

## Doctoral education regulation

### Preamble

The Decree of 7 November 2013 (MB of 18 December 2013) defining the landscape of higher education and the academic organisation of studies came into force in the 2014-2015 academic year for 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle studies.

In application of article 132 of the final paragraph of the Decree, the ARES (10 June 2014) adopted a single regulation from the special jury of doctoral candidates, integrated into the regulations of the University.

**See also the page** <http://www.recherche.uliege.be/en/research/phd>

### Chapter I : Definitions :

#### **Article 1 :**

For the application of this regulation, one should understand by :

- **ARES** : Academy of Research and Higher Education, which brings together the higher education institutions of the French Community and which is responsible for ensuring the performance of the various missions of higher education, research and service to the community of higher education institutions in the French Community ;
- **Doctorate Board** : Executive body of the University Council **of Doctoral Education** (CUFDD) ;
- **College** : 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle jury as understood in Article 131§1 of the Decree ;
- **University Council of Doctoral Education (CUFDD)** : Institutional body which ensures the implementation of a supervision and follow-up strategy for doctoral candidates in order to favour this programme within the university<sup>1</sup> ;
- **Landscape Decree** : the Decree of 7 November 2013 defining the landscape for higher education and academic organisation of studies ;

---

<sup>1</sup> This Council is subject to a special regulation and replaces the doctoral Council.

- **(FRS-FNRS) Doctoral School (graduate college)** : a coordination structure whose mission is to welcome, promote and stimulate the creation of thematic doctoral schools in its field. There are currently 22 doctoral schools, recognised by the French Community, one for each field of study<sup>1bis</sup>;
- **FRS-FNRS Thematic Doctoral School (graduate school)** : research and teaching structure responsible for providing doctoral training in the fields of study of the doctoral schools on which it depends ;
- **Faculty** : Are considered Faculties for the application of this regulation : Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Psychology, Speech Therapy and Education Sciences, HEC School of management, Faculty of Social Sciences, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Faculty of Architecture ;
- **Jury** : Special doctoral jury as understood in Article 131§3 of the landscape decree ;
- **University** : University of Liège.

## Chapter II. Doctorate and Doctoral Training

### **Article 2** : The doctorate

§1 The trial of the doctorate consists of :

- the drafting of a personal and original work based on the results of research carried out by the candidate either alone or as part of a group.

The thesis takes the form of:

- either a dissertation on the field in question,
- or an essay written by the student, showing the coherence of a series of scientific publications,
- or a collection of scientific articles (completed by an introduction and a conclusion),
- or a dissertation linked to a work, a project or pieces of work.

The practical terms laid down by the doctoral colleges are listed in the colleges' regulations (Chapter XV).

**And**

---

<sup>1bis</sup> The doctoral schools are the following : Philosophy - Theology (not organised by the University) - Languages, Literature and translation studies - history, history of art and archaeology – Broadcast media and performing arts - Art of construction and town planning - Information and communication - political and social sciences - juridical Sciences - Criminology - economic and management sciences - Psychology and Educational Sciences - Medical Sciences - public health sciences - veterinary sciences – Dental sciences - Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences - Motricity Sciences - Sciences - Agricultural sciences and bio engineering - Engineering Sciences and technology - Art and art history.

- the public presentation of this work, highlighting its qualities, its originality, as well as the candidate's abilities in scientific popularisation. Prior to the public defence, the college regulations may stipulate that the doctoral candidate's jury be asked to rule on the eligibility of the thesis for public defence (Chapter VII).

§2 The doctorate is carried out in the fields of study provided for by the Decree : namely, as concerns the University of Liège : Art of construction and town planning - Broadcast, media and performing arts - Art and art history - Criminology - History, History of art and archaeology - Information and Communication - Languages, literature and translation studies - Philosophy - Sciences - Agronomic and Biological

Engineering Sciences - Biomedicine and Pharmaceuticals - Motricity Sciences - Engineering and Technological Sciences - Public Health Sciences - Dentistry - Economics and Management Sciences - Law and Legal Sciences - Medicine - Political and Social Sciences - Psychology and Education Sciences - Veterinary Sciences.

§3 Doctoral studies globally correspond<sup>2</sup> to at least 180 credits acquired after an initial programme of at least 300 credits certified by a Master's degree or equivalent.

### **Article 3 :** The doctoral training programme

§1 No one may obtain a doctoral degree if they have not successfully followed corresponding doctoral training.

§2 Doctoral training programmes are related to the specific skills of research teams and give graduates a high scientific and professional qualification. They are supervised by the teams associated with a thematic doctoral school certified by the ARES on approval from the Thematic University Chamber.

§3 The doctoral training programme is established by the doctoral college concerned (see the colleges' regulations) and essentially consists of specific activities related to the research profession. This may not include more than 30 credits of learning activities.

The doctoral training programme is divided into three parts<sup>3</sup> : thematic training, transferable skills training, and scientific production. The college may decide to include in the doctoral training the practice of didactic supervising activities, but the value of this practice cannot exceed 6 credits.

§4 Insofar as the doctoral training includes corresponding learning activities, the college can accredits a maximum of 30 credits from the in-depth orientation of the Masters obtained by the doctoral candidate in the same field.

§5 Each academic year, the state of progress of the doctoral studies is validated for each doctoral candidate by the college, upon approval from the thesis committee. The college may allow or

---

<sup>2</sup> This value is independent of the duration of the work.

<sup>3</sup> At its meeting of 16 September 2015, the Board of Directors approved a framework for doctoral training. Thus, the doctoral training programme may notably include: the learning and practice of scientific communication; the participation in scientific conferences, lectures, workshops or any other training deemed equivalent.

require that the training programme be carried out in one year as long as the registration of the doctoral candidate has been finalised no later than 31 October of the academic year in progress.

§6 The successful completion of the doctoral training leads to the issuance of a research training certificate, approving 60 training credits. The certificate is signed by the Rector, the President and the Vice-President of the college.

### **Chapter III. Admission conditions for 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle studies**

#### **Article 4 : Competent body**

Admission to doctoral studies and doctoral training is the responsibility of the college of the research field of the candidate, subject to compliance with the minimum conditions set out in article 5.

#### **Article 5 : Minimum access conditions**

It is not possible to be admitted to the doctorate and doctoral training :

1. If you do not meet the legal minimum access conditions<sup>4</sup> and the potential additional conditions set by the regulations of the college ;
2. If you were not distinguished<sup>5</sup> during your second cycle studies ;
3. If your research project isn't sufficiently defined, including a work plan, and if you do not provide written proof that your research project is supervised by a member of the University who is either a member of the academic body or has the title of doctor with thesis or "agrégé" (qualified) within higher education.

The application form for the first enrolment is available from each doctoral college.

#### **Article 6 : Additional access conditions**

If it deems necessary, the college may decide to impose upon a candidate one or several additional learning activities, without these activities corresponding to more than 60 credits<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> These conditions are laid out in Section III of the Decree.

<sup>5</sup> The notion of "distinction" should be understood in a broad sense. It signifies a mention or any other qualification deemed equivalent.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the jury cannot impose a doctoral training programme involving more than 120 credits.

## Chapter IV. Registration procedures

### **Article 7 : Principles**

No registration for the doctorate or doctoral training can take place if it does not respect the terms and procedures set out in this chapter.

### **Article 8 : Procedure**

§1 The candidate submits their application to the admissions and registration department on the basis of the *ad hoc* form. This department, after administrative verification, transfers it to the doctoral college. The candidate is notified of the motivated decision by the admissions and registration department.

§2 By derogation of §1, the holder of a Belgian diploma of higher education, acquired after 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle studies of at least 120 credits<sup>7</sup> submits directly their application to the President of the college. The candidate is notified of the motivated decision of the college by its President.

### **Article 9 : Registration**

#### §1 1<sup>st</sup> registration

On the basis of the authorisation letter from the admissions and registration department (art.8§1), or on the basis of the authorisation of the president of the college (art.8§2), the candidate presents themselves to the admissions and registration department to formalise their doctorate and/or doctoral training<sup>8</sup>.

Registration must be done no later than 31 October. However, the registration can, with the authorisation of the doctoral college and for motivated reasons, be carried out up until the eve of the opening day of registration for the following academic year<sup>8bis</sup>. In this case, under no circumstances will the defence be able to take place during the academic year in progress. The late registration authorisation letter established by the college makes clear this restriction.

#### §2 Subsequent years

For each year of studies leading to the doctorate and to the research training certificate, the doctoral candidate must go through registration. This must be done by no later than 31 October of the academic year in question.

---

<sup>7</sup> Either the students holding a diploma acquired under the legislation prior to 2004, notably Bachelors graduates (4 years of studies).

<sup>8</sup> Administratively, there are two registrations : one for the doctorate, and the other for the doctoral training.

<sup>8bis</sup> When an application file is required for the enrolment, the file must be submitted 10 working days before the day preceding the start date of the enrolment period for the following academic year.

## **Article 10**

§1 The first year of their enrolment, the doctoral candidate pays the registration fees. There is only one payment if the doctoral candidate registers simultaneously for the doctorate and doctoral training<sup>9</sup>.

§2 The subsequent years, including the year of the defence, the doctoral candidate only pays registration fees to the role.

§3 By derogation of §1 and 2, registration for the doctorate and the doctoral training is free for members of the University staff, as well as for researchers attached to the University and beneficiaries of an FRS-FNRS mandate and its associated funds.

## **Chapter V : The doctoral colleges**

### **Article 11 : Creation and composition**

§1 The doctoral colleges are created by the Board of Directors upon proposal by the Faculty(ies) concerned and after opinion of the doctoral board.

§2 The colleges are composed of members of the academic body and members of the scientific staff, holders of the title of doctor with thesis. They must have at least 5 members. Their composition is decided each year by the faculty(ies) concerned.

§ Each year, each college elects its own President and Vice-President, who assume the role of secretary.

§4 The college can decide to invite to its meetings one or several doctoral representatives.

§5 The composition of the colleges as well as the names of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are communicated each year by the administrative management of the faculty, no later than 15 September, to the doctoral board, to be noted, to the executive bureau of the Board of Directors.

### **Article 12 : Missions and operation**

#### §1 (Missions)

- In particular, the college is responsible for :
  - the formulation of its regulations, in accordance with chapter XIV :
  - the admission of candidates, equivalences and the validation of achievements<sup>10</sup> ;
  - the validation of the designation of a supervisor and, where necessary, of a co-supervisor ;

---

<sup>9</sup> The minimum payment of 10% of the registration fee is a condition of regularity of registration. Failure to complete the payment of the full amount of the registration fee by 4 January at the latest means that the student will be proclaimed "not permitted to continue ».

<sup>10</sup> from the academic point of view.

- the scientific monitoring of the doctoral candidate throughout the doctorate.
- They propose to the faculty or faculties concerned<sup>11</sup> the composition of the thesis committee and the doctoral jury (chapter VI).
- They are the interlocutor of the doctoral candidate, the members of the thesis committee and the jury. They can be called upon for any dispute that they arrive between them.
- Each year, on the basis of the report of the thesis committees, they adjudicate on the progress of the doctoral training and the thesis work of their doctoral candidates.

No later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, they notify the registration department of the approval or refusal of the college for the re-registration of doctoral candidates for the following academic year. They also send in the list of doctoral candidates having earned the research training certificate. This research training certificate, representing 60 global training credits, is earned without mention.

## §2 (Operation)

The college does not fully deliberate unless at least half of its members are present. The decisions are taken by absolute majority of members present<sup>12</sup>. In case of a split vote, that of the President carries it.

## Chapter VI : Supervisor, Thesis Committee and Jury of each doctoral candidate

### **Section 1 : The Supervisor**

#### **Article 13 :**

§1 Upon admission of the candidate, the college validates the designation of the thesis supervisor. The supervisor ensures the supervision of the doctoral candidate's work and oversees the periodic meeting of the thesis committee.

§2 The supervisor is a member or tied to the University<sup>12bis</sup>. They are part of the permanent academic or scientific staff<sup>13</sup>, holder of the title of doctor with thesis or "agrégé" in higher education.

§3 In exceptional circumstances that it determines, in particular in view of the notoriety of the person concerned, the college may exempt the thesis supervisor from the conditions set in §2.

§4 If the appointed thesis supervisor pursuant to §1 and 2 loses their quality of member of, or effective relation to, the University, either because they are retiring<sup>14</sup> or because they are leaving the institution, the college must designate a co-thesis supervisor, based on the proposal

---

<sup>11</sup> Or the Faculty of attachment of the candidate if the rules of the college so provide.

<sup>12</sup> Abstention is therefore considered to be a negative vote.

<sup>12bis</sup> By member attached to the university is meant notably permanent members of the F.R.S.-F.N.R.S. tied to the institution.

<sup>13</sup> In particular, scientists of rank A (1st assistant) not included in the definition of academic staff.

<sup>14</sup> When a thesis supervisor who has retired becomes a co-thesis supervisor, the pursuit of the supervision of the work of the student does not require special authorisation.

of the supervisor and the doctoral candidate. The designation of the co-thesis supervisor will be done in accordance with §2 above.

§5 When the thesis supervisor is designated pursuant to §3, the college must designate a co-thesis supervisor, based on the proposal of the thesis supervisor and the doctoral candidate. The designation of the co-thesis supervisor will be done in accordance with §2 above.

§6 Any proposal for a change of thesis supervisor during the thesis must be reported to the President of the college (or Vice-President if the latter is concerned) specifying the grounds on which this is based. The designation of the new thesis supervisor is subject to a validation of the college, the approval of the doctoral candidate being required. In case of disagreement between the thesis supervisor and the doctoral candidate regarding this change, the college arbitrates the dispute and if it considers it appropriate, invites the doctoral candidate to submit the name of a new thesis supervisor. In the absence of a new designation approved by the college, the doctoral candidate can not be admitted to continue.

## **Section 2 : The thesis committee**

### **Article 14 : Designation and composition**

In the month following the enrolment of the doctoral candidate (unless duly justified by the college) and at the latest one year after their enrolment, the faculty or faculties concerned<sup>15</sup> compose(s) the thesis committee on proposal of the college and with the consent of the doctoral candidate.

The thesis committee is composed of at least three members, including the thesis supervisor.

The members are chosen because of their competence and can not all belong to the research team of the supervisor(s). They must be holders of the title of doctor with thesis, or "agrégé" (qualified) in higher education. In exceptional circumstances that it determines<sup>16</sup>, in particular view of the notoriety of the person concerned, the faculty or faculties concerned<sup>17</sup> may exempt a member of the committee from the condition to hold the title of doctor with thesis or "agrégé" in higher education.

### **Article 15 : Missions**

§1 The thesis committee advises the doctoral candidate in the preparation and writing of their thesis. It meets<sup>18</sup> at least once a year in the presence of the doctoral candidate, who presents the progress of their thesis and doctoral training.

§2 Annually, and no later than 31 May<sup>18bis</sup>, the committee, on the basis of the information provided by the doctoral candidate, submits its report to the doctoral college (see the colleges' regulations

---

<sup>15</sup> Or the Faculty of attachment of the candidate if the rules of the college so provide.

<sup>16</sup> For the Faculty of architecture, derogations to the title of doctor with a thesis must be viewed with greater flexibility, particularly with regard to staff members who are still subject to the ISA statutes.

<sup>17</sup> Or the Faculty of attachment of the candidate if the rules of the college so provide.

<sup>18</sup> For exceptional and justified reasons, a member of the thesis committee or the doctoral student may actively participate via a videoconferencing system.

<sup>18bis</sup> Other than in the event of a postponed deliberation.



for the terms associated with this report) after having informed the doctoral candidate. This report explicitly mentions the date on which the meeting with the thesis committee was held, sets out the thesis committee's reasoned opinion on the state of progress of the doctoral training and the doctoral thesis, and provides the college with a recommendation concerning the doctoral candidate's re-enrolment. If this report is negative, the committee may, by reasoned opinion, recommend to the college not to allow the re-enrolment of the doctoral candidate and must inform the doctoral candidate. In this case, the doctoral candidate can also contact the college in order to be heard before the annual deliberation.

§3 When the progress of the thesis justifies it, and the conditions imposed by the college have been verified (cf. doctoral college's regulations), the committee provides the college with a report approving the submission of the dissertation and suggesting that the doctoral jury be constituted.

§4 The committee ensures that, where applicable, the conditions of confidentiality as stipulated in the contracts are respected without hindering the proper conduct of the research.

### **Section 3 : The doctoral candidate's jury**

#### **Article 16 : Designation and composition of the jury**

§1 On proposal of the college, the faculty or faculties concerned<sup>19</sup> constitute(s) the specific jury of the doctoral candidate and designate(s) the President and the Secretary. The request for jury composition may also be submitted to the faculty or faculties concerned<sup>20</sup> on the initiative of just the doctoral candidate.

In both cases, a report from the thesis committee is attached to the application. This report expresses the collegial opinion of the members of the committee. It is accompanied by any remarks from the doctoral candidate.

§2 (Single regulation of the ARES)

This jury is composed of at least five members with the title of doctor or with a recognition of high scientific or artistic competence in the field.

It is presided over by a member of the academic body<sup>21</sup> of the university, who cannot be the thesis supervisor or co-thesis supervisor of the thesis.

It must include the thesis supervisors of the research work and members from outside the university, chosen on the basis of their particular expertise in the subject of the thesis being defended.

§3 The doctoral candidate's jury can only be formed if the doctoral candidate has successfully completed their doctoral training and is in good standing with respect to his/her registration.

---

<sup>19</sup> Or the Faculty of attachment of the candidate if the rules of the college so provide.

<sup>20</sup> Or the Faculty of attachment of the candidate if the rules of the college so provide.

<sup>21</sup> For the application of this paragraph, permanent scientific members of staff and F.R.S.-FNRS permanent representatives must be part of the academic staff.

## **Article 17 : The moderator**

Each college may appoint a member of the academic body to serve as moderator for a renewable period of two years.

The moderator's mission is to ensure the homogeneity of the assessment criteria. To this end, he/she attends the deliberations of the juries and have a deliberative voice.

## **Chapter VII : (Potential) private defence and thesis defence**

### **Article 18 : Procedure of eligibility for the defence**

If the college's regulations insist upon an eligibility procedure prior to the defence, it will take place as follows :

This procedure must take place at least one month after the jury has been appointed and the provisional text of the candidate's thesis has been sent to all the members of the jury.

The jury is invited to give its opinion on its eligibility for public defence.

- If the jury decides that the thesis is eligible for public defence, the jury, in agreement with the doctoral candidate, proposes to the dean of the faculty(ies) concerned a date for the public defence in accordance with the deadline set in Article 19§1 para.2. The jury informs the doctoral candidate of any points that it would like to see improved before the defence.
- If the jury considers that the thesis isn't eligible for public defence, the jury must set a deadline before jury is consulted again.

The college's regulations specify the terms and the form of the procedure, which include :

- Consultation by email
- Meeting of jury
- Private defence

### **Article 19 : Thesis defence**

§1 No thesis defence can take place if the candidate is not regularly enrolled in the doctorate programme. It must take place no later than September 14<sup>th</sup> of the current academic year. However, in the case of a thesis carried out under joint PhD thesis (cotutelle), on the proposal of the dean(s), the Rector can (exceptionally) allow for the defence of a thesis beyond this date -- without, however, this date set for the defence exceeding 14 November of the calendar year in progress.

In agreement with the thesis supervisor, the dean sets the timetable. Unless waived by the college, the defence of the thesis must be organised :

- at the earliest one month after the appointment of the jury or, if a private defence/consultation of the jury is organised, at least one month after this defence/consultation ;
- no later than three months after that date.

### **Article 20** (Single regulation of the ARES)

§1 At least half of the members of the jury actively participate in the public thesis defence<sup>2221bis</sup>.

§2 Each jury member has one vote and participates in the deliberations in person or via a written assessment.

§3 The deliberations of the special jury take place in a closed session. All members of the jury have the duty to respect the secrecy of the deliberations and voting.

§4 The special jury adjudicates definitively and collectively. The decisions are taken by simple majority. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the determining vote.

§5 The special jury justifies its decision in a defence report that makes reference (at the least) to the criteria set by Article 3.

§6 The decisions of the jury are made public by proclamation, then displayed during at least the fifteen days following the proclamation.

### **Article 21**

§1 The specific jury confers to the doctoral candidate the academic degree of doctor when it finds that the minimum number of credits has been acquired, that the conditions of the study programme have been satisfied, that the access conditions to studies have been satisfied and that the candidate has been regularly enrolled. (single regulation of the ARES)

§2 Within the framework of the deliberation, the jury takes into account, in particular, the following criteria :

- the quality and originality of the dissertation ;
- the quality of the oral presentation ;
- the response to questions during the defence.

§3 The doctoral degree is delivered without mention (single regulation of the ARES).

§4 After the proclamation, the defence report is communicated to the doctoral candidate (single regulation of the ARES).

### **Article 22** (single regulation of the ARES)

---

<sup>21bis</sup> For exceptional and motivated reasons, the active participation of a member of the jury may take place by video conference.

When the doctorate is carried out under joint PhD(cotutelle), the regulation of the specific jury of the doctoral candidate is determined by the joint PhD convention, established in accordance with Article 82 of the Decree of 7 November 2013 defining the landscape of higher education and the academic organisation of studies.

#### **Article 23** Diploma and defence report

§1 Following the deliberation, the secretary of the jury drafts the viva report in two copies signed by the Chair and the secretary of the jury.<sup>21ter</sup>.

A certified copy of this report is included with the diploma. The faculty to which the doctoral candidate is administratively attached keeps the original in its archives.

If the jury decides not to grant the title of doctor, the certified copy of the report is communicated to the candidate within a fortnight of the defence.

§2 The doctoral degree is specified by the title of the thesis defended and by the field or fields to which it is attached.

§3 The doctoral diploma is signed by the President and the secretary of the candidate's specific jury.

### **Chapter VIII : Duration of doctoral studies**

#### **Article 24**

§1 Unless in the case of exceptional circumstances duly noted and accepted by the college, it is not possible to be declared doctor without having been enrolled for three years in doctoral studies.

§2 The doctoral diploma can only be issued if the doctoral candidate has acquired the research training certificate.

### **Chapter IX : General provisions concerning the presentation of the thesis**

#### **Article 25**

§1 The name of the University is found on the cover page. The latter is in line with the model which will be defined by the University and potentially laid out by the college regulation.

§2 The copy page, identical to the cover page, is immediately followed by a brief summary presented in the form of an abstract, in French, in English and, possibly, in one or more other languages, and by a copyright mention.

---

<sup>21ter</sup> In the case where a member of the jury attended the defence by vide oconference, said member will be asked to put his signature on the defence report electronically (scan and email of the document).

§3 An electronic version of the thesis (at least the table of contents and the bibliographical information) will have to be deposited onto the directory of electronic theses of ULiège

(<http://orbi.ULiège.ac.be>) according to the decision of the Board of Directors of ULiège of 5 July 2006.

§4 The references of all publications and scientific papers as well as the full text of all the scientific articles, as soon as they are accepted for publication, as part of the doctorate and doctoral training, must be deposited in ORBi, the institutional repository of ULiège ([ORBi](#)).

## **Chapter X : Joint PhD (Cotutelle), European label and "UniGR" label**

### **Article 26 (Joint PhD)**

Any Joint PhD convention that would be established for a doctorate will need to comply with the convention model framework agreed to by the University.

### **Article 27 (labels)**

#### **Section 1 : European label**

§1 Upon request by the doctoral candidate or their thesis supervisor, the "label" of European doctorate can be bestowed, in addition to the diploma delivered by the University, when the following 4 conditions are met :

- a) the approval of the submission of the dissertation was granted in light of reports by at least two professors from two higher education institutions from two other member states of the European Union ;
- b) a member of the jury must belong to a higher education institution belonging to another Member State of the European Union ;
- c) part of the oral defence must be in an official language of the European Union other than French ;
- d) the doctorate must have been partially prepared during a stay of at least one term in another country of the European Union.

§2 The application must be addressed to the doctoral board, which examines whether the conditions are met.

§3 The attribution of the European doctorate "label" is materialised by the delivery of a certificate signed by the Vice-Rector having research in their missions and bearing the seal of the University. This certificate is attached to the diploma, but separate from it.

## Section 2 : European label « University of the Greater Region »<sup>22</sup> (UniGR)

§1 Upon request from the doctoral candidate or their supervisor, the European label "University of the Greater Region" can be bestowed, in addition to the diploma delivered by the University, when - besides the conditions set out in §1 of section 1 above - the following criteria are respected :

- a) The doctoral training is the subject of a complementary supervision provided by a professor or doctor from another UniGR university in another country ;
- b) During the doctoral training, the doctoral candidate has spent a total cumulative stay of at least six months outside their home university, including at least three months at another university in the Greater Region ;
- c) The doctoral candidate has a transversal skills training of a minimum duration of 16 hours and ideally in a UniGR University other than their home university (training in management, meeting conduct, or languages, for example) ;
- d) The doctoral candidate must demonstrate an experience of international cultural openness in the country of the Greater Region where they have carried out their mobility. To do this, they must produce before the defence of their thesis a document of no more than three pages which consists of a critical analysis of one or more points relating to the culture of this country :  
  
lifestyle, thought, artistic and cultural expression, for example. This document will be validated by the thesis director and the supervisor of the University in which they carry out their mobility ;
- e) A member of the jury must belong to a University of the UniGR network other than their home University.

§2 The doctoral candidate who wishes to obtain the European label "[University of the Greater Region](#)" must submit their application to the "University of the Greater Region" [contact](#) of the University of Liège by means of the [ad hoc form](#).

§3 The attribution of the label is finalised by the issuance of a certificate co-signed by the Rector of the University which delivers the doctoral degree and by the President of the University of the Greater Region.

---

<sup>22</sup> The universities of the Greater Region are as follows : University of Saarlandes, University of Liège, Luxembourg University, University of Lorraine, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, Universität Trier.

## **Chapter XI : Fraud and plagiarism**

### **Article 28**

All fraud detected in the constitution of the admissions application or during registration is punishable, for the candidate, by exclusion from all admissions process in any higher education institution of the French Community whatsoever, during the following five academic years<sup>23</sup>.

### **Article 29**

Any fraud or plagiarism proven in the context of doctoral training or doctoral thesis work leads to adjournment.

Disciplinary measures that may extend all the way to exclusion from the University may also be taken against the doctoral candidate<sup>24</sup>.

## **Chapter XII : University life - Rights and Duties of candidates**

### **Article 30**

§1 Chapter IV "University Life - Rights and Duties of Candidates" of the general regulation of studies and exams applies to doctoral candidates.

§2 In addition, the regulation regarding the ownership, protection and exploitation of results of research conducted within the University of Liège ([https://www.enseignement.uliege.be/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-06/e\\_reglement\\_pi.pdf](https://www.enseignement.uliege.be/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-06/e_reglement_pi.pdf) and [https://www.uliege.be/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-06/annexe\\_1\\_valorisation-19.04.2017.pdf](https://www.uliege.be/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-06/annexe_1_valorisation-19.04.2017.pdf)) apply to doctoral students.

## **Chapter XIII : Appeals available to the doctoral candidate**

### **Article 31**

The doctoral candidate may appeal to the college for any dispute with their thesis committee, thesis supervisor or jury. They submit their reasoned request by letter (or email) to the President of the college and, if this individual is concerned, to the Vice-President.

After having sought out the opinions that it judges opportune and having heard the doctoral candidate, the college takes position at the latest within two months of being consulted and thus informs the doctoral candidate in writing of its decision.

---

<sup>23</sup> Article 98 of 7 November 2012 "In case of fraud during registration, the student immediately loses their quality of regularly enrolled student, as well as all rights related to this quality and the effects of rights tied to the successful completion of exams during the academic year concerned. The registration fees paid to the higher education institution are definitively acquired by the institution.

<sup>24</sup> Article 60 of the law of 28 April 1953.

The decisions of the college may be subject to an appeal through the [doctoral board](#). This appeal must be lodged with the President of the board and, if he/she is concerned, with the Vice-President, within fifteen days of receipt of the college's decision.

## **Chapter XIV : Equivalences**

### **Article 32**

§1 The holder of a doctoral degree with thesis issued by a foreign higher education institution who wishes to obtain the equivalence of their diploma must submit their request to the admissions and registration department. The admissions and registration department transfers, after administrative verification, the file to the doctoral college.

§2 The equivalence is within the competence of the college, of the candidate's field of research. In case of agreement, the applicant is given an equivalence decision signed by the President of the College, the Vice-President of the College and the Rector.

The procedures for the possible designation of the reader(s) of the thesis responsible for reporting to the college are set by the college.

## **Chapter XV : College regulations**

### **Article 33**

§1 Each college adopts, in compliance with the rules defined by the decree and this regulation, an internal doctoral regulation setting out the procedures for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies that fall within its competence.

§2 This regulation is approved by the faculty or faculties concerned and transmitted to the Board of Directors for ratification, after opinion from the doctoral board.

§3 pursuant to §1, the regulation of the college can include :

- a) possible particular prerequisites required for admission to the programme;
- b) the language of the thesis and that of the defence;
- c) the form of the thesis (cf. Article 2), the material requirements of the doctorate (number of pages, location and deposit of the thesis...) and the possible expectations in terms of publication ;
- d) the possible requirement of a private defence or a prior consultation of the jury and its terms;
- e) the frequency of meetings of the thesis committees and the jury;
- f) the possible modalities of designation of the readers in the context of applications for equivalence.



When the college is part of several faculties, it specifies to which faculty doctoral candidate is attached.

The college may decide within itself on the creation of specific committees and determine the skills of these.

## **Chapter XVI : Entry into force**

### **Article 34**

The present regulation enters into force for the 2019-2020 academic year.