



## Article 1

### (Structure)

1. The Ph.D. programme comprises a doctoral course (curricular phase), lasting two semesters, 60 ECTS, a thesis preparation phase, lasting six semesters and 180 ECTS in full-time attendance mode, or ten semesters and 180 ECTS in part-time attendance mode.
2. Enrolment in the part-time attendance regime may be required by the Ph.D. student to the Board of the corresponding School at any time, based, namely, on the exercise of a professional activity.
3. Admission to the thesis preparation phase is conditional on the approval of the thesis project.

## Article 2

### (Coordination and admission to the Ph.D. programme)

1. The Regional Scientific Council appoints the Ph.D. programme coordinator.
2. The admission to the Ph.D. programme is the responsibility of an admission committee of three academics who hold the title of 'Doctor', appointed by the Regional Scientific Council.
3. The following may apply to the programme:
  - a. Those with a master's degree:
  - b. Those with a bachelor's degree and with a particularly strong academic, scientific, or professional *curriculum vitae*, recognised by the Regional Scientific Council as revealing the capacity to fulfil the requirements of the Ph.D. programme.
4. The application period may be defined in order to allow the Ph.D. programme to begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of each year, and the Dean of each School can establish a *numerus clausus* of candidates to be admitted.

5. The application document must state the scientific area in which the candidate intends to conduct research and must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation.
6. The admission to the Ph.D. programme follows a principle of selectivity according to the academic merit, motivation and commitment demonstrated by the candidate. The admission committee shall proceed to:
  - a) A curricular assessment, supported by the scientific work produced, including, for those with a master's degree, the final dissertation of the master's degree;
  - b) An interview, in which it shall assess, in particularly, the candidate's motivation and commitment.
7. *Repealed*

### Article 3

#### (Doctoral course)

1. The doctoral course aims to prepare the candidate for the elaboration of the thesis project and to integrate him/her in the scientific community of the School.
2. The doctoral course may include a subject on legal methodology or subjects of an equivalent nature, a scientific discussion forum or legal sources research. The definition of the curricular plan shall be approved by the Regional Scientific Council.

### Article 4

#### (Theme and Individual Guidance)

1. After completing the first semester of the doctoral course, the candidate chooses a thesis topic and requests the appointment of a supervisor. The candidate may suggest a name for this purpose and, exceptionally, request the appointment of a co-supervisor when the interdisciplinary or transnational nature of the thesis justifies it.
2. The supervisor must hold a Ph.D. in the thesis' scientific area.
3. The approval of the thesis theme and the designation of the supervisor and possible co-supervisor is the responsibility of the Regional Scientific Council.

## Article 5

### (Thesis Project)

1. By the end of the second semester of the doctoral course, the candidate prepares a thesis project, in which they should identify the legal problem to be investigated and the methodology to be adopted, and should include, as an annex, the plan of work to be carried out.
2. The thesis project must respect the maximum limit of 80.000 characters, including footnotes, excluding spaces, indexes, reference lists and annexes.

## Article 6

### (Public defence of the thesis project)

1. The thesis project is publicly assessed before a jury made up of the supervisor and two holders of the 'Doctor' title designated by the Plenary Scientific Council, belonging to the scientific area in which the thesis is included, within 60 days of the jury's constitution.
2. In case of co-supervision/joint supervision, the jury is composed of the supervisors and three holders of the 'Doctor' title designated by the Plenary Scientific Council.
3. The jury shall make a reasoned decision on whether to admit the candidate to the thesis elaboration phase or to invite him/her to reformulate the thesis project. In that case, it shall set a deadline for that purpose of no more than 90 days.
4. The opportunity to reformulate the thesis project is granted only once, after which the jury decides in favour of admission to the thesis phase.

## Article 7

### (Thesis preparation phase)

1. The doctoral candidate benefits from effective supervision and, as a rule, must hold monthly meetings with the supervisor.
2. At the end of each academic year, the candidate presents to his/her supervisor and to the Ph.D. programme coordinator a comprehensive report on how the work has been and will be carried out.

3. The School may determine the doctoral student's participation in a scientific discussion forum and the presentation of topics within the research framework.

#### Article 8

##### (Thesis Submission)

1. In accordance with the UCP Ph.D. Regulation, the thesis submission is accompanied by a detailed opinion by the supervisor or supervisors on the thesis preparation phase, concluding with a judgement on its merit, which will be mentioned in the thesis public defence.
2. The thesis must not exceed 1.000.000 characters, including footnotes and excluding spaces, reference lists and indexes.

#### Article 9

##### (Public Defence of the Thesis)

The 'doctor' title is conferred by a Jury appointed by the Plenary Scientific Council, to those who have been approved in the public defence of their thesis.

#### Article 10

##### (Jury)

1. The Doctoral Jury is constituted by:
  - a) The Rector, who presides, or by the person empowered by the Rector for that purpose;
  - b) The supervisor;
  - c) Three doctoral members belonging to the scientific area in which the thesis is included;
  - d) A doctoral member belonging to a different scientific area from that in which the thesis is included;
  - e) At least two doctoral members designated among Professors and researchers with a Ph.D. from other national or international universities.

2. If any of the members referred to in paragraph 1(c) dies or is prevented from attending, the Plenary Scientific Council shall appoint a replacement or replacements.
3. In case of co-supervision, only one of the supervisors may integrate the jury, except if the second supervisor belongs to a scientific area different from that of the thesis.
4. In addition to the members provided for in no. 1, a specialist of recognized competence in the scientific area in which the thesis is included may also be part of the Jury.

#### Article 11

##### (Functioning of the Jury)

1. Within 60 days after the publication of its appointment, the jury shall meet for the first time to issue a preliminary decision. It declares the thesis accepted or recommends, with justification, its reformulation and, in the first case, distributes the critical appraisal service among its members.
2. If the jury recommends the reformulation of the thesis, the candidate has a deadline of 120 days, non-extendable, to proceed with the reformulation or to declare that they intend to keep the thesis as presented.
3. In the case provided for in the previous number, the jury, within 30 days, counting from the date of delivery of the reformulated thesis or from the expiration of the term for reformulation, shall meet a second time to examine the reformulated thesis or to take notice that the candidate has chosen not to reformulate it, and distribute the critical appraisal service among its members.
4. The candidate shall be considered to have withdrawn when, after the deadline provided for in no. 2, they have not submitted the reformulated thesis, nor have they declared that they intend to keep it as submitted.

#### Article 12

##### (Public Defence of the Thesis)

1. Public defence of the doctoral thesis must take place within 120 days of:
  - a) the preliminary decision to accept the thesis; or

- b) the date of submission of the reformulated thesis or of the declaration of waiver of the reformulation.
2. The defence is public and cannot take place without the Chair's presence and the majority of the remaining members of the jury.
3. Before the discussion begins, the candidate has a maximum of 30 minutes to present the thesis.
4. The discussion of thesis cannot exceed two hours. The two critical appraisal periods should have a maximum duration of 30 minutes each and the candidate must be guaranteed the possibility to respond for the same period of time.
5. At the end of the thesis discussion the remaining members of the jury can intervene.
6. The Chair of the jury shall be responsible for establishing, before the beginning of the defence, the order and duration of the interventions, clearing up any doubts and ensuring that all rights are respected.

### Article 13

#### (Jury Deliberations)

1. The jury decides by majority of its members, through nominal, substantiated vote, with no abstentions allowed.
2. The Chair has the casting vote and only exercises their right to vote:
  - a) When they are a professor or researcher in Law; or
  - b) In the event of a tie.
3. Minutes of the jury meetings are drawn up which include the votes of each of its members and respective reasons, which may be common to all or only some.

### Article 14

#### (Final Grade)

1. The final grade is expressed by the formulae Rejected and Approved with the qualification "*cum laude*" (16 out of 20), "*magna cum laude*" (17 out of 20) or "*suma cum laude*" (18 to 20 out of 20) and the mention "unanimously" or "by majority".

2. The final grade is awarded by the jury taking into account the classifications obtained in the curricular units of the doctoral course, if existent, and the merit of the thesis assessed in the public defence.

#### Article 15

##### (Special Regime for Thesis Submission)

1. Upon request, the Plenary Scientific Council may directly admit a thesis for submission to public examinations, with exemption from enrolment in the doctoral course, based on an appraisal of the candidate's curriculum and the adequacy of the thesis to the objectives sought by the Ph.D.
2. In the case foreseen in the previous paragraph, the decision of the Plenary Scientific Council shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of those present. The decision shall be based on two opinions of admissibility issued by two members of the Plenary Scientific Council belonging to the scientific area in which the thesis is included, designated for that purpose by the Chair of the Council.

#### Article 16

##### (Award of the Title of European Ph.D.)

1. The title of "European Ph.D." may be awarded jointly with the degree of Doctor of Law, upon request presented by the doctoral candidate at the time of submission of the respective thesis.
2. The award of the "European Ph.D." title requires the completion of a research period at a university in a European country other than Portugal as part of the thesis preparation. The research period must have a minimum of three months and be developed under a protocol between the Universidade Católica Portuguesa and that University or between the respective organic units where the doctorate and the research are being carried out.
3. The research period mentioned in the previous paragraph must be proven through a certification issued by the institution in which it was carried out. The request for

the attribution of the title of "European Ph.D." must be accompanied by a document proving this certification.

4. When, in the act of submitting the thesis, one requests the attribution of the title of "European Ph.D." under the provisions of the previous numbers, the procedure shall observe the following requirements:
  - a) the admission of the thesis by the Plenary Scientific Council must be based on two opinions requested by the Chair of the Scientific Council from two professors from two higher education institutions from two different European countries other than Portugal, which must be attached to the Ph.D. file;
  - b) the jury must include, at least, a member from a European higher education institution from a country other than Portugal;
  - c) part of the defense of the thesis should be done in an official language of the European Union other than Portuguese and this mention shall be included in the respective minutes.
5. In the situations foreseen in this article, the doctoral letter shall contain a reference to the award of the title "European Ph.D.".

#### Article 17

(Issues not covered)

Any issues not covered by the present regulations shall be governed by the general rules of the University, namely the General Doctoral Regulations, and by the general legislation.



