Regulation No. 26/2026

Preamble

The General Regulatory Rules for Doctoral Programmes of Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa were revised, approved and published under Regulation No. 1285/2025 of 9 December (Diário da República, Series II, No. 245, of 22 December), thereby updating the regulatory framework governing Iscte's doctoral study cycles.

Following the development and approval of the specific regulatory rules for each doctoral programme, the need was identified to introduce clarifications into the general rules in order to ensure coherence and harmonization between the various regulatory instruments. Among the changes introduced, particular emphasis is placed on the clarification of the competences of governing bodies, the guidelines for the appointment of supervisors, the documentation required in the procedural handling of processes and the rules applicable to requests for embargo on thesis publication.

In light of this need, and following approval by the Plenary of the Scientific Council at its meeting of 21 October 2025, I hereby ratify, under the terms of Article 30 of the Statutes of Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, the General Regulatory Rules for Doctoral Programmes of Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, which are published below.

23 December 2025. — The Rector of Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues.

General Regulation for Doctoral Programs at Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

Doctoral Degree

1 - The doctoral degree is awarded by Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, hereinafter referred to as Iscte, in a field of knowledge or a specialty thereof, to those who demonstrate:

a) The ability to systematically comprehend a scientific domain of study;

b) Skills, aptitudes and research methods associated with a scientific domain;

c) The ability to conceive, design, adapt and conduct meaningful research in compliance with the requirements imposed by standards of academic quality and integrity;

d) The completion of a significant body of original research that has contributed to expanding the frontiers of knowledge, part of which has been disseminated nationally or internationally in peer-reviewed publications;

e) The ability to critically analyze, evaluate and synthesize new and complex ideas;

f) The ability to communicate with peers, the broader academic community and society in general regarding their area of specialization;

g) The ability to promote technological, social and cultural progress in academic or professional contexts, within a knowledge-based society.

2 - The doctoral degree is conferred in a field of knowledge and, where applicable, in a specific specialty within that field.

Article 2

Structure of the Study Cycle

1 - The study cycle leading to the doctoral degree, hereinafter referred to as the doctorate, shall be primarily aimed at guided learning in advanced research and

development (R&D) and may include, when justified by the relevant specific regulations, the completion of curricular units aimed at training for research and/or the development of complementary skills, in accordance with n^{er} 3 of Article 31 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006, as amended.

2 - Where applicable, the set of curricular units referred to in the previous number is designated as a doctoral programme.

3 - The doctoral degree also includes the completion of an original thesis specifically prepared for this purpose, appropriate to the nature of the field of knowledge or its specialization, and contributing to the expansion of the frontiers of knowledge.

4 - The thesis referred to above must be submitted in one of the following formats: a monograph or a compilation of articles.

5 - The study cycle also provides for supplementary and complementary training tailored to each student's profile, in accordance with Article 4 of this regulation.

Article 3

Doctoral Programme

1 - The doctoral programme is an advanced training programme in the scientific area of the doctorate, and it may consist of curricular units appropriate for research training and, as a general rule, cannot exceed 60 ECTS credits.

2 - The doctoral programme aims to promote advanced specialization, autonomous research and the deepening of scientific knowledge and practices in the field of the doctoral degree, aiming at producing original and relevant work to the scientific community.

3 - The conditions under which attendance may be waived are established by the specific regulations of each doctoral program.

4 - The final grade for the doctoral programme is expressed on a scale from 10 to 20, computed as the weighted average of the grades obtained in the various curricular units according to their respective ECTS credits, and rounded to the nearest unit.

5 - The publication of classifications is carried out according to the terms of the standards in force at Iscte.

6 - Concluding a doctoral programme leading to the degree of Doctor grants the right to receive a Diploma of Advanced Studies.

Article 4

Supplementary and Complementary Training

1 – The doctorate provides for the possibility of supplementary and complementary training tailored to each student's profile, up to a maximum of 30 ECTS credits, of which 18 ECTS credits correspond to supplementary training and 12 ECTS credits to complementary training.

2 - Supplementary training includes curricular units selected from the existing educational offerings at Iscte, duly approved by the Scientific Committee of the Doctorate, provided that appropriate training is ensured to meet each student's initial educational needs.

3 - Supplementary training must be identified during the candidate evaluation process and must be successfully completed for enrolment in the thesis.

4 - The specific regulations for each doctorate must specify the requirements for completing this supplementary training.

5 - Complementary training includes curricular units selected by the student from the existing educational offerings at Iscte, either on their own initiative or upon the recommendation of their supervisor(s) and/or the Director of the doctoral programme.

6 - Complementary training is not limited to the first year of the doctoral degree and may be undertaken during the second or third years if deemed relevant to the student's research.

7 - Supplementary and complementary training will be certified as extracurricular and included in the diploma supplement.

Article 5

Scientific and Pedagogical Monitoring

1 - The scientific monitoring of the doctorate falls under the jurisdiction of the Scientific Committee of the Doctorate and the Scientific Committee of the School(s) and Research Unit(s) in which the doctorate belongs, in accordance with their respective regulations.

2 – The pedagogical monitoring of the doctoral program falls under the jurisdiction of the Pedagogical Committee of the School in which the doctoral degree is integrated.

CHAPTER II

COORDINATION OF THE DOCTORATE

Article 6

Doctorate Director

1 - The doctorate is led by a Director, in accordance with the Regulation on the Duties and Positions of Iscte Faculty and Researchers.

2 - Any tenured faculty member at Iscte holding a doctoral degree and considered academically qualified and specialised in the field of knowledge or specialty of the doctorate can be appointed as director of the doctorate.

3 - The Director of the doctorate is appointed and dismissed by the School Director, upon consultation of the respective School's Scientific Committee, in accordance with the regulations in force.

4 - The Doctorate Director may appoint specialty coordinators, where they exist, to assist him or her.

5 - The coordinators of the specializations are appointed and dismissed by the Director of the doctorate, upon consultation with the Scientific Committee of the doctorate, and perform the duties delegated to them by the director.

6 - The Doctorate Director is also assisted by the Scientific Committee of the doctorate.

Article 7

Responsibilities of the Doctorate Director

The Doctorate Director has the responsibilities set forth in the Iscte Regulation on the Duties and Positions of Faculty and Researchers.

Article 8

Doctorate's Scientific Committee

1 - The Doctorate's Scientific Committee is composed by the Doctorate Director, who serves as chair with a casting vote, and from two to eight members.

2 - The members of the Doctorate's Scientific Committee are the coordinators of the specializations, when they exist, the director(s) of the research unit(s) associated with the doctorate or their representatives, and other faculty members or supervisors, appointed and dismissed by the Doctorate Director.

3 - Other professors and researchers from Iscte, as well as representatives from other entities with which the doctorate has collaborative relationships, may also be invited to participate in the meetings of the Doctorate's Scientific Committee.

4 - The Director is required to consult the Doctorate's Scientific Committee on the domains specified in the current regulatory standards.

Article 9

Responsibilities of the Doctorate's Scientific Committee

1 - The Doctorate's Scientific Committee is responsible for the academic oversight of the doctoral programme, together with the Scientific Committee(s) of the School(s) and Research Unit(s) in which the doctorate belongs.

2 - The Doctorate's Scientific Committee is responsible, in particular, for:

a) Providing opinions on proposals to amend the doctorate's specific regulatory standards;

b) Providing opinions on proposals to amend the doctorate's curriculum;

c) Providing opinions on the specific criteria for the selection and ranking of doctoral candidates;

d) Approving the set of curricular units offered as supplementary training;

e) Approving the proposals for doctoral supervisors, taking into account the research topic and the student's preferences as registered in the academic management system;

f) Providing opinions on the composition of the evaluation panels for doctoral research projects;

g) Reviewing and deciding on requests for change of supervisor(s) and research topic, when duly justified;

h) Providing opinions on the composition of doctoral examination committees.

Article 10

Application Analysis Committee

1 - The Application Analysis Committee is appointed by the Doctorate Director from among the members of the Doctorate's Scientific Committee.

2 - The Application Analysis Committee is responsible, in particular, for:

a) Approving the selection and ranking criteria, following consultation with the Doctorate's Scientific Committee, prior to the opening of the application period;

b) Selecting and ranking doctoral candidates;

c) Identifying the curricular units to be taken as part of each student's supplementary training.

CHAPTER III

DOCTORATE ADMISSION

Article 11

Admission and Access Conditions

1 - The following may apply for admission to the study cycle leading to a doctoral degree:

a) Holders of a master's degree or its legal equivalent;

b) Holders of a bachelor's degree or its legal equivalent, with an academic or scientific background of particular relevance that is recognised as demonstrating the ability to complete this study cycle;

c) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional background that is recognised as demonstrating the ability to undertake this study cycle.

2 - The recognition referred to in b) and c) of the preceding number serves solely for the purpose of admission to the doctorate and does not confer equivalence to, or recognition of, a bachelor's or master's degree

3 - The specific regulations for each doctorate establish the specific admission requirements, taking into account the provisions of the preceding numbers.

Article 12

Vacancies and Deadlines

The vacancies and deadlines for applications, enrollment and registration are set annually by the Rector.

Article 13

Application Rules

1 - Applications must be submitted online and must include the following documents:

a) Curriculum vitae;

b) Copies of certificates for all academic qualifications, along with the respective classifications;

c) Official transcript listing all curricular units and grades;

d) Digital photograph;

e) Copy of the identification document or equivalent document;

f) Copy of the taxpayer card or equivalent document;

g) Letter of motivation.

2 - Holders of certificates or diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions must ensure that the submitted documents:

a) Indicate the final grade classification obtained upon completion of the degree and the corresponding grading scale;

b) Are accompanied by a document certifying the curricular units completed, their respective classification, and the duration of the programme;

c) Are accompanied by a certified translation whenever they are in a foreign language other than Spanish, French, English or Italian.

3 - The specific regulatory standards for each doctorate may require the submission of additional documents, as soon as it is justified by the program's specific admission criteria.

4 - The application is considered accepted only after payment of the application fee.

Article 14

Selection and Ranking Criteria

1 - Candidates are selected and ranked by the Application Analysis Committee according to the criteria it has approved and the specific regulations of each doctorate, which must always take into account the following criteria:

a) Academic curriculum, especially the fields of study and obtained in bachelor's and master's degrees;

b) Scientific curriculum, especially research experience and publications;

c) Professional experience.

2 - The specific regulations for each doctorate may include additional criteria deemed relevant.

3 - Each candidate's final classification is expressed on a numerical integer scale from 0 to 20.

4 - The results of the selection and ranking process are communicated to candidates in accordance with Iscte's application calendar.

Article 15

Enrollment, Registration and Tuition Fees

1 – Admitted candidates must proceed to their online enrollment and registration, within the deadlines established in Iscte's application calendar.

2 - Registration takes place annually through the academic management system, within the deadlines set in the academic calendar.

3 - The applicable fees are those defined in accordance with the regulations in force.

4 - After enrollment and initial registration, the student must submit to the competent offices, as proof, the originals or certified copies of the documents submitted during the application process.

5 - Enrolment in the doctoral programme may be on a part-time basis, in accordance with the regulations in force

6 - Registration in the second academic year is governed by the conditions set forth in the specific regulations of each doctoral programme.

7 - Registration in subsequent academic years requires:

a) Successful completion of all ECTS credits for the doctoral programme;

b) Approval of the annual research progress report, in accordance with n^{er} 3 of Article 23 of this regulation.

CHAPTER IV

SUPERVISION

Article 16

Definition and Scope

1 - The doctorate must be carried out under the supervision of at least one professor or researcher holding a doctoral degree, who is responsible for:

a) Supervising the student in the preparation of the doctoral research project;

b) Participating in the evaluation panel for the doctoral research project;

c) Supervising the student throughout the research leading to the preparation of the thesis;

d) Supervising the student in the writing of the thesis;

e) Providing an opinion on the student's annual progress report;

f) Providing an opinion on the suitability of the thesis for public defense.

2 - The supervisory team is limited to a maximum of three supervisors.

3 - A supervisor may serve as a member of the doctoral jury.

4 - At least one of the supervisors belonging to the supervisory team must be a professor or a researcher with a doctoral degree from Iscte, although they are not required to belong to the Research Unit associated with the doctorate.

Article 17

Appointment of the Supervisor and Proposal of the Thesis Topic

1 - The proposal for supervisor(s) and thesis topic must be submitted by the student through the academic management system up to 30 days before the deadline for submitting the doctoral project, as defined annually in Iscte's academic calendar, following consultation with the Doctorate Director.

2 - The submission of the thesis topic proposal must be accompanied by an explicit statement from the student indicating whether data collection will require ethical approval by the competent Ethics Committee(s).

3 - The Doctorate Director appoints the supervisor(s) and the host research unit, subject to approval by the Doctorate's Scientific Committee, up to 15 days before the deadline set for the submission of the doctoral project, in accordance with the Regulation on the Functions and Positions of Iscte Faculty and Researchers.

4 - The proposal of supervisor(s) submitted by the student may only be rejected if it do not meet the conditions established in Article 16.

5 - The supervisor(s) formally accept the supervision upon approval in the academic management system.

6 - In cases of re-entry or new enrolment for the completion of the doctoral project, the student must resubmit a proposal for supervision, repeating the procedure outlined in the preceding points.

7 - A change of supervisor(s) requires the student to resubmit a proposal for supervision, as well as a statement of consent from the supervisor(s) involved.

Article 18

Supervision Guidelines

1 - Doctoral supervision includes the preparation and review of work carried out by the student, as well as regular meetings with the supervisor(s).

2 - The supervision activities referred to in the preceding number may only take place if the student's enrollment in the doctoral program is duly regularised.

3 - The meetings referred to in n^{er} 1 may take place in person or remotely.

4 - Supervision activities must ensure compliance with the supervision time allocated for this purpose as defined in the specific regulations of the doctoral programme, as well as in Iscte's regulations on the distribution and evaluation of teaching duties.

CHAPTER V

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH WORK

Article 19

Composition of the Evaluation Panel

1 - The evaluation panel for the doctoral project is composed by:

a) One of the supervisors;

b) Two professors or researchers holding a doctoral degree, or specialists of recognized merit, both from the field in which the research is conducted, one of whom should preferably be external to Iscte.

2 - The members of the panel referred to in the previous number are appointed by the Doctorate Director, upon consultation of the supervisor(s) and the Doctorate's Scientific Committee.

3 - The evaluation panel is chaired by the internal member of the jury, excluding the supervisor.

Article 20

Responsibilities of the Evaluation Panel

1 - The Evaluation Panel is responsible for evaluating the doctoral research project in a public session and proposing any necessary changes or corrections.

2 - The chair of the Evaluation Panel is responsible for drafting the detailed minutes of the public session, including a reasoned justification of the decision.

Article 21

Submission and Public Evaluation Session of the Doctoral Research Project

1 - The doctoral research project must be submitted by the student through the academic management system by the deadline established annually in Iscte's academic calendar, or by the deadline established annually by the Doctorate Director.

2 - The public evaluation session for the doctoral research project must take place within a maximum of 45 working days after the project submission deadline, which is set annually by Iscte.

3 - The date of the public evaluation session for the doctoral research project must be duly published by the competent offices and communicated to the student at least five working days in advance.

4 - The public evaluation session has a maximum extent of 60 minutes, including the student's presentation of the project and the evaluation panel's intervention.

5 - The student should be granted an equal amount of time for responses as that used by the members of the evaluation panel.

6 - At the end of the session, the panel decides whether to approve or reject the doctoral research project.

7 - Minutes of the public session are drawn up and signed by all members of the panel, including the justification for the decision.

Article 22

Registration of the Topic and Supervisor(s)

1 - Once the doctoral proposal has been approved, the topic and the supervisor(s) of the doctoral thesis must be formally registered as a prerequisite for enrollment in the thesis.

2 - The competent departments shall, in accordance with the law, communicate the registration details of the doctoral thesis to the entity responsible for the National Registry of Doctoral Theses.

3 - The registration of the doctoral thesis is valid for the duration of the thesis's preparation.

Article 23

Supervision of Research Work

1 - Upon approval and registration of the doctoral thesis, the student will be assigned to a research unit where they will conduct the research leading to the completion of the thesis.

2 - The activities organized for the purpose of monitoring the research work referred to in the preceding number are defined in the specific regulations of each doctoral program.

3 - Annually, the student submits a progress report through the academic management system, which is evaluated by the supervisor(s) and the Doctorate Director, in accordance with procedures to be defined in the specific regulations of each doctoral program, in line with the academic calendar set annually by Iscte.

4 - At the same time as submitting the progress report, the student may update the information previously provided regarding the collection of data that requires ethical approval by the competent Ethics Committee(s).

CHAPTER VI

THESIS

Article 24

Language

1 - The thesis may be written in Portuguese or English.

2 - The specific regulations for each doctoral programme may also allow for the use of other languages.

3 - The thesis must always be accompanied by abstracts in Portuguese and English, as well as in the language used in its drafting when submitted in another language.

Article 25

Presentation

1 - The maximum length of the thesis is 700.000 characters, including spaces, and excluding bibliographic references and any appendices.

2 - The specific regulations for each doctoral program may establish minimum or maximum limits other than those set out in the preceding number.

3 - The thesis must be formatted in accordance with Iscte's Graphic Harmonization Standards, as well as with the specific regulations of each doctoral programme.

Article 26

Specific provisions for theses in the form of a collection of articles

1 - Pursuant to Article 31 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of March 24, as currently amended, the thesis referred to in Article 2 of these regulations may be submitted in the form of a properly structured compilation of a coherent and relevant set of original research works authored by the student.

2 - The compilation provided for in the preceding number must be submitted in the thesis format approved by the Scientific Council and must contain:

a) A general introduction authored by the student which contextualizes, articulates, and integrates the different articles, highlighting the scientific coherence of the research path undertaken, the overall contribution to knowledge in the field, and the student's critical and reflective capacity;

b) A set of at least three articles, already published in journals with selection committees of recognized merit by the Doctoral Scientific Committee, produced during the period of enrollment in the doctoral programme;

c) A chapter summarizing the conclusions and identifying the innovative contributions made exclusively by the student.

3 - The student must be the sole author, first author or corresponding author on at least two of the published articles.

4 - The specific regulations of each doctoral program may require a greater number of publications under the conditions referred to in the preceding number, as well as limits on the number of co-authors.

5 - Each article may only be included in a single doctoral thesis; it is not permissible to include the same article in two separate theses, even in cases of co-authorship among students.

6 - In cases where an article is co-authored by several doctoral students, only the student who made the predominant contribution to the conception, development and writing may include the article in their thesis, as acknowledged in the statement referred to in n^{er} 7 of this article.

7 - Whenever the student is not the sole author of an article, a statement of individual contributions, signed by all co-authors, must be submitted for review by the Scientific Council, clearly specifying:

a) The role played by the student in each article;

b) Acknowledging the student's predominant contribution to the conception, development, and writing of each article, as defined by the Scientific Council.

8 - Theses submitted in the form of a collection of articles are also subject to all requirements applicable to theses in monographic format.

Article 27

Submission

1 - Once the thesis has been completed, the student must request the examination by submitting an application to the Rector, indicating the desired thesis format (monograph or compilation of articles).

2 - The request submitted through the academic management system must be accompanied by the following items:

a) A digital copy of the thesis, as a provisional version which may still be subject to corrections and changes requested by the examination committee at its first meeting or in its final decision;

b) A digital copy of the thesis abstract, including up to ten keywords in Portuguese and English;

c) A digital copy of the curriculum vitae;

d) A statement from the supervisor(s) confirming that the thesis is in suitable condition to be defended in a public examination;

e) A declaration from the student attesting that the submitted text is their exclusive authorship, that all use of external contributions or texts is properly referenced, and that any use of artificial intelligence tools is expressly declared, described in detail, limited to support functions, and carried out in accordance with the applicable standards of academic and scientific integrity;

f) A declaration of honour in which the student states that he/she has acted in accordance with Iscte's code of ethical conduct.

3 – In the case of a thesis submitted in the form of a compilation of articles, a statement of individual contributions must also be provided for each included article, in accordance with nº 7 of Article 26 of this regulation.

4 – The student may only request the scheduling of the public examination for the defence of the thesis when all of the following conditions are met:

a) Completion of the doctoral programme;

b) Approval in the curricular units required as supplementary training, when applicable;

c) A valid favourable opinion from the competent Ethics Committee(s), whenever applicable;

d) Completion of three or four effective years of enrolment, depending on the official duration of the doctoral programme.

5 – In doctoral programmes lasting four years, corresponding to 240 ECTS credits, a full-time student may, on an exceptional basis, request the scheduling of the public defence of the thesis after completing three effective years of enrolment.

6 – For students enrolled on a part-time basis, the enrolment period will be converted into its full-time equivalent for the purposes of compliance with point (d) of nº 4, as well as for the exceptional case referred to in the preceding number.

Article 28

Special submission regime

1 — Candidates who meet the conditions for admission to the doctoral programme may request the submission of a thesis for public defence without being enrolled in that programme.

2 — The Scientific Council is responsible for deciding on the request after assessing:

a) the applicant's curriculum;

b) The suitability of the thesis in relation to the requirements for the award of the doctoral degree, in accordance with the law and with this regulation.

3 — The assessment referred to in the preceding number must be supported by two reports issued by professors holding a doctoral degree in the field of knowledge or specialisation of the relevant doctoral programme, appointed by the President of the Scientific Council, with at least one of whom must be external to Iscte.

4 — All other general requirements for submitting and processing the request for the public defence of the thesis shall apply.

Article 29

Processing of the procedure

1 — The competent administrative services shall verify compliance with the formal requirements for holding the public doctoral examinations, including the conformity of the thesis with the general and specific rules governing its submission.

2 — Whenever the process is not properly completed, the competent services shall notify the student, who then have five working days from the date of notification to make the necessary corrections.

3 — Properly completed processes are sent to the Rector within five working days from the date of the request for the public examinations or from the receipt of the requested corrections.

CHAPTER VII

JURY AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Article 30

Appointment of the jury

1 — The jury shall be appointed by the Rector, upon proposal of the Scientific Council, within 30 working days after the submission of the thesis.

2 — The order appointing the jury shall be communicated in writing to the members of the jury and to the student within five working days.

Article 31

Composition of the Jury

1 — The doctoral examination jury shall be composed of:

a) The highest-ranking official of the higher education institution, who serves as Chair, or a person designated by them for this purpose;

b) A minimum of four members holding a doctoral degree, which may include the supervisor as one of the members.

2 — At least two of the members referred to in point b) of n^{er} 1 must be selected from among professors or doctoral researchers belonging to other higher education or research institutions, whether national or foreign.

3 — The jury may also include an individual of recognized competence in the scientific field to which the thesis relates.

4 — The jury must not include professors or researchers who have co-authored articles with the student during the period in which the thesis was carried out.

Article 32

Procedure

1 — Once the jury has been appointed, its composition shall be publicly disclosed and communicated to the student by email, with a read receipt, within five working days.

2 — The student may, within ten days following the notification referred to in the preceding number, challenge any member of the jury on grounds of conflict of interest, under the applicable legislation.

3 — The assessment of the conflict of interest and any resulting modification of the jury's composition shall be the responsibility of the Rector, after consulting the bodies that are statutorily competent and were involved in preparing the original proposal. A preliminary decision must be issued within 15 working days following receipt of the request referred to in the preceding number, and it shall be communicated to the student and publicly disclosed under the terms of n^{er} 1 of this article.

Article 33

Operation of the Jury

1 — The jury may only convene, deliberate and conduct the public examinations if at least the Chair and four members are present, and at least two of those members must be professors and/or doctoral researchers from other national or foreign higher education or research institutions.

2 — Jury meetings may be held in person or remotely, provided that this is previously approved by the Chair of the jury.

3 — Jury decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of its members by means of a reasoned nominal vote, and abstentions shall not be permitted.

4 — The Chair of the jury may participate in the decision when they are a specialist in the scientific field of the thesis.

5 — In the event of a tie, the Chair of the jury shall participate in the decision and shall have a casting vote.

6 — Minutes shall be drawn up for all jury meetings, recording the votes of each member and their respective justification, which may be common to all or to some members.

7 — It is the responsibility of the Chair of the jury to convene and preside over the meetings, as well as to communicate all decisions to the student, the Doctorate Director and the competent administrative services.

8 — Jury meetings and public examinations shall be supported by the competent administrative services, which shall provide the Chair with all necessary assistance for the performance of their duties.

9 — The competent administrative services shall ensure the logistical conditions required for the meetings and public examinations, including the travel and reception of external jury members, as well as any preliminary tests to be carried out prior to the public examination.

Article 34

First Meeting of the Jury

1 — The first meeting of the jury shall take place within a maximum of 30 working days after its appointment by the Rector, in order to deliberate on:

a) The acceptance of the thesis for public discussion, which corresponds to the admission of the student to the public doctoral examinations;

b) The need for revising the thesis within a maximum of 20 working days from the date of the jury's deliberation, and such revision shall include the corrections and minor amendments recommended by the jury;

c) The rejection of the submitted version of the thesis, together with the necessary recommendations to enable the student to revise and resubmit it within a maximum of 90 working days from the date of the jury's deliberation, in a version suitable for acceptance for public discussion;

d) The outright rejection of the thesis, which corresponds to the student's failure in the doctoral programme.

2 — If no formal meeting of the jury takes place, whether in person or by digital means, it must be ensured that all members issue an individual, reasoned opinion on the acceptance or rejection of the thesis.

3 — Final acceptance of the thesis under point b) of n^{er} 1 of this Article is subject to verification by the Chair of the jury that the submitted version complies with the corrections and minor amendments recommended by the jury:

a) Such Verification shall take place within five working days from the date of submission of the revised version;

b) Confirmation that the submitted version complies with the recommended corrections and amendments results in the student's admission to the public doctoral examinations.

4 — The rejection of the thesis under point c) of n^{er} 1 of this Article requires the jury to meet again to deliberate on the submission of the new version and related matters. For this purpose, the deadlines and procedural rules applicable to a first submission shall apply, with the exception of those concerning the appointment of the jury.

5 — During the meeting, the members of the jury shall have access to the student's doctoral process records.

6 — Having decided to accept the thesis for public discussion, the jury shall then proceed to:

a) Schedule the public examinations, which must take place within 60 working days from the date of the student's admission;

b) Determine the time allocated to the student for the presentation of the thesis or compilation of articles, which may not exceed 30 minutes;

c) Determine the duration and order of the interventions of all jury members.

Article 35

Public Examinations

1 — The date of the public examinations shall be published on the Iscte portal by the competent administrative services and communicated to the student at least 20 working days in advance.

2 — It is the responsibility of the chair of the jury to preside over the public defence of the thesis, ensuring the orderly conduct and allocation of speaking time, in accordance with what was established at the first meeting of the jury

3 — The examinations shall not, under any circumstances, exceed a duration of three hours, including the time allocated for the student's initial presentation.

4 — Where time allows, the Chair of the jury may allow interventions from the audience.

5 — During the examinations, Portuguese and/or English may be used.

6 — The specific regulations of each doctoral programme may also allow the use of languages other than Portuguese and English.

7 — Exceptionally, one or more members of the jury may participate in the examinations by electronic means enabling remote communication, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

a) This form of participation has been approved in advance by the Chair of the jury and communicated to the student and the competent administrative services at least five working days beforehand, thereby ensuring its implementation;

b)The means of remote communication shall allow two-way audio and visual interaction between the student and the remote member(s);

C) The communication shall be accessible to all members of the jury and to the audience.

Article 36

Jury Deliberation and Final Qualification

1 — Immediately after the conclusion of the public examinations, the jury shall meet in private to decide on the student's approval and the qualification to be awarded.

2 — The jury's decision shall take into account the grades obtained in the curricular units of the doctoral programme, when applicable, the annual assessments of the progress reports and the merit of the thesis as evaluated during the public examination.

3 — The final qualification shall be expressed using one of the following classifications:

a) Failed;

b) Approved.

4 — If the classification *Approved* is awarded unanimously, the jury may additionally grant the distinction *With Distinction*, by majority or unanimity.

5 — The specific regulations of each doctoral programme shall define the conditions for granting the distinction *With Distinction*.

6 — Once the deliberation on the student's approval and the qualification to be awarded is concluded, the jury shall communicate the result to the student publicly.

7 — In the event of approval, and without prejudice to the decision taken, the jury may also determine in writing that the student introduce specific amendments to the final version of the thesis or compilation of articles, aimed at improving it and arising from the public discussion, within a maximum of 15 working days.

8 — The amendments referred to in the previous number shall be strictly formal and/or editorial in nature, intended solely to improve clarity of presentation. They may include the correction of minor errors, the integration of references or additional clarifications, or minor revisions to the articulation between chapters or articles, but they may not involve substantial modifications to the objectives, methodology, resultss or conclusions of the work.

Article 37

Final Version of the Thesis

1 — Approval of the final version shall be the responsibility of the chair of the jury.

2 — Once the final version has been approved, the student shall submit:

a) One printed copy for legal deposit at the National Library, via the competent administrative services;

b) One copy in digital format and medium, in accordance with Iscte's Graphic Harmonization Standards, for deposit in Iscte's digital archive and in the ministry's body responsible for the registration and archiving of theses, within the academic management system;

c) A declaration regarding the deposit of the thesis in the Iscte Repository, within the academic management system;

d) An embargo request, if applicable, accompanied by a favourable opinion from the supervisor(s) and supporting documentation justifying the need for the embargo.

3 — The competent administrative services shall ensure the delivery of the final version to relevant recipients, as well as the copying and deposit of the digital version:

a) In Iscte's digital thesis archive;

b) In the documentation services, namely for the purpose of making it available in the Iscte repository.

Article 38

Embargo on the Public Disclosure of the Thesis

1 — The public disclosure of the thesis may be subject to a temporary embargo, on duly justified grounds related to the protection of intellectual property, namely for the purpose of filing a patent application or other industrial property rights.

2 — The embargo request is submitted by the student, accompanied by a favourable opinion from the supervisor(s) and supporting documentation justifying the need for the embargo, at the time the final version of the thesis is delivered.

3 — The embargo shall be granted by decision of the competent Iscte body, for a fixed period, under the applicable regulations, and may not exceed the maximum period established by law.

4 — The embargo does not affect the approval of the final version of the thesis nor its deposit for legal and institutional purposes; it only restricts its public availability.

5 — Once the embargo period has expired, the thesis shall be made publicly available in accordance with the general applicable rules, without the need for a new decision.

CHAPTER VIII

TITLES AND DIPLOMAS

Article 39

Registration of Degrees and Diplomas

1 — The awarding of the doctoral degree by Iscte shall be certified by a registration certificate with a unique number, commonly referred to as the doctoral diploma, and also, for students who request it, by the doctoral letter.

2 — The issuance of the doctoral diploma, as well as its diploma supplement and the doctoral letter, is conditional upon the student fulfilling all of the following conditions:

a) Approval in the public examinations;

b) Approval of the final version of the thesis;

c) Submission of the required copies of the final version under the terms of these regulations;

d) Absence of any outstanding debt to Iscte.

3 — Successful completion of the doctoral programme shall be certified by a registration certificate with a unique number, commonly referred to as the advanced studies diploma.

4 — The issuance of the advanced studies diploma is conditional upon the student fulfilling all of the following conditions:

a) Approval in all curricular units that form part of the doctoral programme;

b) Approval in any supplementary training curricular units, when applicable;

c) Absence of any outstanding debt to Iscte.

5 — The issuance of the doctoral diploma, the doctoral letter and the advanced studies diploma is subject to the fees established by Iscte's Management Council.

Article 40

Advanced Studies Diploma

1 — The advanced studies diploma must include the following information:

a) The title of the doctoral programme;

b) The number of ECTS credits of the doctoral programme;

c) The date of completion of the doctoral programme;

d) The final classification obtained by the student in the doctoral programme;

e) The title and number of ECTS credits of each curricular unit;

f) The classification obtained by the student in each curricular unit;

g) The student's full name;

h) The type and number of the student's identification document;

i) The student's nationality;

j) The date of issue of the diploma;

k) The name, position and signature of the person responsible for issuing the diploma.

2 — The advanced studies diploma shall be issued within 15 working days of its request, provided that all conditions for its issuance have been met.

Article 41

Doctoral Diploma

1 — The doctoral diploma must include the following information:

a) The title of the doctoral degree and, where applicable, its specialisation;

b) The date on which the public examinations were held;

c) The final qualification obtained by the student for the doctoral degree;

d) The student's full name;

e) The type and number of the student's identification document;

f) The student's nationality;

g) The date of issue of the diploma;

h) The name, position and signature of the person responsible for issuing the diploma.

2 — Supplementary and complementary training must be included in the diploma supplement, with the corresponding curricular units certified as extracurricular.

3 — The doctoral diploma and its corresponding diploma supplement shall be issued within 15 working days of the request, provided that all conditions for their issuance have been met.

Article 42

Doctoral Letter

1 — The doctoral letter must include the following information:

a) The title of the doctoral degree and, where applicable, its specialisation;

b) The date on which the public examinations took place;

c) The final qualification obtained by the student for the doctoral degree;

d) The student's full name;

e) The type and number of the student's identification document;

f) The student's nationality;

g) The date of issue of the doctoral letter;

h) The name and signature of the Rector;

i) The name, position and signature of the person responsible for issuing the doctoral letter.

2 — The doctoral letter is issued within 30 working days of the request, provided that all conditions for its issuance have been satisfied.

CHAPTER IX

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 43

Plagiarism, Fraud, and Copying

1 — In all written work submitted for assessment, including the thesis, the student must declare that the text presented is their own original work, that all use of external contributions or texts is properly referenced, and that any use of artificial intelligence tools is explicitly declared, described in detail, restricted to support functions, and conducted in accordance with the applicable academic and scientific integrity standards.

2 — The submitted thesis shall undergo plagiarism verification, using the tools adopted for this purpose, at two stages: first, after the student submits the thesis, and second, prior to the document's public release.

3 — Any instance of plagiarism, copying, or other form of false authorship in an assessment component shall result in its immediate annulment, and the matter shall be reported to the Rector for disciplinary action, in accordance with the Academic Code of Conduct.

Article 44

Joint Doctoral Programmes

1 — Iscte may establish partnerships with other higher education institutions, whether national or foreign, for the provision of study cycles leading to the doctoral degree and the advanced studies diploma.

2 — Joint doctoral programmes shall be governed by specific regulations agreed upon by the participating institutions and approved by the Rector.

3 — The awarding and certification of the joint doctoral degree shall follow the provisions established in the legislation in force.

Article 45

Specific Regulatory Provisions

1 — The specific regulatory provisions of each doctoral programme are issued by order of the President of the Scientific Council, upon proposal of the doctoral programme director and after consultation with the Doctoral Scientific Committee. These provisions must include:

a) The designation, scientific area and duration of the doctoral programme;

b) The curricular structure, study plan and justification of the doctoral programme;

c) The Iscte research units in which the research work will be carried out;

d) Specific admission requirements;

e) The criteria for selecting and ranking candidates;

f) The conditions for full or partial exemption from the doctoral programme, including exemption from attending individual curricular units, in accordance with the applicable legislation and the specificities of the programme;

g) The conditions under which supplementary training may be required.

2 — The specific regulatory provisions of each doctoral programme may also include:

a) Specific application procedures;

b) Rules on course prerequisites within the doctoral programme;

c) Specific procedures for evaluating doctoral project proposals;

d) Modalities of supervision and activities related to the integration of doctoral students into research units;

e) The requirement for part of the research work to be carried out in research units external to Iscte;

f) The possibility of using languages other than Portuguese and English in the writing of the thesis and in the public doctoral examinations;

g) The conditions for granting the qualification *With Distinction*.

3 — These general regulations prevail over the specific regulatory provisions of each doctoral programme.

Article 46

Adaptation

Within 60 days of the entry into force of these general regulatory norms, the directors of the doctoral programmes, after consulting the respective Doctoral Scientific Committees, must propose to the Scientific Council the specific regulatory norms for each doctoral programme.

Article 47

Interpretation and Omissions

Any doubts regarding interpretation or any omissions in these norms shall be resolved by order of the Rector.

Article 48

Repeal Clause

The present regulations repeal Regulation no. 1285/2025 of 9 December, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, ner 245, of 22 December, which approved the General Regulatory Norms for Doctoral Programmes at Iscte.

Article 49

Restoration Clause

Regulation no. 353/2016 of 29 March, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, ner 66, of 5 April, and Rectification Statement ner 489/2016 of 28 April, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, ner 96, of 18 May, are hereby reinstated.

Article 50

Entry into Force and Effects

1 — These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the *Diário da República* and shall apply:

a) To students entering a doctoral study cycle from the 2026–2027 academic year onwards;

b) To students who, at the beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year, have not yet obtained approval of their doctoral project.

2 —For all other students whose enrolment has not been interrupted, the regulations in force at the time of their admission shall continue to apply, without prejudice to the possibility of requesting the application of the present regulations.