

REGULATIONS FOR THE Ph.D. COURSES OF THE SCUOLA NORMALE SUPERIORE

Art. 1

(Purposes and definitions)

1. The regulations herein, pursuant to Article 4, second paragraph of Law No. 210 of 3rd July 1998 and Ministerial Decree No. 226 of 14th December 2021, regulate the setting up and functioning of the Ph.D. courses (hereinafter "Courses" and, in the singular, "Course") pursuant to Article 5, first paragraph, letter b), and Article 38 of the Statute of the Scuola Normale Superiore (hereinafter "SNS").
2. Also regulated by the regulations herein are any Ph.D. courses activated by the SNS pursuant to Article 5, second paragraph, letter c) of the Statute.
3. The Courses provide the skills required to carry out highly qualified research activities at universities, public institutions and private entities, and they contribute to the formation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research Area (ERA), conforming to the standards imposed by the latter. For the purposes of the regulations herein the following definitions prevail:
 - a. by Minister and Ministry, we mean the Minister of Universities and Research and the Ministry of Universities and Research;
 - b. by Universities we mean Italian state universities and legally recognised non-state ones, including higher education institutes with a special status;
 - c. by ANVUR we mean the Agenzia nazionale di valutazione del sistema universitario e della ricerca (the National Agency for the Assessment of the university and research systems), pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 138 of Legislative Decree No. 262 of 3rd October 2006, converted with modifications by Law No. 286 of 24th November 2006, as well as to Decree No. 76 of the President of the Republic of 1st February 2010;
 - d. by Guidelines we mean the Guidelines for the accreditation of Ph.D.s issued with Ministerial Decree No. 301 of 22nd March 2022 and subsequent modifications thereto;
 - e. by periodic accreditation form we mean the prevailing periodic accreditation form of the university sites and courses.

Art. 2

(Requisites for eligibility and setting up of the Courses)

1. A proposal to set up a Course is deliberated, at the proposal of the Faculty Council of reference, or, for inter-faculty Courses, of all the Faculty Councils involved and the Academic Senate, upon consultation with the Assessment Team and the Comitato Scientifico Internazionale (the International Scientific Committee) of the SNS on the existence of the requisites for eligibility, and by the Executive Council, which checks on the availability of the human and financial resources needed for its setting up. The Course may be divided into curricula, in which case within the PhD Board (hereinafter: "Board") the skills relating to each curriculum must be represented. All places competed for are covered by study grants; attendance and enrolment are free of charge.
2. The Courses are set up with a Director's Decree subject to accreditation by the Ministry, with the assent of the ANVUR.
3. Pursuant to Art. 4, paragraph 1, letter g) of DM 226/2021, the SNS sets up a system of quality assurance of the planning and management of the Ph.D. training conforming to the standards of quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), in accordance with the indications by the ANVUR, in addition to the provisions of the periodic accreditation form.

4. At the proposal of the Director or the Faculty Council where the Course is set up, or, for inter-faculty Courses, of the councils of all faculties involved, the Academic Senate may deliberate on the closure of a Course. The deliberation may also be carried out by the Executive Council should there be a lack of the necessary human and financial resources. Closure is effected with a Director's Decree.
5. For the approval of a proposal for the setting up of a Course, the following requisites must be met:
 - a. at least 50% of the members of the Board must have tenure at the SNS and at any partner institutions in the case of courses with the issuing of a joint qualification;
 - b. the coordination of the Board is entrusted to a permanent full professor or, should no full professor be available, to a permanent associate professor with tenure at the SNS; a professor may also be appointed who carries out all of their activity at the SNS on the basis of an agreement with their university of appurtenance;
 - c. the Coordinator must have a curriculum that guarantees their qualification and organisational capability in the scientific field and that substantiates the requisites specified in prevailing regulations ;
 - d. the members of the Board must be engaged in proven research activity in line with the scientific aims of the Course;
 - e. the teaching curriculum covers the scientific lines of the Course and provides the skills required to carry out highly qualified research activities;
 - f. in order to allow for the creation of an adequate learning context, and with the exception of courses set up jointly, the availability of at least three positions is guaranteed for each cycle of a Ph.D. course; likewise guaranteed is the availability of adequate and stable funding aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the Course for at least three cycles, also with specific reference to support for the research field in which the students are carrying out their activities;
 - g. specific and qualified operative and scientific structures are available for the study and research activities of the students, including, depending on the type of Course, scientific laboratories, an adequate supply of reading material, databases and resources for electronic computing;
 - h. advanced research and advanced educational activities are available, including seminars, carried out in the laboratories or in research infrastructures at European level and concern;
 - i. disciplinary and interdisciplinary training and linguistic and information technology advancement activities, relating to an individual Course or to several jointly run courses including those proposed by students, are available as well as activities in the field of didactics, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, the enhancement and dissemination of results, intellectual property, open access to the data and products of research and the fundamental principles of ethics and integrity.

Art. 3

(Authorities of the Courses and of coordination between the Courses)

1. The authorities of each Course are the PhD Board (hereinafter "Board") and the Coordinator.
2. The Board is appointed by the Faculty Council of reference, or, for inter-faculty Courses, by all Faculty Councils involved; it consists of a minimum of six members; at least half the number must be tenured full or associate university professors; the remaining quota may consist of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions or those with equivalent positions at non-Italian universities or institutions; for courses run jointly with public research

institutions, also researchers tenured as research directors, researchers or senior researchers of the institutions themselves may be appointed, while adhering to the above mentioned minimum quota of tenured full or associate university professors.

3. The Board may also include, for up to a third of its overall composition, experts with a proven high-level scientific or professional qualification in research fields consistent with the educational aims of the Course.
4. Members of the Board belonging to Italian or non-Italian universities or research institutions must possess the requisites specified in prevailing legislation for their respective category.
5. The Board convenes, at the initiative of the Coordinator, at least three times a year, or whenever requested by at least a third of its members. At least one meeting is dedicated to the verification and implementation of the quality requirements of the Course. Meetings may be held partly or wholly online.
6. For the handling of didactic and organisational matters, excluding those relating to individual students, the meetings of the Board include a student representative, appointed by the Board at the proposal of the students enrolled in the course. The representative is appointed by the end of November, remains in office until the end of the academic year and may be re-appointed.
7. The Board is in charge of the planning and setting up of the Course and deliberates, among other things, on the following subjects:
 - a) proposals to the Faculty Council for the number of scholarships to be made available;
 - b) proposals for the planning of the teaching activities of the Course to be submitted for the approval of the appropriate authorities;
 - c) the appointment of the supervisor and of one or more co-supervisors and any subsequent modifications;
 - d) approval of the title of Ph.D. theses and of any modifications of the same, with the assent of the supervisor;
 - e) approval, at the proposal of the Coordinator, of the students' study plans;
 - f) the definition of general guidelines for the writing of theses;
 - g) the terms and procedures for the annual verification of the activities carried out and the results attained by the students;
 - h) the assessment, on consultation with the supervisor, of applications for deferment or suspension submitted by students pursuant to Art. 7, paragraphs 11-14 below;
 - i) the suspension or forfeiture of students in accordance with Art. 10, paragraph 4 below;
 - j) applications in accordance with Art. 11, paragraph 5 below;
 - k) the nomination of the commissions for the annual verifications of the study and research activities in accordance with Art. 7, paragraph 7 below;
 - l) measures aimed at guaranteeing the quality requirements of the Course in compliance with prevailing regulations.
8. The Coordinator is appointed by the Academic Senate at the proposal of the Board.
9. The Coordinator is responsible for the management, organisation and coordination of the teaching activity and for starting up the research carried out during the Course. Among other things, the Coordinator has the following tasks:
 - a) to co-ordinate the scientific and teaching activity of the Course;
 - b) to convene and chair the Board meetings;
 - c) to authorise students, with the agreement of the supervisor, to spend study and research periods in Italy and abroad;
 - d) to grant students, on consultation with the supervisor, the go-ahead to carry out tutoring of students of the undergraduate and master's degree courses and supplementary teaching referred to in Art. 10, paragraph 2 below;
 - e) to authorise students to carry out paid activities pursuant to Art. 11, paragraphs 2 and 3;

- f) to locate on consultation with the supervisor, external reviewers of the theses referred to in Art. 8, paragraph 6 below;
 - g) to propose to the Director the members of the admission Commission referred to in Art. 6, paragraph 1 below, and the members of the judging commission for the thesis, as referred to in Art. 8, paragraph 6 below;
 - h) to set the date of the final examination for the conferring of the Ph.D.;
 - i) to report annually to the Faculty Council, or, for inter-faculty Courses, to all the faculty councils involved, regarding the activities of the Course and the progress of the students' research.
10. Where necessary, the Coordinator adopts the provisions referred to in paragraph 7, letters a), c), d), e), h) and k) above, submitting them for ratification to the Board at the session immediately following.
11. In order to guarantee coordination between Courses pertaining to the same faculty, the Coordinators of the Courses of each faculty form a coordination committee of the Faculty Ph.D. Courses, chaired by the Director or his/her delegate. The coordination committee of the faculty Courses expresses its opinion on the applications for deferment pursuant to Art. 7, paragraph 11, in order to ensure, as far as possible, an even handling of the applications. The coordination committee further guarantees the sharing of best practices adopted by the individual courses and develops the initiatives referred to in Article 2, paragraph 5, letter i) above, including through co-operation between the faculty co-ordination committees.
12. Each Board has the faculty to form an advisory board consisting of high-profile scientific figures active in Italy or abroad, normally composed of not more than 10 members, for the direction and assessment of the overall progress of the course activities, also promoting international collaborations in the sphere of Ph.D. teaching and research.

Art. 4 **(Assessment of the Courses)**

1. The Courses are assessed annually by the Assessment Team, which also examines the evaluations expressed by the students *in itinere* and at the end of the courses.
2. Following the publication of the Assessment Team's annual report, the Director convenes the Coordinators of the Courses in order to examine the report and to identify possible strategies for improving the quality of the Courses.
3. The designated administrative bodies provide the authorities of the SNS with the following information regarding each Course:
 - a. for the admission tests of the last three years, the number of applicants applying, the number of applicants turning up, the number of places allocated and the number of renouncements among the students admitted;
 - b. the number of study grants funded externally or from research funds;
 - c. the products of the doctoral students' research;
 - d. a list of the students having attained the qualification, the completion times and the final assessment;
 - e. any other information required by prevailing national legislation.

Art. 5 **(Call, admission requirements and selection procedure)**

1. The call, written in Italian and English, is issued with a Director's Decree and is published for at least thirty days on the web sites of the SNS, the European Euraxess and the Ministry.

2. Admission to the Ph.D. course is exclusively by merit, via selection based on public evidence for qualifications and interview.
Applications to participate may be submitted, regardless of citizenship, by all those who by the deadline of the call will have attained a master's degree or a non-Italian equivalent qualification, or by those who undertake to attain the qualification required for admission, on pain of annulment of the admission not later than 31st October of the same year. The call may impose a limit to participation on the basis of the period intervening between the date of attainment of the qualification required for admission to the competition and the deadline of the call.
3. The call contains an indication of the number of Ph.D scholarships referred to in Article 9 of the regulations herein, and of any other forms of financial support, which may be allocated to one or more applicants resulting as eligible in the selection procedures.
4. The call may envisage the admission of eligible applicants based on the order of the final ranking, depending on whether new resources are made available prior to the start date of the Courses.
5. The call may envisage a number of places reserved for those who have attained the qualification for admission to the course at a non-Italian university; the reserved places not allocated may be made available for the procedures referred to in the article herein.
6. For Courses arranged in curricula, the call may envisage merit rankings arranged by curriculum.
7. Solely for the purposes of selection, the eligibility of non-Italian qualifications is ascertained by the judging commissions in compliance with prevailing legislation in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued and with international treaties and agreements recognising qualifications for further study.
8. For national, European and international collaboration projects, specific admission and organisational procedures may be envisaged depending on the characteristics of the individual Ph.D. projects set up in the context of accredited Courses.
9. The call must specify that applications must be accompanied by at least the following documents:
 - a) the master's degree thesis, if appropriate accompanied by an abstract in English;
 - b) a diploma supplement or analogous documentation relating to the examinations taken and the degree results on attainment of the degree;
 - c) a copy of any publications;
 - d) at least one and no more than two recommendation letters in support of the application written by lecturers or by experts external to the SNS and to the Board;
 - e) a study and research plan allowing for verification of the applicants' scientific interests and their degree of relevance to the declared aims of the Course. The said plan does not bind applicants in their subsequent choice of thesis topic.
10. The call also establishes the documentation to be produced by applicants who by the deadline of the application to participate have not yet attained their master's degree.
11. Admission to the course is prohibited to those who have attained a Ph.D. issued by an Italian university or who have in any case already received a study grant to attend a Ph.D. course in Italy.

Art. 6
(Commissions and admission test)

1. At the proposal of the Coordinator, the Director of the SNS issues a decree nominating the admission commissions, one for each Course. As a rule, the commissions include the members of the PhD Board and are chaired by the Coordinator of the Course.

2. Should the necessity arise, the chair of the commission, on consultation with the commission itself, may invite qualified scholars to express their assessment of the qualifications submitted by those applying for the Ph.D call; he/she may also include foreign language experts in the commission.
3. For the assessment, aimed at verifying applicants' aptitude for scientific research and their basic preparation for completing the Course programme, each admission commission can award up to a hundred points, subdivided between the assessment of the qualifications and the interview, in accordance with the criteria established in the call. An overall score of at least seventy hundredths is required for applicants to qualify for the Course.
4. Qualifications are assessed on all elements, including the master's degree thesis, the university curriculum, the recommendation letters, any scientific publications, the candidate's proposed study and research plan and its degree of relevance to the declared aims of the Course.
5. The interview may take place online, with procedures in place to identify candidates and to guarantee the public nature of the test. Competence in the English language will be tested during the interview, which may in any case be conducted entirely in English.
6. On the basis of the assessment of the qualifications and the results of the interview, the admission commission declares the applicants' eligibility and places them in descending order in the ranking. Should two or more applicants attain the same score on conclusion of the tests, the first to be placed in the ranking is that belonging to the gender less represented among the successful applicants; in the case of further parity the youngest applicant is given precedence.
7. The Director of the SNS approves the merit rankings drawn up by the commissions and nominates the successful applicants in accordance with the number of places specified in the call.
8. Applicants who on the basis of the final ranking are declared successful lose their place should they fail to submit their acceptance by the deadline set by the SNS.
9. In the case of renouncement or forfeiture of a successful applicant, the SNS has the faculty to proceed to a new assignation of the place within thirty days, in accordance with the order of the final ranking.

Art. 7

(Planning and carrying out of the Course)

1. Enrolment in the Courses must be completed by the date indicated in the call, on pain of forfeiture of the place.
2. The students' academic obligations are fulfilled in accordance with the decisions of the Faculty Councils at the proposal of the PhD Boards. The said activities are specified in individual annual study plans submitted by each student and are to be approved by the Board by the end of December.
3. Each student has the following obligations:
 - a. by the date of submission of the thesis and in any case not exceeding the normal duration of the Course, with the exception of any deferments pursuant to Art. 7 paragraphs 11 and 13, he/she must have attended at least 150 hours of educational activities meant specifically for doctoral students provided by the SNS or, subject to authorisation on the part of the Coordinator, by other universities or research institutions;
 - b. unless other indications are issued by the Board, he/she is required to attend, in at least two different academic years, a total of at least three courses given by the SNS and to pass the related final test by the date of submission of the thesis and in any case not exceeding the normal duration of the Course, with the exception of any deferments

pursuant to Art. 7 paragraphs 11 and 13. The overall duration of the said courses must be of at least 120 hours. Subject to authorisation on the part of the Coordinator, one of the courses may be taken at other universities or research institutions.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3, letter a) of the present article, the educational activities referred to in Article 2, paragraph 5, letter i) above are calculated within a maximum limit of thirty hours.
5. The Board may require verification of a certain level of competence in one or more foreign languages as a necessary requirement for students to pass the annual tests and hence to keep their place and study grant.
6. Each student is assigned, whenever possible within three months from the start of the course and in any case not exceeding the end of the first year of the course, a supervisor, chosen as a rule by the Board from among the lecturers of the SNS who are members of the PhD Board, and one or more co-supervisors chosen by the PhD Board, including subjects external to it; in cases where the supervisor is external to the SNS, the co-supervisors must be chosen from among the lecturers of the SNS who are members of the Board. External supervisors and co-supervisors must in any case meet the requirements specified for the members of the Board in prevailing legislation in relation to their category of appurtenance. The supervisor, in collaboration where appropriate with the co-supervisor(s), follows and guides the student in completing his/her educational programme and in writing his/her thesis. Should the supervisor transfer to another site or retire, the Board will deliberate on the continuation of the supervision. In any case, if such a situation occurs before the third year of the student's course, the supervisor will step down from his/her duties and may be appointed as co-supervisor.
7. At the end of each year of the Course, with the exception of the final year, the students of each Ph.D. Course submit to an interview, aimed at verifying their study and research activities carried out during the year, before a commission consisting of at least three members appointed from within the Board, usually chaired by the Coordinator and appointed by the Board itself. The student's supervisor also takes part in the verification process. The Board deliberates the nature and extension of any written texts required for the purposes of the interview, applicable from the following academic year. Students who pass the interview keep their place and study grant and are admitted to the next year; admission depends upon the degree of satisfaction regarding the student's study commitments and their progress in the research activity inherent to the thesis plan, including a list of any publications deposited in the institutional research archives. Failure to pass the interview results in the loss of the place, which is decided by a Director's decree.
8. For the purposes of the examination referred to in the preceding paragraph, the student is required to submit each year, by the deadline established by the PhD Board, a written report on the study and research activity carried out and the results attained, any participations in seminars or congresses or any other scientific initiatives, any publications deposited in the institutional research archives and a description of the progress of the research plan inherent to the thesis, in accordance with the procedures established by the Board.
9. At the start of the final year of the Course, the students submit the definitive title of their thesis for approval by the Board.
10. The presentation of the definitive thesis is concomitant with the application for admission to the final exam, and must be effected by the end of the Course, with the exception of the specifications of paragraphs 11-15 of this article; the application must include an extended abstract of the thesis in English, a report by the student on the study and scientific activities carried out during the Course, and a copy of any publications deposited in the institutional research archives.

11. The Board may grant an extension of the duration of the Course for a period not exceeding twelve months, for motivated scientific demands, defined with a special provision by the authorities of the SNS, and hence the corresponding extension of the duration of the study grant, in accordance with procedures defined in the regulations.
12. Proposals for extension as referred to in the preceding paragraph are put forward to the Board by the student's supervisor no less than four months before the end of the Course, and may be accepted, on consultation with the co-ordination authority referred to in Art. 3, paragraph 11, within the limits of the annual allocation specially assigned for this purpose by the Executive Council depending on the budget availability, or, for students whose study grant is funded by external subjects, making use of resources coming from related agreements where available.
13. Also for students who, for documented reasons, fail to submit their Ph.D. thesis within the duration of the Course, at the request of the student - with the agreement of the supervisor and normally put forward to the Board not less than one month before the end of the Course - the Board may grant an extension of the submission of their thesis for a maximum of twelve months, with no further financial support. The said extension may be applied for up to a maximum of two times, keeping to the overall maximum duration of twelve months.
14. With the approval of the Board, students may be exempted from attending the Course for up to six months, in the case of (a) documented illness, (b) parental leave, (c) serious family situations, (d) hiring for permanent employment with Public Administration during the trial period, (e) or other documented reasons envisaged by law or identified with a special provision of the authorities of the SNS. For applications referred to in letter e), the approval of the coordination authority referred to in Art. 3, paragraph 11 is also required. In granting suspension the Board also determines the procedure for return, potentially envisaging the possibility of the student's attending the courses of the SNS as a listener. For the duration of the suspension, the Ph.D. study grant or equivalent funding is suspended.
15. The periods of extension or suspension referred to in paragraphs 11, 13 and 14 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, with the exception of specific cases envisaged by law.

Art. 8
(The awarding of the qualification)

1. The qualification of *Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.) pursuant to Article 42, first paragraph, letter d) of the Statute, is awarded upon the passing of the final examination, consisting of a public discussion of a written dissertation (thesis), which must have direct bearing on an original research project, carried out methodically and contributing to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the student's chosen research field.
2. The student's thesis must be submitted, with the procedures specified by the Offices of the SNS, by the end of the Course or any extension as referred to in Art. 7 paragraphs 11, 13 and 14. Save for serious and documented reasons, failure to comply with the above mentioned procedures and times will result in the loss of the student status. In certain circumstances, the student may be authorised to take the final examination up to a year before the end of the course.
3. Students involved in a thesis joint supervision programme may request an extension of the deadline in cases where international inter-university co-operation agreements envisage specific procedures for the awarding of the qualification that are incompatible with the deadline referred to in the preceding paragraph; the application, which must include the justified opinion of the two thesis supervisors, will be assessed and, if appropriate, granted by the Board.

4. The thesis is written in Italian or English or in another language with the authorisation of the Board.
5. Upon consultation with the supervisor, or, in the case of joint supervision, with the two supervisors, the Board deliberates on the admission of the student to the thesis assessment procedure, within 10 days of the submission of the thesis. Students submitting unsatisfactory results are barred by the Board from admission to the assessment procedure and are disqualified from the Ph.D. Course.
6. For students who submit results of adequate scientific value, the Co-ordinator of the Board submits to the appropriate Office, within 5 days of the admission of the thesis, the names of at least two highly qualified reviewers external to the SNS, at least one of whom is a university lecturer, for a preliminary evaluation of the thesis, the report on the activities carried out and the list of any publications deposited in the institutional research archives. At least one of the reviewers must belong to a non-Italian institution, save for any exceptional cases authorised by the Director or his/her delegate.
7. The reviewers referred to in paragraph 6 ascertain the originality of the content and consistency of the presentation of the thesis. Within thirty days from receiving the thesis the reviewers express a written analytical assessment, proposing one of the following:
 - a. admission to the public discussion without changes; in this case the assessments are transmitted to the applicant prior to the discussion of the thesis;
 - b. admission to the discussion with slight changes. In this case, the student is required to effect the changes requested no later than one month starting from the date of reception of the assessments of all the appointed reviewers. It is the task of the Co-ordinator of the Course to verify whether the changes suggested by the reviewers have been made; if the changes have been effected in a satisfactory manner, he/she admits the thesis to public discussion without further ado;
 - c. the postponement of the discussion of the thesis in order for substantial changes to be made. In this case, the student is required to effect the proposed changes by the deadline imposed by the Coordinator and in any case no later than four months starting from the date of reception of the assessments of all the appointed reviewers. After the said deadline, the thesis is sent again to the same reviewers for another written assessment. The thesis, provided with the new assessments, is in any case admitted to public discussion no later than six months from the date of reception of the assessments of all the appointed reviewers. Should the student fail to rewrite the thesis as requested by the reviewers within the specified time, it is not admitted to discussion.
8. The judging commission for the thesis is appointed by the Director, at the proposal of the Coordinator of the Course. It is composed of a minimum of five members, at least a third of whom (rounding down to the lower whole number) must be of a gender different from that of the rest of the commission. The commission is chaired by a permanent professor of the SNS; at least two thirds of its members must be external to the SNS and no more than a third may be subjects belonging to the partner institution, or institutions in the case of joint Courses. In any case, at least two thirds of the members of the commission must be of academic provenance.
9. At the end of the discussion, with a justified collective written judgement, the thesis is approved or rejected. By approving the thesis, the commission proposes the issuing of the qualification of *Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.). A majority decision is also possible. A unanimous vote by the commission gives it the power to award a degree with honours (cum laude).
10. The qualification of *Philosophiae Doctor* (Ph.D.) is issued by the Director of the SNS.
11. Within thirty days from the discussion and approval of the thesis, the SNS deposits a copy of it in open access in the institutional research archives and in the appropriate section of the ministerial database. With the authorisation of the Board and on consultation with the Chair

of the commission for open science, temporary or permanent unavailability may be placed on parts of the thesis in relation to the use of data protected in compliance with prevailing legislation and with the corresponding internal regulations (regulations regarding open access to scientific literature). The copy of the thesis deposited in the institutional research archives substitutes the consignment of the thesis in paper format and waives the obligation for legal deposit at the Biblioteche Nazionali Centrali (the National Central Libraries) of Rome and Florence.

12. The educational activities carried out by the students are certified with a document attached to the final degree (diploma supplement).

Art. 9

(Ph.D. study grants and allowances)

1. The Ph.D. study grant awarded to winners of the places is composed of the following:
 - a. A scholarship, the amount of which is established on a yearly basis by the Executive Council.
 - b. When no SNS structures are available to house students free of charge, a lodgings allowance, the amount of which is specified in the call.
2. The students are also entitled, for the entire duration of the Course apart from academic holiday periods, to free board at the SNS structures or affiliated ones.
3. For the entire duration of the Course and up to the awarding of their qualification, the students have access to the structures necessary for carrying out their research activities.
4. The Ph.D. study grant is emitted for the entire duration of the Course, save for any periods of suspension pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 14 of the regulations herein.
5. The Ph.D. study grant cannot be combined with any other study grant, except for those envisaged for the integration, with stays abroad, of the educational and research activity.
6. The educational allowance awarded to the students is subject to the payment of social security contributions to the INPS separate management pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 26 of Law No. 335 of 8th August 1995 and subsequent modifications, two thirds payable by the SNS and the remaining third by the student, The students benefit from protection and connected rights.
7. The students may be authorised to carry out study and research activities outside the sites of the SNS; in order for them to sustain the said activities:
 - a. the amount of the Ph.D. study grant increases, in accordance with special internal arrangements, by 50% for stays abroad with an overall duration of no more than twelve months over the entire period of the Course. The said period may be extended for up to an overall maximum period of eighteen months for Ph.D. courses in joint supervision with subjects abroad or set up jointly;
 - b. in addition to the Ph.D. study grant, each student is entitled to a budget for research activity in Italy and abroad amounting to no less than 10% of the annual amount of the grant.

Art. 10

(Students' rights and obligations)

1. Students are required to take part regularly and full time in the activities specified for their study course and to commit fully to their individual study programme, in-depth study and the carrying out of the research activities assigned to them. The educational activities are carried out as a rule at the SNS. Students are normally expected to carry out periods of research and

educational activities consistent with the Ph.D. project at high-level institutions abroad, authorised by the Co-ordinator at the proposal of the supervisor.

2. Students are required to manage the data of their thesis project in compliance with the Regulations for the FAIR management of research data and to deposit their publications in the institutional research archives in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations regarding open access to scientific literature.
3. As an integral part of their educational plan, with the permission of the Coordinator and on consultation with the supervisor but without an increase in their study grant, students may engage in the mentoring of first- and second-level undergraduate students, including with remuneration, as well as orientation activities and, for no more than forty hours per academic year, integrated teaching activities. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, students receive the allowances pursuant to Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b) of Legislative Decree No. 105 of 9th May 2003, converted, with modifications, by Law No. 170 of 11th July 2003.
4. Students are subject to the provisions protecting authorship pursuant to the decree of the Minister for work and social security of 12th July 2007, published in Gazzetta Ufficiale No. 247 of 23rd October 2007.
5. With a motivated deliberation and on consultation with the interested party, the Board may propose to the Director the temporary suspension of a student from the Course or his/her dismissal, with the consequent suspension or loss of the Ph.D. study grant, in the following cases:
 - a. unjustified and prolonged absences;
 - b. conduct flouting the rules regarding incompatibility as specified in the regulations herein;
 - c. disciplinary infractions for which the sanctions envisaged in the teaching regulations of the SNS are applicable.
6. In the case of withdrawal from the course, the interested party is required to give notice thereof to the Director a month in advance. The Ph.D. study grant will continue to be paid until the date of withdrawal.

Art. 11 **(Incompatibility)**

1. The Course demands an exclusive and full-time commitment not compatible with working assignments, either autonomous or as an employee, or with the exercising of professional activities, without prejudice to the provisions referred to in the subsequent paragraphs of this article, and in Article 10, paragraph 2, letter b) of D.M. No. 226 of 14th December 2021.
2. Subject to communication to the Coordinator and compatibly with their study and research activities, students are permitted to accept remuneration deriving from activities such as meetings and seminars, occasional collaboration with newspapers, journals, encyclopaedias and the like, or resulting from the economic use on the part of the author of intellectual property or the inventor of industrial inventions. Subject to authorisation by the co-ordinator and on consultation with the supervisor, who assesses their compatibility with the student's study and research commitments, other remunerated activities may also be permitted if they enable the student to acquire skills pertinent to the educational objectives of his/her Ph.D. course. The gross remuneration deriving from the activities referred to in this paragraph may not in any case exceed overall, in each academic year, the gross annual amount of the Ph.D. study grant. Authorisation is also required for any period of extension with study grant.
3. Students enrolled in the final year of the course who have fulfilled all the specified study requirements and who submit an application for authorisation to carry out remunerated activities exceeding the limit referred to in the preceding paragraph, or who intend to accept a remunerated study, work or research position at another institution, have the option of giving

up their study grant, maintaining the possibility to discuss their thesis and to request exclusively extensions for the submission of the latter, in accordance with Art. 7 paragraph 13.

4. Public employees winning a place on the Ph.D. course at the SNS are subject to prevailing legislation regarding leave and special leave.
5. Attendance at an SNS Ph.D. Course is incompatible with concomitant enrolment in other Ph.D. courses in Italy or abroad, except for cases under specific international agreements. Upon nomination, successful candidates who result as being enrolled in such a course have fifteen days to rectify their situation on pain of losing their place. The concomitant attendance at an SNS Ph.D. Course and a *master* or a specialisation course run by other institutions is assessed by the PhD Board, which verifies the affinity of the *master* or specialisation course with the research topics of the Ph.D. Course, the compatibility of the attendance requirements of the two courses and the compatibility of the study and research activities programmed for the two courses for the achievement of the educational objectives of the Ph.D. Course. Enrolment in a *master* or a specialisation course during a period of extension as referred to in Art. 7, paragraph 11 entails the suspension of the Ph.D. study grant.

Art. 12

(Ph.D. theses with joint supervision programmes)

1. A thesis joint supervision programme presupposes that students write their thesis under the joint supervision of an SNS lecturer and a lecturer from the partner university, thus attaining a Ph.D. qualification or an equivalent qualification for the same thesis from each of the two universities, that is, a joint qualification.
2. Each thesis joint supervision programme is set up, at the proposal of the Board, upon the stipulation of a special agreement regulating the procedure of enrolment at the two institutions, the contribution, accident insurance cover, study and research stays at each of the two sites, the supervision and assessment procedures for the Ph.D. thesis, and the procedures for admission to the final examination and for the discussion of the thesis.
3. The intellectual property of the thesis topic, its publication and the use and safeguarding of the results of the research study carried out are as a rule guaranteed in accordance with the specific procedures of each university involved in the joint supervision, save for specific arrangements agreed upon by the two institutions.
4. The activity carried out by students under thesis joint supervision is assessed with a view to admission to the next year with the procedures established for all students of the Course.

Art. 13

(Ph.D. and doctorate joint courses)

1. The SNS may also request the accreditation of jointly run Ph.D. or doctorate courses via the stipulation of agreements and the setting up of consortia that may be the administrative site of the Courses, with one or more of the following subjects:
 - a. other Italian or non-Italian universities, with the possibility to issue the final qualification as multiple or joint;
 - b. public or private Italian or non-Italian research institutes with highly qualified cultural and scientific requisites and with suitable scientific structures and equipment;
 - c. artistic, musical and choreutic higher education institutions accredited pursuant to Article 15 of D.M. No. 226 of 14th December 2021, with the possibility to issue the final qualification as multiple or joint;

- d. companies, including non-Italian ones, that engage in qualified research and development activities;
 - e. public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international prominence, for the setting up of specific research and development or innovation programmes.
2. The agreements define the following:
 - a. the duration and organisation of the jointly run *Ph.D. and doctorate courses*;
 - b. the requisites and procedures for admission;
 - c. the number of study grants and any enrolment fees to be paid by the students;
 - d. the composition of the judging commissions for selection for the final examination.
 3. For jointly run courses, the functions assigned, in accordance with the regulations herein, to professors or researchers of the SNS may also be assigned to professors or researchers of the joint institutions who are members of the Lecturers' Board.

Art. 14
(Lecturers' activities)

1. The activities of teaching, scientific or company mentoring and thesis supervision, certified and carried out by the university professors or researchers in the context of the courses are taken into account in the fulfilment of the institutional obligations pursuant to Article 6 of Law No. 240 of 30th December 2010.

Art. 15
(Transitory regulations and final provisions)

1. The regulations herein apply to courses from the 38th cycle onwards, beginning with the academic year 2025/26.
2. In the first application, the procedures referred to in Art. 7, paragraph 11 are those defined by the Academic Senate deliberation of 30th January 2023.
3. The students of courses previous to the 29th cycle are not subject to the provisions of Article 8, paragraph 6 of the regulations herein: their Ph.D. thesis will be submitted to three external reviewers designated by the Dean of the Faculty, who will verify the originality of the contents and the clarity of the presentation. If the assessment is favourable, on consultation with the Faculty Council and with a deliberation of the Academic Senate the student is admitted to the final examination for the attainment of the Ph.D. degree.
4. The regulations herein are issued with a Director's Decree, come into force from the academic year 2025-26 and are available on the SNS web site. Save for the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, from the moment the regulations herein come into force, all other internal provisions regarding the Ph.D. courses cease to apply.