

R U L E S

pertaining to doctoral studies at higher education institutions, issued pursuant to Article 7 of the Higher Education Act, No 63/2006

Article 1

Objective

The purpose of doctoral programmes offered by higher education institutions is to provide those pursuing such studies with the knowledge and skills required to enable them to engage in academic research, seek new knowledge, and enter professions which require training and skill in applying scientific or scholarly approaches.

Authorisations issued by the Minister of Education, Science and Culture (“the Minister”) to a higher education institution to offer study programmes leading to a doctoral degree amount to a recognition that the relevant institution meets all requirements and conditions laid down in the present rules. In addition, doctoral programmes must fulfil the criteria laid down in the *National Qualification Framework* issued by the Minister of Education, Science and Culture.

Article 2

Doctoral studies

Doctoral studies are based on a project description and a study and research proposal. With reference to the study and research proposal, a contract shall be drawn up between the relevant faculty and the student relating to the organisation of the studies, the rights and obligations of the student and of the supervisor(s) and, where appropriate, the involvement of any other person(s) in the doctoral studies. The contract shall specify any services available to the doctoral student during the studies, and the measures to be taken to ensure the continuity of the studies.

Doctoral students may have more than one supervisor, in which case the role of each supervisor shall be clearly defined in the abovementioned contract. One of the supervisors shall act as the doctoral student’s supervisory teacher. The supervisory teacher must be permanently employed at the higher education institution in question.

Those appointed as supervisors of doctoral studies must have completed either a doctorate or equivalent academic studies in the relevant academic discipline, or a related one, and be recognised as specialists in that discipline.

Supervisors must have published papers or works on subjects bearing relation to the student’s project in a forum that maintains high academic standards. Supervisors must have an active publication record and a strong research background in their academic disciplines.

At least one of a doctoral student’s supervisors must have prior experience of supervising doctoral students or extensive experience of supervising students at the Master’s level.

Supervisors must have participated in international collaborative research projects and have experience of raising independent funding from recognised research funds.

Doctoral students must participate actively in the academic community to which their doctoral projects belong.

Doctoral theses shall be defended in public and shall be published.

Each higher education institution shall issue and make public regulations for its doctoral programme(s).