

AGREEMENT ON THE OBLIGATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMPLETION OF DOCTORAL THESES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

Preparing a doctoral thesis in one of the University of Barcelona's doctoral programmes requires the commitment of a number of people: the PhD student, the tutor, the doctoral thesis supervisor and, ultimately, the person who presides over the academic committee for that specific doctoral programme. These commitments are made from the moment the student enrolls in the programme.

The PhD student, the tutor and the supervisor mutually undertake to work together to engage in the different phases involved in the development of a doctoral thesis: submitting a research plan, designing a training plan, monitoring progress and conducting annual evaluations, preparing the doctoral thesis itself and, finally, the defending it – all in accordance with the procedures and terms established by current university regulations. This collaboration is based on the principles of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and solidarity, as set out in Article 4 of Decree 246/2003 of 8 October, which approves the Statute of the University of Barcelona, with particular reference to Section b on the equality of all university students, who must not be subject to any discrimination on grounds of sex, gender, identity, orientation or any other particular, personal or social circumstance, and to which the principles of equal treatment and opportunities, as well as merit and ability, must be applied.

Neither the directors nor the tutor signing this agreement have a marital or similar de facto relationship, nor a blood relationship within the fourth degree or an affinity within the second degree with the researcher in training.

The signatories to this agreement are aware of the regulations governing doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona, the duties of good practices set out in the University of Barcelona's current codes of ethics and good practices in research, the Instruction of the Vice-Rector for Doctoral Studies, Trainee Research Staff and Talent Attraction in relation to the Guide to the Correct Identification of Authorship and Institutional Affiliation in Scientific Publications at the University of Barcelona, the various protocols regarding harassment and sexist behaviour, and Law 3/2022 of 24 February on the university community. They are also familiar with the University of Barcelona's Equality Plan, which is provided to PhD students as part of their doctoral programme documentation.

Signing this agreement binds the signatory to comply with a series of specific obligations, which are defined below.

I. Obligations of the tutor, _____

1. To **provide information** on the functioning of the doctoral programme.
2. To **regularly monitor** the PhD student's research plan and activity record.
3. To **ensure satisfactory interaction** between the PhD student and the academic committee of the doctoral programme.

4. To perform all of the functions specified in the regulations governing the internal procedures of the Doctoral School of the University of Barcelona and the regulations governing doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona.

II. Obligations of the doctoral thesis supervisor, _____

1. To **ensure** that the PhD student has access to the resources needed to execute their research plan in accordance with the criteria established for quality research.

2. To periodically and regularly **check** the initial plan and **monitor** the effective progress of the plan with the PhD student: _____ (the frequency with which the plan is monitored can be specified here if desired). This obligation includes ensuring that the PhD student gains autonomy over the course of the project and incorporates proactive competences.

3. To **guide and support** the PhD student to uphold the highest scientific quality in their research plan in the field of _____, ensuring that it is original, educative and innovative, that it can be executed as proposed by the PhD student, and that it is coherent with the line of research to which it is linked.

4. To regularly **review** the PhD student's activity record and perform all the functions specified in the regulations governing the internal procedures of the Doctoral School of the University of Barcelona and the regulations governing doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona. The time commitment of the supervisor is therefore recognized as provided for in the current regulations of the University of Barcelona.

5. To **ensure compliance** with the codes of ethics and good practices and with the Instruction of the Vice-Rector for Doctoral Studies, Trainee Research Staff and Talent Attraction with reference to the Guide to the Correct Identification of Authorship and Institutional Affiliation in Scientific Publications at the University of Barcelona.

6. To **respect** the University of Barcelona's current Equality Plan, especially with regard to the effective implementation of work-life balance, and the University of Barcelona's guide to good practices in the supervision of doctoral theses.

III. Time commitment and obligations of the PhD student, _____

The student's time commitment is _____ (part-time/full-time) as defined in the agreement of the academic committee of the doctoral programme. The maximum duration of the student's doctoral studies is _____ (four years full-time / seven years part-time; for students with an accredited degree of disability equal to or greater than 33%, the maximum duration is six years full-time and nine years part-time) from the date on which the PhD student is admitted to the programme (first enrolment for academic tutoring) until the date they apply to submit the doctoral thesis.

The obligations deriving from this time commitment are as follows:

1. To **enrol** each academic year within the deadlines established in the academic calendar, submit the research plan and training plan on time, and successfully complete doctoral studies in accordance with

regulations. This includes the annual monitoring and assessment of the research plan and participation in supervisor-recommended training activities in accordance with the commitments outlined in this document.

2. To **regularly report** to the thesis supervisor on the project's progress, results and any problems that may arise in its execution, and heed any comments or recommendations that the supervisor may make.

3. To **act** in accordance with the principles of the Bioethics Commission of the University of Barcelona from the time the PhD student initiates the research plan, which must be submitted for approval by the Commission, if necessary (ub.edu/comissibioteica), and to adapt the plan to the Code of Good Practices in Research, the Code of Good Practices of the UB Doctoral School and the Code of Good Practices of the University of Barcelona.

4. To **refrain from plagiarism** and respect the principles of intellectual property.

5. To **maintain the secrecy** of data and confidential information provided by the thesis supervisor, tutor, or any other member of the research team, whether orally, in writing, graphically, or by any other means. Additionally, to refrain from disclosing such information in any way to third parties, ensuring that all obtained data is used exclusively for the purpose of writing the doctoral thesis.

6. To **refrain from disclosing any information** about the research group in which the PhD student is participating without having obtained express written authorization from their doctoral thesis supervisor or tutor. Where appropriate, the PhD student may invoke the special procedure for authorizing the reading of doctoral theses subject to processes of technology or knowledge protection or transfer established in the regulatory provisions. The PhD student must sign the confidentiality commitments required by their supervisor(s), research groups or tutor.

The commitment to confidentiality and secrecy will remain in force and be binding after the administrative or employment relationship between the PhD student and the University of Barcelona has ended.

The signatories agree that the criteria for the order of signatures in publications derived from the doctoral thesis are as follows: _____, in accordance with the stipulations of the regulations governing doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona and those of the academic committees of the doctoral programmes.

IV. Entry into force of these commitments

The commitments outlined in this agreement will take effect from the date it is signed. The agreement will become null and void in the event of non-compliance with any of the aforementioned obligations or with those arising from the regulations governing doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona, or in the event of a conclusive outcome in academic or disciplinary proceedings for conducts outlined in the University of Barcelona's protocols to eradicate harassment and other forms of violence and discrimination.

Barcelona, on _____ 20__

PhD student
[signature]

Tutor
[signature]

Name and surname(s):

Spanish ID / passport / EU ID:

Name and surname(s):

Spanish ID / passport / EU ID:

Thesis supervisor
[signature]

Name and surname(s):

Spanish ID / passport / EU ID:

Chair of the academic committee of the doctoral programme
[signature]

Name and surname(s): _____

Spanish ID / passport / EU ID: _____