

**REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO THE STUDIES, WORK AND ASSESSMENT LEADING TO A PhD, WHICH IS OBTAINED UPON DEFENDING A THESIS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONS.**

Decision #11/XXVII of the Board of Directors of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, modified by decision #29/XIV of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012, #51/XIII of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014, #53/XIV of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, #58 of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015, #99/XV of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, #125/XI of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, #134/XI of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, #147/XIII of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and #153/XII of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

**CHAPTER I - General Provisions**

**Article 1.** These Regulations aim to establish the general principles applicable to the studies, work and assessment leading to the academic PhD, which is obtained upon defending a thesis at the University of Mons. They are in compliance with the regulations regarding doctoral committees set by ARES, pursuant to Article 134 paragraph 3 of the Decree of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 defining the higher education landscape and the academic organisation of studies, annexed to these Regulations (Annexe 1<sup>1</sup>).

There are specific provisions for the PhD in Arts and Art Science. These are noted in Chapter VIII.

The UMONS Faculties award PhDs, in the fields outlined in the list of courses organised by UMONS, according to the specific conditions as set out in these Regulations.

**Article 2.** For the purpose of these Regulations,

- “Faculty” means the Faculty or School concerned;
- “Dean” means the Dean or the person exercising academic powers equivalent to those of a Dean within the Faculty or School concerned;
- “University” or “UMONS” means the University of Mons;
- “Academic Staff” means:
  - teaching staff subject to the law of 28<sup>th</sup> April 1953 on the organisation of university education by the state (full professors, associate professors, professors, lecturers);
  - staff members of ‘*cadres d’extinction*’ (status for FTI-EII teachers before the creation of UMONS in 2009), classified under the category of teaching staff (professors and lecturers);
  - rank B scientific staff according to the Royal Decree of 31<sup>st</sup> October 1953 establishing the status of specialists, tutors and scientific staff of state universities, or level B scientific staff according to the Decree of 19<sup>th</sup> July 1991 on the careers of scientific researchers with permanent contracts;
  - Senior Research Assistants;

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<sup>1</sup> As the regulations concerning PhD boards established by ARES have not yet been updated in accordance with the Decree of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 containing various provisions on higher education, social education and scientific research, they are attached in their original form.

- Assistants with PhDs;
  - other members of scientific staff with PhDs;
  - FRS-FNRS researchers and researchers (of associated funds) with permanent contracts;
- “Faculty Board” means all members of the academic staff of a UMONS Faculty or School;
  - “Faculty Committee” is the committee referred to in Article 7 (below);
  - “Examining Committee” is a panel of at least five members, referred to in Article 15 (below), and is formed by the Faculty Board specific to each PhD candidate.
  - The “Decree of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004” (Bologna) is the Decree defining higher education, promoting its integration into the European Higher Education Area and refinancing universities, as amended.
  - The Decree of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (“*Paysage*”) is the Decree defining the higher education landscape and the academic organisation of studies.

The term “PhD student” (or “doctoral student) means:

- Any student duly registered for postgraduate studies at the University of Mons in order to obtain the academic degree of PhD (or “doctorate”).

**Article 3.** The list of PhDs offered at UMONS is included in the list of courses, which is determined annually by the Board of Directors.

**Article 4.** The doctoral assessment consists of:

1. Writing an original thesis within the discipline as either a personal theory or a test demonstrating the value of a coherent set of publications and achievements of which the PhD student is author or co-author;
2. The public presentation of this work highlighting its qualities, originality and popular science capabilities of the PhD student.

Research for the preparation of a doctoral thesis must correspond to at least 180 credits, which are obtained upon completion of the initial training referred to in Article 115 of the Decree of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

The Examining Committee referred to in Article 15 judges the value, originality and relevance of the work. The work must be written and presented in French or English, or, if the nature of the thesis so requires, in another language accepted by the Examining Committee.

Prior to the public presentation (public defence) of the thesis, the PhD candidate must privately defend the thesis in front of the Examining Committee who will judge the admissibility of the thesis (private defence).

**Article 5.** Revoked

***IN THE EVENT OF A DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT LINGUISTIC VERSIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS, THE FRENCH VERSION SHALL PREVAIL.***

**Article 6.** In the Faculties that award PhDs in different fields, the Faculty Board may delegate all or some of its powers to the Faculty Boards of the field in question. In this case, the Dean may also delegate any of their powers to the Chairperson of the Board.

**Article 7.** Annually, at the latest in September and by the Dean's initiative, the Faculty Board may appoint one or more Admissions Committees, which comprise, at least, the Dean, Vice-Dean, the Faculty's Secretary and representatives of the Faculty, appointed by the Faculty Council.

For fields that concern both a Faculty and a School of UMONS, the Admissions Committee may comprise, besides those mentioned above, the head of School and another member thereof, appointed by the Governing Board of the School.

Communications regarding the appointment of the Faculty Committee may be sent by e-mail.

The Faculty Committee is chaired by the Dean or, in the Dean's absence, the Vice Dean; the Secretary of the Faculty undertakes the organisation of any meetings.

The Faculty Committee may appoint a PhD coordinator from among its members.

The Faculty Committee shall decide by consensus. However, in cases of persistent disagreement between its members, the Chairperson may vote. In this case, the decision is then made by simple majority of votes. In case of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

In each Faculty Committee meeting, the Secretary shall prepare the minutes containing, at least, the meeting agenda and decisions made. The Chairperson and the Secretary sign the minutes. These are then kept by the Dean at the Faculty Secretariat. The Secretary authenticates the extracts of the minutes.

## **CHAPTER II - Conditions for access to studies and work related to the preparation of a doctoral thesis**

**Article 8. §1.** Applications for admission are sent by the candidate to the Dean on the basis of a complete file describing the university curriculum followed (with transcripts of results and copies of qualifications obtained) and official documentation attesting to any potential qualifications that the candidate wishes to validate.

**§2.** Admission to studies and work related to the preparation of a doctoral thesis is decided by the Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee, defined in Article 7, which verifies:

1. The eligibility of the candidate for studies and research, under the conditions established by Article 115 of the Decree of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
2. The candidate's ability for personal work and scientific research, which is assessed particularly according to: scientific work already carried out (dissertation, technical reports, publications, etc.), the advice of a Scientific Committee in awarding the candidate a research or education mandate, and the passing of 2nd cycle studies (Master's degree) with a grade higher than or equal to a distinction, or an average higher

than or equal to 14/20. The candidate is automatically denied admission if they do not meet these criteria;

3. The admissibility of the thesis;
4. The agreement of a research unit or a UMONS department to receive them;
5. The existence of a supervisor willing to supervise the candidate in their work.

**§3.** The Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee may establish additional admission conditions. When these conditions regard one or more additional courses, these cannot represent more than 60 credits. These courses can be followed simultaneously alongside doctoral training and writing a doctoral thesis.

**§4.** No one may acquire a PhD if they have not successfully completed a corresponding PhD programme.

**Article 9.** For each academic year, registration must take effect no later than 15<sup>th</sup> January (the application must have previously been considered and approved by the Faculty Board concerned and sent in full to the Registration Office by this date); in particular circumstances, registration can, however, be considered after this date, subject to the approval of the Faculty concerned. Registration is only effective upon full payment of the tuition fees.

### **CHAPTER III - Organisation of Studies and Work**

**Article 10.** Work related to the preparation of a doctoral thesis takes place under the guidance of a supervisor. This supervisor must be a member of academic staff of the University, as defined in Article 2, and must either: have a PhD (as obtained upon defending a thesis), be a qualified teacher of higher education, or have been appointed to the rank of Associate Professor, even without possessing any of the qualifications indicated in Article 22, § 1, paragraph 3, of the Law of 28th April 1953 on the organisation of university education by the Stat, or be a Lecturer or Professor under the former system of the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation - School of International Interpreters or the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning.

A member of academic staff who does not have a PhD, or a member of another university or research institution, may be assigned to be the co-supervisor. In all cases, the supervisor or co-supervisor must, at least, be a member of academic staff of the Faculty or School concerned, or must teach at the University.

In exceptional circumstances, particularly in view of the reputation of the person concerned, the Faculty Board may designate a person who does not fulfil the conditions of paragraph 1 as their supervisor or co-supervisor. However, in this case, the supervisor or co-supervisor must have a PhD or be a qualified teacher of higher education.

#### **Article 11. Doctoral Training**

**§1.** Upon the PhD student's admission to doctoral studies/training, or at the latest after one year, the Admissions Committee designates a Thesis Advisory Committee to the PhD candidate. It is composed of at least three academic staff members of a Belgian university. The supervisor

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and any co-supervisor are automatically members of the Thesis Advisory Committee. The other members, at least one of whom must be from the academic body of UMONS / the Faculty or School awarding the degree if the supervisor and any co-supervisor are from another Faculty or School, must have a PhD, as obtained upon defending a thesis. The Thesis Advisory Committee may appoint, in an advisory capacity, experts chosen within the university or outside of it. It is chaired by one of its members, who may not be the supervisor or co-supervisor.

The Thesis Advisory Committee meets at least once a year. Firstly, it hears the PhD student and assesses the progress of their work. Secondly, it hears the PhD student without the presence of the supervisor or co-supervisor. It also offers the latter the opportunity to express themselves in the absence of the PhD student. It submits a written report, based on the outline annexed to these Regulations. The PhD student is informed of the outcome of the assessment.

In case of serious shortcomings, as determined by a duly reasoned opinion, the Thesis Advisory Committee may consult with the Admissions Committee and recommend that the PhD student be refused registration the following academic year.

**§2.** The PhD student's Thesis Advisory Committee establishes a project within their doctoral training, which is adapted to their scientific profile and which meets the needs of the proposed research project. This is submitted to the Faculty Board and may be adapted, where necessary, during meetings with the Thesis Advisory Committee, depending on the progress of doctoral research (opportunity to participate in a summer school, presentation of results accepted at a conference, etc.).

**§3.** Doctoral training comprises 60 credits, including a maximum of 30 credits of theoretical courses<sup>2</sup>. Holders of a Master's degree with a research focus in the same field will be automatically exempt from taking these credits associated with these courses.

**§4.** Doctoral training is provided by graduate schools (EDT), but can also be followed elsewhere. With each PhD student, the supervisor suggests activities that best correspond to the doctoral training, which is tailored to the research project and the PhD student's specific achievements during their Master's course, or any experience prior to admission onto the PhD programme.

The doctoral programme includes training in scientific integrity provided by the University of Mons, unless an exemption is granted by the Faculty Board based on previously recognised equivalent training. This training, granting a minimum of two credits, must be completed within two years of registration on the doctoral programme.

The CorSci training course, organised by UMONS and aimed at developing university-level teaching skills, grants two credits as part of the doctoral training programme.

The doctoral training programme is formally approved by the Thesis Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee.

Under the advice of the supervisor, the Thesis Advisory Committee is therefore responsible for:

- Advising the PhD candidate in preparing their doctoral training programme from the outset;

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<sup>2</sup> Lectures, supervised exercises, practical work, laboratory work, seminars, creative exercises and research in workshops, excursions, visits and placements.

- Periodically evaluating the quality of the PhD candidate's research and the progress of their work;
- Assessing credit acquisition and validating the programme for the following year (and modifying it if necessary);
- Advising the Faculty Board on the PhD student's re-registration.

**§5.** The Thesis Advisory Committee is appointed by the Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee in order to confirm the passing of the doctoral training, in full or in part, and award the associated credits. Successful completion of doctoral training leads to the awarding of a research training certificate, which is worth a total of 60 credits.

**§6.** When the PhD student is an assistant under mandate, the Thesis Advisory Committee shall also perform all the tasks entrusted to it in the regulations concerning non-permanent scientific staff and any other UMONS regulations.

**Article 12.** In no case may a retired staff member be designated as a supervisor. If, in the four years preceding the date of retirement, someone is appointed as thesis supervisor, a co-supervisor will be appointed.

The co-supervisor is appointed by the Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee in compliance with the conditions mentioned in Article 10, paragraphs 1 and 2; the co-supervisor automatically takes over the role of the former thesis supervisor upon the retirement of the latter.

If the procedure laid out in the preceding paragraph cannot be followed, especially in the event of early retirement, a new supervisor from the same Faculty as the retired supervisor will be appointed as soon as all parties have been made aware of this, and after consulting the Thesis Advisory Committee.

Only retired staff members allowed to pursue activities at the University may be appointed as co-supervisors of theses for which they have provided supervision, or are a contributing member of an Examining Committee.

A retired staff member may, however, remain a member of Thesis Advisory Committees for PhDs for which they were the supervisor, even if they have not been granted the authorisation referred to above.

**Article 13.** If the duration of the work relating to the preparation of a doctoral thesis exceeds four years (full-time) - or six years for an assistant - re-registration is subject to the express agreement of the Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee, who will base their opinion on the reasoned opinion of the Thesis Advisory Committee.

**Article 14.** In case of conflict between the PhD student and the supervisor or the managers at the reception service, the parties must agree on a mediator who, without denying anyone of their responsibilities, hears the parties and suggests a solution which is accepted by all parties for the completion of the thesis. The Dean of the Faculty is notified of this mediation.

If this procedure fails within two months, or in case of disagreement between the PhD student or the supervisor and the Thesis Advisory Committee, the Dean becomes the mediator. In the

event of continued disagreement, and if deemed appropriate, the Dean may suggest the appointment of a new Thesis Advisory Committee or a new supervisor, if the PhD student agrees.

#### **CHAPTER IV - Composition of the Thesis Advisory Committees**

**Article 15.** To award a PhD, the Faculty Board has an Examining Committee specific to each PhD programme, which is composed of at least five members (including a chairperson and a secretary) who have PhDs, as obtained upon defending a thesis, or who are recognised for their high scientific or artistic competence in the field.

It is chaired by a teacher from UMONS who cannot be the supervisor or co-supervisor.

The supervisor and, where applicable, the co-supervisor are automatically members. In the event that the supervisor and any co-supervisor belong to a faculty or school other than the one awarding the degree, at least one member must belong to the academic body of the faculty or school awarding the degree. At least two members, chosen for their particular expertise in the subject of the thesis, must not be UMONS members.

Members of the Examining Committee cannot include the PhD student's spouse, their legal or de facto cohabitant, or any of their relatives by blood or marriage up to and including the fourth degree. Any other grounds for incompatibility can be invoked by the PhD student or by a person designated to be part of the Examining Committee, and shall be sent in writing to the Chairperson of the Faculty Board as soon as possible. The Faculty Board shall adapt the composition of the Examining Committee as appropriate.

**Article 16.** No later than eight days before the thesis manuscript has been submitted to the Dean, the Thesis Advisory Committee shall deliver an opinion and, as suggested by the supervisor, propose the composition of the Examining Committee. The Faculty Board or the Faculty Committee approves or rejects this proposal. In the latter case, they shall designate another Examining Committee.

This Examining Committee will then designate, by consensus, a Chairperson and a Secretary, neither of whom can be the supervisor or co-supervisor.

**Article 17.** The Examining Committee may hear, in an advisory capacity, experts chosen from within the University or outside of it.

#### **Article 18.**

**§1.** Each Examining Committee member has one vote and participates in the deliberations in person or through a written assessment.

**§2.** The Examining Committee's deliberations take place in closed meetings. All members have a duty to respect the secrecy of deliberations and votes.

**§3.** The Examining Committee decides independently and collectively. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote. In case of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

**§4.** The Examining Committee gives reasons for its decision in a defence report that specifies, at least, that the minimum number of credits have been acquired, the conditions of the study

programme have been met, the conditions of access to studies were met, and the PhD candidate was duly registered at UMONS.

**§5.** The Examining Committee's decisions are made public and are then displayed for at least two weeks following the announcement.

## **CHAPTER V - Thesis Defence**

**Article 19.** To be eligible to defend their thesis, the PhD student must be routinely registered for studies related to the preparation of a doctoral thesis.

### **Article 20.**

**§1.** The thesis, with enough copies for all members of the specific Board (plus an extra copy for the Library), must be submitted to the Dean.

**§2.** In addition, a copy of the final electronic version of the thesis, including all annexes and associated metadata, must be submitted by the doctoral student to the institutional repository, ORBi UMONS (<https://orbi.umons.ac.be/>), within five working days of the public defence.

**§3.** By default, the thesis must be submitted in open access.

**§4.** The thesis may be submitted with restricted access if it contains articles or results that are ready for publication.

**§5.** The thesis must comply with copyright law.

**§6.** If the thesis contains sensitive or confidential information, or information that is or will be subject to a request for protection (patent, i-depot, agreement, etc.), only the metadata of the thesis should be submitted. If it is not possible to comply with copyright law, the thesis will be submitted with restricted access.

**§7.** The choice of access and licence associated with the thesis must be agreed between the doctoral student, their supervisor and any co-supervisor<sup>3</sup> at the beginning of the final year of the doctoral programme. A guide to submission and licence selection, as well as a guidance form for choosing access and Creative Commons licence, are available to doctoral students on the AVRE Intranet pages.

**§8.** The final electronic version of the thesis must also be sent by the doctoral student to the supervisor and any co-supervisors after the private defence and no later than the day before the public defence.

**Article 21.** The designation of an Examining Committee must take place within one month of submitting the thesis manuscript to the Dean, excluding the period of 15<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Article 22.** In agreement with the supervisor, the Dean determines the schedule. The private defence, the aim of which is to assess the admissibility of the thesis, must take place at least

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<sup>3</sup> In the case of a joint supervision thesis, the doctoral student's potential supervisor or co-supervisor, in accordance with Article 28 §4 of these regulations.

one month after the Examining Committee has been appointed, and no more than two months after the thesis manuscript has been submitted to the Dean. The public defence must take place within three months of the private defence.

The Faculty shall advertise the date, time and place of the public defence, notably via the University's website, at least fifteen days before the date of the defence. The Dean's Office communicates the date, time and place of both the private and public defences to the PhD student and to the Examining Committee members.

**Article 23.** The private defence on the admissibility of the thesis takes place in a closed meeting with at least half of the Examining Committee members present. Board members who are unable to attend are invited to participate by videoconference. Except in cases of *force majeure*, Examining Committee members who are unable to attend this meeting are obliged to provide a justified reason in writing.

After assessing the work, the Examining Committee may hear the PhD student and, where necessary, discuss the work in the presence of, and under the guidance of, its Chairperson. The Examining Committee then makes recommendations on how to proceed. They may recommend that the PhD student publicly defends the thesis, or requests additional time to revise certain parts, or they may waive the public defence.

The outcome of this deliberation is immediately communicated to the PhD student.

Minor corrections can be made between the private defence and the public defence. In this case, the specific Examining Committee Chair verifies the minor nature of the corrections made.

**Article 24.** If the Examining Committee recommends an extension, this cannot exceed six months. In this case, the Dean sets a new and final date for the private defence and the public defence. The Examining Committee determines the schedule and terms of the extra work. If the PhD student fails to follow these terms, the Examining Committee rejects the thesis.

**Article 25.** The public defence consists of a public presentation of the PhD student's thesis with at least half of the Examining Committee members present. Examining Committee members who cannot attend are invited to participate by videoconference. This is followed by a discussion in which the audience is invited to participate. The defence may not exceed two hours. The Chairperson of the Examining Committee moderates the discussion.

The Examining Committee then retires to deliberate on the entire work - the thesis, the private defence and the public defence - and decides whether or not to award the PhD.

The outcome of this deliberation is recorded in the Deliberations Register and is immediately communicated to the PhD student. The Dean keeps the Deliberations Register at the Faculty Secretariat.

**Article 26.** When the PhD student has been awarded the PhD, the Secretary of the Examining Committee writes a summarised report of the thesis defence. This report will be attached to the PhD degree certificate.

No later than one month after the defence, the Secretary of the Examining Committee presents this report to the Faculty, which will send a certified copy to the PhD graduate and keep the original in its archives. This report must be duly approved by all members of the Examining Committee and signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Examining Committee.

**Article 27.** In case of refusal after the public defence, the reasoned decision is recorded in the Deliberations Register and is also submitted in writing to the candidate. If the PhD student wishes to re-register, they must first obtain the explicit agreement of the Faculty Board. In this case, a time limit of at least one year must pass before a new thesis manuscript can be submitted.

## **CHAPTER VI - Provisions for theses carried out under joint supervision**

**Article 28. §1.** The PhD thesis can be carried out under joint supervision with another Belgian or foreign university.

**§2.** “Joint supervision” means the co-supervision of a PhD by two universities, leading to a double or a joint degree.

**§3.** The candidate must be admitted onto the PhD programme at UMONS following the procedure outlined in the Study Regulations.

**§4.** The PhD candidate carries out their work under the supervision of two thesis supervisors - one at each university - who carry out their supervisory roles in full. For UMONS, a co-supervisor may only be appointed under the circumstances referred to in Article 12.

**Article 29. §1.** For each joint supervision, the partner universities sign an agreement adopting a principle of reciprocity and describing the terms of the joint supervision.

**§2.** While respecting the regulations in force at UMONS, the agreement must specify the following points:

- The specific parties (the PhD student and the supervisors);
- The commitment of the partner universities to award a PhD (if successful);
- The title of the doctoral training(s) or PhD degree(s) awarded;
- The provisions for registration and tuition fees, including possible exemptions of payment of fees in one of the partner universities;
- The expected duration of the thesis and distribution of time spent in each university;
- The language(s) of the written thesis and the defence;
- The terms of submission, composition of the Doctoral Committee and organisation of the defence;
- The provisions for insurance;
- The provisions for intellectual property;
- In the case of a joint supervision with a university in the French Community of Belgium, the referring institution and how the funding is distributed between the universities.

**§3.** At UMONS, the Academic Affairs Department validates the agreement before it is signed.

§4. The agreement is signed at UMONS by the Rector, the Dean, the supervisor and the PhD candidate. It is also signed by the supervisor and the authorities of one or both partner universities.

**Article 30.** According to the laws and regulations of both sides, the PhD candidate obtains either a single degree or two degrees, if successful.

**Article 31. §1.** The PhD candidate is registered annually on the doctoral programme in each of the partner universities.

§2. Except in particular circumstances, they pay full tuition at UMONS during the initial registration on the doctoral programme and training.

However, in the case of joint supervision with a university in the Flemish Community or a university abroad, the joint supervision agreement may stipulate that the payment of full tuition at UMONS can be deferred until the following year if it is paid in the first year at the partner university.

In the case of joint supervision with a university in the French Community of Belgium, the joint supervision agreement shall stipulate that the tuition fees are paid in full at the referring institution.

§3. At re-registration, the PhD candidate pays the relevant tuition and administrative fees.

**Article 32.** To ensure that joint supervision is carried out, each university provides supervision of the PhD candidate's work for a period of at least 6 months.

**Article 33. §1.** The Doctoral Committee is composed by mutual agreement between the two partner universities, in accordance with the internal rules applicable to each institution.

§2. In the case of joint supervision, the Doctoral Committee is made up of at least five members and includes scientists from both universities (including the PhD candidate's supervisors). In addition to the supervisors, it includes at least one member of UMONS academic staff and at least one person from outside the two partner institutions, chosen for their particular expertise in the subject of the thesis.

§3. The assessment consists of a single private defence and/or a single public defence, which may take place either in one or both universities.

§4. If the defence does not take place at UMONS, the PhD candidate presents the thesis during a seminar held no earlier than one month before the defence.

**Article 34.** The procedure for establishing a joint doctoral supervision agreement at UMONS, as well as the form to be completed for joint supervision are attached to these Regulations (see [Annexes 2 and 3](#)).

## **CHAPTER VII - Additional Provisions**

**Article 35.** In establishing the terms of the University's regulations on PhDs awarded after the thesis defence, and without waiving the provisions of the Decree of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Faculty Boards apply any special provisions from implemented decrees, from these Regulations and from the regulations concerning non-permanent scientific staff that they consider useful.

**Article 36.** The Faculty Boards are authorised to clarify the following points:

- The specific prerequisites in order to work on a thesis or prior to submission of the thesis manuscript;
- The additional practical procedures of submissions, the organisation of the private and public defences, and the conduct of the deliberations;
- The follow-up and management terms of the PhD student by the Faculty and the Thesis Advisory Committee;
- Their modes of operation as well as those of the Examining Committee and possible Thesis Advisory Committees.

## **CHAPITRE VIII - Specific Provisions for the PhD in Arts and Art Science**

**Article 37.** The PhD in Arts and Art Science is split into two: a practical part, which consists of an artistic creation or a restoration project, and a theoretical part, which consists of a written thesis. The two are closely connected and together they make up the whole PhD programme, which is subject to a final assessment.

In all cases, practical and theoretical research is carried out in tandem, with a strong interaction between the artistic work and theoretical reflection. This dual aspect of the PhD in Arts and Art Science makes it necessary to collaborate between universities and Art Schools (in Belgium and abroad) to support PhD candidates in this field.

Joint supervision is mandatory due to the specific definition of the thesis, which requires the supervision and management of the theoretical side and the practical side of the work. A supervisor from the University must be accompanied by a co-supervisor (a teacher) from an Art School who commits to co-supervising the candidate in their work.

**Article 38.** Annually, by 15<sup>th</sup> September at the latest, the Faculty Board for the PhD in question appoints an Admissions Committee specific to the PhD in Arts and Art Science. This is made up of the Dean, Vice-Dean, the Faculty's Secretary and representatives of the Faculty, appointed by the Faculty Council.

### **Article 39. Conditions of Admission**

The PhD in Arts and Art Science is accessible to holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) either in Plastic, Visual and Spatial Arts, in Music, in Drama and Speech Arts, or in Performing Arts and Broadcasting and Communication Techniques.

The Admissions Committee specific to the PhD in Arts and Art Science, appointed by the Faculty Board, takes advice from both the co-supervisor and the Head of the Art School named in the application for admission.

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#### **Article 40. Thesis Advisory Committee**

The Thesis Advisory Committee consists of academic staff from UMONS and the Art Schools. It includes the supervisor, co-supervisor, a member of UMONS and a member of the Art School concerned. Academic members must have a PhD, as obtained upon defending a thesis. The Thesis Advisory Committee may, in an advisory capacity, call upon experts chosen from within the University or Art School, or from further afield.

#### **Article 41. The Examining Committee**

The Examining Committee specific to each PhD student is composed of at least six members who have PhDs, as obtained upon defending a thesis, or who are recognised for their high scientific or artistic competence in the field. The Committee includes: the supervisor, the co-supervisor, a member of the Faculty concerned, a member of the Art School concerned, and two external members, one of whom belongs to a university or research institution, and the other to the domain of higher education in art.

#### **Article 42. Thesis Defence**

The private defence is divided into two parts: the practical work is presented and defended in a suitable location, as determined by mutual agreement between the supervisor, co-supervisor and the PhD candidate. The written thesis is then presented and defended on the University's premises no later than the following working day.

The public defence may be restricted to the defence of the written thesis.

**Article 43.** These Regulations apply to PhD candidates registered onto PhD programmes (3rd cycle studies) from the academic year 2014-2015 onwards.

**Art. 44.** Paragraph 2 of Article 11 §4 shall apply from the 2025-2026 academic year. As an exception, doctoral students registered for the first time in doctoral training before the 2025-2026 academic year must complete the scientific integrity training no later than the year in which they obtain their research training certificate. Doctoral students who obtained their research training certificate before the 2025-2026 academic year are not required to complete this training.

### **ANNEXES**

- **Annexe 1:** Regulations for Awarding Doctorates
- **Annexe 2:** How to set up a joint PhD agreement at UMONS
- **Annexe 3:** Form to be completed by the supervisor for joint thesis supervision with UMONS
- **Annexe 4:** Thesis Advisory Committee Report

# Regulations for Awarding Doctorates

## Preliminary remark

In accordance with the amendment made to Article 15, §1, subparagraph 1, 29°, of the Decree of 7th November 2013 defining the higher education landscape and the academic organisation of studies, the academic degree of "doctor" should be understood to mean the academic degree of "doctorate".

## Foreword

These Regulations are defined under the penultimate paragraph of the Decree of 7th November 2013 defining the higher education landscape and the academic organisation of studies, which, according to ARES, provides for the development of a single set of for Boards to award doctorates (PhDs).

## Article 1.

§. 1. To award a doctoral degree, the Academic Authorities of the University assigns an Examining Committee to each PhD candidate.

§. 2. This Examining Committee is composed of at least five members (including a chairperson and a secretary) who have the title of Doctor or who are recognised for their high scientific or artistic competence in the field.

§. 3. It is chaired by a teacher from the university who cannot be the supervisor or co-supervisor.

§. 4. It should include the supervisors of the research work and external members of the university chosen for their particular competence in the subject area of the thesis.

**Article 2.** At least half of the members of the Examining Committee actively participate in the public defence of the thesis.

**Article 3.** The Examining Committee awards the PhD candidate the doctorate if the minimum number of credits has been obtained, the conditions of the study programme have been fulfilled, the conditions for access to studies have been met, and the PhD candidate is duly registered at the university.

## Article 4.

§. 1. Each Examining Committee member has one vote and participates in the deliberations in person or through a written assessment.

§. 2. The Examining Committee's deliberations take place in a closed meeting. All members have a duty to respect the secrecy of deliberations and votes.

§. 3. The Examining Committee decides independently and collectively. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote.

In case of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

***IN THE EVENT OF A DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT LINGUISTIC  
VERSIONS, THE FRENCH VERSION SHALL PREVAIL***

§. 4. The Examining Committee gives reasons for its decision in a defence report, which refers to the criteria set out in Article 3.

§. 5. The Examining Committee's decisions are made public and are then displayed for at least two weeks following the announcement.

**Article 5.** The doctorate is awarded without a grade.

**Article 6.** After the announcement, the defence report is communicated to the PhD candidate.

**Article 7.** The universities establish the practical arrangements for organising the defence.

**Article 8.** When a PhD is carried out under joint supervision, the Examining Committee's regulations are determined by a joint supervision agreement, which is drawn up in accordance with Article 82 of the Decree of 7th November 2013 ("*Paysage*") defining the higher education landscape and the academic organisation of studies.

**Article 9.** These Regulations came into force as of the academic year 2014-2015. Under the conditions set by the academic authorities, students already registered for doctoral studies before that date may, however, continue under the previous regulations.

## How to set up a joint PhD agreement at UMONS

### **Admission:**

PhD candidates must meet the legal requirements for admission to doctoral studies and be accepted by the admissions board. Once you have identified a candidate and a proposed thesis topic, please contact the Chair of your Faculty's PhD admissions board and your Faculty's secretariat.

### **Joint Supervision Agreement:**

A PhD thesis may be completed under joint supervision with another Belgian or international university. "Joint supervision" means that two universities jointly oversee a PhD thesis, leading to a double degree or joint degree.

For each joint supervision agreement, the partner universities shall sign, independently of any funding agreement, an agreement (a "Joint Supervision Agreement") based on the principle of reciprocity and describing the terms and conditions of the joint supervision.

Once your application has been submitted to your Faculty's secretariat and you have applied for funding, you will need to draw up a **Joint Supervision Agreement** in collaboration with the supervisor at the partner university.

The template for a joint supervision agreement approved by the Academic Affairs Department is available on request from the Department for Research Support and Technology Transfer (AVRE – [cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be](mailto:cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be)). The AVRE will use this template and, in consultation with the supervisors and the partner university, negotiate a joint supervision agreement to ensure that it complies with the doctoral regulations and intellectual property rules in force at the University of Mons. The text of the agreement will be validated by the supervisors, the candidate and the partner university. The Academic Affairs Department will be informed of this joint supervision agreement and its contents. If the partner university requests any major changes, the agreement will be submitted to the Academic Affairs Department for review and approval.


If approved by all parties, the **Joint Supervision Agreement** will be signed by the relevant UMONS representatives and sent to the partner university for signature. The agreement may also be signed using an authenticated electronic signature. A copy of each signed agreement will be sent to the Registration Office and the Finance, Student Statistics and Projects Unit of the Academic Affairs Department.

### **Funding Agreement:**

As soon as the UMONS supervisor has drawn up an agreement for the completion of a joint thesis with a partner university, and if the funding arrangements are not specified in the Joint Supervision Agreement, a **funding agreement** may also be drawn up by the AVRE ([cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be](mailto:cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be)).

To determine whether the grant qualifies for tax exemption, please contact HR ([drh.secretariat@umons.ac.be](mailto:drh.secretariat@umons.ac.be)) as soon as the candidate is accepted.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the AVRE ([cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be](mailto:cotuelles-avre@umons.ac.be)).

	<p><b>PHD PROGRAMME</b>  <b>FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SUPERVISOR</b>  <b>FOR JOINT THESIS SUPERVISION WITH UMONS</b></p>
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This form provides the essential information to establish joint thesis supervision with the University of Mons. It must be completed by the supervisor and sent by e-mail to [cotutelles-avre@umons.ac.be](mailto:cotutelles-avre@umons.ac.be)

**INFORMATION ON THE PHD STUDENT:**

Last name: .....  
 First name: .....  
 Date of Birth: Day: ..... Month: ..... Year: ..... Country of birth: .....  
 Nationality: .....  
 Mobile: .....  
 Email: .....  
 Address: .....

Has the PhD student already studied at UMONS? YES:  NO:

If so, please indicate their UMONS registration number: .....

Has the PhD student already been accepted onto the PhD programme at UMONS? YES:  NO:

Has the PhD student already been registered for the PhD programme at UMONS? YES:  NO:

**INFORMATION ON UMONS:**

Name of UMONS PhD supervisor: .....  
 Faculty to which the supervisor is affiliated: .....  
 Study domain of thesis: .....  
 Name of Doctoral School: .....  
 Thesis subject: .....  
 Estimated length of time to complete thesis: .....  
 Method of funding (FNRS or associated fund / co-financed doctoral grant / assistant/other mandate) – please specify: .....

**INFORMATION ON PARTNER INSTITUTION:**

Complete name of partner institution: .....  
 Address of partner institution: .....  
 Name of thesis supervisor: .....  
 E-mail address of thesis supervisor: .....  
 Will the partner institution co-finance the PhD programme? YES:  NO:

If no, will another institution co-finance the PhD programme? YES:  NO:

Full name of other institution: .....

Has the PhD student already been accepted onto the PhD programme at the partner institution?  
YES:  NO:

Has the PhD student already been registered for the PhD programme at the partner institution?  
YES:  NO:

Study domain of thesis: .....

Contact person in charge of joint supervisions: .....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

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Signed in Mons, on (date) .....

Signature of supervisor

<b>Thesis Advisory Committee Report</b>
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**Last name and first name of Doctoral Student:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Doctoral Student's Status:**

- Assistant under Mandate
- Research Fellow (FNRS or associated funds)
- Doctoral grant holder
- Other (please specify):

**Supervisor's Name:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Co-supervisor's Name:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Date:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Present Members:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Absent/Excused Members:** Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**1. Thesis title and summary of objectives:**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**2. Opinion on the progress of the thesis:**

**2.1. General Opinion**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**2.2. Specific Elements to Consider<sup>1</sup>:**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**2.3. Thesis Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

Possible Annexes: detailed report on the scientific discussion, student presentation

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<sup>1</sup> This may refer to the difficulties encountered, a re-focusing of the work, etc.

3. **Recognised doctoral training activities undertaken over the course of the academic year:**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

**Has training in scientific integrity already been completed?**

Yes

No

Exemption granted by the Faculty Board based on previously recognised equivalent training

**Has CorSci training course already been completed ?**

Yes

No

Not applicable to Doctoral Student

4. **Decision on the thesis:**

favourable

unfavourable (research work stopped)

withdrawal of the PhD candidate

temporary interruption of the work (state reason)

In the event of withdrawal or interruption, please ask the candidate to contact the AVRE and send this report to [avre@umons.ac.be](mailto:avre@umons.ac.be).

**Reason for decision:**

Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

5. **Timeframe**

From the third year of the thesis or, in the case of Assistants under Mandate, from the second year of the mandate, at the latest,

- Deadline for the writing of the thesis: Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.
- Planned date or period for the defence of the thesis: Cliquez ici pour entrer du texte.

For the Thesis Advisory Committee,

The President

I declare that I have received and read the present report

The Doctoral Student