



PHD REGULATION – UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

Part I – General Rules and Objectives

Article 1 – General Rules

This Regulation governs the establishment, activation, and functioning of the PhD courses at the University of Messina, as well as the awarding of the related academic degrees. It is issued in accordance with the “*Regulation on the procedures for the accreditation of PhD venues and courses and criteria for the establishment of PhD programmes by accredited institutions*”, adopted by Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of University and Research dated 14 December 2021, No. 226 (published in the Official Gazette on 29 December 2021, No. 308), and in compliance with the applicable legislation.

Article 2 - Objectives

1. PhD courses aim to provide enrolled students with high-level competencies and scientific qualification, acquired through research training activities and structured teaching. These competences are necessary to carry out highly qualified research activities in universities, public bodies, or private institutions, including for access to public administration careers and for integration within highly innovative professional pathways
2. Each PhD course must cover sufficiently broad, structured, and well-defined themes, clearly expressed in its title, and must be consistent with specific scientific domains corresponding to a macro-disciplinary scientific sector or the aggregation of multiple disciplines that share research themes and methodologies.

Part II – Accreditation, Establishment and Bodies

Article 3 – Accreditation of PhD courses

1. The University of Messina establishes PhD courses following accreditation granted by the Ministry pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021. Accreditation remains valid for five years. The accreditation system is divided into the initial authorization to activate PhD programmes, the accreditation of the venues where they take place, and the periodic verification of compliance with required standards with the modalities referred to in the aforementioned Ministerial Decree.
2. The University may request accreditation of courses and their venues also in associated form through agreements or consortia with, which may be the administrative headquarters of the Courses, with one or more of the following bodies:
 - a) Italian or foreign universities, with the option of awarding joint or multiple degrees;
 - b) public or private research bodies in Italy or abroad, with adequate scientific qualifications and appropriate;
 - c) institutions referred to in Art. 2, paragraph 1 of Law 508/1999, accredited under Art. 15 of DM 226/2021, also eligible to issue joint or multiple degrees;
 - d) companies, including foreign ones, engaged in research and development;
 - e) public administrations, cultural institutions, and European or international research infrastructures, for the implementation of specific research, development or innovation programmes.
3. Institutions awarding qualifications equivalent to the PhD degree under Art. 74 of Presidential Decree 382/1980 are subject to the same accreditation procedures required by DM 226/2021.
4. The requirements necessary for the accreditation of PhD courses and locations are established by Art. 4

of the aforementioned Ministerial Decree and also apply to courses activated pursuant to paragraph 2 of this article. In such cases, participating entities also guarantee PhD students, on an ongoing basis, the effective sharing of advanced training and research facilities and activities and provide for joint training activities also on rotation between locations.

5. Regarding the requirement for accreditation relating to the number of PhD scholarships, except for higher schools of university education with a special system, the availability, for each cycle of PhD courses to be activated, of an average number of at least four scholarships per activated PhD course must be guaranteed, excluding from the calculation the scholarships assigned to PhD courses activated under an agreement or consortium, on the understanding that for the individual PhD Course this availability may not be less than three.

6. In the case of doctorates activated by two institutions, pursuant to paragraph 2 of this article, each institution finances at least two scholarships; where the institutions are greater than two, the institution who is the administrative headquarters of the Course finances at least two scholarships and each other institution finances at least one.

7. In the event of revocation of the accreditation of a course, the University will suspend, with immediate effect, the activation of new cycles of PhD courses, without prejudice to the completion of courses already activated.

Article 4 - Evaluation and Quality Assurance System (VAQ)

1. PhD courses operate within a quality evaluation and assurance system, distinct from that used for first- and second-cycle university education, aimed to the continuous improvement of the research environment and PhD training, as well as the transparency and effectiveness of the procedures for the admission, supervision, awarding of the degree and professional development of PhD students, in order to ensure the accreditation and national and international reputation of the courses.

2. The AQ-PHD process includes: a. a design phase; b. the planning and organization of training activities; c. the presence of a system for monitoring processes and results relating to research, teaching, and third mission activities, built based on specific indicators; d. the annual review activity at the end of the cycle.

3. For this purpose, within each PhD course, the establishment of a Quality Assurance Group is envisaged, consisting of at least the PhD Coordinator, a Professor of the PhD Academic Board, a technical-administrative staff unit and a representative of the PhD students within the PhD Academic Board. At the Coordinator's discretion, the AQ Group may be supplemented by other components (e.g. Professors of the PhD Academic Board, technical-administrative staff, stakeholders, etc.).

4. The AQ Group is responsible for assisting the Coordinator in monitoring activities (analysis of the training and research path, including research periods abroad, participation in conferences, and the quality and quantity of scientific production) and listening to PhD students (through opinion questionnaires, possibly supplemented by other tools).

5. The PhD AQ System is consistent with the University Quality Assurance System and is governed by specific Guidelines.

6. Each PhD Course, through its own web page, gives visibility to the internal organization, the training and research project, the catalogue of PhD-level courses organized according to a timetable communicated to PhD students well in advance, the requirements necessary for admission to the years following the first and final exams, as well as the services made available to PhD students.

Article 5 – Industrial PhD

1. Upon initial accreditation or subsequently, the entities referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2 of this Regulation may request recognition of the "Industrial PhD" qualification, included as part of the title, for PhD courses activated based on agreements or consortia that include companies, including foreign ones, that carry out qualified research and development activities.

2. The agreements referred to paragraph 1 regulate:

a) the methods of coordinating research activities between the parties;

- b) the methods of carrying out research activities at the company, as well as, in relation to the possible positions filled by company employees, the distribution of the employee's overall commitment and the duration of the PhD course;
 - c) incentive mechanisms to promote technology transfer and the development of research results by participating companies.
3. The research topics characterizing the Industrial PhD Course recognize particular importance in promoting economic development and the production system, facilitating joint design in relation to research topics and the activities of PhD students.
4. In any case, the possibility set forth in Article 45 of Legislative Decree No. 81 of June 15, 2015, of activating apprenticeship contracts aimed at training an industrial PhD, while still ensuring the prevalence of research activity, remains firm. These apprenticeship contracts are considered equivalent to PhD scholarships for the purposes of calculating the minimum number necessary for the activation of the Course.

Article 6 - Proposal to establish the Courses and renewal

1. Proposals for the establishment of PhD Courses and those for membership in Conventions and Consortia, following a proposal submitted appropriately in advance by the parties indicated in Article 3, paragraph 2 above, are formulated by a group of university professors and are approved by the proposing Department Council where the PhD Course will be held. The aforementioned proposals are transmitted to the Rector, within the deadline indicated annually by the Rector, to be subsequently approved by the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors.
2. Each proposal indicates the names of the courses and any curricula, as well as the composition of the PhD Academic Board, which must correspond to the research topics characterizing the course, referring to broad, organic and clearly defined areas; it must also specify the area or areas of reference, the scientific-disciplinary sectors concerned, the general theme, the training objectives, the programme of research and training activities to complete the PhD student's scientific knowledge, consisting of teaching courses and high-qualification seminars, divided by the years of the Course, with the related attendance requirements and verification methods.
3. When preparing proposals, the requirements set out in Article 4 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021 must be considered, specifying:
- a) compliance with the criteria relating to the composition of the PhD Academic Board, as set out in Article 4, paragraph 1, letter a) of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021 and the subsequent Article 9 of these Regulations, considering gender balance where possible;
 - b) the indication of the PhD coordinator in possession of the requirements referred to in the following art. 11 of these Regulations;
 - c) the number of PhD scholarships as specified in art. 3, paragraphs 5 and 6 of these Regulations;
 - d) the maximum number of positions for which accreditation is required, specifying the number of positions with scholarship and without scholarship, the latter respecting the limit of one position for every three ones with scholarship;
 - e) adequate and stable funding for the sustainability of the PhD course, with specific reference to the availability of scholarships and support for the activity of PhD students;
 - f) specific and qualified operational and scientific facilities for the study and research of PhD students, adequate for the number of scholarships provided, including, in relation to the specificities of the course, healthcare facilities, scientific laboratories, an adequate library collection, databases and resources for electronic computing;
 - g) advanced research activities and advanced training activities, including seminar-type ones, i.e. carried out within laboratories or research infrastructures of European level and interest;
 - h) activities, including in common between multiple PhD courses, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary training, linguistic and IT improvement, as well as activities in the field of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, the valorisation and dissemination of results, intellectual property and open access to research data and products and the fundamental principles of ethics and integrity

- i) a quality assurance system for the design and management of PhD training compliant with the Standards for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), in accordance with the indications of ANVUR and in compliance with the University Guidelines;
 - j) the duration of the Course;
 - k) any apprenticeship contracts aimed at training an industrial PhD;
 - l) any share of available positions reserved for employees of companies or affiliated entities engaged in highly qualified activities, admitted to the PhD following passing the relevant selection process.
4. Proposals for course renewals are approved by the PhD Academic Board and communicated to the Department.
 5. The University, by resolution of its collegiate bodies, shall provide for the activation of PhD programs with administrative headquarters at the University of Messina and for participation in the Conventions and Consortia, including those related to PhD programs with administrative headquarters at other universities and/or other consortium members, subject to accreditation by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MUR), as required by current legislation.

Article 7 - Duration and operation of the Courses

1. PhD courses last no less than three years, except as provided for by Article 7 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, the subsequent Article 23, and current legislation.
2. The University may organize PhD courses in PhD Schools, which are responsible for coordinating the programs and managing joint activities. In the cases referred to in this paragraph, ownership of the programs and accreditation of the programs and PhD institutions remain the responsibility of the University.

Article 8 – PhD Course Bodies

The following are the bodies of the PhD course:

- a) The PhD Academic Board;
- b) the Coordinator.

Article 9 – Composition of the PhD Academic Board

1. The PhD Academic Board consists, considering gender balance where possible, of a minimum number of components, equal to twelve, belonging to scientific fields consistent with the training objectives of the Course. The Board is made up, for at least half of its members, of first- or second-tier tenured university professors, and for the remainder of tenured researchers from universities or public research institutions, or, in the case of PhDs in association with public research institutions, also of researchers belonging to the roles of research managers, researchers or first researchers of the institutions themselves, without prejudice to the minimum quota of professors. In any case, researchers belonging to the PhD Academic Board must possess a scientific qualification certified on the basis of the necessary requirements set out in current legislation for access to the functions of second-tier professor and professors a scientific qualification certified on the basis of the necessary requirements set out for access to the functions of the role to which they belong.
2. Members of PhD Academic Board belonging to foreign universities or research institutions must meet at least the minimum requirements set out in current legislation for access to the functions of second-tier professors.
3. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, experts, even if they do not belong to universities or public research institutions, with a high and proven scientific or professional qualification in research fields consistent with the educational objectives of the PhD Course may be part of the College, up to a maximum of one third of its total composition.
4. The establishment of the PhD Academic Board is approved by the Board of the Department in which the PhD Course is held.
5. Each member of the PhD Academic Board may participate in only one college at the national level. It is possible to participate in a further college only where this refers to a PhD course organized in an associated

form, pursuant to art. 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, including the industrial PhD courses referred to in art. 5 of these Regulations and the PhD courses of national interest referred to in art. 11 of the aforementioned Ministerial Decree. In the case of PhDs activated by university education institutions with a special system, participation in two colleges relating to PhD courses organized by the same institution is possible.

6. The participation of professors and researchers from universities and public research institutions in the teaching staff of a PhD course activated by an entity other than their own is subject to the authorization of the institution to which they belong.

7. For any subsequent membership, to be made only upon renewal, the aspiring member must submit an application to the PhD Academic Board addressed to the Coordinator and accompanied by a *curriculum vitae*, a list of publications, and a declaration of non-membership of the Board of another PhD course in Italy, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 5 above, and the authorization of the University or Institution to which the candidate belongs. The Board, after examining the documentation, decides on the possible addition of the Board and notifies the Department.

Article 10 – Functions of the PhD Academic Board

1. The PhD Academic Board is responsible for designing and implementing the PhD Course, for which it assumes scientific, organizational, and teaching responsibility. It also performs the guiding and coordination functions of PhD students and defines, with a specific resolution, the activity plan, divided into the years of duration of the Course, considering the quality requirements of the Course.

2. The meetings of the PhD Academic Board, formally convened by the Coordinator, follow the rules of the University's General Regulations and must be held, preferably in person, without prejudice to the Coordinator's ability to establish that they are held in synchronous electronic format (Teams platform or similar).

3. The resolutions of the PhD Academic Board are valid if adopted with the favourable vote of a majority of participants. In the event of a tie in the number of votes, the vote of the Coordinator shall prevail.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the PhD Academic Board and the resolutions adopted must be drawn up, archived, and transmitted via Protocol to the competent offices.

5. For the treatment of didactic and organizational problems, the PhD Academic Board must be integrated by two representatives of the PhD students appointed annually by the PhD students of all active PhD cycles and by the representative of the PhD students in the Department.

6. The PhD Academic Board, in particular, decides on:

- a) planning and implementation of the PhD course;
- b) planning of the Course's teaching, training, and scientific activities; to this end, select those that are consistent not only with the Course's objectives but also with the outgoing profiles, differentiating them from the teaching activities of the first cycles, considering the Course's multidisciplinary, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinary, and pursuing mobility and internationalization objectives;
- c) definition of the research training path for PhD students, consistent with the training objectives (specific and transversal) and available resources;
- d) periodic updating of training and research activities, in order to align them with the cultural and scientific evolution of the PhD areas of reference, making use of discussion, including international ones, and suggestions from interested parties (internal and external) and the opinions and proposals for improvement of PhD students;
- e) identification and assignment for each PhD student of a Supervisor and one or more Co-supervisors;
- f) authorization for PhD students to carry out periods of study elsewhere and abroad;
- g) monitoring of the allocation and methods of using funds for training activities and research of PhD students;
- h) transfer requests from other PhD Courses;
- i) approval of the proposal to sign international agreements relating to the PhD and co-tutorship agreements;
- j) evaluation of PhD students' teaching and research activities at the end of the program year for the

- purpose of admission to the following year;
 - k) decisions regarding the suspension, extension and dismissal of the PhD student from the Course in the cases referred to in the following articles 25 and 27;
 - l) identification, in consultation with the Supervisor, of the evaluators referred to in the following art. 26 of these Regulations;
 - m) admission to the final examination, after obtaining the reasoned opinion of the evaluators referred to in paragraph 5 of art. 26 of these Regulations;
 - n) authorization for PhD students to participate in tutoring activities, including paid tutoring, of students of degree and master's courses, as well as in additional teaching activities, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 24 of these Regulations;
 - o) authorization for PhD students to carry out paid activities that allow them to acquire skills relating to the educational field of the PhD in the manner set out in Article 24 of these Regulations;
 - p) determinations in relation to joint attendance of the PhD Course with other Courses or Schools pursuant to subsequent Articles 22 and 23;
 - q) administrative measures provided for by current legislation relating to the careers of PhD students;
 - r) awarding of the title of Honorary Doctor of Research, pursuant to art. 30 of these Regulations;
 - s) determinations in relation to the academic recognition of the PhD degree obtained abroad, in compliance with the University Regulations governing the matter.
7. The PhD Academic Board, also, proposes:
 - a) the names of the members of the Examination Committee for admission to the Course;
 - b) the names of the members of the Examination Committee for the awarding of the title of PhD.
 8. The PhD Academic Board identifies among its members, in accordance with the procedures established by Article 11 of these Regulations, a Coordinator, who chairs it.

Article 11 - The Coordinator

1. The PhD Coordinator must possess a high level of scientific qualification, certified on the basis of the requirements set forth in current legislation for access to the functions of first-level professor.
2. The coordination of the PhD Academic Board shall be entrusted to a full-time first-tier professor or, in the event of a reasoned unavailability, to a full-time second-tier professor who meets the requirements set out in the above paragraph.
3. The function of Coordinator may be exercised in only one college at the national level. The Coordinator indicated in the proposal referred to in Article 6 above is appointed by Rector's Decree, following the accreditation and activation of the PhD Course. Upon expiration of the mandate or in the event of resignation or revocation, the Coordinator is designated by resolution of the PhD Academic Board from among its members in possession of the requirements set forth in paragraph 1 of this article and is appointed by Rector's Decree.
4. The Coordinator holds office for three years and may be renewed, even consecutively, only once. In the event of early termination of office, a new appointment will be made to complete the remaining term. The Coordinator must guarantee a number of years of service equal to at least the duration of the PhD course program before retirement.
5. The Coordinator:
 - a) convenes and chairs the PhD Academic Board;
 - b) is responsible for the organization and overall functioning of the PhD and the courses training provided for therein;
 - c) is responsible for the entire Quality Assurance process of the PhD (AQ), which guides and supervises;
 - d) is responsible for the planning, monitoring and review of the Course and periodically convenes the interested parties;
 - e) promptly informs the university administration of any changes in the status of PhD students.
6. With the appointment, the Coordinator also assumes the management of the activities relating to the PhD cycles already active and not yet concluded.
7. The Coordinator has the possibility to indicate a Deputy-Coordinator.

Article 12 - The Supervisors and co-supervisors

1. The PhD Academic Board assigns, at the same time as the courses are launched, each member a Supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one of whom is of academic origin, chosen by the College also from external parties, provided that at least one meets the requirements for the members of the college itself.
2. These individuals will be responsible for monitoring and guiding the PhD student in the research and thesis development, and for informing the Board of any research-related issues and needs. They are also responsible for monitoring the attendance of their assigned PhD students, reporting this to the Coordinator on a monthly basis.

Part III – Access

Article 13 - Admission to Courses and access requirements

1. Admission to the PhD Courses is through comparative evaluation of candidates, using the procedures established by the selection notice and current legislation. Those who, on the date of expiry of the call, hold a master's degree or a suitable qualification obtained abroad may enter the PhD Courses, without age and citizenship limitations. The application for participation may also be submitted by those who obtain the qualification required by the call by the date of registration for the PhD Course, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the Course. The eligibility of the foreign qualification is determined by the admission committee for the PhD course, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as international treaties or agreements regarding the recognition of qualifications for continuing studies. Contemporary enrolment in more than one PhD Course is not permitted. Candidates may apply for admission to several PhD courses, provided that they must exercise an option for only one of them, if they are in a useful position in more than one ranking.
2. Those who are already enrolled in a PhD Course at the University of Messina or another University can access, after passing the relevant selection process, a PhD Course, provided they renounce their previous PhD and start in the first year.
3. However, those who have already benefited from a scholarship to attend another PhD course, even partially, cannot receive the scholarship.

Article 14 – Call for Applications

1. Admission to the PhD Programme is subject to a public selection procedure, announced at least once a year.
2. The call for applications, issued by Rector's Decree and drafted in Italian and English, shall be published for at least thirty days on the website of the accredited institution, on the European Euraxess portal, on the Ministry's website, and on the University Portal, and must indicate:
 - a) admission requirements and criteria for the evaluation of qualifications;
 - b) any written tests required, including internationally recognized tests;
 - c) the procedures for interviews, which may also include the presentation and discussion of a research project;
 - d) the PhD courses activated (including those established through agreements or consortia);
 - e) the duration of the courses;
 - f) the number of ordinary positions available for each PhD Programme, with and without scholarship;
 - g) the possible presence of curricula/specializations;
 - h) the number and type of PhD scholarships and any other forms of financial support, indicating any research topics subject to specific constraints;
 - i) the foreign language(s) required;
 - j) any positions and scholarships aimed at the signing of Higher Education Apprenticeship contracts pursuant to Art. 5 of Legislative Decree no. 167 of 14 September 2011, as well as any other forms of

financial support funded by research grants or other University resources, including research fellowships pursuant to Art. 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, which may be awarded to one or more candidates deemed eligible;

- k) tuition fees and contributions payable by PhD students and the rules governing exemptions;
- l) the application fee, the amount of which is determined by the academic governing bodies.

3. The call may reserve a quota of scholarships and other financial support for candidates who obtained the required qualification from foreign universities; in such cases, differentiated admission procedures and a separate ranking list may be provided.

4. In the case of national, European, or international collaborative projects, specific admission procedures and organizational arrangements may be established, depending on the characteristics of the individual PhD projects within accredited programmes.

5. Calls for admission to Industrial PhD Programmes, in line with European guidelines and national development strategies and in compliance with the principles set out in Art. 1 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, may additionally provide:

- a) specific requirements for research activities, such as interdisciplinarity, participation in international networks, and intersectoral collaboration, particularly with industry;
- b) the allocation of a quota of positions to employees of partner companies or institutions engaged in highly qualified activities, admitted after passing the selection procedure.

Article 15 – Admission Committees

1. Upon proposal of the Academic Board, the Rector appoints a single Admission Committee for each PhD Course, normally composed of three members selected from professors and researchers of Italian and foreign universities and public research institutions, qualified in the relevant scientific fields. In programmes structured into curricula, the Committee may be expanded up to a maximum of nine members, ensuring at least one expert for each curriculum area. Up to two additional experts from qualified public or private research institutions may be included. Any expansion beyond three members must be duly justified by the Academic Board.

2. If composed of three members, at least one must be external to both the Academic Board and the University administrative headquarters. If composed of more than three members, at least two must be external to the Academic Board. Provision must also be made for a list of names of alternate commissioners capable of ensuring, in case of need, replacements in full compliance with the prescribed composition.

3. For PhD courses funded by external Italian and foreign bodies, following the signing of a specific agreement, the Committee may be supplemented by the addition of no more than two experts representing these bodies.

4. The Committee is chaired by the most senior faculty member, in case of equal seniority, by the oldest member.

5. Faculty who served on the Admission Committee for the same programme in the previous cycle may not serve again.

6. Travel expenses for external members are covered by PhD or Department funds.

Article 16 – Selection Procedures

1. Admission is based on a public selection procedure assessing qualifications and examinations, as specified in the call.

2. Committee work may be conducted remotely. The Committee first defines the evaluation sub-criteria to which it will adhere in assigning the overall score, which will be published on the University website. It then evaluates the qualifications based on the established criteria, assigning the relevant scores.

3. The Committee then conducts the examination, which may be oral only or written and oral. The choice is made by the Academic Board of each PhD Course and included in the relevant accreditation proposal.
4. The written test, if required, consists of a paper proposed by the Committee aimed at ascertaining the preparation, skills and aptitude for scientific research of the candidates and may include internationally recognised tests.
5. The oral exam consists of an interview designed to assess the candidates' preparation, skills, aptitude for scientific research, and motivation. The interview is designed to assess the candidates' knowledge of topics related to the PhD program's educational and methodological orientations and may include a discussion of a research project. During the interview, knowledge of the language(s) required in the call for applications will be assessed.
6. Where provided, candidates may take the examination remotely with secure identification procedures.
7. The maximum score is 100, divided between qualifications and examinations, as provided for in the call.
8. The University ensures public access to the selection documents in accordance with current regulations.

Article 17 – Ranking List

1. The Committee must complete its work within 60 days from the date of communication of the appointment decree.
2. At the end of the selection process, based on the scores obtained in the evaluation of qualifications and in the exams, the Commission will compile the general merit ranking, including the assessment of suitability with respect to the research topic covered by the scholarship and any other criteria and constraints imposed by the funding body, with the list of candidates eligible and ineligible for the PhD Course.
3. The minutes relating to the competition proceedings, signed by all the commissioners, must be promptly transmitted via protocol to the competent administration office for subsequent fulfilment.
4. The final ranking and admission decisions are issued by Rector's Decree and published in the Official Register online and on the University website.
5. Scholarships are awarded according to the merit ranking drawn up by the Examining Board and up to the competition of the places put out to tender.
6. Admitted candidates must enroll within 10 days (or the deadline indicated) from the publication of the Admission Decree, or in the different period indicated therein. Failure to complete registration results in the forfeiture of admission to the Course.
7. In the event of forfeiture or withdrawal, successful candidates may proceed to move the ranking among the positively selected candidates within three months of the start date of the Course.
8. If additional resources become available from external funding sources, additional scholarships may be awarded according to the merit ranking drawn up by the examining committee, within three months of the awarding of the additional resource and in any case in compliance with the rules established by the funding body.
9. The renouncer of a position without scholarship remains on the ranking list for the possible assignment of a position with scholarship. The renouncer of a position with scholarship remains on the ranking list for the possible assignment of a position without scholarship.

Article 18 – Transfers from Other Universities

1. PhD students who have attended a PhD program at another university, whether Italian or foreign, for one year and have obtained authorization to transfer from their home university may request, exclusively for a position without scholarship, prior authorization to enroll in the second year of the PhD Course at the University of Messina. Authorization is granted or denied by the Academic Board of the PhD program to which the transfer is requested, based on the student's evaluation and considering the maximum number of positions without scholarship permitted by current legislation.

2. Once the transfer authorization has been obtained, the PhD student will be able to enroll at the University of Messina at second year of the PhD Course, without scholarship.
3. If the transfer takes place, the Academic Board assigns a Supervisor and one or more co-Supervisors to the PhD student in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 6, letter e) of these Regulations.

Part IV – PhD Activities

Article 19 – Programme Activities

1. PhD courses normally start at the beginning of the academic year.
2. The Academic Board consistent with the objectives of the Course, defines, with a specific resolution, the plan of activities, divided into years of duration of the Course, indicating the relevant teacher for each activity. These activities must include:
 - a) advanced research and higher education activities, including seminars, or conducted within laboratories or research infrastructures of European standing and interest;
 - b) interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary training activities, including joint activities across multiple PhD programs, including language and computer skills development, as well as activities in the fields of teaching, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, the valorisation and dissemination of results, intellectual property and open access to research data and products, and fundamental principles of ethics and integrity.
3. Professors and researchers who are not members of the Academic Board may also contribute to the scientific and teaching activities of the PhD Courses.
4. Teaching, scientific or business tutoring, and thesis supervision activities, certified and carried out by university professors and researchers within PhD courses, contribute to fulfilling the institutional obligations set forth in Article 6 of Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010.
5. The teaching load corresponding to a credit is equal to the number of hours of face-to-face teaching for lessons and the number of hours for exercises, laboratory activities, classroom design, seminars, and review of classroom projects, set by the Academic Board of each PhD Course in compliance with the provisions of the University's Didactic Regulations.

Article 20 – Fees

The University's Board of Directors, after consulting with the Academic Senate, defines the amount of funding for admission and attendance of courses of study, including the PhD Course.

Article 21 – Scholarships and Research Budget in Italy and abroad

1. Scholarships are awarded in the final order in the relevant ranking. On equal merits, the assessment of the economic situation determined pursuant to the current legislation prevails. In the event of further parity, the youngest candidate prevails, pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 7, of Law 127/1997, as amended by Article 2, paragraph 9, of Law No. 191 of June 16, 1998.
2. The scholarships, which can also be funded through the participation of multiple funding sources, have a total duration of at least three years and are renewed annually following a positive review by the Academic Board of the completion of the program of activities planned for the previous year. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the PhD student forgoes it, the amount of the unused scholarship is reinvested by the entity that activated the Course for the financing of PhD courses, including by flowing the scholarship for the unearned portion, unless otherwise agreed in the Convention with third-party funders.
3. The minimum amount of the scholarship, to be paid in deferred monthly instalments, is determined, to an extent not lower than that provided for by Decree of the Minister. The increase in the grant is established at the rate of fifty percent, for a total period of not less than fifteen days and not more than twelve months, for the conduct of research activities abroad authorized by the Academic Board. This period may be extended

up to a total maximum of eighteen months for joint thesis supervision PhDs with foreign subjects or those activated pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2, of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, pursuant to Article 33 of these Regulations. The surcharge cannot be received for stays in the PhD student's country of origin or country of residence.

4. A budget equal to 50% of the grant amount must also be ensured for PhD students without scholarship, based on a research period abroad of no less than fifteen days and a maximum of twelve months (this period may be extended to eighteen months for joint thesis supervision PhDs or associate PhD courses with foreign institutions).

5. At the end of research stay abroad, PhD students must provide appropriate certification of the period spent by the host institution, to be forwarded to the UniMe PhD Office.

6. It should be noted that each PhD student is usually required to carry out research and training activities, consistent with the PhD project, at highly qualified institutions in Italy and abroad. The PhD student is guaranteed a research budget of no less than ten percent of the grant amount, financed with the resources available in the budgets of accredited entities. The 10 percent increase should be understood as a total fund, available to PhD students with and without scholarships and allocated according to each student's research or mobility needs, in compliance with the University Mission Regulations and up to the maximum annual budget available for each individual PhD student. In order to facilitate the performance of PhD activities abroad, the joint use of the research activity budget referred to in this paragraph and the increase in the grant or budget referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall be permitted within the aforementioned limits. If the PhD student is not positively evaluated for the purpose of renewing the grant, that is, renounces it, the unused amount remains in the availability of the University for the same purposes. The remaining research budget, at the end of the PhD cycle, will be available to the University.

7. For the maintenance of apprenticeship contracts and other forms of financial support, the same principles applied in the course years following the first shall apply as for the maintenance of the scholarships referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

Article 22 – Incompatibilities and simultaneous registration

1. Enrollment in PhD Courses is incompatible with simultaneous enrollment in another PhD Course.

2. Given that Law 33/2022 does not regulate simultaneous registration in a PhD course and a master's course, the evaluation of the possibility of simultaneous registration of the present case is left to the respective collegial bodies, which will verify whether the conditions for the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the educational objectives of each path are met.

3. Regarding the simultaneous registration between a PhD course and a specialization school, taking into account the provisions of Law 33/2022 and Ministerial Decree 930/2022, the evaluation of the possibility of simultaneous registration of the present case to the respective collegial bodies is delegated, which will verify the compatibility of the obligation to attend with the existence of the conditions for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the training objectives of each path.

Article 23 – PhD and Medical Specialization

1. Joint attendance of the PhD Course and a Medical Specialization Course is permitted subject to the following conditions:

- a) compatibility, also considering the distance between the locations, the activities and the commitment foreseen by the specialization school and the PhD course, certified by the board of the medical specialization school and the PhD Academic Board;
- b) incompatibility between the PhD scholarship and the emoluments, however named, received in relation to the activities of the specialization school.

2. In the cases of joint attendance referred to in this article, the request for a reduction in PhD activities is accepted by the PhD Academic Board of the PhD course after a positive evaluation of the coherence of the

research activities already carried out in the Medical Specialization Course with the PhD project. For the purposes of accepting the application referred to in this paragraph, a judgment of compatibility, expressed by the board of the specialization school, of the PhD project with the educational purposes of the specialization school itself is also required. In the case of acceptance of the application referred to in this paragraph, the PhD Course shall in any case last for not less than two years.

3. The PhD Academic Board and the Board of the School of Medical Specialization agree on the modalities for carrying out joint attendance, approving a unified document for the multidisciplinary planning of training and research activities.

Article 24 – Rights and Duties of PhD students

1. The PhD student has the obligation to attend the Courses and to continuously carry out study and research activities within the framework of the training offer and the individual program assigned.

2. At the beginning of each year of the Course following the first, the PhD student must renew the registration within the deadlines and in the manner indicated by the University.

3. At the end of each year of the Course, the PhD student is required to submit a report to the PhD Academic Board on the research activity carried out and the results achieved, on the basis of which the Board decides on admission to the following year or to the final exam or exclusion from the Course, with the loss of any scholarship. The PhD Academic Board may decide that the report should be supplemented with an oral presentation and/or interview, in accordance with the procedures established when the PhD course is activated. If provided for by the PhD Academic Board, in the event of attendance of compulsory courses relating to research training activities, different evaluation methods defined at the time of activation of the PhD course may be required for admission to the second or third year of the course.

4. Research Doctors and PhD students are required to update data relating to their activities and scientific production in relation to individual and PhD results.

5. The provisions regarding interventions for the right to education set forth in Legislative Decree no. 68 of 29 March 2012 remain in place for PhD students.

6. PhD students may, as an integral part of their training program, subject to approval by the PhD Academic Board and without increasing the amount of the scholarship, provide tutoring, including paid tutoring, to students in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as supplementary teaching activities, up to a limit of forty hours per academic year. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, PhD students are paid the grants referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of Legislative Decree No. 105 of May 9, 2003, converted with amendments into Law No. 170 of July 11, 2003.

7. PhD students typically carry out research and training activities, consistent with their PhD project, at highly qualified institutions in Italy and abroad, in compliance with the University Mission Regulations. For periods exceeding fifteen days, prior authorization from the PhD Academic Board is required.

8. The holders of research grants, who in the merit ranking are winners with a scholarship, may:

- a) maintain the research grant and renounce the three-year PhD scholarship;
- b) renounce the research grant and ask to enroll with PhD scholarship.

In both cases the option is irrevocable.

9. The PhD Academic Board authorizes the PhD student to carry out paid activities that allow them to acquire skills related to the educational field of the PhD, after evaluating the compatibility of these activities with the fruitful performance of the training, teaching, and research activities of the PhD course, also taking into account the ways in which the PhD student specifically carries out these activities.

10. Compared to the PhD student, it is necessary to verify compatibility with the annual gross income from paid activities, which cannot in any case exceed the gross amount of the scholarship itself. For PhD students without a scholarship, any incompatibility arising from work must be assessed, without this resulting in behaviour that violates constitutionally protected rights.

11. In order to allow the aforementioned compatibility assessment, the request for authorization must indicate the nature, occasional or continuous, the object and duration of the activity, any expected or

presumed compensation, as well as the temporal articulation and/or flexibility of the requested commitment, including any study permits provided for in the contract, and the place of work.

12. In the event of maternity, paternity, or illness, based on appropriate certification, PhD students may request the PhD Academic Board to postpone the start date of the Course or suspend it, as provided for by Article 24 of these Regulations. The provisions set out in the Code of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (Legislative Decree No. 198 of 11 April 2006) apply to PhD students.

13. Public employees admitted to PhD Courses enjoy for the normal duration of the Course the expectation provided for by collective bargaining or, for employees under public law, extraordinary leave for study purposes, compatible with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Article 2 of Law No. 476 of 13 August 1984, and subsequent amendments, with or without allowances and unless explicitly waived, only if they are registered for the first time in a PhD Course, regardless of the disciplinary field. Public employees who have already obtained the degree of PhD or have been enrolled in PhD Courses for at least one academic year, benefiting from the said leave, are not entitled to leave and extraordinary leave with or without allowances. The right to the budget for research activity carried out in Italy and abroad referred to in Article 21 of these Regulations remains fixed

14. Without prejudice to the application of the rules protecting parenthood referred to in the Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of 12 July 2007, published in the Official Gazette of 23 October 2007, No. 247, retired PhD students retain the right to a scholarship. At the end of the suspension period, the scholarship is awarded upon resumption of attendance of the Course up to the total duration of the scholarship itself.

15. The cost of insurance coverage for PhD students, for accidents and civil liability, for the entire duration of the Course is borne by the University.

Article 25 – Attendance, Suspension, Withdrawal

1. Attendance at PhD Course activities must comply with the provisions of the Course activity planning documents. It is up to the Coordinator, after consulting the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisors or upon the proposal of one or both and following a resolution of the PhD Academic Board, to report to the appropriate administrative offices the unjustified absence of those enrolled in the Course for the purposes of adopting the documents relating to the suspension of the payment of the scholarship and the forfeiture of the PhD.

2. PhD students may request from the PhD Academic Board, for proven reasons provided for by law or the Regulations, the suspension of the course for a maximum duration of six months, without prejudice to the provisions for the protection of maternity, paternity and other specific cases provided for by law.

3. The PhD Course is normally suspended, upon notification to the Coordinator and the competent administrative offices and resolution of the PhD Academic Board, in the following cases:

- a) maternity or paternity in compliance with current legislation;
- b) civil service;
- c) serious and documented health reasons;
- d) foreign students awaiting visas;
- e) any other cases provided for by law.

4. Attendance of the PhD Course may also be suspended, at the request of the PhD student and with the express authorization of the PhD Academic Board, in the event of:

- a) attendance of TFA and PAS courses;
- b) frequency of training internships;
- c) serious and documented personal and family reasons.

5. The scholarship or other equivalent funding will not be paid during the suspension period. It is understood that the suspension and extension periods referred to in Article 27 of these Regulations may not exceed a total duration of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

6. The PhD forfeiture, ordered by the Faculty Board with a reasoned resolution, is foreseen in the event of:

- a) negative judgment on the activities carried out by the student during the course year;
- b) serious failure to comply with the rules governing the PhD Course;

- c) violation of the incompatibility rules.
7. In the event of a waiver to continue the Course, the interested party is required to give express and timely notice to the Coordinator and the Rector. The disbursement of any scholarship is maintained until the date of the waiver.

Part V – Awarding the Degree

Article 26 – Final Examination Admission

1. The title of Doctor of Philosophy, abbreviated to "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.," is awarded following a successful final exam and a positive evaluation by an adjudicating committee of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation.
2. The PhD thesis is written in Italian or English, or in another language, subject to the authorization of the teaching staff and is accompanied by a summary, written in English.
3. By the end of the third academic year of each cycle, the PhD student must request admission to the final exam.
4. The procedure for admission to the final exam is as follows:
 - a) The thesis, together with the PhD student's report on the activities undertaken during the PhD course and any publications, is reviewed by at least two reviewers, who must be non-members of the institution awarding the PhD degree and possess highly qualified experience. At least one of these reviewers must be a university professor, selected by the supervisor and the teaching staff. Reviewers may be from foreign or international institutions.
 - b) Within thirty days of receiving the thesis, the reviewers will express a written analytical opinion, recommending admission to public defense or postponement of the thesis defense for a period not exceeding six months. After this period, the thesis, accompanied by a new written opinion from the reviewers, is in any case admitted to defense.
5. The PhD Academic Board, based on the reviewers' proposal, decides whether the thesis is admitted to public defense or whether the defense is postponed for the period proposed by the reviewers.

Article 27 – PhD Extension

1. For proven reasons that do not allow the presentation of the PhD thesis within the timeframe established by the duration of the Course, the PhD Academic Board may grant, at the request of the PhD student, an extension of a maximum duration of twelve months, without further financial costs.
2. An extension of the duration of the PhD Course for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the PhD Academic Board for justified scientific reasons, following a resolution of the Board of Directors and the Academic Senate authorizing the corresponding extension of the duration of the scholarship with funds from the university budget.
3. The periods of extension and suspension may not exceed a total duration of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

Article 28 – Final Examination Committee

1. The Final Examination Committee shall be appointed by the Rector, on a proposal from the PhD Academic Board, and shall consist of three members with due regard to gender balance where possible. In any case, the Committee is composed of at least two-thirds of entities not belonging to the administrative headquarters of the Course and no more than one-third of members belonging to the entities participating in the PhD pursuant to art. 3, paragraph 2 of these Regulations. In any case, the committee is composed of at least two-thirds of members of academic origin chosen from among the professors and university researchers belonging to the scientific disciplinary sectors to which the Course refers. Two alternate members must also be provided who are able to ensure, in case of need, substitutions in full compliance with the prescribed composition.

2. In the case of PhD Courses comprising highly differentiated curricula, the PhD Academic Board may propose to the Rector the establishment of several Examination Committees, formed pursuant to paragraph 1 of this article.
3. The chair of the Selection Committee is assumed by the oldest professor in the role; the oldest professor is equally elected.
4. Professors who are Supervisors and Co-supervisors or thesis evaluators of one or more PhD students admitted to the final exam cannot be part of the Examination Committee for the final exam for the qualification of PhD who were part of the Examination Committee for the same PhD Course for the previous cycle and who were part of the Committee for the selection of accesses to the course for the same cycle.
5. The Rector's Decree appointing the Admissions Committees is published on the University website. This publication is notified to the Coordinator, who will ensure its communication to the members of the Committees and to the PhD students. The Admissions Committee appointed for a single PhD Cycle is valid for all examination sessions related to that Cycle, except as provided in the following paragraph or in the event of justified impediments or incompatibilities of the appointed Examiners, and/or exigencies that may require the Board to propose a new Committee.
6. The work of the Examination Committees may also be carried out electronically. Only in exceptional cases, and following a positive assessment by the Coordinator, will the candidate be able to carry out the examination on-line.
7. In the case of PhD Courses established as a result of international agreements, the Committee is constituted in the manner provided for in the agreements themselves. If the PhD student requests the award of the title of Doctor Europaeus, the provisions of the following article 34.
8. Reimbursement of mission expenses for External Commissioners will be borne by specially earmarked PhD or Department funds.

Article 29 – Final exam and award of the title

1. The final exam for the qualification consists of a public discussion, on the topic of the PhD thesis, previously examined and evaluated as required by article 26 of these Regulations.
2. At the end of the discussion, the committee expresses a written and reasoned opinion on the thesis, and attributes an overall opinion by choosing between the following evaluations: 'sufficient', 'good', 'excellent'. When it unanimously recognizes its particular scientific importance, it can attribute praise.
3. If the thesis is rejected, it will no longer be possible to discuss it.
4. The Examination Committee draws up a report, including detailed opinions on the theses submitted by the candidates and the outcome of the interviews, which must be transmitted via Protocol to the competent University office.
5. Within thirty days of discussion and approval, the final thesis deposited in the institutional archive of the Open Access University will be made public and available for open access consultation as provided for in paragraph 6 below. Subject to the authorization of the PhD Academic Board, parts of the thesis may be made unavailable in relation to data protected by industrial secrecy pursuant to current legislation on the matter. In accordance with CRUI guidelines, an embargo may be imposed.
6. Certification of the degree in compliance with current legislation is subject to the interested party's deposit of the final thesis in the university's open-access institutional archive, in compliance with the procedures established by the University Guidelines, which will ensure its preservation and public accessibility. The University will be responsible for depositing the thesis in accordance with the law at the National Libraries of Rome and Florence, as well as within 30 days of the discussion and approval of the thesis, in electronic format in the National Registry of PhD Students and PhDs in a specific open access section.
7. The training activities carried out by PhD students in one or more locations are certified by a document attached to the final diploma (diploma supplement).

Article 30 – Honorary PhD

The Rector, upon proposal of the PhD Academic Board approved by a two-thirds majority of the members and with the approval of the Academic Senate, confers the honorary academic title of Honorary Doctor of Research. This title can be awarded to individuals who, due to their scientific activity in the specific fields of the PhD Course or the notable importance of their research contributions, possess the requirements of singular expertise and enjoy international fame.

Part VI – Internationalization

Article 31 - Internationalization

The University of Messina, in accordance with the principles inspired by the Bologna Process for the construction of the European higher education area, integrated with that of research, promotes and fosters international cooperation, including within the scope of PhDs. To this end, it promotes the development of European and international partnerships and works to develop integrated study programs and enter into agreements with other foreign universities and/or research institutions that define the modalities of cooperation and the establishment of international doctorates, the conduct of co-supervised theses, with the possible awarding of joint and double degrees, and the achievement of the certificate of “Doctor Europaeus”.

Article 32 – PhD in agreement with foreign institutions

1. For the accreditation of associate PhD courses through the signing of agreements with foreign entities pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, which regulate their organization and functioning, the following must be provided for, among other things:
 - a) compliance with the minimum requirements set out in Article 4 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021;
 - b) the activation of equal-level courses of study at partner universities with integrated training programs that allow the PhD student to obtain a single qualification, awarded jointly by the cooperating institutions, or a double qualification, with mutual recognition by the same institutions;
 - c) close didactic collaboration between the locations, which also includes the exchange of Professors and their participation in the various phases of the PhD course;
 - d) the mobility of PhD students between locations;
 - e) the number of scholarships funded in compliance with the provisions of art. 4, paragraph 1, letters b), 2) of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021;
 - f) the training program with an indication of scientific topics and the possible presence of curricula;
 - g) the articulation of the didactic activity carried out at the interested locations and the framework of the mobility of the PhD students and Professors;
 - h) the methods of composition of the PhD Academic Board, in compliance with the requirements established by art. 4;
 - i) the methods of selecting candidates and composing the Committees for admission to the PhD and final exam;
 - j) the formulation of specific methods for evaluating the activity of PhD students;
 - k) the procedure for drafting and discussing the thesis;
 - l) the provisions to ensure the intellectual property of the thesis topic, the publication the use and protection of the results achieved for the PhD;
 - m) the type of title issued, whether joint, double or multiple.

Article 33 – Joint Research PhD Thesis

1. The University of Messina encourages the implementation of joint thesis supervision programs.
2. To this end, it is necessary that a framework agreement has already been signed with the country where the partner University is located. Once this condition is established, a nominative agreement must be

signed for each individual PhD student co-supervising their thesis, approved by the academic bodies and signed by the Rectors of the two universities involved.

3. Thesis co-protection is activated, at the request of the interested party, in favor of PhD students enrolled in the first year of the course. The PhD Academic Board may authorize the activation of a thesis co-supervision program for PhD students enrolled between the first and second years of the course, if there are particular scientific interests.
4. Each Agreement shall provide that:
 - a) enrollment in the PhD Course at the university to which you belong also implies enrollment at the partner university, usually without further contributions;
 - b) the partner university makes didactic and research facilities available to the PhD student and guarantees the same services provided to its PhD students;
 - c) each University provides the PhD student with accident insurance coverage;
 - d) each University guarantees a tutor to the PhD student as thesis supervisor;
 - e) study and research periods are defined, equally divided, to be carried out at the two universities.
5. By the end of each year of the Course, the Faculty Board will proceed with the evaluation of the activity carried out.
6. The admission of the PhD student to the final examination is subject to a positive judgment, expressed by written report, by both thesis supervising professors.
7. The final exam consists of the discussion of the thesis before the judging commission established in accordance with the arrangements laid down in the agreements.
8. The financial costs associated with the mobility of the PhD student are borne by each location.
9. A PhD student who benefits from simultaneous enrollment cannot also participate in a PhD program in joint research thesis.

Article 34 – European PhD

1. The PhD student may request from the PhD Academic Board within three months of the beginning of the final year of the Course the awarding of a certification of “Doctor Europaeus” - additional to the national title of the PhD- in compliance with the conditions required by the European University Association:
 - a) positive thesis reports written by two professors from two European universities other than the one where the PhD is held, chosen by the Supervisor and the PhD Academic Board;
 - b) membership of at least one member of the Examination Committee in a European University other than the one where the thesis is being discussed; this member cannot coincide with one of the referees;
 - c) a part of the thesis discussion in an official European language other than the national language of the country where the PhD course takes place;
 - d) preparation of the thesis following a research stay of at least one trimester, even if not continuous, in a facility in another European country.

Article 35– PhD courses of National Interest

1. The Ministry encourages the activation of PhD Courses of national interest and provides for their co-financing methods.
2. A PhD course that has the following requirements is defined as being of national interest:
 - a) contributes in a proven manner to the progress of research, including through the achievement of specific objectives of the priority areas of intervention of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including those relating to the valorization of innovative PhD courses for public administration and cultural heritage, or of the National Research Program or related National Plans;
 - b) provides, already in the accreditation phase, for the signing of agreements or the establishment of consortia between several universities, as well as with highly qualified and internationally recognized research institutes, including foreign ones, which provide for the effective sharing of training and

- research activities, the methods of regulating the forms of financial support, the methods of exchange and mobility of teachers and PhD students and any forms of co-protection;
- c) provides, already in the accreditation phase, for the joint coordination and planning of research activities between at least one University and at least four entities referred to in Article 3, paragraph 2, of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021 and Article 3 of these Regulations, to implement highly qualified training programs and ensure access to research infrastructure suitable for the implementation of PhD students' research projects;
 - d) provides, for each PhD cycle, at least thirty scholarships, each with a minimum amount determined by Ministerial Decree, provided that the share of support for the PhD student's research and training activities is increased, from ministerial co-financing, up to an amount equal to twenty percent of the scholarship amount.
3. The entities referred to in paragraph 2, letter c) of this article, shall award scholarships for PhD courses of national interest according to the selection procedures set out in this Regulation, following evaluation of the candidates by a committee formed in such a way as to ensure the participation of foreign or external members of the affiliated entities.

Part VII – Final Provisions

Article 36 – Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

1. Intellectual and industrial property rights on any results achieved by the PhD student, including but not limited to software, patentable or otherwise industrial inventions, know-how, models, data, and data collections, are governed by applicable law and the Regulations governing Patenting at the University of Messina, and, where applicable, by the provisions of individual agreements with the universities, companies, or organizations involved. A PhD student who becomes aware of having developed an invention is required to immediately notify his or her supervisor and coordinator. From that moment on, he or she will be bound by confidentiality obligations regarding any confidential information, data, and documents that he or she may become aware of in carrying out his or her activities at and/or on behalf of the University, or with other organizations or companies involved.
2. PhD students are required to comply with current regulations regarding the protection of personal data and specific University regulations.

Article 37 - Transitional and Final Provisions

1. The provisions of these Regulations apply to all cycles active on the date of the Decree of Promulgation and subsequent ones.
2. These Regulations are published on the University website dedicated to Regulations. Any matters not covered by these Regulations are governed by the provisions of the Ministry of University and Research Decree No. 226 of December 14, 2021, as well as the laws and the University's statutory and regulatory provisions.