



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO**

**PROGRAMME REGULATIONS
PHD PROGRAMME IN COMPARATIVE AND EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES**

42nd cycle



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PhD Programme in Comparative and European Legal Studies

Article 1 – Programme overview

1. The PhD programme in "Comparative and European legal studies" (hereinafter 'the programme') is part of the postgraduate study offer of the University of Trento, and aims to equip graduates with a deep understanding of the historical, economic, social and supranational contexts that have shaped contemporary legal knowledge and the new global scenarios that are affecting it.
2. The programme's activities can be grouped into four research areas, listed in Annex 1, which forms an integral part of these Regulations.
3. The PhD Programme is based at the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento (hereinafter the 'Faculty'), which has agreed to make its facilities and equipment available to the programme. For administrative purposes, the bodies of the programme have established a Research Degrees Office which is located at the Faculty's administrative offices.

Article 2 – Objectives

1. The doctoral students will be provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to address legal research issues with a rigorous method, particularly in the area of comparative law and European, international and global law, all the more now that new technologies and the green and digital transitions are affecting contemporary societies.
2. Doctoral study provides students with the necessary skills to conduct high level research at universities, research institutions, public and private organizations, to practice law and pursue a career in the public administration. Graduates will contribute to the development of scientific and technological progress and, with their professional skills and expertise, to the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.
3. The programme gives students the opportunity to take interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary courses with expert trainers, including in non-academic disciplines, for example from the industrial sector, the public administration, the sector of services and cultural organizations.

Article 3 – Bodies of the PhD programme

1. The bodies of the PhD programme are: the Academic Board; the Executive Committee; the Programme Coordinator.

Article 4 – The Academic Board

1. The Academic Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") consists of at least sixteen members chosen from full professors, associate professors and researchers affiliated with the Faculty, with qualifications that meet ANVUR's accreditation requirements and any other additional requirements indicated by the Ministry and/or the University.
2. The Dean of the Faculty is a member of the Board ex officio.
3. The Board may also include experts from other national and international research institutes up to not more than half of its members. At least half of these experts must be from institutions based out of Italy.
4. All new members must be approved by the Board. Candidates are required to submit their application to become a member of the Board to the Coordinator together with their curriculum vitae, list of publications (with an indication of the five they consider the most significant), a statement attesting to the scientific qualifications referred to in paragraph 1, and a declaration in which they state that they do not sit in the Board of any other PhD



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programme at other universities. Professors and researchers affiliated with another University must also submit an authorisation from their employer.

5. The Board carries out the tasks established by the University Regulations on Doctoral Studies (hereinafter, the "University Regulations") and by these Regulations.
6. The Board meetings are convened by the Coordinator, who chairs them, or at the request of at least one third of its members. Invitations to attend must be sent at least seven days prior to meeting using the most appropriate communication means to ensure they are delivered on time, including by email. In case of necessity, the notice can be shorter. The agenda of the meeting is usually sent with the invitation. At the request of the Coordinator, the meeting can take place remotely.
7. For the Board meeting to be valid, it must be attended by the majority of its members, excluding members excused. Decisions are taken by a majority vote of the attending members. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the Coordinator shall be decisive.
8. The minutes of the meetings of the Board are drawn up by the Coordinator and the reporting member, who is the academic member with less seniority among those present.
9. For urgent matters, when a meeting of the Board cannot be convened in time, the Coordinator may convene a virtual meeting, where the attending Board members express their opinion and vote by email. The decisions taken during remote meetings must be ratified at the first in-person meeting of the Board.
10. Two of the programme's PhD students who have been elected as representatives of PhD students attend the meetings of the Board for matters concerning the PhD programme in general and its different tracks. They may be the same representatives who participate in the meetings of the Committees of Departments and Centres. They remain in office for two years. Where, during their term of office, they cease to satisfy the requirements or withdraw from their studies, their seats are allocated to the first non-elected candidates; in the absence of substitutes, a new election is held; pending the election, the Board is validly constituted.

Article 5 – The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee (hereinafter, the "Committee") is appointed by the Board on the proposal of the Coordinator and is composed of the Coordinator, the Deputy Coordinator and the members of the Board representing the research areas referred to in Article 1(2) above.
2. The Committee, in addition to the tasks provided for by the University Regulations:
 - a) drafts proposals on the content and organisation of the PhD programme;
 - b) assists the Coordinator in the drafting of the annual report mentioned in article 13(5)(e) and article 15 of the University Regulations.
3. The rules applying for the Board also apply to the functioning of the Committee and the minutes of its meetings, as they are compatible.

Article 6 – The Programme Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator

1. The Coordinator of the Board is designated from among the full professors or, when none of them is available, from among the associated professors who satisfy the legal requirements of the post.
2. The Coordinator is elected by the Board from among its members employed at the University of Trento on a full-time basis, in compliance with the provisions referred to in article 13 of the University Regulations.
3. The Coordinator appoints a Deputy Coordinator from among the full or associate professors employed at the University of Trento who are members of the Board. The Deputy-Coordinator replaces the Coordinator should he or she be absent or unavailable,



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including in the event of early resignation from the post, until a new Coordinator is elected.

4. The Coordinator carries out the tasks assigned to them by the University Regulations.

Article 7 – The Supervisor and Co-supervisor(s)

1. Each PhD student is assigned a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors. Where two or more supervisors are appointed, at least one must be a member of an academic institution, they may not be members of the Board but must possess the requirements for membership. Their role is to guide the students through their studies, supervise their learning, help them in choosing the destination(s) for their study period abroad and guide them in the drafting of the thesis and all other requirements set out in these Regulations.
2. The specific tasks of the Supervisor and Co-supervisor are defined by the Academic Board.
3. In general, the Supervisor assists the PhD student in defining the research topics and planning the research work, including any research periods abroad. The Supervisor verifies the quality of the students' work, expresses opinions on their request for participation in conferences and academic events, and performs checks on the use of research funds for these purposes. Unless provided otherwise by the Board, the role of the Co-supervisor is to verify that the students' work respects the scientific standards required by a doctoral thesis.
4. The Supervisor and Co-supervisor with an academic background are chosen – once they have made themselves available and the PhD students has agreed to their appointment – from among the tenured professors and researchers with at least three years of seniority and a record of scientific publications in the previous five years in the area of the PhD programme.
5. The Supervisor and the Co-supervisor(s) provide an opinion on the admission of the PhD student to the thesis evaluation procedure.
6. Supervisors and Co-supervisors carry out their tasks in agreement with the Coordinator.

Article 8 – Doctoral training activities

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 25 of the University Regulations, in the first year each of the main individual Research Areas into which the PhD Programme is divided organises 12-hour courses, open to all PhD candidates, covering fundamental and cross-cutting training topics. These are complemented by a common course on “Methods, practices and skills”, for a total of 60 hours (30 credits – CFU). The classes will be held in person. The Coordinator may authorise forms of remote teaching in specific cases.
2. In the second and third years, the Doctoral Programme provides for the organisation of seminars and scientific meetings common to all areas, with a commitment of 40 hours in the second year (20 CFU) and 20 hours in the third year (10 CFU). Additional optional educational activities may be organised on specific research topics. Classes will be held in person. The Coordinator may authorise forms of remote teaching in specific cases.
3. The calendar of seminars and scientific meetings for the three years of study is prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board. Where necessary, the calendar may be modified and/or supplemented by the Coordinator during the year on the proposal of the individual responsible for the different scientific areas. The updated version of the calendar must be immediately published on the website of the PhD Programme by the Research Degrees Office.
4. Under specific agreements, and subject to approval by the Committee, PhD students may be given the opportunity to participate, in person or remotely, in seminars and scientific meetings organised by other doctoral programmes and schools. These seminars and meetings will be accounted for as the learning hours offered as part of the Programme, therefore will count in order to achieve the amount of required learning pursuant to Articles



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14 and 15 of these Regulations.

5. Courses for the most part take the form of lectures and seminars, which can also be in English.

Article 9 – Attendance and absences

1. Studying at PhD level is an exclusive, full-time commitment.
2. Student attendance at the activities provided by the programme is mandatory.
3. Any absences due to illness or force majeure may be justified by the Coordinator upon reasoned request, provided that they do not compromise participation in the PhD programme.
4. The absences of students participating in study stays abroad which have been approved by the Coordinator or the Board do not need to be justified.

Article 10 – International mobility and internships

1. From the second year onwards, PhD students are required to spend one or more research periods at foreign institutions.
2. Overall, they are required to spend at least six months in a foreign country, between the second and third year, not necessarily in one continuous period. The duration of each stay must not be less than one month, unless the Coordinator approves otherwise.
3. PhD students can spend a research period at one of the organizations listed in the programme description (*Manifesto degli studi*) or at other similar organizations, based on the purposes and object of the research.
4. The PhD student's proposal for the destination and research work to be conducted at the partner institution must receive the positive opinion of the supervisor and must be submitted to the Board, if it exceeds 6 months of duration, or to the Coordinator, for periods under 6 months.
5. Before leaving, students are required to inform the Research Degrees Office about the study periods they are going to spend in another country.
6. The Board may exempt PhD students with no scholarship or for other special reasons.
7. Periods of work or internships at EU or international institutions, embassies and diplomatic representations or other private or public bodies that carry out activities connected to the subject of the doctoral students' research can be taken into account as training activities in a foreign country; these activities must be approved as provided for in paragraph 4 above.
8. For all other training activities, please refer to the University Regulations.

Article 11 – Programme description

1. The Board annually approves the programme description (*Manifesto degli studi*), which indicates:
 - a) the name of the Coordinator and of the members of the Executive Committee and the Board;
 - b) the programme's activities and its calendar;
 - c) the foreign research institutes available to receive doctoral students and the rules to carry out and attend a period of study abroad;
 - d) the facilities that PhD students can use to carry out research work.
2. The updated version of the calendar of the programme's activities must be immediately published on the website of the PhD Programme by the Research Degrees Office.

Article 12 – Selection and admission of students

1. Admission to the programme is based on a comparative evaluation of the applications received. The procedure consists of:



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- a. an examination of the applicant's research project, that must be submitted together with the application for admission;
 - b. an interview, for candidates who pass the first stage. The purpose of the interview is to assess the applicant's knowledge, research experience and motivations, and may cover the research project and the chosen area of research. These examinations aim to assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills for the position and is capable to conduct research work.
2. The applications are evaluated by an Examining committee, which is appointed by the Rector and composed of at least three members chosen from among professors and researchers from Italian and foreign institutions with proven experience in the subjects covered by the programme. The committee can also include a maximum of two Italian or international experts, chosen from public and private research institutions.
 3. The Committee will consider, in particular, the applicant's methodological and analytical skills, the clarity and consistency of their project with respect to its objective, the appropriateness of the presentation and language used, the correctness of the methodological approach, the use of bibliographic references, the attention for legal comparisons, the ability to perform critical reasoning, which would suggest the applicant's aptitude for research, including in an inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary perspective. The committee will also take into account the knowledge of any foreign languages based on information voluntarily provided by the applicant.
 4. Further information on the application and examination process can be found in the call for applications.

Article 13 – Tutoring, teaching, internships and paid work

1. Pursuant to article 26(1) of the University Regulations, doctoral students may provide tutoring services to undergraduate and master's students, where their supervisor has been informed and with the approval of the Board. This experience will form part of their training and will not affect the amount of their scholarship.
2. Doctoral students may also be invited, as part of their training, to provide teaching activities up to a maximum of forty hours for each academic year:
 - as unpaid work;
 - as paid work, at the request of the supervisor(s) and with the approval of the Board, as a consequence of a competitive examination for a tutoring position. In this case, the supervisor(s) will become responsible for the administrative procedure (identification of objectives, appointment of the Committee, evaluation of applications, selection of candidates, award of contract).
3. The Board may ask PhD students to carry out the activities referred to in paragraph 1 for a commitment of more than 40 hours, if that is feasible given the student's workload.
4. Studying for a PhD is a full-time commitment but students, with the authorisation of the Board, having heard the opinion of the supervisor, can undertake the following activities:
 - participate in a practical/professional internship for up to a maximum of 20 hours per week.
 - work, if that does not prevent the student from participating in the programme's research and teaching activities.
5. Students can participate in law apprenticeship programmes during their PhD studies for up to a maximum of 20 hours per week.
6. The performance of other activities compatible with the PhD must be authorised by the Board with the favourable opinion of the tutor.

Article 14 – Admission to the second and third year



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1. To be admitted to the second year, each doctoral candidate must obtain a total of 60 credits (CFU) during the first year:
 - 30 CFU for attendance of the teaching activities scheduled by the Doctoral Programme, with attendance of not less than 90% (54 hours) of the classes;
 - 30 CFU are awarded subject to approval by the Board, following successful completion of the following activities:
 - a) preparation of a written paper, in Italian or English;
 - b) an evaluation interview on the paper referred to in point (a), before a Committee specifically appointed by the Board;
 - c) participation in a workshop for the presentation and discussion of the research project, to be held before the Board itself.
2. The written paper may concern the doctoral candidate's research topic. Multidisciplinary approaches (dialogue between several legal disciplines) or interdisciplinary approaches (dialogue between legal and non-legal disciplines) may be used.
3. This paper, not exceeding 80,000 characters (including spaces and footnotes), must be sent by 15 September to the Doctoral Programme Office, together with a brief report on the research activity carried out during the year.
4. To be admitted to the third year, each doctoral candidate must obtain a total of 60 credits (CFU) during the second year:
 - 20 CFU for attendance of the teaching activities scheduled by the Doctoral Programme, with attendance of not less than 90% (36 hours) of the classes offered in the second year. For the purposes of meeting the minimum attendance requirement, participation in training events not organised by the Doctoral Programme will also be recognised, up to a maximum of 6 hours, subject to the supervisor's approval. Each external training event/conference/seminar, etc., corresponds to a maximum of two hours of classes.
 - 10 CFU for passing an interview on the state of progress of the thesis, to be held before a Committee specifically appointed by the Board. For this purpose, the doctoral candidate must submit to the Doctoral Programme Office, by 15 September, the provisional table of contents of the thesis, together with the supervisor's opinion and a brief report on the research activity carried out during the year, approved by the supervisor.
 - 10 CFU for organising and presenting, within the Programme, a seminar, to be held online, on a topic related to the candidate's doctoral thesis;
 - 20 CFU for the overall performance of research, third mission, internship, tutoring and tutoring-grant activities, assessed as follows:
 - a) 10 CFU for a research output (scientific publication) published or accepted for publication by the second year of the programme;
 - b) 5 CFU for internship, tutoring or tutoring-grant activities;
 - c) 3 CFU for participation, as a speaker, in external conferences or workshops;
 - d) 2 CFU for third mission activities.The above activities are recognised by the Doctoral Programme Office for the purposes of awarding the corresponding credits, on the basis of the supervisor's favourable opinion. To be admitted to the third year, each doctoral candidate must obtain at least 10 CFU in relation to activity (a) and thus have at least one research output (for example: article, short essay, review, case note).
5. Admission to the second and third years is decided by the Board, once it has verified that the necessary credits have been obtained in accordance with the criteria set out in the preceding paragraphs.



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6. For the purposes of progression to the next year, doctoral candidates are required to complete the questionnaire on the level of satisfaction with the doctoral programme sent by the Office.

Article 15 – Admission to the final exam and award of the PhD degree

1. Doctoral students must have earned 40 credit points in their third year of doctoral study for admission to the final examination:
 - 10 credits for attendance at the activities of the programme, that is at least 90% (18 hours) of third year classes; to meet the minimum attendance requirement, PhD students will be granted participation in training sessions not offered by the Course, up to a maximum of 6 hours, subject to the supervisor's approval. Every meeting/conference/seminar etc. is considered equal to two hours of lessons.
 - 30 credits for the doctoral thesis.
 - An additional 20 credits are awarded following the successful defence of the thesis.
2. The Board expresses an opinion on the admission of candidates to the thesis defence, having obtained the motivated opinion of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) and having verified that they have obtained the required credits. The Board may decide not to admit students to the thesis evaluation phase and to exclude them from the PhD programme if they have not achieved satisfactory academic progress.
3. When doctoral students have achieved an adequate level of competence, the Board appoints two or more examiners (referees) who must be highly qualified professors and researchers from Italian or foreign institutions, who are not members of the University of Trento or of any other organization participating in the PhD programme. At least one of the referees must hold the title of professor or university researcher.
4. The Research Degrees Office sends the referees a copy of the thesis with a report on the research work carried out by the PhD candidate during the three years of study together with any publications.
5. The referees, within thirty days of receipt of the thesis, write an analytical report on the thesis and propose the student's admission to the thesis defence. Should the thesis be corrected or amended, the referees may propose a (maximum) six months postponement of the thesis defence.
6. It is up to the Board to appoint the Examination Committees, which must be approved by the Rector. The Committees will be gender-balanced, as far as possible, and made up of three to five members chosen from among university professors and researchers from Italian or foreign institutions, who are expert in the topics covered by the thesis. Each Committee may also include a maximum of two highly qualified experts, including from other countries, from public or private organizations. For every permanent member, the Board appoints an alternate member. At least two thirds of the members must be from out of the University of Trento. In any case, at least two thirds of the Committee members must have an academic affiliation.
7. PhD candidates are required to pass the final exam in order to be awarded the PhD degree (wording in Italian may be "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.").

Article 16 – Services and facilities

1. PhD students have access to a study room equipped with computers, printers, wired and wireless internet connection, and to a conference room for meetings and seminars, for the entire duration of their studies.
2. PhD students have full access to the University Library using their University credentials.
3. For the entire duration of the programme, PhD students have access to the courses



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provided by the Language Centre (CLA) to improve their knowledge of foreign languages.

4. PhD students are invited to use the materials, equipment and facilities of the Faculty of Law solely for academic and research purposes and solely for the duration of the programme.

Article 17 – Rights and duties of doctoral students

1. The rights and duties of doctoral students are established by the University Regulations and by these regulations.
2. These provisions also apply, insofar as they are compatible, to foreign PhD students who are spending a period of research and study at the Faculty of Law in the context of international agreements and co-tutelle agreements.

Article 18 – Amendments to the Internal Regulations of the PhD programme

1. Any amendments to these Regulations, adopted pursuant to article 8 of the University Regulations, come into force 15 days after the date of their publication on the programme's website, which must be expressly announced.

Article 19 – Reference provisions

1. These regulations supplement the provisions of national legislation in force and of the University Regulations on Doctoral Studies, which are in any case fully and directly applicable.

Article 20 – Use of the male gender (Italian version)

1. These Regulations have been written in the masculine form (for individuals, roles and positions) for convenience only and are intended for women and men alike.



Annex 1

- 1. Pluralism, method and legal traditions**
- 2. Market law, welfare and taxation**
- 3. Fundamental freedoms, social transitions and institutional structures**
- 4. Autonomy, protection of rights and safeguards**