

MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH

DECREE 226 of 14 December 2021

Regulation concerning procedures for the accreditation of doctoral institutions and courses and criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited entities. (21G00250)

(OJ no. 308, 29-12-2021)

In force as at: 13-1-2022

THE MINISTER OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH

Having regard to art. 33(6) and art. 117(6) of the Constitution;
Having regard to Law 400 of 23 August 1988, and in particular art. 17(3) and (4);
Having regard to Law 210 of 3 July 1998, 210, and in particular art. 4;
Having regard to Law 476 of 13 August 1984, and in particular art. 2;
Having regard to Law 398 of 30 November 1989;
Having regard to Law 508 of 21 December 1999, and in particular art. 2(1) and (5);
Having regard to Law 240 of 30 December 2010, and in particular art. 2 (2, f) and h), art. 5 (5), art. 18 (5) and art. 19;
Having regard to Decree Law 1 of 9 January 2020, converted, with amendments, into Law 12 of 5 March 2020, and in particular art. 1(1);
Having regard to Decree Law 80 of 9 June 2021, converted with amendments into Law 113 of 6 August 2021;
Having regard to Presidential Decree 212 of 8 July 2005, and in particular art. 11;
Having regard to Presidential Decree 76 of 1 February 2010, and in particular art. 3 (1) (b) and (e);
Having regard to the Regulation referred to in the decree of the Minister of education, university and research no.45 of 8 February 2013;
Taking into due consideration the Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines of the European Higher Education Area, approved by the Ministerial Conference of Yerevan, 14-15 May 2015;
Taking into due consideration the Principles for innovative doctoral training adopted by the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility, adopted within the European Research Area on 26 June 2011;
Taking into due consideration the National Research Plan 2021-2027, approved by the Interministerial Committee for economic programming with Resolution 74 of 15 December 2020, published in Italy's Official Journal, General Series, 23 January 2021, issue no. 18;
Taking into due consideration the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, submitted to the European Commission pursuant to Article 18 et seq. of Regulation (EU) no. 241/2021 of the European Parliament and Council, of 12 February 2021, establishing the recovery and resilience instrument, and in particular the specific objectives of Mission 4, Reform 1.4, on the "Reform of doctorates";
Having regard to the draft revision of decree 45 of the Minister of education, university and research of 8 February 2013, proposed by the National Agency for the evaluation of the university and research system, approved by the same Agency with resolution no. 4 of 14 January 2021, and transmitted by the note of 15 January 2021, ref. no. 200;
Having regard to the request for an opinion sent to the Italian data protection authority with a note dated 9 September 2021, ref. no. 1136, and the note of 8 October 2021, ref. no. 1208, pursuant to article 36(4) of Regulation (EU) no. 679/2016 of the European Parliament, of 27 April 2016, and art. 154(5) of legislative decree 196 of 30 June 2003;
Whereas it is deemed necessary to review rules for the accreditation of doctoral institutions and courses which, in compliance with the autonomy of universities and research institutions, is designed to update accreditation criteria and requirements in the light of interpretations acquired in the period

following the adoption of the aforementioned decree 45 of 2013, to bring them into line with international standards and with the specific objectives of Mission 4, Reform 1.4 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the system-wide priorities of the National Research Plan;

Deeming that it is necessary to draw up a new Regulation concerning the procedures for the accreditation of doctoral institutions and courses as well as the criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited entities;

Having regard to opinion no. 375 issued by the Italian data protection authority at the meeting of 14 October 2021 and transmitted with the note of 25 October 2021, ref. 53479;

Having regard to the opinion of Italy's State Council, expressed by the Advisory section on legal acts at the meeting of 9 November 2021;

Having regard to the communication to the Prime Minister, pursuant to art. 17(3) of the aforementioned Law no. 400/1988, as confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office with note no. 14201 of 10 December 2021;

Hereby adopts the following Regulation:

Art. 1

Purpose and scope

1. The research doctorate, or Ph.D. programme, provides the skills needed to perform - in universities, public bodies or private entities - highly qualified research activities, also for the purpose of gaining access to a career in the civil service and combining highly innovative professional paths.

2. In keeping with the principles and guidelines shared at a European level, doctoral training makes it possible to:

a) independently conceive, design, implement and adapt research or innovation programmes;
b) conduct critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas and processes, in research institutions, in the production system, in the public administration and in the liberal professions;

c) contribute, by acquiring new scientific and soft skills, to the pursuit of sustainable development objectives identified by the UN General Assembly, to the goals indicated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related goals in European policies;

d) contribute to the realisation of the European research and higher education Area, taking into account the relevant Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines.

3. To achieve the objectives referred to above, based on the "Principles for innovative doctoral training" approved at a European level, doctoral training:

a) seeks to further knowledge through training for basic research and applied research and excellence based on academic standards established through peer reviewed procedures;

b) is carried out in an attractive and critically stimulating institutional environment, in which the PhD student can acquire autonomy and responsibility that are useful for subsequent professional careers;

c) promotes interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training opportunities, also in non-academic areas, such as the industrial sector, public administration, cultural services and institutions, with the involvement of experts in their own fields in training activities;

d) contributes to the strengthening of transnational and international relations in the research field, creating for example joint doctorates and forms of co-protection, and ensures, in line with the research project developed by the PhD student, periods of mobility overseas of a reasonable length in respect of the doctoral project;

e) seeks the acquisition of soft skills in order to facilitate their transfer and development in scientific and professional fields;

f) is carried out within the framework of a quality assurance system, distinct from that in place for levels I and II of university education, in order to improve the quality of the research environment and draw up transparent and responsible procedures for the admission, supervision, award of the qualification and professional growth of PhD students.

4. This Regulation identifies:

- a) the entities that may request accreditation of courses and institutions, and the requirements in this regard;
- b) the procedures and criteria for the accreditation of doctoral courses and relative institutions;
- c) the conditions that might bring about the withdrawal of accreditation as well as the methods for monitoring and evaluating training objectives pursued and achieved, also in terms of employment opportunities;
- d) the ways of gaining access to doctoral courses, and the rights and duties of PhD students;
- e) general criteria and rules for the establishment and operation of doctoral courses, governed by universities' doctoral regulations;
- f) ways of financing doctoral courses and of collecting data on activities performed during courses.

Art. 2

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the terms below have the following meanings:

- a) Minister and Ministry means the Italian Minister of university and research and the Italian Ministry of university and research;
- b) Universities means legally recognised Italian universities, both State and non-State, including special-status university education institutions;
- c) ANVUR is the National Agency for the evaluation of the university and research system, referred to in art. 2(138) of Decree Law 262 of 3 October 2006, converted, with amendments, into Law 286 of 24 November 2006, and Presidential Decree 76 of 1 February 2010.

Art. 3

Entities that may apply for accreditation

1. The Minister decides, in accordance with ANVUR's opinion, on the accreditation of doctoral courses proposed by Universities, complying with the standards and guidelines shared at a European level, which develop specific, wide-reaching, original, qualified and ongoing teaching and research activity, adequately recognised at an international level in sectors of interest for the doctorate.
2. Universities may request the accreditation of courses and related institutions in association form by entering into agreements or establishing consortia, which can be the administrative seat of courses, with one or more of the following entities:
 - a) other Italian universities or foreign universities, with the possibility of issuing a multiple or joint final qualification;
 - b) public or private research institutes, Italian or foreign, in possession of high cultural and scientific qualifications and equipped with suitable scientific facilities and equipment;
 - c) institutions referred to in art. 2(1) of Law 508 of 21 December 1999, accredited in accordance with art. 15 of this Regulation, with the possibility of issuing the multiple or joint final qualification;
 - d) companies, including foreign companies, that carry out qualified research and development activity;
 - e) public administrations, cultural institutions and research infrastructures of European or international relevance, for rolling out specific research and development (R&D) or innovation programmes.
3. For institutions that issue academic qualifications equivalent to the title of Ph.D., pursuant to art. 74 of Presidential Decree 382 of 11 July 1980, the procedures and requirements for the accreditation of courses and institutions set out herein are applicable.

Art. 4

Requirements for the accreditation of research doctorate courses and institutions

1. The following requirements are in place for the accreditation of doctoral courses and institutions:
 - a) compliance with the following criteria relating to the composition of the faculty, taking into account gender balance where possible:

1) the doctoral teaching staff shall consist of a minimum of twelve members or, for doctorates created by special status university higher education schools, six members, from scientific fields coherent with the educational objectives of the course. At least half of the teaching staff shall be made up of tenured university professors, full or associate, the remainder shall consist of tenured researchers of universities or public research bodies or, in the case of doctorates organised in association with public research bodies, also by researchers acting as research managers, and by researchers or senior researchers of the same entities, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. Researchers from the doctoral faculty shall in any case possess a scientific qualification meeting the requirements of current legislation to be able to serve as associate professor, and professors shall have a scientific qualification meeting the requirements needed to cover a tenured position;

2) faculty members coming from foreign universities or research institutes shall be in possession of at least the minimum requirements set forth by current legislation needed to serve as associate professor;

3) the coordinator of the PhD programme shall possess a high scientific qualification, certified on the basis of requirements set forth in current legislation needed to be able to serve as full professor;

4) without prejudice to the provisions of nos. 1, 2 and 3 above, experts may be faculty members, to the maximum extent of one third of its overall composition, even though they do not belong to universities or public research bodies, but are in possession of high and proven scientific or professional qualifications in areas of research that are consistent with the educational objectives of the doctoral course;

b) the number of doctoral scholarships. In this regard, the following is required:

1) except for special status university higher education schools, the availability, for each doctoral cycle, of an average number of at least four scholarships per doctoral course, excluding from this calculation scholarships granted to PhD students through special agreements or consortia, it being understood that for the single doctoral course this availability may not be less than three;

2) in the case of doctorates established pursuant to article 3(2) by two entities, each entity finances at least two scholarships. Where there are more than two entities, the entity that is the administrative seat of the course finances at least two scholarships, and the others finance at least one;

c) adequate and regular funding for the sustainability of the doctoral course, with special reference to the availability of scholarships and support for the activities of PhD students;

d) specific and qualified operational and scientific structures to help with the study and research activities of PhD students, adequate for the number of granted scholarships, including, in relation to the specific nature of the course, care/welfare structures, science laboratories, adequate library resources, databases and resources for computing;

e) advanced research and higher education activities, including seminars and workshops, or carried out within research laboratories or infrastructures of European level and relevance;

f) interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary educational activities, possibly in common with several doctoral courses, language and computer learning, as well as activities in the fields of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, exploitation and dissemination of results, intellectual property and open access to data and the products of research and the fundamental principles of ethics and integrity;

g) a quality assurance system for the planning and management of doctoral training complying with quality assurance Standards in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as recommended by ANVUR.

2. The requirements referred to in the paragraph above also apply to doctoral courses created pursuant to article 3(2) above. In such cases, participating subjects shall ensure that PhD students effectively share, on a continuous basis, the higher education and research structures and activities, and shall provide common training activities, including rotating activities between institutions.

3. Further to a proposal from ANVUR, in compliance with the criteria set out herein, and taking into due account the results of monitoring activity referred to in article 16 below, the data contained in the Registry as per Article 14 below and the data collected in the accreditation procedures referred to in

article 5 below, and taking into account in particular the general guidelines for the university system and the quality assurance Standards in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the Ministry shall periodically update indicators for the accreditation and evaluation of doctoral courses and related guidelines.

Art. 5

Accreditation of courses and institutions

1. The accreditation system is divided into the following stages: initial authorisation of new doctoral courses and accreditation of the institutions where they will take place; periodic checking of the conditions required for these purposes, in the manner set out herein.
2. The accreditation application, submitted to the Ministry by the entities referred to in article 3(1 and 2) above, and accompanied by documentation certifying possession of the requirements as per article 4, specifies the maximum number of places for which accreditation is requested. The accreditation application may also refer to individual curricula of already accredited doctoral courses.
3. The Ministry shall forward the accreditation application to ANVUR within twenty days of its receipt. ANVUR shall issue a reasoned opinion regarding the meeting of accreditation requirements within sixty days of the date of receipt of the application, including the ten-day period within which the applicant may make any observations or clarifications, at the request of ANVUR. For individual accreditation requests too, ANVUR may make use of external experts pursuant to art. 12(4)(d) of the regulation referred to in Presidential Decree 76 of 1 February 2010, and may arrange on-site visits. In this case, the deadline for the evaluation of the accreditation application may be extended by up to thirty days. The Minister will issue a decree, in accordance with the opinion of ANVUR, ruling on the accreditation application. The accreditation decree shall be transmitted to the applicant and to the relevant evaluation body.
4. The accreditation of institutions and courses is valid for five years. Without prejudice to monitoring and periodic evaluation as referred to in paragraph 5, the accreditation is assessed, for the purpose of its confirmation or revocation, in the event of changes to the name of the course or composition of the faculty exceeding twenty-five per cent of its initial make-up, or to the course coordinator, without prejudice to the possession of those requirements set forth in article 4 for each faculty member.
5. Monitoring and periodic evaluation activities shall check the continued meeting of requirements for the accreditation of doctoral courses as per article 4. These activities are carried out by ANVUR which, for this purpose, and based on the findings of monitoring activity carried out by the in-house evaluation bodies of accredited entities, may also order on-site inspections, carried out by external experts, in order to ascertain the adequacy of the infrastructure of courses. Periodic evaluation activity may be carried out as part of the periodic accreditation of the institution as per article 5(3) of legislative decree 19 of 27 January 2012, taking into due account the specific nature of doctoral training compared with I and II level university degrees. The periodic evaluation of doctoral courses inaugurated by special status university higher education schools is also subject to special rules on the accreditation of these schools, as defined in a Minister's decree pursuant to legislative decree 19 of 27 January 2012.
6. If one or more of the requirements is not met, after suitable checks are performed, and after the parties concerned have been interviewed, according to the terms in paragraph 3, the accreditation will be revoked, by means of a Minister's decree, in accordance with ANVUR's opinion, also taking into account the provisions of article 4(2) of the Regulation as per Presidential Decree 76 of 1 February 2010. The recipient of the revocation shall immediately interrupt the activation of new doctoral courses, but shall complete courses already begun.

Art. 6

Establishment, duration and operation of doctoral courses

1. Research doctorate courses shall last no less than three years, subject to the provisions of article 7 below.
2. The names of the courses and possible curricula, as well as the composition of the doctoral faculty, shall be consistent with the areas of research to which the doctoral course refers, covering broad and clearly defined areas.
3. The faculty and the coordinator are organs of the doctoral course.
4. The faculty is responsible for the planning and rollout of the doctoral course. Each faculty member may participate in only one faculty at a national level. It is possible to participate in another faculty only if this refers to a doctoral course organised in associated form, pursuant to the provisions of article 3(2), including industrial doctoral courses pursuant to article 10 below and doctoral courses of national relevance as per article 11. For doctorates established by special status university institutions, it is possible to participate in two faculties relating to doctoral courses organised by the same institute.
5. The participation of professors and researchers of Universities and public research bodies in the faculty of a doctoral course established by an entity other than the one to which they belong is subject to the authorisation of the latter entity.
6. The faculty shall be coordinated by a tenured full professor or, in the event of grounded unavailability, by a tenured full-time associate professor in possession of the requirements laid down in article 4(1)(a)(3). The coordinator may cover this role in one faculty only at a national level. Teaching activity, scientific or business tutoring/mentoring and supervision of theses, certified and carried out by university professors and researchers as part of doctoral courses, contributes to the fulfilment of the institutional obligations set forth in article 6 of Law 240 of 30 December 2010. Each doctoral student is assigned a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, of which at least one from an academic background, chosen by the faculty from persons both inside and outside the faculty, providing at least one of them meets the requirements in place for members of the faculty itself.
7. Universities may organise doctoral courses in Doctoral Schools, and in such cases are responsible for the coordination of courses and management of joint activities. In the cases referred to herein, ownership and accreditation of the courses and doctoral institutions shall remain under the control of the Universities.

Art. 7

Doctoral courses and medical postgraduate/specialisation schools

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 8(1), Universities shall draw up a Regulation governing procedures for the joint attendance of the doctoral course and a medical specialisation course, in compliance with the following conditions:
 - a) compatibility, also taking into account the distance between locations, activities and commitment required for the postgraduate school and doctoral course, as certified by the board of the medical postgraduate school and the doctoral committee;
 - b) incompatibility between the doctoral scholarship and remuneration, named in whatever way, received in relation to postgraduate school activities.
2. In those cases of joint attendance, as referred to herein, the request for a reduction in doctoral activities shall be accepted by the faculty of the doctoral course upon the positive evaluation of the coherence of research activities, already carried out during the medical specialisation course, with the doctoral project. For the acceptance of the application referred to herein, the board of the postgraduate school shall express an opinion on the compatibility of the doctoral project with the educational aims of the school. If the application referred to herein is accepted, the doctoral course shall last for no less than two years.

Art. 8

Methods for gaining access to doctoral courses and obtaining the qualification

1. For admission to the doctoral course, a public selection process is arranged at least once a year. The participation application may be submitted by Italian or foreign citizens who, at the expiry date

of the public notice, are in possession of a master's degree or an appropriate degree obtained abroad. The participation application may also be submitted by those who obtain the qualification needed and specified in the public notice by the date of enrolment on the doctoral course, under penalty of forfeiture from admission to the course. The suitability of the foreign qualification shall be ascertained by the doctoral course admissions panel, in compliance with legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was issued, and with treaties or international agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies.

2. The public notice for admission to the PhD course, drafted in Italian and English, is published, for at least thirty days, on the website of the accredited entity, on the European website Euraxess and on the Ministry's website. The public notice shall give the criteria for access and evaluation of qualifications, the presence of written tests, including internationally recognised tests, as well as procedures for conducting interviews, which may also include the presentation and discussion of a research project. If the notice reserves a certain number of places for students graduating from foreign universities, pursuant to paragraph 4, or for fellows from foreign States or specific international mobility programmes, accredited entities may establish different methods for carrying out the admission procedure, forming a separate ranking in such cases. Reserved places that are not assigned may be made available for other selection procedures, as referred to in paragraph 1.

3. The public notice shall indicate the number of doctoral grants and any other forms of financial support.

4. Selection notices may include:

a) the admission of eligible students to the course in the case of winning candidates pulling out or if additional resources are made available, within the terms established by university regulations;

b) the reserve of a share of the scholarships and other forms of financial support for persons who have obtained, from a foreign university, the academic qualification required for admission to the doctoral course.

5. In the case of national, European and international cooperation projects, specific admission procedures and organisational methods may be envisaged, depending on the characteristics of individual doctoral projects rolled out within accredited doctoral courses.

6. For proven reasons preventing the presentation of the doctoral thesis within the time limit of the course duration, the faculty may grant, at the request of the doctoral student, an extension of up to twelve months, without additional financial charges.

7. An extension of the duration of the doctoral course for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the faculty for reasoned scientific needs, in accordance with methods defined by university regulations. In this case, there will be a corresponding extension of the duration of the scholarship, financed by the university budget.

8. PhD students may request, for proven reasons as set forth in law provisions or doctoral regulations, the suspension of the course for up to six months. During the suspension period the grant or other equivalent funding shall not be paid out.

9. The periods of extension and suspension as referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 above may not exceed the overall duration of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

10. The title of Ph.D. graduate is issued following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or of methodologies in the chosen field of inquiry. The doctoral thesis shall be written in Italian or English, or in another language, subject to the authorisation of the faculty, and is accompanied by a summary drafted in English.

11. The thesis, together with the report on activities performed during the doctoral course and on any publications, shall be examined by at least two evaluators not from the institution issuing the PhD degree and possessing extensive and highly qualified experience, of whom at least one is a university professor. The evaluators may belong to foreign or international institutions. Within thirty days of receiving the thesis, the evaluators shall make a written analytical judgement, proposing admission to the public defence of the thesis or postponement of the thesis discussion for a period not exceeding

six months. Once this period has elapsed, the thesis, accompanied by a new written opinion from the evaluators, shall in any case be admitted for discussion.

12. The discussion shall take place in public before a panel, appointed in the manner established in the regulations of the doctoral course, respecting, where possible, gender balance. At least two thirds of this panel shall be persons not belonging to the administrative seat of the course, and no more than one third will be members from entities participating in the doctoral course pursuant to article 3(2) above. Two thirds of the panel shall in any case be made up of members from an academic background. At the end of the discussion, the panel shall give a written, reasoned opinion on the thesis and, when it unanimously recognises a particular scientific quality, it may award honours.

13. The training and educational activities performed by PhD students at one or more institutions are certified by a document attached to the final degree diploma (diploma supplement).

Art. 9

Scholarships

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 8(3), doctoral places without a scholarship may be posted, within the limit of one place for every three with a scholarship.

2. Scholarships, which can also be financed using several sources, have a total duration of at least three years, and are renewed annually, in accordance with the procedures established by the doctoral regulations, after ensuring that the programme of activities for each year has been completed. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the PhD student foregoes it, the amount of the unused scholarship is reinvested by the entity establishing the course to finance research doctorates.

3. The minimum amount of the scholarship shall be established in a Minister's decree. A fifty per cent increase in scholarship is established, for a total period not exceeding twelve months, for the performance of research activities abroad authorised by the faculty. This period may be extended by up to eighteen months for doctorates co-supervised with foreign entities or established pursuant to article 3(2).

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 12(2), for the performance of research activities in Italy and abroad, in addition to the scholarship, the PhD student shall receive a budget, appropriate to the type of doctoral course and in any case not less than ten per cent of the amount of the scholarship, financed with resources made available in the budget of the accredited entities.

5. The same principles in place for the maintenance of scholarships as per paragraph 2 above shall apply for the maintenance of apprenticeship contracts and other forms of financial support in the course years following the first.

6. Without prejudice to checks to ensure the completion of the programme of annual activities drawn up for the doctoral course, the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 shall not apply to doctoral students from foreign States who are granted scholarships or financial support within the framework of specific mobility programmes.

Art. 10

Industrial doctorate

1. The entities referred to in article 3, during initial accreditation or at a subsequent time, may request the qualification of “industrial doctorate”, also as part of the name, for doctoral courses that have been established from agreements or consortia that include entities referred to in article 3(2)(d) that carry out research and development activities.

2. The agreements/conventions referred to in paragraph 1 above govern:

a) the arrangements for coordinating research activities between the parties;

b) the arrangements for carrying out research activities at the company as well as, with regard to any places taken by company employees, the breakdown of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the doctoral course;

c) incentive mechanisms to promote technology transfer and the development of research results on the part of affiliated companies.

3. For the particular areas of research of the industrial doctoral course, special importance is attached to the promotion of economic development and the production system, facilitating joint design and planning on research topics and the activities of doctoral students.

4. Public notices for admission to industrial doctoral courses, in accordance with European guidelines and with development strategies of the national system, as well as the principles referred to in article 1 above, may:

a) specify requirements for conducting research activities, such as interdisciplinarity, adherence to international networks and intersectorality, with special reference to the business sector;

b) allocate a share of available places to the employees of companies or affiliated entities engaged in highly qualified activities, admitted to the doctoral course after passing the relative selection process.

5. There remains in any case the possibility referred to in article 45 of legislative decree 81 of 15 June 2015, namely that of stipulating apprenticeship contracts for the training of the industrial doctorate, while ensuring a prevalence of research activity. These apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to doctoral scholarships for the purpose of calculating the minimum number needed to establish the course.

Art. 11

Doctorates of national interest

1. The Ministry encourages the creation of so-called doctorates of national interest, and makes arrangements for their co-financing.

2. A doctoral course is defined as being of national interest when it meets the following requirements:

a) a proven contribution to progress with research, achieving specific objectives for priority areas of intervention of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including those related to the enhancement of innovative doctoral courses for the public administration and cultural heritage, or the national research Programme or related national Plans;

b) already in the accreditation phase, stipulation of agreements or establishment of consortia involving several universities, and with highly qualified and internationally recognised research institutions, including foreign ones, with the effective sharing of training and research activities, ways of regulating forms of financial support, methods for exchange and mobility of teaching staff and doctoral students and possible forms of co-supervision;

c) already in the accreditation phase, coordination and joint planning of research activities between at least one university and at least four entities as referred to in article 3(2), to create highly qualified training courses and provide access to research infrastructures suitable for the rollout of research projects by doctoral students;

d) for each doctoral cycle, at least thirty scholarships, each for an amount determined pursuant to article 9(3), without prejudice to the fact that the quota for supporting the research and training activities of the doctoral student has been raised, further to ministerial co-financing, to an amount equal to twenty per cent of the amount of the scholarship.

3. The entities referred to in paragraph 2(c) shall assign scholarships for doctorates of national interest in the manner referred to in article 8, after evaluation of the candidates by a panel formed to ensure the participation of foreign members or members external to the affiliated entities.

Art. 12.

Rights and duties of PhD students

1. The doctoral course requires an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 and article 10(2)(b). According to methods defined in university regulations, the faculty may authorise doctoral students to perform paid activities that allow them to acquire skills in the educational field of the doctorate, after having evaluated the compatibility of the same activities with the fruitful performance of the educational, teaching and research activities of the doctoral course. University regulations may place a limit on the doctoral student's income, compatible with the scholarship and, in any case, not exceeding the amount of the scholarship itself.

2. For each PhD student, research and training activities, in keeping with the doctoral project, are routinely performed at highly qualified institutions abroad.
3. As an integral part of the educational project, subject to the authorisation of the faculty, and without increasing the amount of the scholarship, PhD students may perform tutoring/mentoring activities, paid or unpaid, for students from degree and master's courses, and, within the limit of forty hours per academic year, supplementary teaching activities. For the activities referred to herein, PhD students shall be paid the allowances referred to in article 1(1)(b) of Decree Law 105 of 9 May 2003, converted, with amendments, into Law 170 of 11 July 2003.
4. The PhD scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions (separately managed fund) pursuant to article 2(26) of Law 335 of 8 August 1995, to the extent of two thirds charged to the administration and one third charged to the fellow. PhD students benefit from related protections and rights.
5. Public sector workers admitted to a doctoral course shall benefit, for the normal duration of the course, from a period of leave provided for by collective bargaining contracts or, in the case of officials/civil servants governed by public law, from special leave for study purposes, in keeping with the needs of the respective administration, pursuant to article 2 of Law 476 of 13 August 1984, with or without grants, and unless expressly waived, only if they are enrolled on a doctoral course for the first time, regardless of the subject area. This is without prejudice to the right to the budget for research activity carried out in Italy and abroad as per article 9(4).
6. Rules on interventions for the right to study pursuant to legislative decree 68 of 29 March 2012 shall continue to apply to PhD students.
7. Without prejudice to the application of rules for the protection of parenting pursuant to the decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of 12 July 2007, published in the Official Journal of 23 October 2007, issue no. 247, PhD students on parental leave shall retain the right to the scholarship. At the end of the leave period, the scholarship is paid out upon the resumption of course attendance for the length of the scholarship.
8. Under university regulations, doctoral students must be represented in the doctoral advisory committee to discuss teaching and organisational issues.

Art. 13

Evaluation and financing of doctoral courses

1. Accredited entities finance doctoral courses with:
 - a) their own funds;
 - b) funds of the Ministry, using credit lines provided for by current legislation;
 - c) funding provided for within association agreements as referred to in article 3(2);
 - d) funds of other ministries or other public or private entities;
 - e) competitive tenders at national, European and international level.
2. The funding referred to in paragraph 1(b) above shall be allocated annually through a Minister's decree based on the following general criteria:
 - a) productivity and quality of the research activity performed by faculty members and by PhD students and post-doctoral graduates;
 - b) degree of internationalisation of the doctorate, measured by the proportion of PhD students or lecturers coming from abroad and periods of attendance abroad;
 - c) attractiveness of the doctorate, measured by the number of doctoral students admitted to the course who did not obtain a master's degree at the same institution or in affiliated institutions pursuant to article 3(2);
 - d) provision of services, infrastructures and financial resources available to PhD students and post-doctoral graduates, also as a result of mergers or affiliations between universities;
 - e) employment opportunities for PhD graduates;
 - f) activities exploiting research results,

carried out by faculty members, PhD students and post-doctoral graduates who have obtained the qualification, adequately documented in such a way as to enable ANVUR to evaluate its impact;

g) number of scholarships financed by external entities;

h) degree of satisfaction of PhD students with regard to the course attended, using ad hoc questionnaires guaranteeing anonymity.

3. As part of the annual allocations for training activities following the award of the master's degree, the Ministry may allocate a share of the funds available for one or more of the following purposes:

a) co-financing of doctoral scholarships, awarded to doctorates of national interest as referred to in article 11 above;

b) promotion of doctoral courses as referred to in article 3(2).

Art. 14

Registry of doctorates and database of doctoral theses

1. For the purposes referred to in article 1-bis(1), of Decree Law 105 of 9 May 2003, converted, with amendments, into Law 170 of 11 July 2003, the Ministry updates

and adds to the national registry of PhD students and PhD graduates, which contains, in addition to the data set forth in the decree of the Minister of education, university and research of 30 April 2004, adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 of the same article 1-bis, specific information on scientific publications produced during the doctoral course, including the doctoral thesis and, five years after the qualification is awarded, data on employment outcomes. In a further decree adopted pursuant to the same article 1-bis(2), after consulting the Italian data protection authority, the specific data that must be transmitted to the aforementioned Registry by Universities are identified, and technical and organisational measures are decided in compliance with current legislation.

2. Within thirty days of the thesis being discussed and approved, the University files a copy of the thesis, in digital format, with the Registry referred to in paragraph 1, in a specific open access section. The faculty may authorise the unavailability of parts of the thesis in connection with the use of protected data pursuant to current legislation. This is without prejudice to the obligation to file the thesis with the national central libraries of Rome and Florence.

Art. 15

Doctoral courses in the sphere of higher education in art, music and dance

1. Within twelve months of the coming into force of this Regulation, a decree of the Minister shall define methods for the accreditation of PhD courses of Institutions of higher education in art, music and dance, in compliance with the provisions of article 2(5) of Law 508 of 21 December 1999.

2. The PhD courses referred to in this article are established by the institutions referred to in article 2(1) of Law 508 of 21 December 1999, and by non-State Institutions already authorised to award level II academic degrees pursuant to article 11 of the regulation set forth in Presidential decree 212 of 8 July 2005.

Art. 16

Monitoring implementation

1. The Ministry, aided by ANVUR, shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation, with special reference to the expansion of doctoral courses on offer and the impact of doctoral training, also with reference to gaining access to civil service careers and to the integration of highly innovative professional paths.

Art. 17

Final and transitional provisions

1. As from the coming into force of this Regulation, the regulation as per the decree of the Minister of education, university and research, no. 45 of 8 February 2013, shall cease to have effect.

2. The accreditations already granted shall remain valid until the end of the relative five-year period, except as provided for in article 5(4)(5)(6).
3. The Universities and entities referred to in article 3(2) shall bring their doctoral regulations into line within sixty days of the coming into force of this Regulation.
4. During the period of implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the application for accreditation of doctoral courses, being consistent with the topics of the same Plan, and in particular the doctoral courses referred to in article 11, innovative doctoral courses for the public administration and innovative doctoral courses for cultural heritage, shall be submitted together with the request for the allocation of funding for scholarships intended for these courses, as provided for by the Plan. The Ministry, having obtained the opinion of ANVUR, shall agree to the accreditation of these courses and decide on the awarding of scholarships.

Art. 18

Financial provisions

1. The implementation of this regulation shall not result in new or increased burdens on public finance. The administrations concerned and ANVUR shall contribute the human, financial and instrumental resources available under current legislation.

This decree, bearing the State seal, shall be included in the official Collection of legal acts of the Italian Republic. It must be obeyed and complied with by all parties to whom it applies.

Rome, 14 December 2021

The Minister: Messa

Keeper of the seals: Cartabia

Registered with the Court of Auditors on 24 December 2021

Office of control over the Acts of the Ministry of labour and social policies, Ministry of education, Ministry of university and research, Ministry of culture, Ministry of tourism, Ministry of health, reg. no. 3123