

# REGULATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

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**REGULATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE*****Art. 1 – Scope of the Regulations***

1. These regulations govern the management and functioning of the PhD programme in Economics and Finance (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"), in compliance with current legislation and pursuant to Article 8, paragraph 3, of the University Regulations for Doctoral programmes. These regulations were issued with D.R. 250 on March 11, 2022 and are hereby incorporated.

***Art. 2 – Establishment of The Doctoral Programme***

1. The Doctoral Programme in Economics and Finance (hereinafter referred to as "the Programme") is established and proposed by the Department of Economics and Management, in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics at the University of Bolzano.

***Art. 3 – Objectives***

1. The PhD programme in Economics and Finance is designed to attract students who are interested in pursuing innovative and ambitious research topics in economics and finance. The programme draws on the expertise of faculty members from two universities, the University of Trento (UNITN) and the Free University of Bolzano (UNIBZ), to provide advanced training in these areas. Additionally, the doctoral programme aims to become part of the network of training initiatives in the Europaregion Euregio, with opportunities to access funding for events and mobility.

***Art. 4 – Macro Areas of Interest***

1. The macro-area of reference is the 13th - Economics.

***Art. 5 – General Characteristics***

1. The doctoral programme lasts three (3) years.
2. The official language of the doctoral programme is English.

***Art. 6 – Bodies of the Doctoral Programme***

The bodies of the doctoral programme are:

- a) The Doctoral Programme Committee (Article 12 of the Doctoral Regulations);

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- b) The Doctoral Programme Director (Article 13 of the Doctoral Regulations);
- c) The Executive Committee (Article 14 of the Doctoral Regulations).

***Art. 7 – The Doctoral Programme Committee***

1. The Doctoral Programme Committee consists of professors and university researchers, in accordance with current national legislation and Article 12 of the PhD Regulations.
2. New members must be approved by an absolute majority vote of the Doctoral Programme Committee. Those interested in participating in the Committee must apply to the Doctoral Programme Director, along with a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and any other required documents as specified in Article 12 of the PhD Regulations.
3. Individuals whose contribution is deemed useful to the activity of the doctoral programme may attend meetings of the Doctoral Programme Committee at the invitation of the Doctoral Programme Director, without the right to vote or to participate in the discussion of specific points. Such individuals may include:
  - a) Administrative staff responsible for tasks related to programme, as well as those who assist with the minutes of the meetings;
  - b) Two representatives of the students enrolled in the programme. Their attendance is limited to questions concerning the general progress of the doctoral programme and training courses;
  - c) Representatives of public or private bodies that collaborate with or provide financial support to the doctoral programme;
  - d) Italian or foreign experts and teachers involved in the training of PhD students in the programme.
4. The Doctoral Programme Committee shall be convened by the Doctoral programme Director or at the request of at least 1/3 of its members. The call shall be made by electronic mail with notice of at least seven days before the meeting, or less in case of urgency. The notice shall explicitly indicate the topics on the agenda, which is formulated by the Doctoral programme Director.
5. The Doctoral Programme Committee shall convene at least twice a year to evaluate the annual progress of doctoral students. Members may participate in Committee meetings remotely in the following ways:



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- a) Remote individual participation: One or more members (except the Doctoral programme Director and the Secretary) may participate in the meeting by connecting via video/audio-conference from a different location from that of the actual venue, indicated as the venue of the meeting in the notice.
  - b) Remote conduct of a session: All members participate remotely, connecting from a physical place other than the one in which the Doctoral Programme Director is located.
  - c) Telematic session: Members of the Committee express their views by institutional email and vote on one or more specific proposals within a window of time defined in the notice. This method may be used if the Committee must decide urgently or within a set deadline and it is not possible to convene the members in a physical or remote session in time.
6. The remote participation in video/audio-conferencing, as referred to in the previous paragraph 5 lett. a) and b), is aimed at ensuring the broadest collegiality of decisions, in case some members are unable to attend in person due to contingent reasons. It assumes the possession of necessary IT equipment and responsibility for any failure or faulty operation.
7. An absolute majority of the members of the Committee with voting rights, excluding justified absentees, is required for the sessions to be valid.
8. Resolutions are adopted with the favorable vote of the majority of those present; in case of a tie, the vote of the Doctoral Programme Director prevails.
9. The minutes of the meetings of the Doctoral Programme Committee are drawn up by the secretary's office of the Doctoral Programme. In the absence of the secretary, the member with the least academic seniority among those present will take on this responsibility.
10. The Doctoral Programme Committee performs the following functions:
- a) approves the draft of the call for admission/application to the programme proposed by the Executive Committee;
  - b) proposes to the Rector the names of the members of the admission committee;
  - c) approves the Student Handbook and other course activities proposed by the Executive Committee;
  - d) identifies, for each doctoral student, supervisors upon proposal by the Executive Committee;
  - e) authorizes doctoral students, in agreement with their supervisors, to go off-site for training, internship, and/or research activities, in Italy and abroad, if the expected duration is more than six months;

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- f) evaluates, at the end of each year of the programme, the training activities carried out and the research presented for admission to the following year of the course. In case of a negative evaluation, it may propose to the Rector, with a reasoned and detailed resolution, the exclusion of the doctoral student from the Programme;
  - g) approves, on the basis of the opinions expressed by the supervisor and co-supervisors, the admission procedure for evaluating the thesis of each PhD student;
  - h) approves the external evaluators (hereinafter also referred to as "referees"), to whom the evaluation of the thesis is entrusted, pursuant to the provisions of art. 8, paragraph 11 of the D.M. no. 226/2021, prior to public discussion;
  - i) proposes to the Rector the names of the members of the commission for the final exam of the PhD programme;
  - j) promotes links with other Italian and foreign universities and with public and private entities for the better performance of research activities;
  - k) expresses a binding opinion on the signing of agreements with other public institutions or private entities;
  - l) approves the outgoing and incoming thesis co-supervision programmes;
  - m) approves changes to the Internal Regulations of the Programme before submitting them for approval by the Department.
11. The Doctoral Programme Committee may delegate the Executive Committee, through a resolution, to perform some or all of its functions. The specific delegation of authority is valid for the duration of the Doctoral programme director's mandate(s).
12. For any matters not explicitly provided for, the provisions of Article 12 of the PhD Regulations shall apply.

***Art. 8 – The Doctoral programme Director***

1. The Doctoral programme Director is responsible for the Doctoral Programme, manages its activities, and represents it. S/he performs the tasks established by Article 13 of the PhD Regulations, to which reference is made.

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2. The Doctoral Programme Director remains in office for three academic years and can be re-elected only once.
3. The Doctoral programme Director is supported by the administrative staff of the Doctoral programme for the organization of selections and final exams, completion of administrative tasks, maintenance of international relations, and relationships with other University offices.

**Art. 9 – The Executive Committee**

1. The Doctoral programme Committee may elect an Executive Committee composed of the Doctoral programme Director, who is a member by right, and at least 4 teachers and researchers elected from among its members.
2. The Executive Committee remains in office for the duration of the Doctoral programme Director 's mandate.
3. The Executive Committee prepares all the procedures for the meetings of the Committee and suggests operational decisions regarding the matters referred to in paragraph 10 of Article 7 of these Regulations, as well as assisting the Director in executing the resolutions passed by the Doctoral programme Committee.
4. The Executive Committee performs the following functions:
  - a) Defines the contents of the call for admission to the PhD programme, as referred to in the following Article 11, and in particular identifies a series of potential research topics to be included in the call for applications;
  - b) Supports the Doctoral programme Director in organizing the educational activities of the PhD programme;
  - c) Prepares the Handbook containing the teaching activities and the calendar of events, and submits it for approval by the Doctoral programme Committee;
  - d) Assigns a tutor to each doctoral student as specified in Article 10, paragraph 1 of this Regulations;
  - e) Authorizes doctoral students, in agreement with their supervisors, to engage in supplementary teaching and tutoring in compliance with criteria established by national legislation and the PhD Regulations, considering the educational path and the teaching needs of the departments;

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- f) Authorizes doctoral students, having consulted with their respective supervisors, to participate in research projects at the national or international level that are connected to specific aspects of the PhD training project;
  - g) Authorizes doctoral students, having consulted with their respective supervisors, to engage in limited employee, freelance, or consultancy work, assessing the compatibility of such work with attendance at the course in compliance with Article 26 of the PhD Regulations;
  - h) Identifies, having consulted with the supervisors and co-supervisors of the doctoral students, at least two external evaluators ("referees") to whom the thesis must be submitted before the public discussion, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8, paragraph 9 of the D.M. no. 226/2021;
  - i) Performs any other function necessary for the activities of the PhD programme that is not under the jurisdiction of other bodies.
- 5. The Doctoral programme Director can assign specific functions to individual members of the Executive Committee that are deemed necessary for the pursuit of management and organizational objectives of the PhD programme.
  - 6. The secretariat of the Doctoral Programme, or in their absence, the member with the least academic seniority among those present, is responsible for drawing up the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee.
  - 7. The rules established for the functioning of the Doctoral programme Committee as required by art. 16 of the PhD Regulations apply to the Executive Committee insofar as they are compatible.

***Art. 10 – Tutor and Supervisor***

- 1. At the beginning of the Doctoral programme, each student is assigned a tutor by the Executive Committee, who is responsible for assessing the student's study and research abilities during the first year of the programme. The tutor also assists the student in selecting in-depth and specialization activities and in identifying a supervisor and co-supervisor.



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2. By the end of the first academic year, and following the approval of the research project, the Doctoral programme Committee appoints a supervisor and a co-supervisor to guide the student's research activities, even if they are not members of the Committee. The supervisor and co-supervisor are responsible for ensuring the quality of the student's work and for keeping the Committee informed of their progress.
3. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the student complies with the rules, including the rules of conduct, considered fundamental to the value of the programme and for the scientific and professional growth of its doctoral students.
4. Doctoral students who are pursuing a joint supervision thesis will be assigned at least two supervisors, one for each university, in accordance with the provisions of the specific co-supervision agreement.
5. The Doctoral programme Committee has the power to replace a supervisor who does not fulfill the obligations outlined in the previous paragraphs.

***Art. 11 – Admission requirements***

1. Admission to the Doctoral Programme is done through a selection procedure based on the assessment of qualifications, a research project, and an interview subject to the procedures established in the call for applications.
2. The interview, which will be conducted in English, will be reserved for those candidates whose research project and profile are deemed interesting and compatible with the skills and activities of the programme. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate the candidates' research skills, aptitude, and motivations. The interview may also be conducted remotely, as specified in the admission announcement.
3. Admission to the Doctoral Programme will be based on the general merit ranking determined by the Admission Committee. The ranking will be based on the results obtained by the candidates in the evaluation procedure.

***Art. 12 – Teaching and Academic activities***

1. Every year, a series of training activities are organized and posted on the PhD programme webpage.

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2. In addition, various events related to research, such as courses, seminars, and meetings, are organized throughout the academic year in collaboration with other PhD programmes at the University and external partners.
3. The details of the training activities, including the number of credits to be achieved, are detailed in the Handbook and on the PhD programme webpage.

***Art. 13 – Research activities abroad and internships***

1. The training of the doctoral student is completed by a mandatory period of study and research at a foreign university or research center.
2. For stays shorter than six months, authorization from the Doctoral Programme Director is required, while for stays longer than six months, authorization from the Doctoral Programme Committee is required.

***Art. 14 – Admission to the second, third and fourth year and to the final exam***

1. Criteria of admission to the following years, after the first year, are described on the Phd programme website.
2. These criteria must include:  
For admission to the second year of the PhD programme, students must:
  - I. obtain the credits required by the Handbook through course attendance and positive assessments in the exams, as well as participation in other activities agreed upon with the tutor (e.g. seminars, workshops, summer schools).
  - II. submit and present of a preliminary thesis project (research proposal).For admission to the third year of the programme, students must:
  - I. submit and present the first "research paper."
  - II. submit and present the draft of the second "research paper."For admission to the final exam students must:
  - I. submit and present the second "research paper."
  - II. submit and present the draft of the third "research paper."

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3. Admission to the final exam is subject to a two-phase procedure, in addition to the provisions of Title VII of the Doctoral Regulations.
4. The first phase requires that:
  - I. In the month of September of the final year of the programme, the PhD student presents the third "research paper" according to the procedures agreed with the supervisors.
  - II. The Doctoral programme Committee evaluates and approves the admission of each PhD student to the final exam based on the supervisor's assessment.
5. The second phase involves the external evaluation by referees as established by the PhD Regulations.
6. The procedure is described in Art. 29 of the PhD Regulations, and it leads to the referees' final evaluation on the thesis and the proposal for admission of the PhD student to the public defense.
7. The PhD Regulations specify the opportunities for the doctoral student to request and receive an extension for the application deadline for admission to the referral procedure.

***Art. 15 – Award of the Doctoral Degree***

1. The composition and tasks of the Final Exam Committee are defined in Article 30 of the PhD Regulations, to which reference is made.
2. The Executive Committee shall send the referees' reports and the thesis to the Final Exam Committee in its final version.
3. In the event of a Committee member being unable to be present for the final exam, a video conference may be held. In this case, at least two Members must be present at the exam venue and act as President and Secretary.

***Art. 16 – Rights and Duties of Doctoral Students***

1. In addition to the rights and duties of doctoral students indicated in Article 25 of the Doctoral Regulations, each student is required to follow the University Code of Ethics, the Student Regulations of the University of Trento, the Student Honor Code, and the Charter of Rights and Duties of Students during the four-year training course.

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2. Doctoral students must also comply with the procedures related to training activities as specified on the PhD webpages and to follow the instructions communicated in writing by the Doctoral Programme Director.

***Art. 17 – Tutoring, teaching and other external activities***

1. As required by Art. 26 of the University Regulations, doctoral students can carry out tutoring activities, which may be paid, for students enrolled in undergraduate and master's degree courses, as well as supplementary teaching activities, provided that they are compatible with the attendance of the PhD programme and its training activities, and subject to the approval of the Doctoral Programme Committee. Any supplementary teaching activity is limited to a maximum of 40 hours per year.
2. With the authorization of the Doctoral Programme Committee and after consulting with the Supervisor, and without affecting the full-time commitment to the Doctoral programme, doctoral students may also carry out limited occasional work activities related to the training area of the PhD and/or professional practical internships, which may be paid.

***Art. 18 – Amendments to the Regulations***

1. Pursuant to Article 8, Paragraph 4, of the PhD Regulations, and after the activation of the course, any modifications to these regulations must first be approved by the Academic Board, and subsequently by the Council of the Department of Economics and Management and the Faculty of Economics of the University of Bolzano. The changes will come into effect from the date of their publication on the website of the Department and of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences.

***Art. 19 – Final regulations and cross references***

1. This regulation integrates, as expressly provided therein, what is established by current national legislation and the PhD Regulations, which shall apply fully and directly in each case.