed in a way that ensures gender balance - and is based on the applicants' motivations, educational background, professional expertise and attitude to research in scientific fields which are relevant to the doctoral programme
2. Applicants from any country who have a Master's degree or an academic degree obtained abroad recognized as a suitable qualification are entitled to apply for admissions to a doctoral programme.
3. A specific University Committee – composed in a way that ensures gender balance - evaluates the validity of foreign qualifications which have never been recognized equivalent to the Italian *laurea magistrale* before by any other Italian university. When a foreign qualification is declared suitable, this declaration is valid only for the purpose of admission to the selection process for doctoral programmes.

4. The Doctoral School Board decides on the requirements for admission to doctoral programmes and on the criteria for the evaluation of applicants. The admission requirements and evaluation criteria are published each year in the Call for applications and on the website of the School.
5. When a doctoral programme is jointly organized with other universities, admission requirements are defined in the specific agreements/consortia signed between the parties.

Art. 23 – Admissions Committees

1. Upon proposal of the Academic Board and after receiving the positive opinion of the Department Council, by means of a decree, the Rector appoints the Admissions Committees which are in charge of the comparative evaluation of applicants. The Admissions Committee is composed - in a way that ensures gender balance - of at least three members chosen from among tenured teaching staff and researchers. In case of doctoral programmes jointly organized with high-level private or public research centres, the Committee can also be integrated by first researchers or research directors on the staff of the partner organizations. When an Admissions Committee has to evaluate applicants who are competing for a fully-funded doctoral position with predefined research topic, the Committee can avail itself of external experts. In this case the final report has to include the experts' written opinion on the suitability of the applicants who are competing for the fully-funded positions with predefined research topic.
2. The Admissions Committee carries out the comparative evaluation of the applicants, prepares the merit-based ranking list and selects the doctoral scholarship recipients from the ranking list.
3. The reports of the Admissions Committee, approved by Rector's decree, are properly brought to the attention of the public.

Art. 24 - Call for applications for admissions to doctoral programmes

1. The call for applications for admissions to doctoral programmes, issued by the Rector of Politecnico di Torino at least once a year, is written in Italian and in English, in accordance with the rules of the present Regulations and with the *Operating Procedures* of the Doctoral School.
2. The call is published online on the website of Politecnico, on the European website of Euraxess and on the MUR website (Ministry of University and Research) for a period of minimum 30 days.
3. The call for applications includes:
 - a. the doctoral programmes that have been approved by the Board of Governors;
 - b. the number of doctoral positions available for each doctoral programme;
 - c. the number of scholarships for each doctoral programme, the scholarships with predefined research topic (if any) and the criteria for the selection of scholarship recipients;
 - d. the number of apprenticeship contracts and any other kind of financial aid deriving from research funds or other funds of the University;
 - e. the criteria for admissions and for evaluation of the academic qualifications, as well as any written examination, including internationally recognized tests, or oral tests, if any;
 - f. the application deadline and how to apply;
 - g. general and specific requirements;
 - h. how the ranking lists are formulated;

- i. how the scholarships are assigned;
 - j. the scholarships amount;
 - k. how to enrol in a doctoral programme;
 - l. the tuition fees that doctoral candidates are required to pay.
4. The call for applications for each doctoral programme may provide for admission of eligible applicants in the event that selected candidates withdraw from the programme or in the event that new funds become available.

Art. 25 - Transfers from other universities

1. Doctoral candidates who have attended at least one year of a doctoral programme at another Italian or foreign university, or individuals who have completed high-level training or research considered equivalent to a doctoral programme by the Doctoral School, can ask for clearance to apply directly to the second year of a doctoral programme at Politecnico only if:
 - a. the Doctoral School of Politecnico di Torino offers a programme which has the same training and research objectives of the programme of origin;
 - b. the doctoral candidate provides the transcripts of the exams that he/she passed at the university of origin and these exams are recognized by the Academic Board as equivalent to the courses required by Politecnico for admissions to the second year of the doctoral programme;
 - c. the doctoral candidate passes an evaluation interview with the correspondent Academic Board;
 - d. the doctoral candidate has been admitted to the second year of the doctoral programme by the Academic Board of the university of origin.
2. In the event that the doctoral candidate is granted the clearance referred to in the preceding paragraph, the transfer can be made, after verifying the effective withdrawal from the university of origin. The doctoral candidate enrolls in the second year, in any case without any scholarship. The doctoral position taken by the transfer candidate must be included in the number of positions already available for the receiving doctoral programme.
3. The Academic Board decides on the number of credits to be recognized for the exams that the candidate gained at the university of origin. The Academic Board also identifies a Supervisor for the doctoral candidate.

Title VIII – Rights and responsibilities of doctoral candidates

Art. 26 - Rights and responsibilities of doctoral candidates

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of art. 16 e 17, participation in a doctoral programme requires exclusive full-time commitment.

2. A doctoral candidate is a university student enrolled in a third-level programme and can be simultaneously enrolled in another academic programme in compliance with Law no.33/2022 and the corresponding D.M. no. 930/2022. For matters not governed by the above-mentioned Law, and in particular the compatibility of double enrolment (enrolment in doctoral programme and in a 1st or 2nd level Specializing Master's programme or enrolment in two doctoral programmes, excluding cases of co-tutelles for which the provisions of article 21 above apply), the Academic Board is responsible for verifying that the two programmes are organized in a way that allows the doctoral candidate to attend both programmes correctly.
3. A doctoral candidate attends an academic programme for the attainment of a degree. He/she has the rights and duties of any other student. He/she also takes part in the research activities of the Departments. For this reason, in line with the European guidelines, he/she must be considered as an early stage researcher.
4. Each doctoral candidate is required to comply with the educational project assigned by the Academic Board and, in Each doctoral candidate is required particular, must:
 - a. attend the scheduled courses and continuously carry out the study and research activities that are developed in the Department where he/she has been placed;
 - b. submit a detailed report on the educational and research activities carried out during the year to the Academic Board at the end of each year, for the purpose of admission to the following year or to the final examination. Each doctoral programme may also provide for additional or different forms of evaluation of training and research;
5. Each doctoral candidate is also required to:
 - a. abide by the policies of Politecnico on open access;
 - b. update his/her own information and data (i.e. Cruscotto, IRIS, etc) and fill out the satisfaction questionnaire;
 - c. request prior authorization for work activities that are not included in the educational project, submitting the documentation deemed necessary by AcademicBoard.
6. Doctoral candidates can spend study or research periods at other universities, research institutions, centres and laboratories, in Italy and abroad, up to a maximum of 18 months over the three years. The decision has to be made in agreement with the candidate's Supervisor. During such periods of stay outside Politecnico, doctoral candidates are required to interact with their Supervisors and undergo the required assessments in the manner defined by the Academic Board. Possible exceptions to this rule for doctoral programmes in apprenticeship format or for Executive Paths must be approved by the Academic Board.
7. As a general rule, each doctoral candidate is engaged in research and training activities that must be consistent with his/her doctoral project at high-level international institutions. Doctoral candidates must be ensured an additional budget equal to at least 50% of the scholarship, calculated on a period of research abroad of a maximum of twelve months (this period may be extended to 18 months for co-tutelles or programmes jointly organized with foreign institutions). This provision does not apply to non-Italian doctoral candidates who are recipients of scholarships or financial support under specific mobility programs.
8. The overall duration of mobility projects abroad (art. 6 and 7) cannot exceed 18 months.
9. Doctoral candidates (with and without scholarship) are given a budget in support of their research activity in an amount equal to at least 10% of the overall scholarship; for doctoral

programmes of national interest the value of this budget must be equal to 20% of the amount of the scholarship. For the doctoral positions referred to in art. 16 and 17 of the present Regulations, the University can share the costs with the partner companies.

10. The Academic Board may authorize a doctoral candidate to have a remunerated job (which was not originally planned in the educational project) if the job is compatible with his/her educational project and does not create a conflict of interest with the University. The job must have a schedule that allows the doctoral candidate to carry out his/her individual research project and attend classes.
11. In the event that the doctoral candidate is hired as a public or private employee during the course of the doctoral programme, the Academic Board must decide on his/her exclusion from the programme, subject to the following assumptions:
 - a. that the doctoral candidate renounces the scholarship paid by the University and that the Academic Board expresses a favourable opinion on the compatibility of the job with the doctoral programme;
 - b. that the doctoral candidate is placed on leave without pay or leave of absence by his/her employer until the end the doctoral programme.
12. In any case, the university scholarship cannot be combined with allowances or other emoluments that may be received by the doctoral candidate (public or private employee) by reason of his/her placement on leave without pay or leave of absence.

Art. 27 – Suspension of studies

1. Without prejudice to the cases provided for by the law, doctoral candidates can expressly request a suspension from studies for a minimum of one month to a maximum of six months in case of:
 - a. serious and documented illness;
 - b. Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA, Italian teachers traineeship);
 - c. serious documented personal or family problems, after receiving expressed approval of the Academic Board which verifies whether the suspension of studies is compatible with the candidate's research activity.
2. The parenting protection regulations set forth in the Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security no. 247 of 12th July 2007, published in the Official Gazette of 23rd October 2007, apply to doctoral candidates.
3. During maternity/paternity leave, the payment of the scholarship is interrupted and postponed until the end of the period of suspension. The procedures to request maternity/paternity leave are illustrated in the *Operating procedures*.
4. Possible exceptions to the duration of the period of suspension (par. 1) must be exceptionally authorized by the Doctoral School Board, upon favourable opinion of the Academic Board.
5. The periods of suspension and periods of extension referred to in article 36 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, without prejudice to specific cases provided for by law.
6. No scholarship or other equivalent financial support will be paid during the entire duration of the suspension. All academic deadlines will be postponed until the end of the period of suspension.

Art. 28 – Forfeiture, exclusion and withdrawal from studies

1. A doctoral candidate is declared forfeited with consequent automatic termination of his/her academic progress in the following cases:
 - a. failure to enrol in the following year or failure to register for the final examination within the deadlines;
 - b. failure to defend his/her doctoral thesis at the final examination within the deadlines;
 - c. termination of the employment relationship with the company where the doctoral candidate is working in the framework of an industrial doctoral programmes or apprenticeship programme for reasons that are attributable to the doctoral candidate.
2. The Academic Board, at any time, may decide on the exclusion of a doctoral candidate from the programme in case of:
 - a. negative assessment on the activity carried out in the framework of the educational project;
 - b. prolonged and unjustified absence, not approved by the Academic Board;
 - c. failing grade in the evaluations scheduled at the end of each year;
 - d. work activities carried out by the doctoral candidate outside his/her educational project not approved in advance by the Academic Board;
 - e. if the doctoral candidate is hired as a public or private employee during the course of the doctoral programme, without prejudice to the cases referred to in art. 26 par. 9.

3. When a doctoral candidate is excluded from a programme, the scholarship disbursement is interrupted starting from the date of the exclusion decision, without prejudice to the cases referred to in art. 37 c.7.
4. Forfeiture is ordered by Rector's decree notified to the interested party.
5. A doctoral candidate may request a withdrawal from studies at any time. When a doctoral candidate withdraws from the programme, the scholarship is interrupted starting from the date of withdrawal and the doctoral candidate's academic progress is cancelled. The *Operating Procedures* shall govern the terms and deadlines for requesting a withdrawal from studies.

Art. 29 - Rules of behaviour

1. Doctoral candidates are required to maintain a behaviour that is respectful of the principles and norms of the Code of Ethical Conduct of Politecnico di Torino and the University Regulations. They also have to uphold international standards for research integrity
2. Doctoral candidates are required to conduct their research activities consistently with the fundamental ethical rules of the university community; in particular they must not present someone else's work as their own without citing the sources. To this end, the originality of doctoral theses is checked with a specific software for plagiarism detection.
3. Violation of academic ethics and infringement of rules of behaviour entails disciplinary responsibility of the doctoral candidate. The procedure intended to ascertain a possible misconduct follows the rules laid down in the Student Regulations of the University.

Art. 30 - Scholarships

1. Scholarships start to be paid from the beginning of the doctoral programme in monthly instalments.
2. Scholarships have a one-year duration and are renewed if the Academic Board decides to admit the doctoral candidate to the next year of the programme, after verifying that he/she has completed all the tasks assigned.
3. The scholarship amount cannot be lower than the amount provided for by the decree of the Ministry of University and Research dated 23rd February 2022.
4. The scholarship is increased by 50% up to a maximum of 12 months totally over the three years for any research period spent abroad (authorized by the Coordinator) in compliance with art. 24. This period may be extended up to maximum 18 months for co-tutelle doctoral programmes with international institutions.
5. The scholarship is subject to social security contribution (INPS – *gestione separata*) as provided by the law. Doctoral candidates enjoy the rights connected to these provisions.
6. Scholarship recipients can renounce their right to receive a scholarship at any time without incurring in forfeiture from the programme.
7. Failure to attend doctoral activities for more than 30 consecutive days will result in the suspension of scholarship payments. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to inform the Coordinator and the administration offices about any prolonged absences of the doctoral candidate.

If the doctoral candidate does not resume his/her studies in the next 30 days, the Academic Board will impose the forfeiture and the scholarship will not be due starting from the first suspension.

8. Scholarships awarded by the Doctoral School can be combined with other scholarships, unless otherwise provided by specific calls, and only if the Academic Board determines that they are compatible with the doctoral programme requirements.
9. The provisions of this article are not applicable to individuals who have been awarded a scholarship by a foreign government. Moreover, the present provisions do not apply to individuals who receive financial aid related to their participation in mobility projects in accordance with specific agreements.
10. An individual who has already received a doctoral scholarship is not entitled to receive another scholarship for another doctoral programme.

Art. 31 - Tuition fees and attendance of doctoral programmes

1. The Board of Governors of Politecnico di Torino sets forth the rules which regulate the tuition fees for doctoral programmes.
2. The Tuition Fee Regulations of the University contain the rules on tuition fees and possible exemptions from tuition fees. The Tuition Fee Guide contains information on the amounts, deadlines and payment methods.

Art. 32 - Teaching and research assistantships

1. Without prejudice to art. 12, par. 3 of Ministerial decree no. 226 dated 14th December 2021 and to art. 26 of the present Regulations, doctoral candidates can be appointed to work as research assistants or teaching assistants with limited teaching support functions. Assistantships are paid and must be approved by the Academic Board.
2. The Regulations of Politecnico on teaching appointments (*Regolamento di Ateneo per il conferimento degli incarichi per attività di insegnamento e per attività seminariali in ambito didattico*) regulate teaching and research assistantships for doctoral candidates. Such teaching appointments must not undermine the training path of doctoral candidates under any circumstances.

Art. 33 - Ownership of Industrial and Intellectual Property Rights resulting from research activities of doctoral candidates

1. The Ownership of Industrial and Intellectual Property Rights resulting from research activities conducted by doctoral candidates is regulated by the "Regulations of Politecnico di Torino on Intellectual and Industrial Property" and by the provisions of other agreements signed by the University.

TITLE IX – Earning the doctoral degree

Art. 34 - Doctoral thesis preparation

1. The holder of a doctoral degree is addressed as "Doctor", often abbreviated as "Dott.Ric." or "Ph.D.". This academic title is achieved upon completion of a doctoral programme and after

receiving a positive evaluation of a research thesis which has to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and research methods in a given field of study.

2. A doctoral thesis can be written in Italian or in English, or in any other language if this is authorized by the Academic Board. It must be accompanied by an abstract written in Italian or English. The doctoral candidate is also required to write a report about his/her activities during the programme and publications (if any). This report has to be attached to the doctoral thesis.

Art. 35 – Evaluation of the doctoral thesis and admission to the oral defence

1. Upon a favourable opinion of the Academic Board, a doctoral thesis is evaluated by at least two referees who are specialists in the specific field of study, at least one of which must be a university professor. The referees must not be faculty members of Politecnico di Torino and they must not pertain to the Academic Board or to partner organizations or funding institutions, including foreign or international institutions. The rules for the appointment of the referees are contained in the *Operating procedures*.
2. The referees provide an analytic written report about the thesis within 30 days of receiving it. They can suggest that the doctoral candidate is admitted to the oral defence, or - if they consider that the thesis requires integrations or revisions - they can postpone the admission of the doctoral candidate to the oral defence for a maximum of six months.
3. The procedure for admission to the final examination (oral defence) is illustrated in the *Operating Procedures* approved by the School Board.

Art. 36 – Extension

1. For justified reasons that prevent the doctoral candidate from depositing his/her doctoral thesis by the deadlines, the Academic Board may grant, at the request of the doctoral candidate, an extension of maximum twelve months, without further financial support.
2. An extension of the duration of the doctoral programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the Academic Board for justified scientific needs. In this case, the scholarship is extended for the same period with funds from the university budget.
3. The periods of extension referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 and the period of suspension referred to in art. 27 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, without prejudice to the specific cases provided for by the law.
4. The procedure for requesting an extension is illustrated in the *Operating Procedures* approved by the School Board.

Art. 37 - Oral defence

1. The oral defence takes place in front of an examination board. The rules for the composition of the examination board (when possible, ensuring gender balance) are contained in the *Operating Procedures*.
2. At the end of the oral defence, the thesis can be approved or rejected with justified written verdict of the examiners. If the thesis is rejected, the doctoral candidate cannot attend the oral defence again and is excluded from the doctoral programme. The *Operating Procedures*

contain the rules for awarding final honours (*laude*) to a doctoral thesis containing very important scientific results.

3. The title of “Dottore di ricerca/ Ph.D.” is awarded by the Rector of Politecnico di Torino, after the doctoral candidate has uploaded an electronic copy of his/her thesis to the University open repository in accordance with the deadlines and procedures established by the offices in charge of this process
4. Within thirty days of the oral defence and approval of the thesis, Politecnico di Torino deposits an electronic copy of the thesis in the “*Anagrafe Nazionale dei Dottorandi e dei Dottori di ricerca*” in specific open access section. When previously authorized by the Academic Board, public access to some sections of a thesis can be restricted if the data contained are protected by current legislation on data protection. Politecnico is also required to send all doctoral theses to the National Libraries of Rome and Florence and to deposit them in the newly-formed ministerial database of doctoral theses.
5. When previously authorized by the Academic Board, public access to some sections of a thesis can be restricted if the data contained are covered by industrial secret in accordance with the law.

TITLE X – Transitional rules and final provisions

Art. 38 - Academic year

1. The official beginning of doctoral programmes can be scheduled on different dates during the academic year, as specified in the *Operating Procedures* and in each call for applications for admissions.

Art. 39 – Final provisions

1. The present Regulations come into force on the date of the Rector’s decree which issues them and they are applicable starting from the 38th cycle. If the rules and requirements of the present Regulations are stricter than the rules contained in the past Regulations, Politecnico applies the rules of the Regulations for doctoral programmes issued with Rector’s decree no. 355 of 22 April 2022 to the doctoral candidates of the 38th cycle. The Regulations for doctoral programmes issued with Rector’s decree no. 899 of 21 October 2021 shall apply to the doctoral candidates enrolled in the previous cycles.
2. If compatible, the present Regulations apply to the Postgraduate School as well. The Regulations of the Postgraduate School in “*Beni architettonici e del Paesaggio*” govern the cases that are not provided for or not compatible with the present Regulations.
3. For all matters not specifically provided for by the present Regulations, reference is made to the following documents: Ministerial decree no. 226 of 14th December 2021, current legislation on doctoral programmes, Ministerial decree no. 301 of 22nd March 2022 containing the Guidelines for accreditation of doctoral programmes, the *Operating Procedures* established in accordance with art. 1 of the present Regulations, other Regulations of Politecnico di Torino, in particular the General Regulations of the University, the University Teaching Regulations, the Regulations for Teaching Appointments.