



RAMON LLULL
UNIVERSITY

General Rules for the Organisation of Doctoral Studies at Ramon Llull University

Approved by the Governing Board of Ramon Llull University on July 19th, 2018.

Last modification approved by the Governing Board on November 21st, 2024.

Index

Chapter 1. General provisions.....	5
Article 1. Purpose and scope of application.....	5
Article 2. Doctoral studies at Ramon Llull University.....	5
Article 3. Creation of new doctoral programmes.....	5
Chapter 2. Management of doctoral programmes	5
Article 4. Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee.....	5
Article 5. Functions of the Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee.....	6
Article 6. Functioning of the Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee.....	6
Article 7. Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme	6
Article 8. Functions of the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme	7
Chapter 3. Admission and enrolment in doctoral studies	8
Article 9. Requirements for access and admission to doctoral studies	8
Article 10. Enrolment.....	8
Chapter 4. Duration of doctoral studies	8
Article 11. Doctoral student commitment.....	8
Article 12. Doctoral study grants	9
Chapter 5. Supervision and monitoring of doctoral students.....	9
Article 13. Assignment of a tutor and thesis supervisor	9
Article 14. Co-supervision of the doctoral thesis.....	10
Article 15. Joint supervision agreement.....	10
Article 16. Documentary commitment.....	11
Article 17. Research and training plan.....	11
Article 18. Doctoral Student Activity Document	12
Article 19. Annual monitoring	12
Chapter 6. The doctoral thesis	12
Article 20. Content	12
Article 21. Thesis by compendium of publications	12
Article 22. Doctoral theses with confidential content.....	13
Chapter 7. Defence of the doctoral thesis	14
Article 23. Doctoral thesis examining committee	14
Article 24. Deposit of the doctoral thesis	15

Article 25. Defence of the doctoral thesis	16
Article 26. Grading of the doctoral thesis.....	17
Article 27. Extraordinary Doctoral Award.....	17
Chapter 8. Doctoral degree from Ramon Llull University	18
Article 28. International mention on the doctoral degree.....	18
Article 29. International joint supervision statement on the doctoral diploma	19
Article 30. Industrial mention on the doctoral diploma	19
Chapter 9. Archiving the doctoral thesis	20
Article 31. TDX and TESEO	20
Article 32. Printed copy of the thesis	20

The present document is a literal translation of the original in Catalan language approved by the Governing Board of Ramon Llull University on July 19th, 2018, which was modified and approved by the Governing Board on November 21st, 2024. Were there any discrepancies in interpretation between both versions, it is the original version written in Catalan that would prevail.

PREAMBLE

Since 2011, doctoral training at Spanish universities has been regulated by Royal Decree 99/2011 of January 28th, which regulates official doctoral studies. Ramon Llull University had to adapt its doctoral regulation in place, which was approved by the Governing Board on December 20th, 2012.

Since then, the legislation has been modified on several occasions, which obliged URL to adapt the General Rules of Organization of Doctoral Studies to include these changes. In addition, to improve the administrative processes related to doctoral studies, it was necessary to restructure the content of the regulations to help to the correct interpretation of the current legislation and to adapt it to the ordinary functioning of doctoral training at URL.

In the following chapters, the aforementioned regulations are deployed, which will be applicable to all doctoral programmes at URL, which in January 2023 are:

- PhD in Bioengineering.
- PhD in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.
- PhD in Business and Territorial Competitiveness, Innovation and Sustainability (interuniversity).
- PhD in Psychology.
- PhD in Educational Psychology (interuniversity).
- PhD program in Applied Psychology: adaptation and change in contemporary societies (interuniversity).
- PhD in Education and Sports Sciences.
- PhD in Communication.
- PhD in Health, Welfare and Bioethics (interuniversity).
- PhD in Information Technology and its Application in Management, Architecture and Geophysics.
- PhD in Philosophy: Humanism and Transcendence (interuniversity).
- PhD in Management Sciences.
- Doctorate in Economic and Business Law (interuniversity).

Once approved on July 19th, 2018, this regulation was amended on June 17th, 2021, to incorporate the blended and virtual modalities for the doctoral thesis defence. On November 17th, 2022, an article on doctoral theses with confidential content was incorporated.

On July 18th, 2023, the Royal Decree 576/2023, of 4th July was published, further modifying the existing legislation, and on June 13rd, 2024, the corresponding amendments were incorporated.

On November 21st, 2024, a modification was approved to include the requirement to state the affiliation with the URL of the doctoral student in the works comprising the compendium of publications.

Chapter 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose and scope of application

This regulation aims to govern the doctoral studies of Ramon Llull University in accordance with current legislation. These studies are regulated by Royal Decree 99/2011, of January 28th, which governs official doctoral education, and its subsequent amendments.

This document establishes the common provisions governing doctoral programmes and their academic regulations, applicable to all centres of Ramon Llull University.

This regulation will come into force once approved by the URL Governing Board, on September 1st, 2024.

Article 2. Doctoral studies at Ramon Llull University

Doctoral studies are organised into doctoral programmes, which at URL are offered through its university centres and can be consulted on the [University's website](#).

Article 3. Creation of new doctoral programmes

URL's centres that wish to create a new doctoral programme, in accordance with their internal operating mechanisms, will establish a Technical Design Committee responsible for defining and designing the new programme.

The process will begin with the submission of a draft proposal for the new doctoral programme to the vice-rectorate responsible for new official degrees, allowing it to review the proposal and forward it to the Academic-Teaching Quality and Innovation Unit of URL (UQIAD) for evaluation.

Once reviewed by the UQIAD, the corresponding vice-rectorate will submit the proposal for the new doctoral programme to the University's governing bodies for approval, if appropriate, and will present it for verification in compliance with current legislation.

The Technical Design Committee of the doctoral programme will conclude its duties once the verification of the doctoral programme has been finalized.

Chapter 2. MANAGEMENT OF DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

Article 4. Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee

Ramon Llull University has a specific Doctoral Committee of the University, chaired by the vice-rector responsible for doctoral studies and composed of each doctoral programme coordinator, as well as a doctoral student representative.

The URL Doctoral Committee has the general objective of overseeing doctoral studies, including compliance with current regulations and related administrative processes.

The URL Doctoral Committee is supported by a Technical Secretariat, which provides administrative assistance in conducting its functions.

The Doctoral Committee Technical Secretariat coordinates the doctoral management tool, MAMBO, which is used to process thesis admission requests, manage thesis defence documentation, and handle the subsequent associated administrative tasks.

Article 5. Functions of the Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee

The functions of the URL Doctoral Committee are:

- a) Coordinating the administrative and operational aspects of doctoral programmes at URL.
- b) Drafting and amending regulations related to doctoral studies for approval, if applicable, by the corresponding URL body.
- c) Handling requests for the admission of doctoral theses, appointing the examining committees, and ensuring compliance with the formal aspects outlined in current regulations and procedures.
- d) Accrediting renowned doctors in the field of a specific thesis, after evaluating their research and innovation merits, solely for the purpose of serving on the doctoral thesis examining committee.
- e) Approving, upon the proposal of the Academic Committees of the Doctoral Programmes, the URL Extraordinary Doctoral Awards.
- f) Preparing relevant reports and proposals related to doctoral studies.
- g) Addressing other procedural matters.
- h) Performing any other functions expressly assigned or delegated to it by the University's governing bodies within the scope of third-cycle education.

Article 6. Functioning of the Ramon Llull University Doctoral Committee

The URL Doctoral Committee meets ordinarily monthly, according to the schedule established at the beginning of each academic year. Extraordinary meetings may be held, either in person or virtually, whenever convened by the Chair of the Committee. The coordinators of the doctoral programmes may request the Chair of the Committee to hold an extraordinary meeting if there are justified reasons to do so.

Individuals who are not members of the Doctoral Committee may be invited to meetings if their expertise can contribute to the discussion of specific topics.

Article 7. Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme

URL's centres offering doctoral studies are responsible for proposing and organising their own doctoral programmes, as well as for their implementation and routine monitoring. For these purposes, each doctoral programme is managed by the corresponding Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme (CAPD), which begins its duties once the programme's verification is favourably resolved.

The CAPD is appointed by the Rector at the proposal of the centre, and is responsible for defining, updating, ensuring the quality of, and coordinating the doctoral programme, as well as overseeing the progress of research and training of each enrolled doctoral student.

All members of the CAPD must hold a doctoral degree. In accordance with current legislation, its composition must consist of at least three professors from URL, as follows:

- a) A coordinator of the doctoral programme, who must be a prominent researcher with experience supervising a minimum of two doctoral theses, hold two accredited research periods, and serve as the Chair of CAPD.
- b) At least one doctor, other than the coordinator, who meets the requirements outlined in the doctoral programme's verification document to supervise theses within the programme.
- c) At least one doctor who is part of the academic staff listed in the programme's verification document.

Article 8. Functions of the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme

The functions of the CAPD are as follows:

- a) Ensuring the proper implementation, updating, and coordination of the doctoral programme.
- b) Overseeing the admission protocol for doctoral students, as outlined in the doctoral programme's verification document.
- c) Admitting researchers-in-training to the doctoral programme.
- d) Assigning a thesis tutor to each researcher-in-training upon admission to the doctoral programme.
- e) Assigning a thesis supervisor to each researcher-in-training upon admission to the doctoral programme, who may or may not be the same person as the tutor.
- f) Addressing doctoral students' requests to change their tutor and/or thesis supervisor for justified reasons.
- g) Handling justified requests from thesis supervisors and/or tutors to resign from their role of supervising or tutoring a doctoral thesis.
- h) Informing the thesis supervisor of the doctoral student's decision to discontinue their doctoral studies.
- i) Authorising the co-supervision of a doctoral thesis for academic reasons, thematic interdisciplinarity or international collaborations.
- j) Approving part-time doctoral studies, extensions to their duration and requests for temporary leave by doctoral students, as provided for in current legislation.
- k) Monitoring co-supervision agreements for doctoral theses within the programme and report on them to the URL Doctoral Committee.
- l) Authorising research placements of researchers-in-training enrolled in the doctoral programme.
- m) Annually evaluating the Research and Training Plan of doctoral students, as well as their activity reports and the evaluations submitted by the director and tutor of the doctoral thesis for this purpose.
- n) Authorising the submission of a doctoral thesis and forward the request for admission for its defence to the URL Doctoral Committee.
- o) Proposing the individuals who will prepare preliminary evaluation reports of the doctoral thesis and the composition of the examining committee, for their appointment by the URL Doctoral Committee.

- p) Determine exceptional circumstances requiring procedures to ensure the confidentiality of certain parts of the thesis during its defence and its inclusion in the TDX and TESEO repositories.

Chapter 3. ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT IN DOCTORAL STUDIES

Article 9. Requirements for access and admission to doctoral studies

To access doctoral studies, candidates must meet the general requirements established by current legislation, as well as the specific admission requirements set in the doctoral studies they wish to pursue.

Individuals wishing to undertake a thesis within a URL doctoral programme must submit their application to the corresponding CAPD.

Article 10. Enrolment

The candidate will acquire the status of doctoral student upon enrolling in the doctoral programme. This enrolment must be renewed annually.

Chapter 4. DURATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Article 11. Doctoral student commitment

The duration of full-time doctoral studies is a maximum of four years, starting from the date of the student's enrolment in the programme and ending on the date of deposit of the doctoral thesis.

In certain doctoral programmes, with prior authorisation from the CAPD, doctoral studies may be undertaken on a part-time basis. In this case, the studies may have a maximum duration of seven years from the date of enrolment in the programme to the date of thesis deposit.

If the doctoral student has a degree of disability equal to or greater than thirty-three per cent, the maximum duration of doctoral studies will be six years for full-time study and nine years for part-time study.

If the request application for the deposit of the doctoral thesis has not been made before the end of the above periods, the CAPD may authorise an extension of one additional year, upon request from the doctoral student.

Periods of temporary incapacity, illness, maternity, paternity, adoption, foster care adoption purposes, fostering, risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, gender-based violence or any other cause provided for by current legislation, will suspend the counting of the duration of doctoral studies.

Additionally, doctoral students may request temporary leave from the programme for a total period of up to two years. This request must be submitted to the CAPD and justified

to them, which must decide on the appropriateness of granting the request within a maximum of two months.

Article 12. Doctoral study grants

There are various grants available to doctoral students, funded by public funds (at the national or regional level), private funds, or funds from the institutions of which the University is composed. These grants may aim to support the recruitment of researchers-in-training, the completion of doctoral theses or the mobility of doctoral students.

URL has a Research and Innovation Office, which provides support to the URL community, including the dissemination of relevant calls, and management and monitoring of grants for doctoral students funded with public and private sources.

The primary tool for disseminating grant calls is the [ConsCIÈNCIAurl Newsletter](#).

Additionally, the centres offering doctoral studies at URL may have internal grants for doctoral studies, which are managed directly by the respective centres.

Chapter 5. SUPERVISION AND MONITORING OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Article 13. Assignment of a tutor and thesis supervisor

Once admitted to the doctoral programme, the corresponding CAPD will assign a thesis tutor to the doctoral student. The tutor must be a member of the programme's academic staff with accredited research experience.

The appointment of the tutor may be modified by the CAPD at any point during the doctoral period, provided there are justified reasons and after hearing the doctoral student.

Once admitted to the doctoral programme, the CAPD will assign a thesis supervisor, who may or may not be the same as the tutor and must, in any case, hold a doctoral degree.

The thesis supervisor must have accredited research experience, defined as having at least one recognised research period granted by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI) or possessing comparable research merits.

Equivalent research credentials to serve as a thesis supervisor at URL include having at least one recognised research period awarded by any recognised national agency, and holding research accreditations issued by any European quality agency member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

Additionally, the CAPDs may define equivalent research merits based on specific evaluations criteria for research activity within each field of knowledge.

Doctoral programmes may establish additional criteria for supervising doctoral theses.

Article 14. Co-supervision of the doctoral thesis

A doctoral thesis may be co-supervised by up to three doctors who meet the same requirements for accredited research experience mentioned in the previous article, with prior authorisation of the CAPD, in duly justified cases such as interdisciplinarity or programmes in collaboration with other universities and research centres.

Exceptionally, the CAPD may authorise a co-supervisor who does not to meet the requirement for accredited research experience, provided there is an academic justification that benefits the development of the thesis.

Doctoral programmes may establish specific criteria for the co-supervision of doctoral theses.

This appointment may be modified by the CAPD at any point during the doctoral period, provided there are justified reasons and after hearing the doctoral student.

Whenever reference is made to the thesis supervisor in this regulation, the same applies to co-supervisors of the doctoral thesis.

Article 15. Joint supervision agreement

The joint supervision agreement allows a doctoral thesis to be simultaneously integrated into doctoral programmes of different universities, one in Spain and the rest abroad.

For a doctoral thesis to fall under the joint supervision agreement, the doctoral student must submit a request to the CAPD.

For each jointly supervised doctoral thesis, the universities will sign a joint supervision agreement specifying:

- a) The requirements the doctoral student must meet to be admitted to the doctoral programmes of the signatory universities.
- b) The enrolment requirements for the doctoral student at each university.
- c) The names of the thesis supervisors at each university.
- d) The distribution of the doctoral student's time spent in each of the universities.
- e) The procedure for thesis admission and defence at the university where the defence will take place. The composition of the examining committee must comply with the legislation of the countries of the signatory universities.
- f) The commitment of each participating university to recognise the validity of the doctoral thesis defended under the agreement and, consequently, to issue the corresponding doctoral diploma.

A doctoral student conducting a jointly supervised thesis must enrol at all universities signing the agreement, regardless of any tuition fee discount or waivers that may be arranged between the universities.

The CAPD will submit joint supervision agreement proposals to the Rector, through the Technical Secretariat of the Doctoral Committee.

Regarding the development of the doctoral thesis, the following requirements must be met:

1. The doctoral student will be assigned a thesis supervisor at each of the signatory universities.

2. The thesis will be registered at all signatory universities.
3. The examining committee evaluating the thesis will be established by mutual agreement between the signatory universities.
4. There will be a single act of thesis defence held at one of the signatory universities, following the procedures of the university where the defence takes place and with the committee agreed by all signatory universities.
5. An exact copy of the defence certificate will be sent to the signatory universities where the doctoral thesis was not defended, along with any other relevant documents related to the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.
6. The protection of the thesis content, as well as the exploitation and publication rights of the results, will be guaranteed in accordance with the specific provisions of each country.
7. To obtain the doctoral diploma, the requirements of each university for the submission of the doctoral thesis must be met, in accordance with the legislation of the countries of the signatory universities.

The CAPD will monitor the doctoral theses under joint supervision agreements and provide timely updates to the Doctoral Committee of Ramon Llull University.

Article 16. Documentary commitment

Once the doctoral student has been assigned a thesis supervisor, a documentary commitment is established. This is signed by the president of the corresponding CAPD, the doctoral student and the thesis supervisor. It includes, among other things, a conflict resolution procedure and provisions regarding intellectual and industrial property rights and confidentiality.

URL provides a standard documentary commitment template for the CAPDs, which can be adapted to the specific needs of each case.

Article 17. Research and training plan

Before the end of the first year, the doctoral student must prepare a document, the Research and Training Plan, which will include a research plan and a personal training plan:

- a) The research plan will include, at least, the methodology to be used and the objectives to be achieved, the resources required, and the timeline for completion. It may also include a Data Management Plan for the doctoral thesis, and the mechanisms addressing ethical aspects of the research to be conducted.
- b) The training plan will outline the various training activities planned during the doctoral thesis.

This document must be reviewed and updated throughout the doctoral programme and must be endorsed by the tutor and the thesis supervisor.

Article 18. Doctoral Student Activity Document

The Doctoral Student Activity Document (DAD) is an individualised control record that documents all academic and research activities undertaken by the doctoral student in the context of their doctoral thesis.

The standardised DAD template is available on [URL's website](#).

Article 19. Annual monitoring

Each year, the CAPD will evaluate the Research and Training Plan and the DAD, along with the reports submitted by the thesis supervisor and the tutor. A positive evaluation is an essential requirement for the doctoral student to continue in the doctoral programme.

In the event of a negative evaluation, which must be duly justified, the doctoral student will be re-evaluated within six months. For this purpose, the doctoral student must prepare a new Research and Training Plan. If a second negative evaluation occurs, the doctoral student will be definitively withdrawn from the programme with immediate effect.

Chapter 6. THE DOCTORAL THESIS**Article 20. Content**

The doctoral thesis consists of original research work conducted by the doctoral student, in any field of knowledge. The thesis should demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to work independently in R&D&I and acquire the basic competencies and skills outlined in current legislation for doctoral studies.

The thesis may be developed and/or defended in the languages commonly used for scientific communication in its field of knowledge. If a language other than Catalan, Spanish or English is chosen, explicit authorisation from CAPD will be required.

Article 21. Thesis by compendium of publications

A doctoral thesis per compendium of publications at URL consists of a minimum of three publications within the same line of research¹:

- a) Only publications subjected to peer review and indexed in scientific databases of international impact, in line with the research evaluation criteria in the thesis field of knowledge, will be included.
- b) Only published works, or those accepted for publication, may be included.
- c) Publications must have an acceptance date after the doctoral student's first enrolment in the doctoral programme.
- d) The publications included in the thesis compendium must indicate the doctoral student's affiliation with URL.

¹ In interuniversity doctoral programmes, the CAPD-URL may consider assuming the regulations of the Coordinating University.

The CAPD may add specific additional requirements in line with the practices of each field of knowledge.

Regarding the published articles' co-authors:

- a) They must provide written consent for the article to be used as part of the doctoral thesis.
- b) If they do not have a doctoral degree, they must provide written consent to waive the use of the article in another thesis. The CAPD may consider justified exceptions to this rule, with the approval of the URL Doctoral Committee.
- c) Co-authors cannot be part of the examining committee for the thesis.

The publications included in the compendium must be published in open access in the University's institutional repository, the DAU, in the appropriate version.

The doctoral thesis by compendium of publications will have, at least, a general introduction presenting the published works, with full citation, a link to the institutional repository, the specific contributions of the doctoral student, a justification of the thematic unit, a copy of each published work, an overall summary of the results, their discussion and final conclusions.

For works not published in open access, they must still be included in both the digital and printed versions of the doctoral thesis. However, a second digital version of the doctoral thesis must be created without the full text of these works, replacing them with full citations and repository links. This second version will be uploaded to the TDX repository.

This second digital version of the thesis must be submitted at the time of submitting the doctoral thesis for the deposit approval, alongside the full digital version. The acceptance document for TDX publication must indicate the removal of the article.

For all the above, it will always be necessary, before depositing the thesis, to submit a formal request to the CAPD (which will ensure the quality of the publications to be submitted for the thesis) and its favourable acceptance. The request must include a report from the thesis supervisor outlining the doctoral student's specific contributions to the presented work, and those of other authors, if applicable.

At the time of the defence request submission, it will be necessary to present to the URL Doctoral Committee the approval document of the CAPD and the co-authors written consent for the articles, as well as their waiver to use the articles in another doctoral thesis, if applicable.

Article 22. Doctoral theses with confidential content

Exceptionally and in duly justified cases (such as participation of companies in the programme, confidentiality agreements with companies, or the potential for patent generation related to the thesis content), procedures may be implemented to ensure the confidentiality of certain parts of the thesis during the defence and its inclusion in the TDX repository.

Each CAPD may establish a specific protocol for requesting and certifying these procedures, which must be initiated at the request of the doctoral student, within the specified timeframe and format, no later than the thesis deposit request.

In any case, the application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) A justifying report from the thesis supervisors detailing the protection or transfer process applicable to the thesis.
- b) The complete thesis file.
- c) An encrypted version of the thesis file, encrypting only the elements necessary to ensure the protection or transfer of results.
- d) Documentation proving that the doctoral thesis is subject to knowledge or technology protection or transfer of results.

The CAPD may require the doctoral student to modify the content or format of the encrypted thesis file or provide any additional documentation deemed necessary to evaluate the request.

The members of the examining committee and other external evaluators who will assess the doctoral thesis must be expressly informed that the thesis is subject to protection or transfer processes and must have access to the complete version of the doctoral thesis.

Once the request is approved, the doctoral student, thesis supervisors, examining committee members, and any external evaluators must sign a confidentiality agreement and commit to maintaining the confidentiality and secrecy of the thesis content. These obligations also apply to the members of the CAPD, the URL Doctoral Committee and to any other individual who may access the document during the thesis deposit process.

The CAPD is responsible for adapting public thesis defence event to ensure compatibility between the public nature of these events and the need to maintain the required confidentiality.

For theses subject to protection or transfer processes, only the encrypted copy will be published in the TDX repository. Once the protection or transfer process has concluded, the complete version may replace the encrypted version.

Chapter 7. DEFENCE OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

Article 23. Doctoral thesis examining committee

The URL Doctoral Committee is responsible for appointing the examining committee that will evaluate each doctoral thesis, based on the proposal from the CAPD overseeing the thesis.

Each doctoral programme will constitute the examining committee as specified in the programme's verification document, choosing one of the following configurations:

- a) Three members and two alternates. A maximum of one regular member may belong to URL academic staff or its collaborating institutions in the programme. In any case, the three members must represent different institutions.

- b) Five members and two alternates. A maximum of two regular members may belong to URL academic staff of or its collaborating institutions in the programme. No more than two members may belong to the same institution.

Alternates must also comply with the restriction of having no more than one member from URL or its collaborating institutions.

In all cases, the gender balance principle must be upheld when proposing the examining committee for a doctoral thesis.

Neither the thesis supervisor nor the tutor may be members of the examining committee, except in the case of theses presented under joint supervision agreements with foreign universities, as specified in the respective agreement. In such cases, the committee may consist of four or six members, as appropriate.

The examining committee members must hold a doctoral degree, and have accredited research experience, defined as having at least one recognised research period awarded by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI) or have equivalent research credentials.

Equivalent research credentials include at least one recognised research period granted by one of the recognised national agencies or research accreditations issued by any European quality agency member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA).

Additionally, CAPDs may establish equivalent research criteria based on the specific standards of each field of knowledge.

In duly justified cases related to the thesis topic, members of the examining committee may include doctors from the business or professional sectors who are recognised experts in the thesis subject matter. The thesis supervisor must provide a justification letter explaining the reasons for their inclusion. In any case, the number of academic members on the committee must exceed those from other sectors.

The URL Doctoral Committee may accredit a doctor of recognised prestige in the field of the thesis, after reviewing their research and innovation credentials, solely for the purpose of serving on the examining committee.

A minimum of three experts (who may be members of the proposed examining committee and must meet the same eligibility criteria) must prepare a preliminary report prior to the thesis defence. Each report will be submitted by the expert through the doctoral management tool MAMBO and validated by the CAPD to proceed with the submission request the thesis defence. All reports must have favourable evaluations to initiate the procedures leading to thesis defence.

Article 24. Deposit of the doctoral thesis

Once the expert reports, the supervisor's authorisation, and the CAPD's approval have been obtained, the thesis will be presented at the appropriate meeting of the URL Doctoral Committee, as outlined in the document [Instructions for admission to the defence of the doctoral thesis](#), available on the URL website.

The URL Doctoral Committee will admit the thesis for processing, if appropriate, and place it on deposit for 14 calendar days, starting the day after the meeting in which it was presented. deposit will be publicised through the announcement boards of the centres and the URL website, allowing doctors to submit any observations they deem necessary.

If the thesis is not accepted for processing, the URL Doctoral Committee will provide written notification to the doctoral student, the thesis supervisor, the tutor and the CAPD, outlining the reasons for its decision. The doctoral student will have seven calendar days from the date of receipt of the notification to submit an appeal to the Chair of the URL Doctoral Committee.

The official appointment of the examining committee will be made within five days after the deposit period ends, provided no requests for amendments are submitted. If no consensus on the defence date exists, the appointment may be delayed.

The defence of the doctoral thesis may take place no earlier than the twentieth following the meeting of the Doctoral Committee in which the thesis was accepted for deposit. It must be defended within six calendar months from the day after the deposit period ends.

The complete procedure for admitting the doctoral thesis for defence, along with the required documentation, is detailed in the document [Instructions for the admission of the defence of the doctoral thesis](#), available on the URL website.

Article 25. Defence of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis must be evaluated in a single public defence session, during which the doctoral student presents and defends their research work before the examining committee. The defence may be conducted in face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual format.

A defence is considered face-to-face when all participants (doctoral student, committee members, and audience) are physically present in the same room at one of the URL centres.

A defence is considered hybrid when some members of the examining committee participate remotely, in accordance with the following two possibilities:

- a) For a committee consisting of three full members and two alternates: up to two members may participate remotely.
- b) For a committee consisting of five full members and two alternates: up to three members may participate remotely.

In a hybrid defence, the doctoral student, the remaining committee members and the audience must be physically present in the same room at one of the URL centres.

A defence is considered virtual when all participants attend remotely.

Each CAPD may establish specific procedures for authorising hybrid or virtual thesis defences.

In all cases, the CAPD must obtain consent of all regular and, if applicable, alternate committee members to conduct the defence in a hybrid or virtual format. The CAPD must also confirm that all participants have the necessary technical resources to proceed. If

deemed appropriate, the CAPD will authorise the defence in hybrid or virtual formats and must inform the Technical Secretariat of the Doctoral Committee.

Doctors attending the public defence may pose questions during the session as directed by the Chair of the committee.

The examining committee must have access to the completed Doctoral Student Activity Document (DAD). While the DAD does not provide a quantitative score, it serves as a qualitative evaluation tool that complements the assessment of the doctoral thesis.

The examining committee must also have access to the preliminary reports prepared by experts and, where appropriate, the doctoral student's responses to those reports.

In exceptional circumstances, determined by the CAPD and in accordance with Article 22 of this regulation, additional measures may be introduced to protect confidentiality during the oral defence. The Chair of the examining committee will announce these measures at the beginning of the defence session.

Article 26. Grading of the doctoral thesis

The examining committee must issue a report on the defence session and assign an overall grade to the thesis using the following terms: fail, pass, good or excellent. The committee may award the distinction «cum laude» if the overall grade is excellent and a unanimous positive vote is given through a secret ballot.

The academic secretary of the centre will count the secret ballots for the «cum laude» distinction in a session separate from the thesis defence. If the distinction is granted, a corresponding certificate will be issued and attached to the official degree record, enabling the processing of the doctoral degree with the aforementioned distinction.

The vice-rectorate responsible for doctoral studies will provide written notification of the committee's final resolution to the doctoral student, as well as to the thesis supervisor, co-supervisors (if any), and tutor.

Only if the «cum laude» distinction is awarded will the author of the doctoral thesis be eligible for the Extraordinary Award of the corresponding doctoral programme. This requires a unanimous positive recommendation from the examining committee, which will be included in the «cum laude» distinction certificate.

Article 27. Extraordinary Doctoral Award

Ramon Llull University may grant an Extraordinary Doctoral Award for each doctoral programme every academic year. This award can be granted for every ten defended theses or fraction thereof, provided the conditions established in this article are met.

To convene the committee responsible for deciding the award, a minimum of five doctoral theses must have been defended in the programme during the aforementioned period or accumulated from previous years up August 31st of the current year. Doctoral theses can only be considered for the award on a single occasion.

Each CAPD² will appoint a specific committee, composed of at least three doctors, to evaluate which theses merit the award among those under consideration. None of the committee members may have supervised any of the theses being evaluated.

The committees will meet during the first fortnight of September and will consider the doctoral theses defended between September 1st of the previous year and August 31st of the current year.

The committee will determine which theses merit the Extraordinary Doctoral Award and will communicate its decision to the CAPD.

The CAPDs will report the decision of the committee to the URL Doctoral Committee, providing a written explanation of the reasons for the decision. The report must include the composition of the committee, the number of defended theses in the programme during the period, and the names of the candidates for the awards. The award may remain ungranted if deemed appropriate.

The URL Doctoral Committee will approve the Extraordinary Doctoral Awards for each academic year during its ordinary September meeting, based on the proposals of the CAPDs. Awards may only be rejected if a formal or procedural aspect has been breached.

The URL Doctoral Committee will draft a collective certificate for the awarding of the prizes across the University.

The URL Doctoral Committee will accept appeals regarding the awards within three months of the resolution and will respond to them within one month.

Chapter 8. DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM RAMON LLULL UNIVERSITY

Article 28. International mention on the doctoral degree

The mention "International Doctorate" may be included on the front of the doctoral degree diploma, provided the following requirements are met:

- a) The doctoral student must have completed a stay of at least three months in one or more prestigious higher education institutions or research centres outside Spain during the preparation of the thesis.
This stay may be divided into shorter periods if justified, provided the total duration is equal to or greater than three months. If multiple stays are undertaken, at least one of them must last at least one month. In all cases, stays must be endorsed by the thesis supervisor and authorised by the CAPD.
- b) Two expert doctors, affiliated with a prestigious higher education institution or research centre outside Spain, must have provided evaluation reports on the thesis.

² In interuniversity doctoral programmes, the CAPD of the URL Centre will appoint the examining committee and will communicate its deliberation to the Doctoral Committee.

- c) One expert doctor, affiliated with a prestigious higher education institution or research centre outside Spain, other than the tutor of the stay, must have been a member of the thesis examining committee.
- d) A part of the doctoral thesis, including at least the abstract and conclusions, must have been written and presented during the defence in a language other than the official languages of Spain.
This requirement does not apply if the stay has been conducted in a Spanish-speaking country.

To request the "International Doctorate" mention, the doctoral student must submit the additional documentation specified in the document [Instructions for admission to the procedure for the defence of the doctoral thesis](#) available on the URL website, at the time of applying for the thesis deposit.

Article 29. International joint supervision statement on the doctoral diploma

The front of the doctoral diploma may include the statement "Thesis under joint supervision with the University 'Name of the University'", provided the following requirements are met:

- a) The doctoral thesis must have been supervised by doctors from two or more universities, including URL and at least one foreign university, and a joint supervision agreement for the development of the doctoral thesis must have been established.
- b) During the training period required to obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student must have spent at least six months at each of the signatory universities of the joint supervision agreement conducting research activities, either in a single period or divided into several periods. These stays and activities must be outlined in the joint supervision agreement.
- c) If research stays are conducted at institutions other than those that have signed the agreement and meet the conditions for its award, the joint supervised theses may also obtain the mention "International Doctorate" on the doctoral degree.

To request for the international joint supervision statement in the doctoral degree, the doctoral student must submit the additional documentation specified in the document [Instructions for admission to the procedure for the defence of the doctoral thesis](#) available on the URL website, at the time of applying for the thesis deposit.

Article 30. Industrial mention on the doctoral diploma

The mention "International Doctorate" may be included on the front of the doctoral degree diploma, provided the following requirements are met:

- a) There must be a labour or commercial contract between the doctoral student and a private company or a public administration, lasting at least one year during the development of the thesis.
- b) The doctoral student must have conducted their research training within the company or public administration, in collaboration with the University, as part of an R&D&I project that forms the subject of the doctoral thesis.

- c) The company or public administration where the doctoral student is employed, and the University must sign a specific collaboration agreement. This agreement must outline the obligations of the University, the company or public administration, as well as the procedure for selecting doctoral students.
- d) The doctoral student must have a thesis tutor designated by the University and a representative designated by the company or public administration. If authorised by the CAPD and meeting the requirements, the representative may act as the thesis supervisor in accordance with the doctoral regulations. However, the company representative may not serve as a member of the thesis examining committee.

To request for the industrial mention on the doctoral diploma, the doctoral student must submit the additional documentation specified in the document [Instructions for admission to the procedure for the defence of the doctoral thesis](#) available on the URL website, at the time of applying for the thesis deposit.

Chapter 9. ARCHIVING THE DOCTORAL THESIS

Article 31. TDX and TESEO

Once the doctoral thesis has been defended, the University will archive it in electronic format in open access in the [Tesis Doctorals en Xarxa \(TDX\)](#) repository.

To safeguard intellectual property rights of the authors and address any confidential aspects of the doctoral thesis, it may be published in open access in embargoed or partial form, as appropriate, in accordance with the author's specifications. These specifications must be outlined in the document [Template for acceptance of publication in the TDX](#) available on URL's website. Submission of this document is mandatory at the time of applying for the thesis deposit.

In exceptional cases, and upon request from the CAPD, the URL Doctoral Committee will implement protective measures for confidential aspects of the thesis, in accordance with article 22 of these regulations.

At this point, the University will also input the thesis data into the [TESEO database](#), managed by the responsible Spanish ministry.

Article 32. Printed copy of the thesis

To apply for the doctoral diploma, a printed copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Centre's secretary's office. This printed copy must match the electronic version deposited.

The printed copy of the thesis must include the URL cover template as the first page. The standardized models of the first page of the thesis are available on [URL's website](#).

The final printed copy of the thesis must be submitted in paperback binding.

After the doctoral thesis has been defended, the vice-rectorate responsible for doctoral studies will archive the final printed copy of the thesis at the Rectorate.