

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PH.D. PROGRAMME IN SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

N.B. The English translation of this document is provided as a support to those who may be interested and has no legal effects. The Italian version, Approved by the Department's Board on 20/07/2022, constitutes the sole authentic text and will be referred to for any legal matters.

**INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PH.D. PROGRAMME IN SPACE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

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Art. 1 - Subject of the Regulations

1. In compliance with current legislation, these Regulations govern the management and operation of the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology, outlining its specific objectives, internal organization, educational activities, evaluation procedures for admission to subsequent years and the final examination, as well as the rights and duties of Ph.D. students.

Art. 2 - Establishment of the Ph.D. Programme

1. Hereby established is the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology, proposed, and coordinated by the Department of Physics of the University of Trento.
2. The National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology has its administrative headquarters of the at the University of Trento. The Ph.D. Programme is run in partnership (*in convenzione*) with other Italian Universities and Research Institutions.
3. Ph.D. students shall primarily carry out their research activities at the associated partner Institution to which the scholarship awarded - based on the results of the Admission Selection - is allocated.
4. The Ph.D. Programme is organized into educational Curricula, intended as specialized fields of study within a single research and scientific discussion community.

Art. 3 - Objectives

1. In addition to the general objectives of every Ph.D. Programme as indicated in **Art. 3 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**, the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology - through the acquisition and development of knowledge, skills, and expertise in the research fields of interest to the participating Universities and Research Institutions - sets the following specific objectives:
 - the training of Ph.D. graduates in the fields of Science, Engineering, Technology, and International Relations within the space sector, who are capable of applying their knowledge at Universities, Public Bodies, or Private Entities, thanks to a solid core training and the interdisciplinary nature of Space Sciences and Technologies.

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- the development of the ability to operate within scientific and technological research with a high degree of autonomy, creative originality, and methodological rigor.
- the fostering of the scientific method in tackling and solving problems, teamwork, international collaborations, communication of research results, and the formulation of scientific projects.
- the building of a solid network of professional relationships and, simultaneously, a wide variety of personalized educational profiles, through an approach to educational topics related to space activities which, while guaranteeing quality and excellence in content, allows for the sharing of lectures, educational content, laboratories, and internship opportunities offered by a large number of national and international Universities and Research Bodies.

Art. 4 - Core Scientific Areas

1. The National Ph.D. Course in Space Science and Technology carries out its activities across diverse disciplinary fields. The scientific-disciplinary sectors (SSD) to which the faculty members of the Ph.D. Committee belong at the time of the Ph.D. Programme's accreditation are the following:

FIS/01 - Experimental Physics

FIS/02 - Theoretical Physics, Mathematical Models and Methods

FIS/03 - Physics of Matter

FIS/04 - Nuclear and Subnuclear Physics

FIS/05 - Astronomy and Astrophysics

FIS/06 - Physics of the Earth System and Circumterrestrial Medium

ING-INF/01 - Electronics

ING-INF/02 - Electromagnetic Fields

ING-INF/03 - Telecommunications

ING-INF/05 - Information Processing Systems

ING-IND/01 - Naval Architecture

ING-IND/12 - Mechanical and Thermal Measurements

ING-IND/13 - Mechanics Applied to Machines

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ING-IND/22 - Materials Science and Technology

ING-IND/24 - Principles of Chemical Engineering

SPS/06 - History of International Relations

GEO/04 - Physical Geography and Geomorphology

GEO/06 - Mineralogy

GEO/10 - Solid Earth Geophysics

IUS/01 - Private Law

BIO/09 - Physiology

BIO/10 - Biochemistry

MAT/05 - Mathematical Analysis

MAT/07 - Mathematical Physics

M-PSI/01 - General Psychology

M-PSI/02 - Psychobiology and Physiological Psychology

ICAR/08 - Structural Mechanics

Art. 5 - General Characteristics

1. The National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology has a duration of three years. Each year, one or more Calls for Admission are issued in Italian and English for the public selection of candidates, specifying the number of available positions and scholarships.
2. The most qualified students are admitted to the Ph.D. Programme, regardless of their gender, age, nationality, religion, ethnicity, or social background.
3. The official language of the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology is English. General communications, events organized by the Ph.D. Programme, training seminars, courses, and related exams are generally in English. The Ph.D. thesis and its final defense are in English.

Art. 6 – Governing Bodies of the Ph.D. Programme

1. The Governing Bodies of the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology are:

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- a) The Ph.D. Committee (*Collegio dei Docenti*)
- b) The Coordinator (*Coordinatore/trice*)
- c) The Executive Committee (*Comitato Esecutivo*)
- d) The Curriculum Councils (*Consigli di Curriculum*)
- e) The Advisory Board
- f) The Faculty Assembly (*Assemblea dei Docenti*)

Art. 7 - Ph.D. Committee (*Collegio dei Docenti*)

1. The eligibility requirements for the establishment/renewal of Ph.D. Programmes are set out in **Art. 6 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.
2. The composition and functions of the Ph.D. Committee are established by the regulations in **Art. 12 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.
3. New memberships to the Ph.D. Committee occur via an individual application for participation, which must be sent to the Coordinator, accompanied by:
 - a. A curriculum vitae including bibliometric indices (Scopus or WoS) for Ph.D. accreditation purposes.
 - b. A declaration of availability to carry out activities within the Ph.D. Programme as a teacher, supervisor, or co-supervisor.
 - c. A declaration of non-membership/membership in Ph.D. Committee of other Universities; in the case of university professors and researchers belonging to another University, this must be accompanied by a clearance certificate (*nulla osta*) issued by their Home Institution. The Ph.D. Committee, having examined the application, determines potential admission.
4. The scientific qualification of the members of the Committee must align with the requirements for accreditation set by ANVUR and with any other additional quality requirements indicated by the Ministry and/or the University of Trento.
5. The Ph.D. Committee is convened at least twice a year by the Coordinator, or upon the request of at least 1/3 of its members.

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6. The Committee is convened at least five days prior to the meeting using the methods deemed most appropriate to ensure receipt. This notice may be reduced to forty-eight hours in case of sudden urgency. The agenda is normally sent alongside the convocation notice.
7. Meetings of the Ph.D. Committee may be convened remotely or via electronic means, in accordance with **Art. 38 of the University General Regulations**.
8. For meetings to be valid, an absolute majority of the members is required, excluding those with justified absences.
9. Resolutions are adopted by a favorable vote of the majority of those present and are immediately effective. In the event of a tie, the Coordinator's vote prevails.
10. The duties of the Secretary are carried out by a member of the Committee, appointed by the Coordinator from among those present at the meeting. The Secretary handles the drafting of the minutes of each meeting and signs them together with the Coordinator. Meetings are not public; the Coordinator may invite external parties to the meeting.
11. Members of the Committee commit to attending meetings consistently and, in case of inability to attend, must provide written notification.
12. Limited strictly to matters concerning the general progress of the Ph.D Programme and educational pathways, the elected Ph.D. student representatives - two in number from among those enrolled in the Ph.D. Programme - may attend the meetings of the Ph.D. Board. These may be the same representatives designated to the Department's Board. Their term of office is two years; in the event of a vacancy during the two-year period, the first non-elected candidates will take their place.
13. The Ph.D. Committee may, by its own resolution, delegate some of its functions to the Coordinator or to the Executive Committee.

Art. 8 - The Coordinator

1. The election of the Coordinator of the Ph.D. Board and their functions are defined by the rules in **Art. 13 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.

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2. The Coordinator may make use of the support of a Deputy-Coordinator, chosen from among the members of the Committee.

Art. 9 - Executive Committee

1. As provided for in **Art. 14 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**, an Executive Committee is established, composed of the Curriculum Representatives - identified by the Ph.D. Committee from among its members - as well as the Coordinator, who chairs it, and the Deputy-Coordinator.
2. The Executive Committee assists the Coordinator with the fulfillments required under **Art. 14 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes** and deliberates on matters delegated to it by the Ph.D. Committee, to which it reports regarding the activities carried out.
3. The Coordinator may assign specific functions deemed necessary for the pursuit of managerial and organizational objectives of the Ph.D. Programme to individual members of the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee remains in office for the duration of the Coordinator's mandate. In the event of resignation, termination, or impediment of an Executive Committee member for a period exceeding three months, the Coordinator calls an election for their replacement. The mandate of the new member expires alongside that of the Executive Committee.
5. The Executive Committee is convened at least five days prior to the meeting using the methods deemed most appropriate to ensure receipt. This notice may be reduced to forty-eight hours in case of sudden urgency. The agenda is normally sent alongside the convocation notice.
6. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be convened remotely or via electronic means.

Art. 10 - Curriculum Councils

1. The Curriculum Councils perform advisory, proactive, and preparatory functions, each for its respective Curriculum. The Ph.D. Committee deliberates on the proposals put forward by the Curriculum Councils.
2. Specifically, within its own Curriculum, the Curriculum Council handles:
 - Proposing and evaluating research programmes and educational activities;
 - Organizing courses and other curricular activities, in accordance with the general guidelines defined by the Ph.D. Committee;

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- Proposing for each Ph.D. student the name of at least one supervisor, tasked with directing and guiding the Ph.D. student regarding their thesis work, and a tutor, tasked with orienting and accompanying the Ph.D. student along their Ph.D. journey on an educational, scientific, and procedural level;
 - Expressing opinions on potential research periods at other locations, Italian or foreign, for the approval of the Ph.D. Committee;
 - Verifying the fulfillment of the educational path and research activity of the Ph.D. students, reporting back to the Ph.D. Committee;
 - Identifying from among its members a Curriculum Representative who will join the Executive Committee.
3. The Curriculum Council is composed of full or associate professors from Italian Universities, research directors, senior researchers, and university researchers (or equivalent roles in Public Research Institutions), as well as experts of proven qualification belonging to the Curriculum itself.
4. The proceedings of the Curriculum Councils may be minuted by a secretary designated by the representative. The minutes, signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the meeting, are transmitted electronically to the Coordinator.
5. The Curriculum Representative is identified from among the members of each Curriculum Council and:
- convenes and chairs the Curriculum Council;
 - represents the Curriculum within the Ph.D. Board and the Executive Committee;
 - is responsible for the overall organization and operation of the curriculum and the educational pathways provided therein.

Art. 11 - Advisory Board

1. The Advisory Board (AB) assists the Ph.D. Committee in designing and implementing the Programme as a whole and, in particular, provides opinions and suggestions on the research and training activities proposed by the Curriculum Councils.

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2. The AB is composed of Italian and foreign professors and professionals who are experts in the space sector.
3. The members of the AB are appointed by the Coordinator, after consultation with the Ph.D. Committee.

Art. 12 - Faculty Assembly

1. The Faculty Assembly is composed of the members of the Ph.D. Committee, the elected Ph.D. student representatives, and all supervisors and co-supervisors of the Ph.D. students.
2. The Faculty Assembly is a forum for discussion and sharing.
3. The Faculty Assembly normally meets once every 3 months.

Art. 13 - Supervisor and Co-supervisor

1. From the beginning of the Ph.D. Programme, the Ph.D. student is supported in their study path by a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors assigned by the Ph.D. Committee, which may also act upon indications from the heads of research programs or external bodies funding Ph.D. scholarships.
2. The supervisor and co-supervisor(s), at least one of whom must have an academic background, may also be chosen from outside the Ph.D. Committee. If both the supervisor and the co-supervisor(s) are external to the Committee, at least one of them must possess the requirements required for members of the Committee itself.
3. The supervisor is responsible for integrating the Ph.D. student into the research activity, commits to supporting them in proposing and planning their individual study plan, and defines the specific research topics with the Ph.D. student, ensuring the quality of their work.
4. The co-supervisor assists with the integration of the Ph.D. student within the Ph.D. pathway and may be involved in the research activity.
5. The Ph.D. Committee may revoke the appointment of supervisors and co-supervisors who fail to comply with these obligations.

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Art. 14 - Requirements and Procedures for Admission to the Programme

1. The requirements and procedures for admission to the Ph.D. Course are those provided for by Art. 18 and **Art. 19 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**, according to the terms and effective dates expressly indicated in the Call for admission.
2. Access to the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology consists of an evaluation of qualifications and a test designed to ascertain the candidate's preparation and aptitude for research, according to the modalities established by the Call.
3. Admission to the Ph.D. Programme takes place based on the general merit ranking drawn up by the competent Selection Committee, up to the total number of positions established by the Call and any of its additions.
4. With reference to point 3, eligible candidates involved in specific community and international collaboration projects may be admitted following specific agreements between the University (or other involved entities) and the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology.
5. The procedures relating to the communication of the rankings and cases of failure to enroll, withdrawal, and exclusion are those provided for by **Art. 21 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes** or otherwise provided for by the Call.

Art. 15 - Selection Committee and Evaluation Procedures

1. The Selection Committee for admission to the Programme is appointed by Decree of the Rector upon proposal of the Ph.D. Committee.
2. The Committee is composed of the Chairperson and a minimum of two to a maximum of three effective commissioners and three substitutes for each Curriculum, chosen from university professors and researchers and from researchers of Italian or foreign institutions related to the research themes to which the Ph.D. Programme refers. The Commissioners may be members of the Ph.D. Board. In forming the composition of the Committee, gender representation guidelines are normally followed in accordance with the European Commission Recommendation of March 11, 2005, no. 251.

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3. The Selection Committee is divided into sub-committees. Each sub-committee is responsible for conducting interviews, according to the methods and criteria defined by the Selection Committee.
4. At the end of the proceedings, each sub-committee transmits the minutes of the interviews with the respective results to the Chairperson of the Committee. The Selection Committee, in plenary session, assigns the final scores and eligibilities for the scholarships offered in the call and prepares a merit ranking for each Curriculum. The Committee assigns scholarships based on the ranking, the eligibilities obtained, and the preferences expressed during application by the candidates.
5. The Rector verifies the regularity of the selection proceedings and approves, by their own decree, the merit rankings. Candidates successfully placed in the merit ranking are declared winners, subject to verification of the requirements for admission to the selection procedure.
6. Each winner is required to confirm acceptance of the assigned scholarship. In the event of express or tacit withdrawal, the ranking will be scrolled, and the scholarship will be offered to candidates who are not already scholarship recipients and who have been judged eligible for it, according to the ranking order.
7. Candidates are admitted to the course according to the order of the ranking and until all scholarships put up for competition for each curriculum have been assigned.

Art. 16 - Educational Activities

1. By the starting date of the Ph.D. Programme activities, fixed for November 1st (except as provided for by **Art. 19, paragraph 5 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**), the Ph.D. Committee approves the Manifesto of Studies (Manifesto degli Studi), which is published online on the Ph.D. Programme website.
2. The Manifesto, drafted annually, contains:
 - a) a list of courses proposed as educational offerings;
 - b) provisions relating to preparatory, characterizing, and supplementary educational activities;
 - c) the minimum number of credits to be obtained by attending advanced or general courses or other educational activities;
 - d) guidelines regarding the presentation of the study plan;

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- e) a list of courses organized by the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology or transferable from other Ph.D. Programmes;
- f) procedures for conducting exams and any other learning assessments;
- g) procedures for the recognition of credits acquirable at other University and Research Institutions, national and foreign (including Summer/Winter Schools).

Art. 17 - Research Activities in Italy and Abroad

1. Off-site educational activity (in Italy or abroad) for a continuous period exceeding six months may be carried out by the Ph.D. student subject to authorization by the Ph.D. Committee, following a motivated request by the supervisor.
2. In the case of stays abroad, the Ph.D. student may request an increase in the scholarship, up to a maximum of fifty percent and for a total period not exceeding twelve months, in compliance with **Art. 22 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.

Art. 18 - Evaluation Methods for Admission to Subsequent Years and the Final Examination

1. Progression to the 2nd year is subject to the judgment expressed by the Ph.D. Committee, which evaluates the Ph.D. student's passing of the exams for the courses followed and the full completion of the educational activities planned for the first year. Furthermore, based on the reports on the activities carried out presented by the supervisor and by the Ph.D. student themselves, the Ph.D. Committee verifies the achievement of scientific and educational objectives on the specific topics of the area to which the Ph.D. student is dedicated.
2. To progress to the 3rd year, the Ph.D. student is required to present the partial scientific results achieved before a committee appointed by the Ph.D. Committee. The committee drafts a written assessment regarding the quality of the presentation and the scientific maturity demonstrated by the Ph.D. student. The Ph.D. Committee, having seen the written reports on the activity carried out presented by the supervisor and the Ph.D. student themselves, and taking into account the judgment of the committee, expresses its evaluation on the admission of the Ph.D. student to the 3rd year.

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3. In order to obtain the Ph.D. degree, the Ph.D. student must submit, by the end of the final year of the course, an application for admission to the thesis peer-review procedure. Upon submitting the application for admission to the final exam, Ph.D. students who have not published articles in international journals on the research topics of the Ph.D. thesis must present, in addition to the report on the activity carried out, a document co-signed by the supervisor certifying the progress of the research activity during the project (such as a preprint deposited in an archive, or equivalent).
4. The Ph.D. Committee, taking into account the opinion of the supervisor and co-supervisor, and the reports on the activity carried out presented by the supervisor, the co-supervisor, and the Ph.D. student themselves, expresses a judgment on the scientific value of the results achieved and, in case of a positive evaluation, identifies two or more referees in compliance with **Art. 29 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**. One of the two referees must belong to a foreign institution, except for justified exceptions.
5. In the event of a positive evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis by the referees and within one month of acquiring their analytical judgment, the Ph.D. Committee designates the members of the Committee for the final exam as prescribed by **Art. 29 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.

Art. 19 - Awarding of the Degree

1. The final examination takes place in accordance with the provisions of Art. 30 and **Art. 31 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes** and any guidelines decided by the Ph.D. Committee and communicated to the members of the final examination Committee.
2. The members of the Committee may participate in the thesis defense also via electronic means through the use of suitable audio-video connection tools, without prejudice to the presence at the site of at least two members performing the functions of Chairperson and Secretary.
3. In the case of candidates included in specific international inter-university cooperation agreements (e.g., co-tutelle/joint supervision), the Committee for the final exam, the modalities of conducting the final exam, and the awarding of the title are defined according to what is provided for in the agreements themselves.

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4. The degree is issued by the University of Trento; in the case of Ph.D. students who carry out their Ph.D. pathway at one or more Universities participating in the doctorate in an associated form, a joint degree is issued in implementation of the provisions of the respective agreement.

Art. 20 - Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

1. Intellectual property rights and confidentiality commitments for Ph.D. students are regulated by **Art. 34 of the University General Regulations**.

Art. 21 - Rights and Duties of the Ph.D. Student

1. The rights and duties of the Ph.D. student are established according to the provisions of **Art. 25 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes**.
2. In particular, those enrolled in the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology are obliged to attend the characterizing, preparatory, and supplementary educational activities provided for the various years of the Programme in the Manifesto of Studies.
3. As an integral part of the educational project, subject to the clearance (nulla osta) of the Ph.D. Committee and without any increase in the scholarship amount, Ph.D. students may carry out tutoring activities, including paid ones, for students of Bachelor's and Master's Degree Courses, as well as, within the limit of forty hours for each academic year, supplementary teaching activities at the Institution referencing the scholarship. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, Ph.D. students are paid the allowances referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of the Decree-Law of May 9, 2003, no. 105.

The overall commitment, over the three-year duration of the Ph.D. Programme, cannot exceed 120 hours.

The supervisor is required to verify that the teaching or tutoring activity carried out by the Ph.D. student does not interfere with their training as a researcher and with the development of the scientific project subject of the thesis.

4. Without prejudice to the full-time commitment, the following activities, including paid ones, are also compatible with the Ph.D., subject to authorization by the Ph.D. Committee, after consulting the supervisor:
 - a) Practical professional training/internship;

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b) Limited external work activity that allows the acquisition of skills concerning the educational field of the Ph.D.

Art. 22 - Amendments to the Internal Regulations of the National Ph.D. Programme in Space Science and Technology

1. Any modification to these Regulations must be approved by the Department of Physics, subject to endorsement by the Ph.D. Committee, and comes into force from the date of approval by the Department's Board.

Art. 23 - Final and Transitory Provisions

1. For everything expressly provided for herein, these Regulations supplement the provisions of current national legislation and the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, which in any case find full and direct application.
2. These Regulations apply to students enrolled in the 38th cycle and subsequent cycles.