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Scuola di Dottorato ~ Doctoral School

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Politecnico di Torino: Regulations for doctoral programmes

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The English translation of this document is provided as a support to the student community and has no legal effects. The Italian version shall constitute the sole authentic text and will be referred to for any legal matters.

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Title I – General principles

Art. 1 - Scope

1. The present Regulations govern the creation and functioning of doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino in accordance with the provisions set forth in: art. 4 of Law no. 210 dated 3rd July 1998, amended by art. 19, paragraph 1 of Law no. 240 dated 30th December 2010, Ministerial Decree no. 45 dated 8th February 2013 and subsequent amendments and the Statute of Politecnico di Torino.
2. The present Regulations cover the general principles governing doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino. Further technical details for the application of these Regulations will be contained in the document "Operating procedures for the application of the Regulations on doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino" (hereinafter referred to as the "Operating procedures") prepared and updated by the Doctoral School, with the approval of the Doctoral School Board itself.
3. When doctoral programmes are organized in agreement or consortium with other universities and public or private research institutions, the rules laid down by these specific agreements are also applicable.

Art. 2 - Doctoral programme goals

1. The goal of a doctoral programme is to train highly-qualified researchers by providing them with the skills they need to engage in research, in both private and public organisations, as well as to exercise self-employed professional activities, thus contributing to the creation of the European Higher Education Area and of the European Research Area.

Art. 3 – Doctoral programme duration

1. The period of study for doctoral programmes at Politecnico di Torino is three years, unless otherwise provided for by specific agreements stipulated by the University or within the framework of international projects.

Title II – Doctoral School

Art. 4 - Scope

1. The Doctoral School of Politecnico di Torino (hereinafter referred to as the "School"), has been established within the meaning of art. 24 of the Statute of Politecnico. Its objective is to promote, organize and manage teaching related to doctoral programmes and the Postgraduate School, in accordance with the guidelines identified by the Governing Bodies of the University.
2. The School seeks to harmonize the various doctoral programmes while preserving their necessary specificity. The School's objective is also to coordinate training and cultural

activities, monitor their quality, promote and manage strategies and scientific policies which have an impact on doctoral programmes, as defined by the Governing Bodies of the University.

3. The Doctoral School, in consultation with the Departments, organizes third level courses and promotes the development of soft skills, in addition to highly-specialized scientific and technological knowledge provided by each doctoral programme.

Art. 5 – Organization of the Doctoral School

1. The bodies of the Doctoral School are: the Director, the Doctoral School Board and the Doctoral School Executive Committee.
2. The Director:
 - is the head of the School;
 - guides the School and its activities;
 - identifies the strategies to promote the School's activities;
 - stipulates thesis co-tutelle agreements referred to in art. 17;
 - chairs the Doctoral School Board and the Executive Committee;
 - represents the School in the university bodies and outside Politecnico;
 - represents the School in the University Committee for Research, Technology Transfer and Services to Community
3. The Director can designate a Deputy Director to replace him/her in all functions in case of absence or impediment. As part of a coordinated programme of activities, the Director can make use of delegates, in the maximum number of six, chosen from among tenured professors and permanent researchers of Politecnico. The Director identifies their tasks and responsibilities.
4. The Doctoral School Board promotes the cultural aspects of teaching and research cooperation with other universities, institutions and research centres, both at national and international level. The Board:
 - identifies the guidelines for the activities of the Doctoral School and of the Postgraduate School, even on a multiannual basis;
 - determines and coordinates the teaching framework related to doctoral programmes and specialization programmes;
 - approves third level doctoral courses;
 - approves high-level courses and courses on soft skills;
 - approves the list of faculty members and external teaching staff who are responsible for third level courses;
 - expresses a binding opinion about the opening of new doctoral programmes;
 - expresses a binding opinion about the opening of doctoral programmes organized in agreement with other universities;
 - decides on the admission requirements for doctoral programme and the criteria to evaluate candidates.
 - makes proposals to the Board of Governors about the allocation of funds for doctoral scholarships.
 - approves the operating procedures used to manage doctoral programmes, including admission requirements and the rules for the attainment of the doctoral degree;

- approves the procedures and criteria used to offer quality awards to doctoral candidates and manages the budget allocated to this end by the Board of Governors;
 - defines the responsibilities of the Executive Committee;
 - appoints the members of the Executive Committee.
5. The Doctoral School Board is composed of:
 - the Director of the Doctoral School;
 - five university professors, also not on the staff of Politecnico di Torino, who are widely well-known for their scientific activity; they are appointed by the Rector upon nomination of the Academic Senate;
 - the Coordinators of the Academic Boards of Politecnico doctoral programmes and the Director of the Postgraduate School;
 - three representatives of doctoral candidates and Postgraduate School students, elected according to the procedures defined in the Regulations for the election of student representatives in the governing bodies and in other bodies of the University;
 6. The members of the Doctoral School Board referred to in point b) of the preceding paragraph hold office for three years. The members of the Doctoral School Board referred to in point d) hold office for two years and can be renewed only once, provided that they maintain their status of doctoral candidate / Postgraduate School student.
 7. The composition of the Doctoral School Board may be extended to include some representatives with an advisory role from research institutions, local authorities, corporations and associations that contribute to fund the School's activities. The Board can also appoint representatives from doctoral programmes organized in agreement with other universities in which Politecnico is not the administrative headquarters.
 8. The same rules governing the operation of the university bodies set out in the General Regulations of the University also apply to the Doctoral School Board.
 9. The Executive Committee consists of the Director of the School and five members of the Board identified by the Board itself, including at least one doctoral candidate or one Postgraduate School student.
 10. The Executive Committee decides on all matters for which it has been delegated by the Board.

Art. 6 - Appointment of the Doctoral School Director

1. The Doctoral School Director is a first segment professor of the University appointed by the Rector on recommendation of the Doctoral School. His/her term of office is three years and can be renewed only once.
2. Candidatures are presented with the support of at least 15 and no more than 20 signatures of faculty members belonging to at least three different Departments of the University. Each candidature shall be accompanied by the CV of the candidate from which we can deduce:
 - high scientific profile;
 - proven organizational and managerial skills in scientific research and teaching;
 - demonstrated ability to organize collaboration projects and international exchange programmes;
 - statement that, in case of appointment, he/she will not hold other offices which appear manifestly incompatible with his/her work as Director of the School or may lead to a conflict of interest.

3. If the candidatures received are more than four, the same are sent to an external evaluation committee identified by the Academic Senate. The Committee prepares a shortlist of up to four candidates giving reasons for the selection. The Committee consists of three well-known individuals of proven scientific reputation, preferably Directors of Doctoral Schools from other universities selected on the basis of the reputation of their Schools, after having verified that they are not involved in any form with the candidates.
4. The most senior member among the Coordinators of the doctoral programmes will convene a meeting of the Doctoral School Board. The Rector will be invited to take part in it. During this meeting the Board will choose its candidate and vote by secret ballot and by a qualified majority of two-thirds. In the event that no candidate achieves such majority, during the same meeting there will be a runoff vote between the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes. The candidate who achieves the absolute majority of votes in the runoff will be designated by the Board. The Board will propose his/her name to the Rector who will evaluate his/her appointment as Director of the Doctoral School.
5. For the purpose of the procedures referred to in the previous paragraph 4, it is to be specified that only the parties b), c) and d) of the Doctoral School Board, as defined in article 5, are entitled to vote. With reference to the Board members indicated in paragraph c), the Coordinators of the doctoral programmes offered in the same academic year in which voting is held are entitled to cast their votes.
6. The professor who is appointed Director of the Doctoral School must opt for full-time duty before his/her appointment.
7. The role of Director of the Doctoral School and the role of Coordinator of a doctoral programme are not compatible.

Title III – Creation and opening of doctoral programmes

Art. 7 - Creation of doctoral programmes

1. Doctoral programmes are opened after receiving accreditation from the Ministry of Education (MIUR) with the favorable opinion of ANVUR, in compliance with current legislation.
2. Doctoral programmes are proposed by a sufficiently large group of faculty members (at least equal to the minimum number of Academic Board components required for accreditation), upon approval of all the Departments which ensure the availability of their facilities and resources.
3. The procedure for the opening of a new doctoral programme envisages the following steps:
4. the mandatory opinion of the Doctoral School Board;
5. the positive opinion of the University Evaluation Board about its compliance with the accreditation requirements;
6. the mandatory opinion of the Academic Senate.
7. Each doctoral programme must be focused on themes related to broad, systematic and well-defined subject areas. A doctoral programme can be organized into curricula. The names of the programmes and the creation of any curricula must be evaluated by ANVUR during the accreditation phase. If approved, the degree issued at the end of the

doctoral programme may make explicit reference to the curricula that have been accredited.

8. Doctoral programmes may be organized also in agreement or consortium with other Italian and foreign universities, highly-qualified public or private research institutions, companies working in the field of high-level research and development, in accordance with current regulations. In any case the cultural and scientific educational purpose of the doctoral programme must be safeguarded as well as the reciprocity in the provision of resources among the parties. The methods for the creation and operation of these doctoral programmes are set forth in a special agreement, approved by the Board of Governors upon favorable opinion of the Doctoral School Board and submitted to the approval procedure referred to in paragraph 3 of this article.
9. It is the Doctoral School's responsibility to submit the application for accreditation for all doctoral programmes which have administrative offices at Politecnico di Torino to the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR).
10. The accreditation is granted by Ministerial decree and consists in a five-year authorization to open the doctoral programmes. Every year an annual audit verifies if the requirements for accreditation are still in place.
11. After the Ministerial decree on accreditation, the Board of Governors adopts the resolution for the opening of the doctoral programmes.
12. In case of substantial changes to a doctoral programme, it is necessary to follow the procedures for the creation of a new doctoral programme.

Art. 8 - Evaluation of doctoral programmes

1. The annual monitoring activity of ANVUR is intended to verify if a doctoral programme continues to meet the initial accreditation requirements. This monitoring activity is also conducted on the basis of the results of the inspections carried out by the University internal evaluation bodies.
2. Failure to meet one or more requirements will result in the revocation of the accreditation. This is decided by Ministerial decree with the positive opinion of ANVUR. The revocation of the accreditation implies the suspension of the activation of a new doctoral cycle for the programme concerned and has immediate effect.
3. The School can draw up a report about the efficiency and proper functioning of its doctoral programmes and submit it to the Evaluation Board. The School can adopt its own quantitative and/or qualitative indicators in order to enhance training and research of doctoral programmes.
4. The Doctoral School periodically reports to the governing bodies on issues regarding the efficiency and proper functioning of its doctoral programmes.

Title IV – Organization of doctoral programmes

Art.9 – Bodies of doctoral programmes

1. The Coordinator and the Academic Board are the bodies of each doctoral programme.
2. The Coordinator is a full-time first segment professor of the University, elected by the Academic Board from among a list of candidates certified by a Committee within

the meaning of next paragraph. He/she is responsible for managing the doctoral programme on account of his/her skills and experience. The Coordinator can be chosen from among full-time second segment professors in the cases provided for by current regulations. In any case the Coordinator must have a number of years of service which is at least equal to the term of office before the date of his/her retirement; moreover the Coordinator needs to meet the scientific requirements provided for by the Ministerial guidelines for the accreditation of doctoral programmes.

3. After the submission of candidatures, the Doctoral School Board appoints a Committee which verifies that the candidates meet the eligibility criteria and prepares a certified list of all candidates.
4. When a doctoral programme is organized in agreement or consortium with other universities, the Coordinator is chosen according to the rules set forth in the agreement between the parties.
5. The Coordinator holds office for three years and can be renewed only once, including in the event that his/her first mandate has lasted less than three years. In the event of early resignation of the previous Coordinator, the new Coordinator will hold office until the mandate of his/her predecessor comes to an end.
6. The Coordinator is required to perform the following tasks:
 - coordinates and organizes doctoral training and related administrative activities;
 - submits a proposal for third level courses to the Academic Board;
 - is responsible for the organization and overall functioning of the doctoral programme and the courses provided therein;
 - submits proposals for high level courses to the Doctoral School Board; such proposals need to be approved by the Head of Department and must include the names and the CVs of the teaching staff involved;
 - expresses his/her opinion on the funding of doctoral scholarships offered by external organizations;
 - convenes and chairs the Academic Board;
 - informs the Director of the Doctoral School about the decisions taken by the Academic Board;
 - may appoint a Vice-Coordinator, chosen from among the members of the Academic Board, who can replace him/her in all his/her duties in case of absence or impediment;
 - performs the functions delegated by the Academic Board;
 - reports about the activities of doctoral programmes to the Department Councils involved;
 - authorizes doctoral candidates to carry out activities outside Politecnico and verifies if these activities are consistent with the educational path of the candidates.
7. The Academic Board is responsible for the design and implementation of the doctoral programme. It supervises the training activities of the programme; it provides guidance to doctoral candidates through the identification of their Supervisors; it verifies the achievement of their educational goals.
8. The Academic Board is composed of first and second segment professors, university researchers, first researchers and research directors, or other individuals occupying similar roles in public research institutions. Experts who do not pertain to accredited organizations could be members of the Academic Board, but their participation cannot exceed the total number of members pertaining to accredited organizations. The Academic Board must be composed of minimum sixteen members, at least twelve of which must be professors engaged in macro-sectors that are consistent with the

educational objectives of the programme. A doctoral candidate representative also sits on the Board and is elected by the doctoral candidates enrolled in that programme, in order to discuss teaching and organizational issues. At the discretion of the Academic Board, in cases of proven scientific interest, the composition of the Board can be enlarged to include also some representatives of public and private institutions where the research activity is conducted and some representatives of the external institutions which offer funding for doctoral scholarships. These representatives can participate in the work of the Academic Board without the right to vote, and only for meetings related to them.

9. The composition of the Academic Board has to comply with the ministerial regulations on accreditation requirements. The members of the Academic Board must have achieved proven international research results in the subject areas of the programme, with special reference to the results achieved in the five years prior to the accreditation of the doctoral programme.
10. In case of doctoral programmes organized in agreement or consortium, the Academic Board composition has to ensure the equal representation of the teaching staff pertaining to all the institutions involved and has to comply with the ministerial requirements for accreditation.
11. Every year the Academic Board updates its own composition which is checked periodically by the Academic Senate. In case of nomination of teaching staff pertaining to other universities, their admission is submitted to the authorization of the competent body of their university. The participation of Politecnico faculty members to the Academic Boards of programmes organized by other Universities is subject to the approval of the Academic Senate. Academics which are guarantors of minimum requirements (Art. 4 paragraph 1 letter a) of DM 8th February 2013 n. 45 e s.m.i.) cannot belong to other Academic Boards at national level.
12. The Academic Board performs the following tasks of proposal and control over the activities of the doctoral programme and, in accordance with the operating procedures of the Doctoral School, it makes the following decisions:
 - approves the research and training curriculum of each doctoral candidate and it identifies his/her Supervisor/s;
 - proposes the third level course catalogue related to the specific doctoral programme; it also suggests the names of the internal and external teaching staff responsible for the courses, after receiving the positive opinion of the Head of the Department when its internal teaching staff is concerned;
 - approves co-teaching appointments and chooses the internal and external teaching staff who is assigned to perform these tasks, upon proposal of the faculty member who is officially responsible for the course;
 - authorizes doctoral candidates to carry out remunerated activities, after verifying that these activities are compatible with their academic performance in the doctoral programme;
 - defines the minimum criteria for training and research of doctoral candidates;
 - periodically monitors the performance of doctoral candidates (continuity and quality) and intervenes in case of deviation from the criteria defined;
 - upon reasoned recommendation of the Supervisor, it may resolve the doctoral candidate's forfeiture from the programme, even during the year;
 - evaluates the activity report submitted by each doctoral candidate at the end of the year and decides whether the candidate can be admitted to the following year of the programme or to the oral defence;

- approves the proposals submitted by the principal investigators for the activation of doctoral programmes offered in the apprenticeship or industrial format. After the approval of the Academic Board, these proposals need to go through the standard approval process.
- proposes new partnerships and exchange programmes with other Italian and foreign universities and public and private organizations which carry out specific high-level research in order to improve the opportunities offered to doctoral candidates;
- annually evaluates the academic performance of doctoral candidates to assign quality awards.

Art. 10 – Doctoral training

1. The Doctoral School defines, organizes and manages the following third level training activities, also in cooperation with one or more Departments.
2. Third level courses: they are specific courses offered in the framework of the third level course catalogue. They aim to strengthen technical and specialized skills. The Academic Board of each doctoral programme proposes the list of third level courses to the Doctoral School Board which is in charge of approving them annually, also in accordance with the process for teaching assignments for first and second level courses.
3. High-level courses: they are high-level courses of short duration, taught by external instructors of proven international scientific excellence, on frontier technology topics and innovative issues. They are proposed by the Coordinator of the doctoral programme, upon favourable opinion of the Head of the Department where the course will take place. Within the limits of the resources allocated annually by the Board of Governors, the Doctoral School Board approves the list of high-level courses that will be put in place and decides how much funding should be transferred to the Department which will organize them.
4. Courses on soft skills: they are courses on transferable skills (soft skills) offered in addition to the third level course catalogue. They can be face-to-face or distance learning courses. Distance learning courses do not have a specific faculty member responsible for the course itself: after attending these courses, doctoral candidates can register them on the basis of a certificate of attendance and after having passed the online test. These courses are proposed by the Director of the Doctoral School, upon consultation with the Academic Boards. They are approved by the Doctoral School Board on the basis of specific criteria (priority and consistency) and within the limits of the resources annually allocated by the Board of Governors.

Art. 11 – Teaching appointments and remuneration

1. In accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Governors, the Doctoral School Board appoints Politecnico professors and tenured researchers who will be responsible for teaching third level courses. The Doctoral School Board also decides on the appointment of external instructors who will be responsible for teaching third level courses on an honorary basis. External instructors are chosen for their professional expertise or pursuant to specific agreements with public or private external research centres.
2. The Academic Board of each doctoral programme may decide on the appointment of Politecnico faculty members who will co-teach third level courses, upon mandatory

approval of the Head of the Department to which the faculty member pertains; the Academic Board can also appoint external instructors, chosen for their professional expertise and for the coherence of their scientific profile with the topics covered in the course.

3. The Doctoral School Board is responsible for the appointment of external instructors who will have teaching functions in high-level courses. They are chosen from among the individuals proposed by the Coordinators after having verified their professional expertise. Upon proposal of a faculty member, the responsibility for teaching a course can be assigned to a Politecnico faculty member on an honorary basis. When an external collaborator co-teaches a course or delivers some lectures, the Department can pay him/her a lump sum reimbursement. High-level courses can also be delivered by recognized experts (such as Visiting Professors chosen by the Board of Governors), after the Director of the Doctoral School has declared their suitability.
4. The Doctoral School Board is responsible for the appointment of the individuals who will have teaching functions in the courses on soft skills. When these courses are proposed by Politecnico faculty members, the previous favourable opinion of the Head of Department is required. Given the contents of these course and the competences required to teach them, the Doctoral School Board may decide to appoint external experts. Politecnico may stipulate agreements with other universities or institutions for the delivery of certain types of courses. The rules and criteria for the fees paid to the teaching staff engaged in courses on soft skills are decided by the Board of Governors.
5. Faculty members and researchers who carry out certified teaching and tutoring activities for doctoral programmes meet the institutional obligations provided for by art. 6 of Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010, in accordance with the terms established in the university regulations.

Art 12 – Supervisors

1. The Academic Board provides each doctoral candidate with a research topic and an Academic Supervisor who supervises his/her doctoral education. In case of doctoral programmes organized in agreement with a company or a research institution, it is possible to identify one or more Co-supervisors, chosen from among highly qualified professionals and experts in the subject matter. The Co-supervisors can be individuals who do not pertain to Politecnico nor to the partner institutions; they participate to the supervision of the research activities conducted by the doctoral candidate.
2. The Supervisor, assisted by any Co-supervisors, has to guide and assist the doctoral candidate in the composition of his/her study plan. The Supervisor is the candidate's focal point within the Academic Board and is responsible for the research activities and progress of the doctoral candidate as well as for his/her compliance with the ethical principles of the international scientific community and the Code of Ethical Conduct of the University. The Supervisor submits to the Academic Board a report and an evaluation which constitute the basis for admitting the doctoral candidate to the following year of the programme or to oral defence.
3. Supervisors and Co-supervisors who do not pertain to the Academic Board can be invited to participate to meetings about matters that involve them, without the right to vote.
4. Doctoral candidates are expected to stay in contact with their Supervisors, share with them the choice of the most suitable activities for their research project, update and discuss the progress of research in view of the final draft of the thesis.
5. The Supervisor can be replaced only under exceptional circumstances that must be justified by a formal and documented request submitted to the Academic Board.

6. The Supervisor is required to immediately report any critical situations that might arise to the Coordinator who will inform the Academic Board. The Academic Board is entitled to decide on the forfeiture of the doctoral candidate from the programme even during the year.

Title V – Cooperation with companies and external organizations

Art. 13 - Cooperation with companies and external organizations

1. The Doctoral School promotes the debate with the socio-economic system. It fosters the active involvement of the most technologically advanced enterprises in the development of joint research and training activities, through an intensive exchange of knowledge and the integrated use of skills.
2. The Doctoral School promotes cooperation agreements focused on the financing of one or more doctoral scholarships with large, medium and small enterprises, craft enterprises and others institutions outside the University administration.
3. The agreements referred to in this article and in articles 14 e 15 must be approved by the Board of Governors and must provide for the following:
4. Doctoral training is under the University's responsibility, it being understood that the Supervisor chosen by the Academic Board can be supported by an external Co-supervisor on the staff of the partner organizations. The Co-supervisor is responsible for supervising the activities carried out by the doctoral candidate within the organization.
5. Any rights of industrial and intellectual property are governed by specific agreements.

Art. 14 – Doctoral programmes offered in apprenticeship format

1. Pursuant to art.50 of Legislative decree no. 276 of 10th September 2003 and Law no. 240 of 30th December 2010 and further amendments, it is possible to participate in a higher education programme offered in apprenticeship format for the attainment of a doctoral degree and be hired by a company with an apprenticeship contract at the same time.
2. The selected candidate is admitted to the doctoral programme without any scholarship and is hired by the company with an apprenticeship contract which has the same duration of the doctoral programme. Politecnico di Torino and the company adopt appropriate forms of coordination and integration along the entire length of the contract in order to deliver training and tutoring to the doctoral candidate.
3. The apprenticeship contract, signed in accordance with current legislation, ends after the achievement of the doctoral degree and/or at the end of the training path.
4. The doctoral candidate has the same obligations of the other doctoral candidates of his/her programme. In the event that the doctoral candidate withdraws from the doctoral programme, his/her apprenticeship contract will be terminated and vice versa.
5. Applicants intending to apply for a doctoral programme offered in apprenticeship format need to meet the requirements for admission to the doctoral programme and the requirements for being hired with an apprenticeship contract. A special evaluation

committee is created to evaluate the applications received and publish the results of the selection process. This committee can also include some company representatives.

Art. 15 - Industrial doctoral programme

1. In accordance with specific agreements, universities can open industrial doctoral programmes and reserve some doctoral positions to the employees of companies engaged in high-level activities who are admitted the doctoral programme after the selection process.
2. These agreements must be approved by the Governing Bodies and regulate the following items: the programme contents, the terms for the research activities conducted within the company, the time allotment of the employee's overall commitment, the duration of the doctoral programme, the funds to be allocated to operating expenditures and academic tutoring costs, the rules for ownership, use and dissemination of Intellectual and Industrial Property rights.
3. Industrial doctoral programmes can have different deadlines for applications and a different calendar for the beginning of classes. They can also provide for a different organization of the courses for a better performance of doctoral candidates.

Title VI – Internationalization

Art 16 – Internationalization of doctoral programmes

1. Politecnico considers the internationalization process of doctoral programmes to be of strategic importance for the University. It fosters the creation of a European higher education and research area. It promotes and supports international mobility for doctoral candidates, faculty members and researchers; it encourages doctoral candidates to participate in international training and research projects and also confers double degrees or joint degrees according to specific agreements.
2. In the call for applications for Politecnico doctoral programmes a number of doctoral positions may be reserved to applicants who graduated from foreign universities, scholarship recipients from foreign countries or candidates involved in specific international programmes; some doctoral scholarships and other funding sources can be reserved to applicants who have been awarded the degree required for admission to the doctoral programme from a foreign university.
3. In case of reserved doctoral positions, as explained in paragraph 2, the procedure for admissions to doctoral programmes may vary from the standard procedure. International or European collaborative projects can provide for specific organizational rules that take into account the peculiarities of the various projects, as long as these are carried out in the framework of accredited doctoral programmes.
4. 5. For a better coordination of international high-level research activities, Politecnico is entitled to jointly organize doctoral programs with foreign universities and internationally renowned research institutions, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity, provided that these programmes previously receive the due accreditation.

Art.17 – Co-tutelle agreements

1. In order to promote and facilitate international cooperation in the framework of doctoral programmes, Politecnico enters into agreements with foreign universities or institutions. These agreements regulate the cooperation procedures and in particular the rules for co-tutelle theses.
2. In the framework of a co-tutelle agreement the doctoral candidate is expected to alternate research periods at Politecnico and at the partner university. The doctoral candidate writes his/her thesis under the supervision of two different Supervisors and is awarded the doctoral degree by both institutions.
3. A special agreement, signed by the Director of the Doctoral School in accordance with the guidelines of the Board of Governors, regulates the forms in which the doctoral candidate carries out his/her research and training and the requirements for the attainment of the degree.

Title VII – Admission requirements for doctoral programmes

Art.18 - Admission Requirements for doctoral programmes

1. The admission process for doctoral programmes begins with a preliminary verification conducted by a committee to ascertain whether the applicants meet the admission requirements. Decisions for admissions are made on a comparative evaluation of the applicants based on a public selection process that has to close approximately within 30th September of each year. This comparative evaluation is carried out by the Admissions Committee of each doctoral programme and is based on the applicants' motivations, educational background, professional expertise and attitude to research in scientific fields which are relevant to the doctoral programme.
2. Applicants who have a Master's degree or an academic degree obtained abroad and recognized as a suitable qualification are entitled to apply for admissions to doctoral programmes.
3. A specific University Committee evaluates the suitability of foreign qualifications which have not been recognized equivalent to the Italian *laurea magistrale* by any other Italian university. When a foreign qualification is declared suitable, this declaration is valid only for the purpose of admission to the selection process for a doctoral programme.
4. The Doctoral School Board decides on the admission requirements for doctoral programmes and on the criteria for the evaluation of applicants.
5. Scholarships for each doctoral programme can be assigned on the basis of separate ranking lists which take into consideration the attitudes of the applicants to perform various research activities.
6. When a doctoral programme is organized in agreement or consortium with other universities, the specific agreements signed between the parties set forth the rules for admissions.

Art. 19 – Admissions Committees

1. Upon favourable opinion of the Academic Board, by means of a decree, the Rector appoints the Admissions Committees which are in charge of the comparative evaluation of applicants. The Admissions Committees are composed of at least three members chosen from among university teaching staff and researchers. In case of doctoral programmes organized in agreement or consortium with high-level private or public research centres, the Committees can also be integrated by first researchers or research directors on the staff of partner organizations. When an Admissions Committee has to evaluate applicants who are competing for a fully-funded doctoral position with predefined research topic, the Committee can avail itself of external experts. In this case the final report has to include the experts' written opinion on the suitability of the applicants who are competing for the fully-funded positions with predefined research topic.
2. The Admissions Committee carries out the comparative evaluation of applicants, prepares the merit ranking list and selects the doctoral scholarship recipients from the ranking list.
3. The reports of the Admissions Committee, approved by Rector's decree, are properly brought to the attention of the public.

Art. 20 - Call for applications

1. The call for applications for doctoral programmes, issued by the Rector of Politecnico di Torino, is written in Italian and in English, in accordance with the rules of the present Regulations and the Doctoral School operating procedures.
2. The call is published online on the website of Politecnico, on the European website of Euraxess and on the MIUR website (Ministry of Education, University and Research) .
3. The call for applications include:
 - a) the doctoral programmes on offer;
 - b) the number of doctoral positions available for each doctoral programme, including any reserved positions, as referred to in paragraph 2 of article 14;
 - c) the number of scholarships for each doctoral programme, the scholarships with predefined research topic (if any) and the criteria for the selection of scholarship recipients;
 - d) the number of apprenticeship contracts and any other kind of financial aid deriving from research funds or other funds of the University;
 - e) the criteria for admissions and for evaluation of academic qualifications, as well as any written examination, including internationally recognized tests, or oral tests, if any;
 - f) the deadline and how to apply;
 - g) general and specific requirements;
 - h) how the ranking lists are formulated;
 - i) how the scholarships are assigned;
 - j) the scholarships amount;
 - k) how to enroll in a doctoral programme;
 - l) the tuition fees that doctoral candidates are required to pay.

Art. 21 - Transfers from other universities

1. Doctoral candidates who have attended at least one year of a doctoral programme in another Italian or foreign university, or individuals who have completed high-level training or research considered equivalent to a doctoral programme by the Doctoral School, can ask for clearance to apply directly to the second year of a Politecnico doctoral programme only if:
 - a) the Doctoral School of Politecnico di Torino offers a programme which has the same training and research objectives of the programme of origin;
 - b) the doctoral candidate provides the transcripts of the exams that he/she has passed at the university of origin and these exams are recognized by the Academic Board as equivalent to the courses required by Politecnico for admissions to the second year of
 - c) the doctoral programme;
 - d) the doctoral candidate passes an evaluation interview with the correspondent Academic Board;
 - e) the doctoral candidate has been admitted to the second year of the doctoral programme by the Academic Board of the university of origin.
2. In the event that the doctoral candidate is granted the clearance referred to in the preceding paragraph, the transfer can be made, after attesting the termination of engagement with the university of origin. The doctoral candidate enrolls in second year, in any case without any scholarship. The doctoral position taken by the transfer candidate must be included in the number of positions already available for the receiving doctoral programme.
3. The Academic Board decides on the number of credits to be recognized for the exams that the candidate has passed at the university of origin. The Academic Board also identifies a Supervisor for the doctoral candidate.

Title VIII – Rights and responsibilities of doctoral candidates

Art. 22 –Attendance

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of art. 14 e 15, the participation to a doctoral programme requires exclusive and full-time commitment. The Academic Board may authorize doctoral candidates to undertake limited remunerated jobs after having verified that these jobs are compatible with their academic performance (training and research). Fully-funded doctoral candidates (scholarship recipients) can undertake paid jobs only if these are relevant to the acquisition of skills related to their doctoral programme. For unfunded doctoral candidates (who are not scholarship recipients), the Academic Board has to evaluate if the job is compatible with the academic performance of the candidates, but – even in the event that the job is found to be incompatible – the Academic Board cannot infringe any constitutional rights such as the right to education for low-income deserving students.
2. A doctoral candidate is a university student enrolled in a third level training programme and cannot be simultaneously enrolled in any other doctoral programme, university programme or specialization course, in Italy or abroad.

3. Doctoral candidates can spend study or research periods in other universities, research institutions, centres and laboratories, in Italy and abroad, up to a maximum of 18 months over the three years. The decision has to be made in agreement with the candidate's Supervisor.
4. Foreign citizens are required to include an Italian language course in their study plan, or their Italian language proficiency has to be certified by the University Language Centre;
5. At the end of each year doctoral candidates must write a detailed report on their training and research and submit it to the Academic Board which decides on their admission to the following year of the programme or to the oral defence, depending if they are first, second or third year candidates. The operating procedures of the Doctoral School can provide for different methods for the evaluation of training and research.
6. Upon favourable opinion of the Academic Board, doctoral candidates must apply for enrolment in second or third year or registration for the oral defence and pay the corresponding fees.
7. A negative opinion of the Academic Board entails forfeiture of the doctoral candidate from the programme.
8. The Academic Board can resolve on the forfeiture of a doctoral candidate also during the year. The Supervisor is required to immediately report in writing any critical situations to the Coordinator. The Coordinator informs the Academic Board and, after this has made a decision, he/she also informs the competent offices which can interrupt the scholarship if there are grounds for this action.

Art. 23 - Suspension of attendance

1. In case of pregnancy of a doctoral candidate reference is made to the provisions on maternity protection provided for by current legislation. The operating procedures of the Doctoral School provide further details on maternity and paternity leave for doctoral candidates.
2. In case of death or serious illness of the mother, child abandonment, or if the sole custody of the child is given to the father, the male doctoral candidate can take paternity leave for the entire length of the maternity leave, or for the residual part of this period which has not been enjoyed by the mother.
3. Upon request, doctoral candidates can suspend their attendance to the programme in case of:
 - serious and documented illness;
 - Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA, Italian teachers traineeship);
 - serious documented personal or family problems, after receiving expressed approval of the Academic Board which verifies whether the suspension of studies is compatible with the candidate's research activity;
4. In the event of special, documented personal circumstances, the Academic Board can authorize a doctoral candidate to suspend his/her attendance to the programme, after verifying that this suspension is compatible with his/her research activity.

Art. 24 - Rules of behaviour

1. Doctoral candidates are required to maintain a behaviour that is respectful of the principles and norms of the Code of Ethical Conduct of Politecnico di Torino and the

University Regulations. They also have to uphold international standards for research integrity.

2. Doctoral candidates are required to conduct their research activities consistently with the fundamental ethical rules of the university community; in particular they must not present someone else's work as their own without citing the sources. To this end, the originality of doctoral theses is checked with specific plagiarism detection software.
3. Violation of academic ethics and infringement of rules of behaviour entails disciplinary responsibility of the doctoral candidate. The procedure intended to ascertain a possible misconduct follows the rules laid down in the Student Regulations of the University.

Art. 25 - Scholarships

1. Scholarships start to be paid from the beginning of the doctoral programme in monthly instalments.
2. Scholarships have a one-year duration and are renewed if the Academic Board decides to admit the doctoral candidate to the next year of the programme, after verifying that he/she has completed all the tasks assigned.
3. The scholarship amount cannot be lower than the amount provided for by the decree of the Ministry of Education, University and Research dated 18th June 2008. This amount is proportionally increased for any research period spent abroad (authorized by the Coordinator) by 50% at most and up to a maximum of 18 months totally over the three years.
4. The scholarship is subject to social security contribution (INPS – *gestione separata*) as provided by the law. Doctoral candidates enjoy the rights connected to these provisions.
5. Scholarship recipients can renounce their right to receive a scholarship at any time without incurring in forfeiture from the programme.
6. Failure to attend doctoral activities for more than 30 consecutive days will result in the suspension of scholarship payments. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to inform the Coordinator and the administration offices about any prolonged absences of the doctoral candidate.
7. Scholarships awarded by the Doctoral School can be combined with other scholarships, unless otherwise provided by specific calls, and only if the Academic Board determines that they are compatible with the doctoral programme requirements.
8. The provisions of this article are not applicable to individuals who have been awarded a scholarship by a foreign country. Moreover the present provisions do not apply to individuals who receive financial aid related to their participation in mobility projects in accordance with specific agreements.
9. An individual who has already received a doctoral scholarship is not entitled to receive another scholarship for another doctoral programme.

Art. 26 – Tuition fees

1. The Board of Governors of Politecnico di Torino sets forth the rules which regulate the tuition fees for doctoral programmes.
2. The Tuition Fee Regulations of the University, published every year, contains the rules on tuition fees and possible exemptions from tuition fees.

Art. 27 – Teaching and research assistantships

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of art. 12, paragraph 2 of Ministerial decree no. 45 of 8th February 2013 and to the rules laid down in art. 22 of the present Regulations, doctoral candidates can be appointed to work as research assistants or teaching assistants with limited teaching support functions. Assistantships can be salaried and must be approved by the Academic Board or by its delegate.
2. Teaching and research assistantships shall not undermine the training path of a doctoral candidate under any circumstances.

Art. 28 - Ownership of Industrial and Intellectual Property Rights resulting from research activities of doctoral candidates

1. The Ownership of Industrial and Intellectual Property Rights resulting from research activities conducted by doctoral candidates is regulated by the Regulations of Politecnico di Torino on Intellectual and Industrial Property and by the provisions of other agreements signed by the University.

Title IX – Achieving the doctoral degree

Art. 29 - Doctoral thesis preparation

1. The holder of a doctoral degree is addressed as “Doctor”, often abbreviated as "Dott.Ric." or "Ph.D.". This academic title is achieved upon completion of a doctoral programme and after receiving a positive evaluation of a research thesis which has to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and research methods in a given field of study.
2. A doctoral thesis can be written in Italian or in English, or in any other language if this is authorized by the Academic Board. It must be accompanied by an abstract written in Italian or English. The doctoral candidate is also required to write a report about his/her activities during the programme and publications (if any). This report has to be attached to the doctoral thesis.

Art. 30 - Admissions to the oral defence

1. The rules for admitting a doctoral candidate to the oral defence are contained in the operating procedures approved by the Doctoral School Board.
2. Upon a favourable opinion of the Academic Board, a doctoral thesis is evaluated by at least two academics who are specialists in that field of study, hereinafter referred to as the Referees. They can be academics on the staff of foreign universities and they may not pertain to the Academic Board or to partner organizations or funding institutions. The rules for the appointment of Referees are contained in the operating procedures.
3. The Referees provide an analytic written report about the thesis and can suggest that the doctoral candidate is admitted to the oral defence. If they consider that the doctoral candidate should add integrations or revisions to the thesis, the Referees can postpone the admission of the doctoral candidate to the oral defence for a maximum of six months.

4. After this period, the doctoral candidate is admitted to the oral defence in any case. The thesis is accompanied by a new report written by the same Referees after reviewing the corrections and revisions.

Art. 31 - Oral defence

1. The oral defence takes place in front of an examination board. The rules for the composition of the examination board are contained in the operating procedures.
2. At the end of the oral defence, the thesis can be approved or rejected with justified written verdict of the examiners. If the thesis is rejected, the doctoral candidate cannot attend the oral defence again and is excluded from the doctoral programme. The operating procedures contain the rules for awarding final honours (laude) to a doctoral thesis containing very important scientific results.
3. The title of "Doctor" is awarded by the Rector of Politecnico di Torino, after the doctoral candidate has uploaded an electronic copy of his/her thesis to the University open repository in accordance with the deadlines and procedures established by the offices in charge of this process.
4. Politecnico is required to send all doctoral theses to the National Libraries of Rome and Florence and to deposit them in the newly-formed ministerial database of doctoral theses.
5. When previously authorized by the Academic Board, public access to some sections of a thesis can be restricted if the data contained are covered by industrial secret in accordance with the law.

Title X – Transitional rules and final provisions

Art. 32 - Academic year

1. Doctoral programmes officially start on 1st November of each year in compliance with art. 19 of Royal decree no. 1592 of 31st August 1933.

Art. 33 - Final provisions

1. The present Regulations come into force on the date of the Rector's decree which issues them.
2. If compatible, the present Regulations apply to the Postgraduate School as well. The call for admissions to the Postgraduate School governs the cases that are not provided for or not compatible with the present Regulations.
3. For all matters not specifically provided for by the present Regulations, reference is made to the following documents: Ministerial decree no. 45 of 8th February 2013 (*Regolamento recante modalità di accreditamento delle sedi e dei corsi di dottorato e criteri per l'istituzione dei corsi di dottorato da parte degli enti accreditati*) and further amendments, current legislation on doctoral programmes, explanatory notes of the Ministry on doctoral programmes (*Linee di indirizzo per l'avvio dei Dottorati di Ricerca*), the operating procedures of the Doctoral School and the other Regulations of the University.