

Regulation of the Third Cycle

(Approved by the Board of Professors on 11.03.2022)

Art. 1 - Nature of the Third Cycle of Studies

- §1 The Third Cycle of studies, in view of Doctorate in Philosophy, leads to the attainment of complete scientific maturity, capable of contributing to the progress of research in the respective field of study. The doctoral programme aims to train specialized researchers and professors for higher academic institutions.
- §2 The proposed areas of research for the Third Cycle are those pertaining to the Chairs of the Faculty, whose entitled professors are proposed as possible moderators. The total number of doctoral students assigned to each professor shall not ordinarily exceed four.
- §3 Admission to the doctorate is subject to real possibilities of conducting a scientific investigation in the areas of the lines of research promoted by the Faculty. The professors holding the title of the Chairs, will therefore periodically update a list of research proposals, as valid themes for a possible doctoral research.

Art. 2 - Conditions for Admission

- §1 Admission to the Third Cycle of studies, in the Faculty of Philosophy, requires that the candidate:
- has a certificate of competence issued by his/her ordinary (for religious and diocesan priests) or by an ecclesiastical person (for lay students);
 - has obtained a Licentiate in Philosophy from an Ecclesiastical Faculty, with a grade no less than *magna cum laude* (28/30 or equivalent);
 - has an adequate knowledge of the Italian language, equivalent to level B2 of the QCER (*Quadro comune europeo di riferimento per la conoscenza delle lingue*);
 - has a working knowledge of two other modern languages relevant to his/her research (chosen from English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German). However, has to possess the language of the primary sources related to the research he/she intends to carry out;
 - if coming from another University, has to submit a copy of his/her licentiate thesis, together with the curriculum vitae of the previous studies and a written note by his/her Moderator or Dean of the Faculty of origin, attesting the candidate's aptitude for doctoral studies.
- §2 The application for admission to the Third Cycle assumes that this regulation in all their parts are known and accepted.

Art. 3 - Admission Procedure

§1 The candidate who meets the above requirements (Art. 2) will agree on an initial meeting with the Dean, where he/she will present his/her previous academic situation, his/her intended future destination, the area in which he/she intends to specialize and his/her research interests.

The Dean will verify the conditions for admission, as well as the candidate's motivation, his/her concrete possibilities of studying and attending classes.

If necessary, the Dean could request the candidate for an eligibility test, to be taken before the eventual admission.

§2 In keeping with the intentions of the Faculty, in the admission to the Third Cycle, priority will be given to the candidates designated as future lecturers by Centres of Philosophical Studies. Admission of other candidates will be considered as per the availability of the place.

§3 The Dean will present to the Council of the Faculty, the situation of the possible candidates. Their admission is reserved to the Council of the Faculty, according to *Ord. St.* 6, §1.

Once the Dean has notified the candidate of his/her admission, he/she could carry out the registration procedures at the General Secretariat.

§4 Admission to the Third Cycle does not impel the Faculty to a definitive acceptance of the candidate, which shall take place only with the approval of the project proposal, and after ascertaining the candidate's positive aptitude for philosophical research.

Art. 4 - Duration of the Third Cycle of Studies

§1 In accordance to *Ord. St.* 31, §1, the Third Cycle of studies lasts at least for six semesters. The project of the thesis must be submitted and approved normally within the second semester of enrolment, however in any case, within the second year, in accordance with *Reg. Gen.* 77, §4.

§2 In accordance with *Reg. Gen.* 78, §2, the approved project proposal remains valid for five years from its approval. After five years, it will be necessary to request for renewal each year from the Council of the Faculty, which will assess the consistency of the cited motives.

§3 On the recommendation of the Moderator, it is the responsibility of the Dean to remind the defaulting student, at the same time informing his/her ordinary in the case of religious or ecclesiastics.

Art. 5 - Study Programme of the Third Cycle

§1 The specialisation that characterises the Doctorate is achieved mainly through the preparation of a thesis that makes an effective contribution to philosophical research. The candidate will write the thesis according to the standards of scientific work, under the guidance of his/her Moderator.

- §2 The other competences required of the candidate are functional to the acquisition of the skills necessary for research and lectureship. In addition to what has been indicated in Art. 6, the doctoral programme foresees the following obligations:
- a) frequenting the Seminar on Methodology for the Third Cycle, which has to be done within the second semester after enrolment. At the discretion of the Coordinator of the Third Cycle, doctoral students coming from other academic institutions could be requested to attend some supplementary lectures on Methodology, in order to acquire sufficient competence in the Scientific Methodology in use in the Faculty;
 - b) frequenting a Seminar of the candidate's choice from the Third Cycle is to be carried out within the second semester after enrolment;
 - c) frequenting a course on the Didactics among those offered by the Faculty or the University.
- §3 In order to grasp the specific profile of the Faculty and acquire adequate knowledge of it, candidates coming from other academic institutions, including Aggregate Centres, are required to frequent (and pass the respective exams) at least two courses of 5 ECTS each, chosen from those offered by the Faculty, one of which must be chosen from courses taught by the respective Moderator. These courses cannot in any way coincide with those indicated in §2 and must be completed within the second semester after enrolment.

Art. 6 - Other Academic Requirements

- §1 In addition to the courses envisaged in Art. 5, during the course of studies each doctoral student shall:
- a) write, under the guidance of their Moderator, two scientific reviews of recently published volumes related to their respective field of research. Depending on the opinion of the Moderator, the competent reviews might be published;
 - b) take part in at least two conferences promoted by the Faculty or by other Study Centres, especially if related to his/her field of research, to be documented by a certificate of participation;
 - c) in agreement with their Moderator, offer a service of lectureship within the Chair, in which he/she carries out their doctoral research.
- §2 It is the responsibility of the Moderator to verify the fulfilment of the requirements of §1 and to notify the Dean before the doctoral thesis is submitted to the Secretariat.
- §3 At the suggestion of the Dean, the Moderator or the Coordinator of the Third Cycle, doctoral students considered suitable, may be invited to tutor some students in the First Cycle, under the direction of a Faculty member.
- §4 The Moderator could periodically bring together the doctoral students who are under his/her supervision, to invite them to present the state of their research, or to discuss some aspects of the discipline, or to update the bibliography.

Art. 7 - Procedure for the Approval of the Project Proposal of the Thesis

- §1 The candidate, having defined his/her area of research, promptly identifies one of the Faculty's permanent professors, who may be available to accompany him/her as Moderator and on the basis of his/her proposals, identifies a precise research topic, drawing up a project proposal for a thesis.
The Dean will accompany the new doctoral students in view of identifying a Moderator as soon as possible.
- §2 The written proposal of the project of the thesis, drafted in accordance with the indications of the *Norme metodologiche e tipografiche della Facoltà* (2019 and subsequent editions) should not normally exceed ten pages and should consist of: *a)* a concise presentation of the research topic; *b)* an indication of the original contribution of the research; *c)* an indication of the essential sources and the method of investigation employed; *d)* the articulation of the thesis with a brief description of each chapter; *e)* a tentative table of contents; and *f)* a selected bibliography.
- §3 Once the project proposal of the thesis has received the verbal approval of the Moderator and the Coordinator of the Third Cycle, it is up to the doctoral student to submit it in the General Secretariat, accompanied by the appropriate form.
If and when the candidate is found insufficiently prepared for scientific research or unable to formulate the project proposal, the Moderator shall bring the state of the candidate to the attention of the Council of the Faculty, which could stall the progress of the doctoral course.
- §4 The project proposal of the thesis must be submitted in the General Secretariat at least ten days before the successive meeting of the Council of the Faculty. At the time of the approval, a Reader will be assigned, who will be notified to the candidate by the Moderator.
The Moderator shall communicate the result of the request for approval. If the project proposal of the thesis is not approved, the candidate is expected to make the changes indicated by the Council of the Faculty, in view of resubmitting the proposal at a later date.
- §5 The project proposal of the thesis must be submitted and approved normally within the second semester after enrolment, however in any case, within the second year, in accordance with *Reg. Gen. 77, §4*.
- §6 For valid reasons at the request of the person concerned, the Dean could assign a new Moderator to the candidate, after having heard the opinion of the previous Moderator.
The new Moderator could ask for eventual changes in the project proposal of the thesis: if substantial, the project proposal has to be approved once again.

Art. 8 - Accompaniment and Monitoring of Doctoral Candidates

- §1 The candidate is responsible for maintaining a close contact with his/her Moderator, who remains the principle point of reference for the research project. The candidate will progressively submit the individual chapters of the thesis to his/her Moderator, who will be responsible to return them with the necessary corrections normally within a month.

- §2 The candidate could also occasionally consult the assigned Reader, though the ultimate reference always remains the Moderator. The candidate is not expected to submit the individual chapters to the Reader, unless agreed with the Moderator otherwise.
- §3 In view of drafting the project proposal of the thesis, particularly with regard to the methodological and procedural aspects, the candidate could also consult the Coordinator of the Third Cycle. Once the project is approved by the Council of the Faculty, the only point of reference shall be the Moderator, other than the possibility always to have recourse to the Dean and occasionally consult the Reader.
- §4 By 31 May every year, each doctoral student shall draw up a report, in which he/she shall illustrate the way in which the research is proceeding and specify the current state of progress of the thesis. The report shared with the Moderator, shall be forwarded to the Dean.
- §5 The Dean, together with the Coordinator of the Third Cycle, will organize an annual meeting of all doctoral students to discuss issues of general interest.

Art. 9 - Language Skills Required

- §1 Knowledge of the Italian language, equivalent to level B2 of the QCER (*Quadro comune europeo di riferimento per la conoscenza delle lingue*), is required as a condition of access to the Third Cycle (Art. 2, §1), in order to ensure an effective inculturation in the academic context of the Faculty and to be able to benefit from the courses offered in Italian.
- §2 For access to the Third Cycle (Art. 2, §1), the candidate is also required to have a functional knowledge of two other modern languages (chosen from English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German), in order to enable an easy comprehension of the written texts. If the candidate does not have the necessary certification, he/she should take an eligibility test to prove his/her language skills.
- §3 The scientific rigour required for doctoral studies demands that the candidate possesses the language (classical or modern) of the primary sources related to the research intended. This expected competence shall be decisive in determining the scope of the research.

Art. 10 - Writing and Submission of the Doctoral Thesis

- §1 Having completed the drafting of the thesis and obtained the approval from the Moderator, the Dean shall verify whether the candidate has frequented all the courses prescribed in art. 5 and if he/she has fulfilled the requirements indicated in Art. 6, assisted by the Moderator's confirmation in this regard. Only then, shall the candidate submit the requested number of copies of the thesis, together with its digital version in pdf format and anti-plagiarism declaration, at the General Secretariat.
- §2 The formal requirements of the thesis are those indicated in the *Norme metodologiche e tipografiche della Facoltà* (2019 and subsequent editions), which are mandatory. The content of the thesis must not exceed a total of 300 pages, inclusive of bibliography and index. In addition to Italian, the thesis can be written in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. However, the choice of the language must be made in agreement with the Moderator.

- §3 The Board of Examiners, appointed by the Rector, consists of three members: the Moderator, the Reader, and a third professor, proposed by the Dean.
The date of the defence is decided by the Faculty and is fixed within two months from the date of the submission of the thesis.
- §4 It will be the responsibility of the Board of Examiners to verify the authenticity of each part of the thesis, also with the aid of an anti-plagiarism software. In case of plagiarism, the Council of the Faculty will implement the guidelines drawn up by the University, with the relevant disciplinary sanctions.

Art. 11 - Defence and Evaluation of the Doctoral Thesis

- §1 During the public defence, the candidate will have a maximum of 20 minutes to present the results of his/her research, after which shall follow an adequate time for questions from the Moderator and the two Readers.
- §2 The candidate shall make the presentation of the thesis in Italian. The subsequent discussion could be held in the language in which the thesis has been written, with a prior understanding with the members of the Board of Examiners and the Dean.
- §3 Each member of the Board will draw up a written evaluation of the thesis, to be submitted to the General Secretariat after the defence.
The final marks, in accordance with *Reg. Fac.* 154, §3, will be determined by the General Secretariat, calculated from the average of the marks awarded for the doctoral thesis (7/10), the defence discussion (2/10) and the academic performance related to the academic requirements of the Third Cycle (1/10).

Art. 12 - Obtaining the Academic Degree

In order that the candidate to be able to obtain the academic degree of Doctorate, in accordance to *Ord. St.* 32, §1, it is required, in addition to the fulfilment of the academic commitments prescribed in art. 5, that the candidate has successfully defended his/her doctoral thesis and that he/she has published it, at least in part, according to the indications of the Board of Examiners.

Art. 13 - Academic Fees

- §1 The academic fees envisaged for the Third Cycle are those fixed by the University and consist of:
- a) an annual instalment to be paid at the beginning of each year of the three-year period;
 - b) an annual payment has to be made for each year beyond the three-year period, until the candidate has successfully defended the thesis;
 - c) a one-time payment has to be made at the submission of the thesis.
- §2 Enrolment to the first year, with the payment of the required fees, does not bind the Faculty in any way to accept the candidate definitively, which takes place only with the approval of the project proposal of the thesis (Art. 3, §4).