



UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO

REGULATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN
SUSTAINABILITY: ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENT,
MANAGEMENT AND SOCIETY (SUSTEEMS)



**REGULATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN SUSTAINABILITY: ECONOMICS,
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**REGULATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN SUSTAINABILITY: ECONOMICS,
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**Art. 1 – Regulations of the Doctoral Programme in
Sustainability: Economics, Environment, Management and Society**

1. In accordance with Art. 8, para. 3 of the University Doctoral Regulations, enacted with Rector's Decree 742 of October 28, 2016 and hereinafter called "Doctoral Regulations" for the sake of brevity, and for the purposes of setting up in the Doctoral School of Social Sciences - hereinafter called "School" – a Doctoral Programme in Sustainability: Economics, Environment, Management and Society (SUSTEEMS), the Department of Economics and Management Council hereby adopts these Regulations for the purposes of governing the Programme activities, by designating the specific objectives, internal organization and rules of conduct for all its students.

Art. 2 – Establishment of the Doctoral Programme

1. The Doctoral Programme in Sustainability: Economics, Environment, Management and Society (SUSTEEMS) is established upon proposal by the Department of Economics and Management together with the Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering (DICAM), the Department of Sociology and Social Research (DSRS), the Faculty of Law (FDG) and the Center Agriculture Food Environment (C3A).

Art. 3. – Main Objectives

1. The programme provides advanced interdisciplinary knowledge and training focused on the development and implementation of models and methods in the multidisciplinary nexus of economic, environmental and social sustainability. Such methodologies include: sustainable economic models and tools for managing natural resources, sustainable business and management models and tools for companies, institutions, for-profit and non-profit organizations.
2. This PhD programme will train highly proficient and autonomous figures by offering: a) advanced methodological and applied courses (mainly during the first year of the programme), b) study and research experiences in institutions and research centers in Italy and abroad, c) customized courses and research activities under the guidance of the academic supervisor.
3. All PhD students, including those who decide to focus on a specific disciplinary theme, will attend interdisciplinary training and, therefore, will incorporate the different aspects of sustainability in their research work and thesis. This overarching understanding the different dimensions of sustainability will constitute one of the main strengths of the SuSTEEMS PhD students on the job market, both in the academia and in the more applied fields concerning the management of institutions, organizations, businesses and natural resources.
4. The Phd programme is part of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences as defined in Tit. IV of the University Regulations for Doctoral programmes.



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Art. 4. – Macro areas of interest

1. The macro areas of reference are: 07 – Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, 08 – Civil Engineering and Architecture, 12 – Law Studies, 13 – Economics and Statistics, 14 – Political and Social Sciences.

Art. 5. – General Characteristics

1. The PhD programme lasts three years. Every year one or more calls for applications are issued in Italian and English for the public selections of candidates. The calls specify the number of positions and scholarships offered.
2. The candidates showing the best qualifications are admitted to the Programme regardless to their gender, age, nationality, religion, ethnicity and social class.
3. The official language of the Doctoral Programme is English. Foreign students are encouraged to learn Italian at least at a beginner's level by the end of the second year of the Doctoral programme.

Art. 6. – Bodies of the Doctoral Programme

1. The bodies of the Doctoral programme are:
 - a. the Doctoral programme Committee (Art. 14 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes)
 - b. the Academic Director (Art. 15 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes)
 - c. the Executive Committee (Art. 16 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes).

Art. 7. – Doctoral programme Committee

1. As per art. 14 of University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes members of the Doctoral Programme Committee are full and associate professors and assistant professors (researchers).
2. Applications for new memberships must be accepted by the Doctoral Programme Committee. Request for Membership to the Doctoral Programme Committee must be sent to the Academic Director, accompanied by a curriculum vitae with publications (at least five), and a declaration of non membership to Doctoral Programme Committees in other Italian universities. In case of university professors and researchers belonging to another University, the request ought to be accompanied also by the permit issued by that University for belonging to a DPC of another University.



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3. Non members may also assist in Doctoral Programme Committee meetings or discussions of specific matters if invited by the Academic Director and in the case their scientific, educational, technical or financial contribution is considered useful. Particularly:
 - a. Doctoral School secretariat with the task of recording the minutes;
 - b. two students' representatives enrolled in the Doctoral programme for matters limited to the PhD;
 - c. representatives of public and private bodies involved in the doctoral programme and in funding scholarships;
 - d. Italian and foreign experts and faculty involved in doctoral programme.
4. The Doctoral Programme Committee is summoned by the Academic Director, or upon request of at least 1/3 of the members of the Board. The convening of the DPC is communicated at least seven days (or less than seven days if it is urgent) prior to the meeting in the manner considered most efficient to ensure its receipt. The agenda is, per regulations, sent along with the announcement of the meeting and it is issued by the Academic Director.
5. The Doctoral Programme Committee convenes at least twice a year to assess the PhD students' research progress and the programme annual evaluation. Should the Doctoral Programme Committee need to act urgently or by a certain day, and is impossible for its members to meet in time, the Academic Director may summon an electronic-based session, during which each member sends e-mails expressing their opinions and votes on a specific proposed resolution. The decisions made electronically with the involvement of all members are ratified at the next meeting of the board.

In order for the sessions to be considered valid an absolute majority of the members, not including justified absentees, is necessary. The unjustified absence of a member of the Doctoral Programme Committee for more than three consecutive meetings may result in his or her removal from the board, and may not implicate the reevaluation of his/her role as Tutor.
6. Deliberations are validated by a favorable vote from the majority of those present. If, for any reason, the result of the votes is even, the vote of the Academic Director prevails.
7. For the meetings of the Doctoral Programme Committee the minutes are recorded by the School Secretariat. If absent, the minutes are recorded by the professor with the most junior standing.
8. The Doctoral Programme Committee
 - a) approves the draft of the call for applications issued by the Executive Committee;
 - b) submits to the Rector the names of the members of the Doctoral Programme Admissions Committee;
 - c) approves the Manifesto of Studies and other teaching activities;
 - d) appoints a supervisor, internal or external to the Doctoral Programme Committee, for each PhD student and other two experts who will be part of the Thesis Advisory Group (TAG)
 - e) authorizes students, as agreed with their supervisors, to go abroad or in Italy for training and visiting periods of more than six months;
 - f) at the end of each academic year, approves or denies admission of the students to the following year. In case of a negative report on the student's research activities,



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the Doctoral Programme Committee is entitled to propose to the Rector, with a well motivated resolution, to expel him/her from the doctoral programme. If this is the case, taking into account the overall marks obtained, the board may propose to the Doctoral School to issue a certificate of "Advanced Studies in Sustainability";

- g) upon hearing the PhD student's supervisor/s together with TAG, approves the admission to the final exam;
 - h) chooses at least two professors/experts who will be in charge of evaluating his/her thesis, as per art. 8, par. 6 of M.D. no. 45/2013, before its public defense;
 - i) submits to the Rector the names of the members of the Final Examination Committee;
 - j) promotes relationships with other Italian and foreign universities and with public bodies and private organizations in order to improve the research activities;
 - k) approves agreements with other public or private institutions;
 - l) approves the cotutelle agreements of incoming and outgoing students;
 - m) approves any amendment to this Regulations before the approval of the Department of Economics and Management.
9. With its own resolutions the Doctoral Programme Committee can delegate the Executive Committee to carry out all, or a part, of its functions. Specific delegations to the Executive Committee deliberated by the Doctoral Programme Committee are in effect during the Academic Director's entire mandate(s).
10. See the full text of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes for any further reference.

Art. 8. – The Academic Director

- 1. The Academic Director performs the duties established by Art. 15 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes (see full text for reference).
- 2. The Academic Director remains in office for three years and may be re-elected one more time once his or her term of office expires.
- 3. The Academic Director is member of the Executive Committee of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences
- 4. The Academic Director is supported by the staff of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences.

Art. 9. – The Executive Committee

- 1. The Doctoral Programme Committee is composed of three elected members of the DPC other than the Academic Director, who is a member by right and chairs the meetings and the vice -Academic Director. Its three members represent the three areas of interest of the doctoral programme: the economic and managerial area, the economic- environmental and the socio-economic area.
- 2. The Executive Committee remains in office for the duration of the mandate of the Academic Director.



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3. The Executive Committee assists the Academic Director in fulfilling his or her duties under Art. 7 of the University Regulations and deliberates on matters delegated by the Doctoral Programme Committee, to which it refers to regularly in relation to the work.
4. The Executive Committee:
 - a) defines the contents of the call for admission to the doctoral programme (see next art. 11) and detect the research topics for the call of applications;
 - b) assists the Academic Director in organizing the academic activities of the doctoral programme;
 - c) draws up the Student Handbook to be approved by the Doctoral Programme Committee;
 - d) appoints tutors as specified in art. 10, paragraph 1 of the this Regulations;
 - e) for each PhD student suggests a supervisor and other two experts who will be part of the TAG as specified in art. 10, paragraph 2 of this Regulations;
 - f) may authorize the student to conduct educational, ancillary and supplementary activities compatible with the PhD course attendance and the necessities of the departments.
 - g) may authorize the student to participate in national or international research projects link to specific aspects of the doctoral programme;
 - h) may authorize the student to conduct a limited work activity such as professional practical traineeship; occasional external working activities; tutoring and additional teaching compatible with the PhD course attendance;
 - i) appoints two or more referees who are required to assess the thesis in advance of the final examination as per art. 8, paragraph 6 (D.M. n. 45/2013);
 - j) performs any additional tasks necessary to the PhD programme and not assigned to other committees.
6. The Academic Director may assign specific tasks to single members of the Executive Committee deemed necessary in the direction and organization of the Programme.
7. For the meetings of the Executive Committee the minutes are recorded by the staff of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences. If absent, the minutes are recorded by professor with the most junior standing.
8. With reference to the functions of the Executive Committee the regulations of the Doctoral Programme Committee apply as per art. 16 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes.

Art. 10 –Tutors, supervisors and Thesis Advisory Group

1. At the start of the first academic year, a doctoral student is assigned a Tutor who is appointed by the Executive Committee. The tutor is responsible for evaluating the student study and research skills during his/her first year. He/she is responsible for introducing the doctoral students to the research activity of the Programme and for mentoring the student in the choice of his/her supervisor.



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2. Before the end of the first academic year, the Doctoral Programme Committee shall appoint a supervisor who will be part - together with other two experts - of the TAG.
3. The supervisor may be either a member or a non-member of the Doctoral Programme Committee. If he/she is not a member of the Doctoral Programme Committee, she/he is to be presented by at least two members of the Doctoral Programme Committee and then appointed by the Doctoral Programme Committee itself.
4. The supervisor – together with the TAG – is required to give the students clear indications in the research project, to support the student in his/her research activities and to ensure the quality of his/her thesis.
The supervisor monitors the progress of the research activity and reports on this to the Doctoral Programme Committee.
5. Co-tutelle de thesis students are provided a joint thesis supervision. At least two supervisors will be appointed – one by their home and host universities as agreed in the Co-tutelle agreement.
6. The supervisor – together with the TAG – ensures compliance with rules and rules of conducts considered fundamental to the value of the PhD programme and for the scientific and professional growth of its students.
7. The Doctoral Programme Committee may revoke the role of the supervisor to whoever may not fulfill his or her own obligations and call for his/her replacement.

Art. 11. – Admission requirements

1. The admission the PhD programme is done through a selection process which aims at ascertaining the applicant's motivations and research attitude and is based on the applicant qualifications, research project and interview.
2. Only candidates who pass the first evaluation step are admitted to the interview. The interview will be held in English. The purpose of the interview is to assess the candidate's skills and attitude towards research as well as his/her enthusiasm for the programme. Candidates are offered the opportunity of a distance interview as defined in the call for applications.
3. The admission is based on the list of eligible candidates.

Art. 12 – Academic activities

1. The Programme offers academic activities presented at the beginning of each academic year in the Student Handbook, along with a description of how the Programme is carried out.
2. For the duration of the academic year the student is required to attend seminars, workshops and symposia proposed by the University of Trento and by external partners.
3. All details related to the number of credits to be earned are set out in the Student Handbook.



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Art. 13 – Research activity abroad and trainingship

1. Students are expected to spend a mandatory period of study and research abroad.
2. Students are required to stay abroad for at least three months.
3. Periods abroad lasting less than six months must be approved by the Academic Director while periods longer than six months must be approved by the Doctoral Programme Committee.

Art. 14 – Handbook of studies

1. Before the start of the academic year, the Doctoral Programme Committee approves the Student Handbook, which is published on the Programme's website.
2. The Handbook entails all the information on the doctoral programme and its activities. In particular:
 - a) main deadlines of the programme;
 - b) syllabus of the courses and other activities;
 - c) information regarding study and research activities to be carried out in Trento or off campus;
 - d) information regarding exams and other forms of performance evaluation;
 - e) information regarding credit recognition transfer;
 - f) information regarding the admission to the final exam.

Art. 15 – Admission to the second and third year and to the final exam

1. Criteria for the admission to the second and third years are stated in the Manifesto of Studies.
2. These are
 - a. In order to be admitted to the second year of studies students must have:
 - i. passed all first year exams and participated in the seminars and other activities;
 - ii. submitted and presented a preliminary research proposal;
 - b. In order to be admitted to the third year of studies students must have
 - iii. submitted and presented the first research paper;
 - iv. submitted and presented the draft of the second research paper;
3. To be admitted to the final exam (see Tit.VII of the Regulations of the Doctoral Programmes), there is the following specific procedure:
4. The first phase:
 - i. in September of the third year the PhD student is required to submit his/her third research paper as agreed with the supervisor;
 - ii. the Doctoral Programme Committee, on the basis of the written opinion of the supervisors, admits the student to the final exam
5. The second phase consists of the evaluation of the thesis by two referees as detailed in the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes.



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6. The final exam procedure is described in the Student's Handbook. If the evaluation by the external referees is positive, the candidate is admitted to the public defense.

Art. 16 – Conferral of the doctoral degree

1. The members and tasks of the Final Exam Committee are detailed in art. 32 of the University of Trento Doctoral Regulations.
2. The Executive Committee shares the referees' evaluations with the Final Exam Committee.
3. If exceptional circumstances arise, it is possible that a final exam member participates in the final exam via videoconference. If this occurs, at least two members of the Final Exam Committee must be present and act as chair and secretary of the final exam.

Art. 17 – Doctoral Students: Rights and Obligations

1. In addition to the rights and duties of the students mentioned in art. 27 of the current Doctoral Regulations, each student is required to observe the Doctoral School's honor code.
2. Students must follow the procedures published in the Student's Handbook with regards to the academic activities and on the website of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences as well as all the written information sent by the Academic director.

Art. 18 - Final regulations and cross references

1. The Internal Regulation complements, as expressly provided, the provisions of the applicable national law and the University Doctoral Regulations, which are in any case fully and directly applied.

ANNEX A: Honour Code