



UniSR

Università Vita-Salute
San Raffaele

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

PHD PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS



ISSUED BY RECTOR'S DECREE NO. [8394] OF 09/10/2023

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1 Purpose and Scope

Pursuant to Ministry of Universities and Research Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021 and Ministry of Universities and Research Decree no. 301 of 22 March 2022, these Regulations govern the procedures for the establishment and operation of PhD programmes established by Vita-Salute San Raffaele University.

2 Abbreviations Acronyms Definitions

Abbreviation and definition	Description
MUR	The Ministry of Universities and Research
University	Vita-Salute San Raffaele University
ANVUR	Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes
PPD	PhD Programmes Department
Course(s)	PhD Programme(s)

3 Provisions of the Regulations

ART.1 Activation of PhD Programmes and Accreditation Requirements

1. PhD Programmes are established in accordance with the University's internal regulations.
2. PhD Programmes may also be organised in Graduate Schools established and governed by specific provisions adopted by the Board of Directors.
3. PhD Programmes provide the skills required to carry out highly qualified research activities at universities, public institutions or private entities, also for the purpose of access to careers in public administrations and the integration of highly innovative professional careers.
4. The scientific and educational topics pertaining to each programme and their designations, also for the purpose of conferring the qualification, must be sufficiently broad, organic and clearly defined.
5. The aims of the Programmes activated at UniSR are in line with the provisions of article 1(2) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
6. The Programmes are activated, on the basis of a positive ANVUR opinion and in compliance with the standards and guidelines shared at European level, and must develop a specific, broad, original, qualified and continuous teaching and research activity, that is adequately recognised at international level in the fields of interest for the PhD Programme.
7. Accreditation, which takes place by means of a request to be submitted by the University to the MUR within by the deadline established by the latter, lasts five years, subject to periodic verification by the ANVUR of the maintenance of the requirements for accreditation, as defined in article 4(1) of Ministerial Decree 226/2021 and in Ministerial Decree 301/2022, and is also issued on the basis of the results of the checks carried out by the University Board of Evaluation.
8. The establishment of a Programme is proposed by the Faculty of affiliation and evaluated by the Academic Senate. The proposal is then submitted to the University Board of Evaluation, which ascertains the satisfaction of the requirements for accreditation laid down in article 4 of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021 and in the University regulations. If one or more of the requirements is not met, the Board of Evaluation has the right to request changes and then resubmit the proposal to the evaluation process mentioned above.

9. Subsequently, the Board of Directors or the body delegated by it, as proposed by the Rector, deliberates on the establishment of the Programme and the funding allocated to it, including the number of grants for the first activation cycle.
10. The activation of a new cycle of an already accredited Programme is requested by the Programme Coordinator delegated for this purpose by the PhD Programme Board. The Board of Directors, or the body delegated by it, as proposed by the Rector and having considered the opinion of the Faculty and the Academic Senate, deliberates on the activation of the new cycle of the Programme and the funding allocated to it, including the number of grants.

ART.2 Activation of PhD Programmes in associated form

1. Pursuant to article 3 of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, for special higher education requirements in specific scientific disciplinary sectors, for which no programmes are to be activated at the University, the University may enter into agreements or consortia with:
 - a) other Italian or foreign universities;
 - b) public or private, Italian or foreign research organisations of high cultural and scientific standing and in possession of the appropriate equipment;
 - c) companies, including foreign companies, that carry out qualified research and development activities;
 - d) accredited organisations.
2. Article 4(1) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021 provides that in the case of programmes in associated form, the following aspects are exceptions to the regulatory requirements:
 - with regard to the composition of the PhD Programme Board, in the case of PhDs in associated form with public research organisations, researchers who are research managers, researchers or first researchers of the organisations themselves may also participate, without prejudice to the fact that at least half of the members must be professors. The above-mentioned researchers must, in any case, meet the requirements laid down in the regulations for eligibility for the position of associate professor;
 - as regards the number of grants, if there are two participating subjects, each one shall fund at least two grants; if there are more than two subjects, the subject that is the administrative site of the Programme shall fund at least two grants and each of the other subjects shall fund at least one.
3. In any case, the associated organisations must guarantee PhD students, on an ongoing basis, the effective sharing of facilities and higher education and research activities by providing joint teaching activities, also on a rotating basis, between the sites.
4. The agreements concluded for the establishment of Programmes in associated form, in accordance with the internal procedures, must show that the requirements for accreditation set out in subsection 2 have been met.
5. In the case of Programmes in associated form that envisage co-tutoring agreements, pursuant to subsection 1(a) above, the activation proposal, accompanied by the main aspects for the management thereof and in compliance with subsection 2 of this article, shall be submitted by the proposing lecturer to the relevant Faculty Council for approval.

ART.3 Industrial PhD programmes

6. In the particular case of Programmes activated in associated form pursuant to article 2(1) c) above, the University, at the time of initial accreditation or subsequently, has the right to request recognition of the qualification of "Industrial PhD Programme".

7. The research topics of industrial PhD Programmes must place special emphasis on promoting economic development and the production system, by facilitating joint planning in relation to research topics and the activities of PhD students.
8. Pursuant to article 10(2) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the agreements entered into for the establishment of Industrial PhD Programmes must provide for:
 - the arrangements for the coordination of research activities between the parties;
 - the manner in which the research activities are to be carried out at the company, as well as, with regard to possible positions filled by company employees, the breakdown of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the Course;
 - the incentive mechanisms for promoting technology transfer and the development of research results by the companies that are party to the agreement.
9. Pursuant to Article 10(5) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, apprenticeship contracts for industrial PhD training, activated pursuant to Article 45 of Italian Legislative Decree 81/2015, and for which the prevalence of research activities is guaranteed, are considered equivalent to PhD grants.
10. In such cases, the admission Calls for applications may provide for specific requirements for carrying out the research activities or for allocating a share of the available places to the employees of the affiliated companies or organisations.

ART.4 PhD programmes of national interest

1. The University is entitled to activate Programmes of National Interest in compliance with the requirements referred to in article 11 of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
2. In such cases, the University may enter into agreements or consortia with the entities referred to in article 2 above.
3. In the case of PhD Programmes of national interest, the grant award committee, as referred to in article 26 below, is formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of members from abroad or from outside the contracting parties.

ART.5 Civil servants

Civil servants admitted to the Programmes enjoy, for the period of the normal duration of the Programme, the leave of absence provided for by the applicable collective bargaining agreements or, for employees under public law, extraordinary study leave compatible with the needs of the administration, pursuant to article 2 of Italian Law 476/1984, with or without pay and unless explicitly waived, only if s/he is enrolled for the first time in a Programme, regardless of the disciplinary field, and benefits from a grant if the required conditions are met. The right to the allowance for research activities carried out in Italy and abroad remains unaffected. In the event of admission to a course without a grant, or of renouncement of the scholarship, the individual on leave shall retain the economic, social security and pension benefits enjoyed from the public administration with which the employment relationship is established. If, after obtaining a PhD, the employment relationship with the public administration is terminated at the employee's will within the following two years, the sums paid pursuant to the preceding subsection shall be reimbursed. Civil servants are not entitled to extraordinary leave, with or without grants, if they have already obtained a PhD or who have been enrolled in courses for at least one academic year, benefiting from such leave. The period of extraordinary leave is considered for career progression, retirement and social security purposes.

ART.6 Simultaneous enrolment

1. Without prejudice to the obligation to possess the qualifications required for enrolment in the Programmes, simultaneous enrolment in two university education courses is permitted in accordance with the provisions of Italian Law 33/2022, and its implementing decrees.
2. Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD Programme and another university education course, as provided for by the regulations in force, is subject to the PhD Programme Board's assessment of compatibility carried out in accordance with the criteria laid down in the relevant admission Call for applications.

ART.7 Bodies of the PhD Programme

1. The following are bodies of the Course:
 - the PhD Programme Board;
 - the Coordinator.
2. If the Course is affiliated with a PhD school, its governance bodies are the subjects provided for in the applicable regulations.

ART.8 PhD Programme Board

1. The PhD Programme Board is responsible for planning and implementing the Programme.
2. In line with legal provisions, the Board, which is appointed for the first time at the accreditation stage and in accordance with internal operating procedures, must consist of at least twelve members, of whom:
 - at least half must be permanent full or associate university professors, who must have a proven scientific qualification in accordance with the requirements for access to the functions of their role;
 - the remainder must be permanent researchers from universities or public research organisations who have a scientific qualification attested on the basis of the requirements laid down by the regulations in force for eligibility for the position of associate professor.
3. All members of the PhD Programme Board must meet and maintain the requirements for participation in the PhD Programme Board as required by the aforementioned regulations. It should be noted that if an associate professor does not meet the requirements for associate professor, but does meet the requirements for full professor, the assessment as to whether the requirements are met is deemed positive.
4. In the case of professors and researchers at universities and public research organisations, participation in the PhD Programme Board of a PhD Programme run by an entity other than the one with which they are affiliated is subject to the authorisation of the facility of affiliation.
5. Any board members belonging to foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum requirements specified by the applicable regulations for access to the role of associate professor. Foreign lecturers only count towards the minimum number required for the establishment of the PhD Programme Board in the case of PhD Programmes established under agreements with foreign universities.
6. Each member may only participate in one PhD Programme Board in Italy. By way of exception, participation in an additional PhD Programme Board is only possible if it relates to a Programme organised in associated form, including Industrial PhD Programmes and Programmes of National Interest.
7. Experts not belonging to universities or public research organisations but possessing high and proven scientific or professional qualifications in research fields consistent with the educational

objectives of the Programme may also be members of the PhD Programme Board, provided they do not exceed one third of its overall composition.

8. PhD Programme Board meetings may be attended by a representative of the PhD students for the sole purpose of addressing teaching and organisational problems and in accordance with article 16 below. PhD students representatives are not considered in the calculation of the majorities required to meet the quorum or for any resolutions adopted.
9. Following the activation or annual renewal of the Programme, subject to a resolution of the PhD Programme Board itself, previous members may be replaced or new members accepted, provided the minimum requirements set out in the regulations referred to in subsection 2 above are met.
10. The teaching, tutoring and thesis supervision activities carried out for the Course by members of the Board, including the holding of lectures and seminars, shall not give rise to additional remuneration.
11. The PhD Programme Board meets at least twice a year according to a schedule approved by the Programme Coordinator, who is responsible for calling the meeting. Meetings of the PhD Programme Board are considered valid if the absolute majority of those entitled to vote are present, excluding those who are unable to attend and have provided apologies for absence. Board resolutions are adopted by an absolute majority of those present.

ART.9 PhD Programme Board Coordinator

1. The role of Coordinator of the PhD Programme Board is assigned to a full-time full professor or, in the event of reasoned unavailability, to a full-time associate professor of high scientific standing, attested on the basis of the requirements provided for by the regulations in force for eligibility for positions of full professor.
2. The role of coordinator may be held in only one Board at national level.
3. The Coordinator is appointed by the Rector, having consulted with the Faculty and the PhD Programme Board, when the Programme is established or when the position is renewed.
4. The Coordinator holds office for three years and may be reappointed. In the absence of a new appointment, the Coordinator's term of office shall be extended for no more than forty-five days, starting from the day of expiry of the term. During the extension period, the Coordinator's functions are limited to matters of ordinary administration, as well as urgent and unavoidable matters.
5. The Coordinator represents the Programme before the academic bodies; s/he is responsible for the scientific, organisational and teaching aspects of each Programme and for defining the plan of activities spread over the years of the Programme.
6. The Coordinator, delegated for this purpose by the PhD Programme Board, shall allocate the funds for the ordinary running of the Programme; if the Programme belongs to a PhD School, the Coordinator shall agree with the Director of the school on the management of these expenses.
7. Lastly, the Coordinator decides on PhD students' eligibility for the following year at the end of the annual assessment process, as governed by internal procedures.
8. For special organisational requirements of the Programme or where required by specific regulatory provisions, a Deputy Coordinator may be appointed by the Rector on the Coordinator's proposal.

ART.10 PhD Programme Bodies

If provided for by specific regulations, or for particular organisational requirements of the Programme, bodies and roles may be established and appointed to support the activities of the PhD Programme.

ART.11 Supervisor, Co-supervisor

1. Pursuant to Article 6(6) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, each PhD student is assigned a Supervisor and one or more Co-Supervisors (collectively, the Supervisory Team), at least one of whom must have an academic background, who may also be chosen from outside the PhD Programme Board, provided that at least one meets the requirements for members of the PhD Programme Board.
2. In any case, the Supervisor must not be less than four years from the end of his or her role unless he/she holds an institutional position at the relevant hospital site for at least one year beyond the end of the legal duration of the Programme.
3. The methods for the appointment of the Supervisory Team, meeting the requirements set out in the previous subsections, are governed by the internal operational procedures.
4. A maximum of three PhD students may be assigned to each Supervisor, regardless of the Programme they are enrolled in, unless exceptions are provided for in internal operational procedures.
5. The Supervisor has sole and direct responsibility for the activities carried out by the PhD student and in particular for supervising the research project, checking and monitoring the progression of the PhD student's knowledge and the progress of his/her thesis work, as well as for proposing one or more Co-supervisors to assist him/her.
6. In the course of their activities, the Supervisor and Co-supervisors carry out annual checks on the progress of the project, proposing to the Course Coordinator the PhD student's eligibility or non-eligibility for the following year or for the defence of the final thesis.
7. The work carried out by each Supervisor is subject to an assessment of appropriateness in relation to the assignment.

ART.12 Curriculum Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor

1. Pursuant to article 10 above, if Programmes are divided into curricula, Curriculum Supervisors may be appointed in the specific subject area of interest with organisational tasks, of relevance to the educational aspects of the Programme.
2. In the case of curricula that, despite their scientific homogeneity, involve broader areas of relevance, the Coordinator may appoint more than one area-specific Supervisor.
3. The Curriculum Supervisor is appointed by the Programme Coordinator, when the individual curriculum is set up and in any case prior to the preparation of the calls for applications, on the proposal of the participants in the PhD Programme Board pertaining to the specific disciplinary area of interest and remains in office for a period equal to that of the Coordinator who appointed him/her, with the possibility of being re-appointed even if the Coordinator should cease to hold office.
4. The Curriculum Supervisor must be a full or associate university professor or a researcher on a fixed-term contract, affiliated with the University, who meets the requirements referred to in article 24(3)(b) of Italian Law 240/2010.
5. The PhD Programme Board, if it deems it necessary, may supplement the appointment of the Curriculum Supervisor with one or more Deputy Supervisors with the task of supporting and assisting the former in the performance of his/her duties.

ART.13 Curriculum Board

1. Pursuant to article 10 above, for each Curriculum, the Coordinator, on the proposal of the Supervisor, may appoint a Curriculum Board, i.e. an operational body with the function of supporting the Supervisor with particular reference to monitoring the students' educational progress and proposing educational activities.
2. The Board consists of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members, including the Curriculum Supervisor and Deputy Supervisors.
3. Members are appointed during the first meeting of the PhD Programme Board after the establishment of the Curriculum.

ART.14 Management Committee

1. Pursuant to article 10 above and upon the proposal of the Programme Coordinator, the PhD Programme Board may set up, by resolution at its first meeting, a Management Committee with advisory functions, to be entrusted operational and organisational tasks in the management of the Programme.
2. Where set up, the Committee is chaired by the Coordinator of PhD Programme Board and its members are the Deputy Coordinator, where present, the Head of the Research Development Service and a minimum of five members proposed by the Coordinator.
3. In the case of courses that are divided into curricula, the Curriculum Supervisors and Curriculum Co-supervisors also form part of the Management Committee.
4. In any case, the PhD Programme Board, having assessed the specific needs of the Programme, may appoint additional Committee members.

ART.15 Tutor

Each PhD student may be assisted by a Tutor, who is appointed within one month of enrolment by the Research Policy Office, having consulted with the PhD Programmes Department. Tutors are responsible for supporting PhD students, in particular regarding all those aspects of course management of a non-scientific nature, but that play a fundamental role in the achievement of the educational objectives.

ART.16 PhD student representatives

1. Representatives are chosen from among the PhD students regularly enrolled in the relevant Programme at the time of their appointment and are elected by all the students enrolled in the Programme. Representatives hold office for two years.
2. Elections may be held physically or virtually and in accordance with internal procedures.
3. The minimum number of representatives is established by the PhD Programme Board at the first meeting following its formation and may be changed by resolution of the PhD Programme Board during the Programme review.
4. In the performance of their duties within the PhD Programme Board, PhD Students' representatives are entitled to speak and to make proposals during the meetings within the limits set out in article 8(8) above.

ART.17 Admission to PhD Programmes

Admission to PhD Programmes may be based on:

- a) annual public selection procedures, to be held at least once per academic year, according to the requirements set out in the relevant Call for applications;
- b) supernumerary enrolment, in accordance with internal procedures;

- c) co-tutoring agreements.

ART.18 Selection procedure and Call for applications

The call for applications for admission to a Programme in accordance with the provisions of article 17(1)(a) above, in addition to the requirements laid down in Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, must state at least:

- a) the total number of available places in compliance with the provisions of article 9(1) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021;
- b) the amount and number of available grants, to be allocated in accordance with the provisions of article 26 below, and of any apprenticeship contracts, as referred to in article 45 of Italian Legislative Decree no. 81/2015, to be concluded.
- c) the fees to be paid by PhD students, as determined by the Board of Directors and the rules governing the relevant exemptions;
- d) the number of members of the Committee for Admission to the course;
- e) the different selection phases with the specifications regarding:
 - the arrangements for the admission tests, which may, for justified reasons, be conducted online or by video conference;
 - the way in which the criteria for assessing qualifications are defined and the presence of any written tests, including internationally recognised tests, and the way in which interviews are conducted, which may also include the presentation and discussion of a research project;
 - the scores awarded at the different stages and any eligibility thresholds used to define the final student ranking.

ART.19 Recruitment Committee

1. The Rector, having consulted the Programme Coordinator and/or the Director of the PhD school delegated for this purpose by the respective PhD Programme Boards, shall appoint by decree the Committee responsible for the comparative assessment of the candidates.
2. In the event of a large number of candidates, subcommittees may be set up to conduct the admission tests.
3. In the case of Programmes established as a result of international cooperation agreements, the Committee and the admission procedures are defined in the agreements themselves.
4. The Committee operates by ensuring a proper comparative evaluation of candidates and must complete its work within 90 days of appointment.
5. The minutes of the proceedings of the competitive procedure, signed by all the members of the Committee, must be filed with the PhD Programmes Department within the time limit set out in the preceding subsection.

ART.20 Rankings

1. The ranking list, drawn up at the end of the selection procedures referred to in the preceding articles and approved by the Rector by decree, is published on the University website in the pages dedicated to the On-Line Register and to the relevant Programme.
2. Candidates who, on the basis of the final ranking list, are among those admitted to the Programme must express their acceptance by the deadline stipulated in the Call for applications, under penalty of forfeiting their position. In this case, other eligible candidates will take their place, as provided for in the call for applications.

ART.21 Course duration

1. The duration of the Programmes cannot be less than three years, and is defined at the accreditation stage.
2. The calculation of the duration of the Programme does not include any periods of suspension of attendance pursuant to article 24 below.
3. At the end of the duration of the Programme, or at the end of any extension period granted pursuant to article 22 below, if the PhD student has not completed the envisaged activities, he/she shall be declared forfeited by Rector's Decree.

ART.22 Extension of Programme duration

1. A PhD student may apply to the PhD Programme Board, in accordance with the procedures set out in the internal procedures, to extend the duration of the Programme in the following cases:
 - a) for demonstrable reasons that make it impossible to submit the PhD thesis within the time limit provided for the duration of the Programme, without, however, extending the grant;
 - b) for justified scientific needs, also extending the payment of the grant.
2. An extension may only be requested once for a duration of 6 months or 12 consecutive months.
3. Once an extension of the duration has been granted, the Programme cannot end before the entire extension period has elapsed.
4. The periods of extension, together with the periods of suspension referred to in article 24 below, may not exceed a total of eighteen months, except in the specific cases provided for by law.

ART.23 Joint attendance of a PhD Programme and the Physician Scientist programme (PhS)

1. The joint attendance of a medical postgraduate course or Residency reserved for doctors, and a PhD programme is permitted, subject to an assessment of compatibility between the activities and commitment required by the Postgraduate School and those required by the PhD Programme, also taking into account the distance between the sites as well as the compatibility between the PhD project and the educational purposes of the Postgraduate School. This compatibility must be certified by the Board of the Postgraduate School and the PhD Programme Board.
2. Joint attendance is possible for PhD Programmes with a legal duration:
 - of three years, for students enrolled in the final year of a Residency;
 - of 4 years, for students enrolled in the final or penultimate year of the Postgraduate School.
3. Joint attendance entitles the PhD student to apply for a reduction in Programme activities. Requests for joint attendance and the consequent application for a reduction in PhD activities are accepted by the PhD Programme Board, subject to a positive assessment of the consistency of the activities already carried out in the Postgraduate School and provided for in the research project.
4. The procedures for submitting an application for a reduction in PhD Programme activities and for the management of joint attendance are governed by internal procedures.
5. During the joint attendance period, grant payment is suspended.
6. In the case of joint attendance, PhD students are required to pay the required admission and attendance fees:
 - to the Postgraduate School alone, during the period of joint attendance;
 - to the PhD Programme, for the PhD years.

ART.24 Suspension, withdrawal and forfeiture

1. It is possible, at the PhD student's request and subject to the favourable opinion of the Programme Coordinator, to obtain a suspension of attendance obligations for a maximum duration of six months, without any change to the legal duration of the Programme, for proven reasons provided for by law and in the following cases:
 - a) parenting;
 - b) serious and documented illness;
 - c) serious and documented family reasons;
 - d) serious and documented personal reasons.
2. For the duration of the suspension, no grant or other equivalent funding will be paid.
3. At the end of the suspension period, the grant is paid out until the total duration of the grant is reached.
4. PhD students are entitled to withdraw from the Programme at any time and without having to give a justification. In such cases, the person concerned must apply to the PhD Programmes Department in accordance with the procedures and time frames indicated in the internal procedures. Any grant paid is maintained until the effective date of withdrawal as indicated in the application.
5. PhD student status is forfeited in the following cases:
 - a) failure to pass annual assessments, as governed by internal procedures;
 - b) failure to fulfil annual assessments within the prescribed time limits;
 - c) failure to obtain the qualification within the time limits laid down in the regulations in force and in these Regulations or upon expiry of the extension;
 - d) non-compliance with the principles enshrined in the University's Code of Ethics.
6. Notwithstanding subsection (b) above, the Coordinator may prevent disqualification if the PhD student gives reasonable grounds for the delay in submitting the annual reports.
7. The Supervisor or the Curriculum Supervisor, upon the occurrence of one of the cases referred to in subsection 5 above, shall submit a duly substantiated and reasoned proposal for forfeiture of the PhD student's status to the Coordinator who, having heard the PhD student, shall take a decision on the matter and forward the outcome to the Rector. The Rector declares the forfeiture by decree to be communicated to the PhD student in compliance with the provisions of Italian Law 241/1990.

ART.25 Automatic suspension and exclusion

1. The Programme Coordinator, as instructed by the PhD Programme Board, may propose to the Rector, by reasoned resolution and after hearing the person concerned, that a PhD student be temporarily suspended from the Programme or excluded from it, with partial or total loss of any grant received, in the event of:
 - unjustified and prolonged absences;
 - behaviour in breach of the rules for access to laboratories;
 - non-payment of registration fees within the deadlines communicated by the relevant Office;
 - fraudulent (unfair, improper) conduct aimed at obtaining an unfair advantage.
2. In any case, the provisions set out in the Regulations for the application of disciplinary sanctions to students adopted by the University remain applicable.

ART.26 Qualification Award

1. At the end of the Programme, candidates may apply for admission to the final exam in accordance with internal procedures.
2. The PhD qualification is awarded following the positive evaluation of the thesis defended publicly before a Committee appointed for this purpose by the Rector.

3. PhD theses, accompanied by an abstract in English, must be written in Italian or English. Any drafting in another language must be authorised by the Board or by the Coordinator appointed for this purpose.
4. The dissertation is subjected, in advance, to appropriate checks to ensure its originality and to ensure compliance with good scientific practices and the promotion of quality in the research activity.
5. The thesis, together with the report on the activities carried out, is examined by at least two assessors appointed in accordance with the internal operational procedures and in accordance with the requirements of article 8(11) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021.
6. The specific procedures for drafting and presenting the thesis, in compliance with the provisions of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, are further detailed in specific internal procedures.
7. The Committee, before which the defence takes place, consists of at least three members, at least two-thirds of whom must be individuals not belonging to the administrative site of the Programme and no more than one-third of whom may be members belonging to the entities participating in the PhD Programme if in associated form. In any case, at least two-thirds of the Committee is made up of members from academic backgrounds and gender balance must be complied with, if possible.
8. The Committee is called by the Rector and is required to complete its work within 90 days from the date of the Rector's Decree appointing it. If this period has elapsed without the work being completed, the members shall fall from office and the Rector shall appoint a new Committee of which the lapsed members may not be part.
9. It is at the PhD student's discretion to request a temporary ban on the free consultation of the thesis, for justified and temporary needs in order to protect intellectual property. This ban has a variable duration, generally of up to a maximum of 12 months, and can be extended, when appropriately requested, in the event of justified grounds. At the end of the ban period, the thesis becomes freely accessible, except for those parts made unavailable in accordance with internal operational procedures.
10. By way of exception from the provisions of this Article, international cooperation agreements, also within the context of the performance of co-tutoring theses, may provide for specific procedures for the award of the degree that govern the composition of the Committee, the dates for the award and the language to be used for the drafting of the thesis.

ART.27 Grants and other scholarships

1. As provided for in these Regulations, each year the Board of Directors deliberates on the number and amount of scholarships granted by the University and included in the call for applications, in compliance with the regulations in force. The number of grants or other forms of support may possibly be increased, by subsequent measures, as a result of further funding offered by external public or private entities and governed by the relevant agreements.
2. A grant may not be combined with any other form of funding and, in particular, with research grants or amounts paid to doctors on residencies. Exceptions to the above are amounts awarded for stays abroad, which are useful to supplement the PhD student's training and research activities.
3. The grant referred to in the first subsection shall be increased by 50% for each month and for a duration not exceeding 12 months in order to carry out duly authorised research activities abroad. In the case of persons holding positions without a grant, an amount equal to the supplement referred to in the previous sentence is guaranteed, in accordance with the arrangements laid down in internal procedures.

4. Each PhD student is guaranteed, in addition to the grant and to the increment referred to in subsection 3 above, within the limits of the existing financial resources, a budget of no less than 10% of the amount of the grant and that is in any case adequate for the type of Programme.
5. Grants are awarded to those who are successfully placed on the ranking list at the end of the admission call for applications procedure. Consequently, for PhD students belonging to specific mobility programmes who are admitted to the Programmes without participating in the competitive procedure, the rules contained in this article do not apply.
6. Grants are disbursed monthly, subject to passing the annual review, for a minimum of three years and in any case equal to the legal duration of the Programme. Other forms of funding that may be assigned by calls for applications are annual and may be renewed for the entire duration of the PhD Programme.
7. In the case of grants funded by organisations outside the University, the relevant agreements may provide for different provisions to those above, in compliance with the regulations in force.
8. Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, grants are not awarded in the following cases:
 - extension of the duration of the Course, pursuant to Art. 22(1)(a);
 - joint attendance of the PhD Programme and a Physician Scientist Programme, as referred to in article 23(5);
 - voluntary suspension, as referred to in article 24(2);
 - withdrawal, as referred to in article 24(4);
 - forfeiture, as referred to in article 24(5);
 - automatic suspension/exclusion, as referred to in article 24(8).
9. Grants subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions under the separate management scheme pursuant to article 2(26) of Italian Law no. 335/1995, of which two-thirds are to be paid by the University and one-third by the grant holder. PhD students benefit from the relevant safeguards and rights.

ART.28 Rights and duties of PhD students

1. Concurrent enrolment in more than one PhD Programme in the country is not permitted.
2. Programme attendance is compulsory and entails an exclusive, full-time commitment to the assigned research project, without prejudice to the possible application of specific rules under the provisions of articles 3, 4, 23, 24.
3. PhD students are obliged to regularly follow the activities envisaged for their educational curriculum and to devote themselves with full commitment and for the required amount of time to carrying out the assigned research activities.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subsection, PhD students may be granted exemption from attending teaching activities only in the following cases:
 - a) health reasons;
 - b) participation as a speaker at conferences or meetings related to their research;
 - c) research periods abroad or at external sites.
5. PhD students specifically authorised by the PhD Programme Board or the Coordinator may carry out activities, including paid ones, that enable them to acquire skills relating to the educational area of the Programme, subject to an assessment of their compatibility with the Programme's training, teaching and research activities. Internal procedures shall define how PhD students should apply and be assessed by the PhD Programme Boards and, where applicable, any upper limit on the income that may be received by PhD students, which may not exceed the amount of the PhD grant.

6. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 12(3) of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021, PhD students, subject to the authorisation of the PhD Programme Board or the Coordinator may carry out tutoring activities for students on Bachelor's and Master's degree courses.
7. When participating in research projects, PhD students may not take on the role of Principal Investigator for the duration of the Programme.
8. As part of their PhD project and subject to the authorisation of the Programme Coordinator or the Curriculum Supervisor if there is one, PhD students may carry out research and educational activities at highly qualified institutions abroad or in facilities outside the University; this period may not, however, exceed 12 months. The above-mentioned period may be extended up to a total maximum of eighteen months for PhD programmes co-tutored with foreign entities or that are activated in associated form.
9. Those who have previously attended (even at another university) a PhD programme covered by a grant and obtained the qualification, may be admitted to a new programme not covered by a grant, subject to passing the selection tests.
10. Conversely, those who have previously attended (even at another university) a PhD programme covered by a grant without obtaining the qualification, may be admitted to a new programme covered by a grant, subject to passing the selection tests. Upon presentation of appropriate documentation proving partial receipt of the grant for the Programme previously attended, the grant will be prorated according to the difference between the legal duration of the Programme and the monthly payments already received.
11. The conditions for the enjoyment of university services provided for students enrolled in courses at the University also apply to PhD students, insofar as they are compatible.
12. The measures provided for in Italian Legislative Decree 68/2012 on financial aid also apply to PhD students, in accordance with the procedures laid down therein.
13. The regulations on occupational Safety (pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree 81/2008) also apply to PhD students.

ART.29 Quality Assurance

1. A prerequisite for accreditation is the presence of a quality assurance system for the design and management of PhD training that complies with the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as specified by the ANVUR. The University has adopted the "Quality Assurance Process Regulations" to ensure the achievement of the development goals defined by the University's senior management. The Regulations provide guidance on the application of a planning, management, assessment and improvement system that is functional to the achievement of institutional purposes, through the definition of a Quality Management System.
2. The Quality Management System:
 - defines the planning and implementation processes of the activities falling under the three University Missions (Education, Research, Third Mission);
 - identifies, among the institutional bodies of the University, the actors delegated to lead and manage these processes.
3. The above processes, which are governed by specific internal procedures, include:
 - a) the planning of a PhD Programme, ensuring the transparency of the learning outcomes expected of the course, the clarity in the planning of the activities constituting the course and the traceability of the assessments and approvals on which completion of the course is based;

- b) the delivery of a PhD Programme, through which the conformity of the activities and services provided to the student with what was planned is ensured;
- c) the monitoring of a PhD Programme by which, through the continuous analysis of students' progress and achievements as well as by surveying their opinions, any critical points and/or opportunities for improvement are detected;
- d) the review of a PhD Programme, ensuring the regular and periodic review of courses, which involves the participation of University stakeholders, students and interested parties.

4 Validity and transitional rules

These regulations apply to PhD students enrolled from cycle XXXVIII onwards.

On the date the Regulations come into force, the UniSR Regulations on PhD Programmes issued by Rector's Decree no. 7613 of 19 May 2022 are repealed.

For all matters not expressly provided for in these Regulations, the applicable legal provisions shall apply.

The Italian version of this Regulations is the only legal means of communication of the relative contents and in case of dispute, the Italian version shall prevail.