



OPEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CYPRUS  
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**INTERNAL  
REGULATIONS FOR  
DOCTORAL STUDIES**

# Internal Regulations for Doctoral Studies

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## A. Introduction

### A. 1. Scope, Content and Objectives of the Doctoral Studies

The Open University of Cyprus offers Doctoral Programmes that lead to the award of a Doctoral Title (Doctorate).

### A.2. Organisation of Doctoral Studies

#### A.2.1 Organisation of Doctoral Studies

Each Faculty of the Open University of Cyprus runs a Doctoral Programme, which includes various different research areas. The scientific areas of each Doctoral Programme correspond to the research areas and interests of each Faculty and are determined by decision of the Senate, based on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty.

The minimum duration of a Doctoral Programme is six (6) academic semesters. The maximum duration is sixteen (16) academic semesters, including suspension or interruption of studies, in respect of which the provisions of the Internal Regulations for Studies of the Open University of Cyprus apply.

Studies under a Doctoral Programme at the Open University of Cyprus correspond to at least one hundred and eighty (180) ECTS and are structured per semester of study as shown in the following table:

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Type	Prerequisite Modules	Co-requisite Modules	ECTS
ΔXXX795	Research Methodology	1 <sup>st</sup>	Compulsory			15
ΔXXX811	Research proposal	1 <sup>st</sup>	Compulsory		ΔXXX795	15

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Type	Prerequisite Modules	Co-requisite Modules	ECTS
	(Doctoral Thesis I)					
ΔXXX796	Academic Writing	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Compulsory	ΔXXX795		15
ΔXXX812	Doctoral Thesis II	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Compulsory	ΔXXX811		15
ΔXXX821	Doctoral Thesis III	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Compulsory	ΔXXX812		30
ΔXXX822	Doctoral Thesis IV	4 <sup>th</sup>	Compulsory	ΔXXX821		30
ΔXXX831	Doctoral Thesis V	5 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX822		30
ΔXXX832	Doctoral Thesis VI	6 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX831		30
ΔXXX841	Doctoral Thesis VII	7 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX8312		30
ΔXXX842	Comprehensive Examination Doctoral Thesis VIII	8 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX841		30
ΔXXX851	Doctoral Thesis IX	9 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX842		30
ΔXXX852	Doctoral Thesis X	10 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX851		30
ΔXXX861	Doctoral Thesis XI	11 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX852		30
ΔXXX862	Doctoral Thesis XII	12 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX861		30
ΔXXX871	Doctoral Thesis XIII	13 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX862		30
ΔXXX872	Doctoral Thesis XIV	14 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX871		30

	Thesis XIV					
ΔXXX881	Doctoral Thesis XV	15 <sup>th</sup>	Optional	ΔXXX872		30
ΔXXX895	Writing and Defence of Doctoral Thesis	6 <sup>th</sup> ...16 <sup>th</sup>	Compulsory	ΔXXX822		30

Doctoral studies include two compulsory Modules (Thematic Units), ΔXXX795 “Research Methodology” and ΔXXX796 “Academic Writing” in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of studies respectively. These Modules are not awarded a numerical grade but a “Pass/Fail” mark. The successful completion of these two Modules is a requirement for the writing of the Doctoral Thesis.

During the month of September, each Faculty organizes a seminar for doctoral candidates. Attendance is compulsory for doctoral candidates registered during the preceding academic year.

By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of studies, the PhD Candidate and the Supervisor jointly formulate and submit to the Three-Member Advisory Committee (see paragraph C.1.2) the research proposal of the Doctoral Thesis, which is approximately ten pages long and includes the following:

- Description of the topic and the scientific area
- The research questions to be addressed in the thesis
- Explicit description of the anticipated originality and scientific contribution of the proposed thesis
- Description of the research methodology to be adopted
- Description of the proposed timetable of completion of study
- Indicative table with the relevant bibliographical sources
- Description of specialized needs, if any, in terms of academic and/or material resources
- List of scientific journals and conferences which would be suitable for the publication of the results
- Proposal for the formation of the Three-Member Advisory Committee, duly substantiated in terms of the relevance of their specialization as regards the scientific area and topic of the doctoral candidate’s research

- Description of potential legal or ethical issues which could possibly be raised by the research and suggestions on how to address them.

The research proposal is assessed by the Three-Member Advisory Committee by means of an oral comprehensive examination of the doctoral candidate, which is conducted no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> semester of studies ( $\Delta$ XXX842) and must be successfully completed by the end of that semester. The exact content of the text submitted for the purposes of the comprehensive examination and the details of the procedure are determined by each Faculty. A doctoral candidate who has failed the comprehensive examination cannot proceed to the writing of the Doctoral Thesis. A doctoral candidate who fails the first comprehensive examination is entitled to take it once again within a period of one year. A second failure results in termination of studies.

After the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the doctoral candidate proceeds with his/her research based on the research proposal. Once the research is complete, the doctoral candidate writes his/her doctoral thesis, submits it to the Faculty and defends it in public, in accordance with the provisions of section D.2.

### ***A.2.2 Requirements for the Award of the Doctoral Title***

The award of the Doctoral Title is subject to the following requirements:

1. The successful completion of Modules  $\Delta$ XXX795 “Research Methodology” and  $\Delta$ XXX796 “Academic Writing”.
2. The writing and successful defence of an original Doctoral Thesis which constitutes a significant contribution to the relevant scientific field.

### **A.3. Quality Assurance**

The Quality Assurance System of the Open University of Cyprus applies to the Doctoral Programmes. The Academic Supervisor of the Programme is responsible for ensuring the quality of the Doctoral Programme.

## **B. Admission to a Doctoral Programme**

### **B.1 Criteria**

Admission to a Doctoral Programme of the Open University of Cyprus requires a recognised Postgraduate Title of Study at Master's level or an equivalent qualification in a scientific area relevant to at least one of the research areas of the Doctoral Programme.

Each Faculty may further specify the above, as well as set additional criteria, which must be satisfied by the candidates for admission to the Faculty's Doctoral Programme. The criteria will be posted on the webpage of each Faculty before each advertisement of new places on the Doctoral Programme.

On the recommendation of the Selection Committee and further to ratification by the Faculty, a PhD candidate may be required to complete a number of Modules at Master's level before being admitted to a Doctoral Programme.

### **B.2 Application Submission Process**

Each Faculty may announce available places on the Doctoral Programme more than once a year, according to the Academic Calendar of the University.

Interested persons can submit an online application together with the supporting documents specified in the announcement via the Applications Portal of the Open University of Cyprus.

### **B.3 Assessment of Applications**

Applications are assessed by a Selection Committee, appointed by the relevant Faculty.

After completing the selection process, the Selection Committee drafts minutes of its session, which include a table of the candidates, the Committee's recommendations on admissions or non-admissions and a summary report on the reasoning for the admission/rejection of each application. The Selection Committee submits the minutes to the relevant Faculty for approval. All candidates are notified of the outcome of the assessment of their application.

## **B.4 Registration**

Student registration in the Doctoral Programmes is made online and is completed once the Accounting Department of the Open University of Cyprus confirms that the candidates have paid the relevant tuition fees, in accordance with the procedures and within the timeframes set by the University. The amount of tuition fees for Doctoral Programmes appears in the "Internal Regulations for Tuition Fees / Administration Cost".

The "Academic Calendar" contains information on the student registration periods for the Modules, the beginning and end of the semester/year of study and vacation periods.

## C. Implementation

### C.1. Supervision

The research of the doctoral candidate is conducted under academic supervision. The Faculty, the Academic Coordinator of the Doctoral Programme and the Three-Member Advisory Committee must jointly ensure the integration and participation of the doctoral candidate in a research-active academic community.

The assignment of the supervision of a doctoral candidate to a person related to the candidate up to the fourth degree either by blood or marriage or to a person maintaining a particular relationship of friendship or hostility with the candidate is not allowed.

#### C.1.1 Supervisor

By decision of the Faculty, the supervision of the doctoral candidate is assigned to a tenured faculty member of the Open University of Cyprus, referred to as “the Supervisor”. The Supervisor has the main academic responsibility for the academic supervision of the doctoral candidate.

A tenured faculty member of the Open University of Cyprus of any rank may be appointed as Supervisor, on the condition that the Three-Member Advisory Committee comprise at least one tenured faculty member at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.

Each tenured faculty member of the Open University of Cyprus has the right to supervise up to ten (10) doctoral candidates. In exceptional cases, it is possible to allow a tenured faculty member to supervise more than ten (10) doctoral candidates, based on recommendation of the relevant Faculty with adequate reasoning and the approval of the University Senate.

A Supervisor who leaves the Open University of Cyprus is replaced by decision of the relevant Faculty, taken before the Supervisor’s departure.

A faculty member who is about to retire is allowed to accept doctoral students within a maximum of four (4) years before his/her retirement. The retired faculty member is entitled to remain a member of the Three-Member Advisory Committee should the student and the new supervisor agree. The supervision of the doctoral student is then assumed by another faculty member of the University.

### **C.1.2 Three-Member Advisory Committee**

A Three-Member Advisory Committee is put together on the basis of a decision of the relevant Faculty on the recommendation of the Supervisor, submitted to the Faculty by the end of the doctoral student's first semester of studies at the latest.

The Three-Member Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the Supervisor, comprises two additional faculty members of the Open University of Cyprus or another recognized local or foreign University, or Researchers holding a position in a recognized local or foreign Research Centre, whose specialization is directly related to the overall area/topic or specific aspects of the area/topic of the Doctoral Thesis. Together with the Supervisor, the two members of the Three-Member Advisory Committee are responsible for the academic supervision of the doctoral candidate.

In exceptional cases, the student has the right to request the replacement of the Supervisor or a member of the Three-Member Advisory Committee, after submitting a duly justified and substantiated written memorandum to the relevant Faculty.

In exceptional cases, the Supervisor may suggest the replacement of a member of the Three-Member Advisory Committee, including himself/herself.

## **C.2 Scope of the Supervision**

The Three-Member Advisory Committee

- Assesses by means of the doctoral candidate's oral comprehensive examination his/her research

proposal and submits to the relevant Faculty, within one (1) month after the comprehensive examination, a structured assessment report stating the points of agreement and/or disagreement with the positions of the doctoral candidate.

- Advises the doctoral candidate on matters relating to the determination of the thematic area of his/her research and its limits, as well as the research questions.
- Discusses with the doctoral candidate and assesses the research methods used and his/her research results.
- Discusses with the doctoral candidate matters relating to the conducting of his/her research, as well as forms of validation and presentation of his/her research results.
- Guides the doctoral candidate on matters relating to his/her participation in academic discussion.
- Ensures the doctoral candidate's compliance with the rules of academic and research integrity.
- Is briefed by the doctoral candidate on the progress of his/her research and assesses such progress in relation to his/her research proposal.
- Holds regular meetings with the doctoral candidate. The frequency of the meetings is described in the annual progress report, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph C.3.1.
- Has the academic responsibility to monitor the progress of the doctoral candidate and submit annual assessment reports on the progress of his/her research, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph C.3.1.
- Advises the doctoral candidate on matters relating to career prospects after the completion of his/her studies, in academia or any other field.
- Undertakes to resolve academic issues which may delay the progress of the doctoral student, therefore contributing to the completion of his/her studies within the deadline provided in the research proposal.
- Is responsible for suggesting the interruption of the study in case the student has failed, at any stage of his/her studies, to show signs of satisfactory progress.

### **C.3. Monitoring of Progress**

#### ***C.3.1 Annual Assessment***

Every year, the doctoral candidate submits to the Three-Member Advisory Committee a progress report on his/her studies. The report includes the following:

- The candidate's details, the title of his/her thesis, the names of the supervisors, the date
- The research questions on which the doctoral candidate has worked during the period under review
- The research methodology already used by the doctoral candidate and the methodology that he/she intends to use for upcoming research
- The results and conclusions of the research up to that date
- The doctoral candidate's view on the significance and originality of the research results up to that date and his/her assessment on the significance and originality of the future research results
- An assessment of possible problems that the doctoral student may encounter during the remainder of his/her research and ways to address them
- An updated time schedule relating to the research, if necessary.

Failure of the doctoral candidate to submit the progress report within the prescribed timeframe may lead to his/her expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of section D.1.

The Three-Member Advisory Committee assesses the submitted progress report and submits an assessment report to the Academic Supervisor of the Doctoral Programme of Study, to the Faculty and the doctoral candidate. The report includes:

- Positive and negative elements on the doctoral candidate's progress up to that date and suggestions for improvement
- An assessment of the originality and significance of the research and the results up to that date
- Recommendations of a general nature to the doctoral candidate and recommendation to the Faculty on whether the doctoral candidate should pursue the research or not.

#### **C.4. Thesis Requirements**

The Doctoral Thesis must:

- Be the result of an independent research project or a research and development project by the doctoral candidate, in line with the internationally recognised standards on academic ethics, quality and methodology in the relevant scientific field.

- Constitute an original and significant contribution to the enrichment of the relevant scientific field with new scientific knowledge, of a standard that is appropriate for publication or presentation in a suitable form to the scientific community of the relevant scientific field.
- Include sufficient and up-to-date bibliography and make detailed and in-depth reference to international research related to the topic of the Thesis, therefore correlating the results of the Doctoral Thesis with achievements in the relevant scientific field to this day.
- Make an explicit, succinct but clear reference, in the summary, to its original features and contribution to the enrichment of scientific knowledge through the research that has been conducted.
- Analyze, in the main body of the thesis, its original features and its contribution to the scientific knowledge through the research that has been conducted.
- The research findings of the Thesis and the discussion of these findings must be publishable. The relevant Faculty determines whether and to what extent publications or potentially publishable research findings included in the Doctoral Thesis are to be considered a necessary condition for the award of the doctoral title, as well as whether a certain number of papers or publications deriving from the Doctoral Thesis is required.

Doctoral Theses are written in one of the official languages of either the Republic of Cyprus or the European Union. The relevant Faculty determines the language in which each Doctoral Thesis will be written.

In case the Thesis is written in a language other than Greek, it must include a summary in Greek.

## **C.5. Copyright**

The copyright status regarding Master's Dissertations and Doctoral Theses is set out in the "Copyright Policy" of the Open University of Cyprus.

Students maintain the copyright of the research products of Master's Dissertations and Doctoral Theses, e.g.

- Inventions
- Methodologies/Analyses
- Software
- Educational / training materials and tools

- Public lectures
- Modelling tools
- Solutions to technical problems
- Design/artistic products.

On the commencement of the thesis writing process, the doctoral candidate fills in the “Copyright” form, which the Supervisor submits to the Secretariat of the Doctoral Programme.

## D. Completion

### D.1 Termination of Studies of the Doctoral Candidate

The studies of a doctoral candidate are terminated:

- On the completion of all the requirements for the award of the Doctoral Title, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A.2.2, or
- At the doctoral candidate's wish, without the award of a Doctoral Title, or
- Unilaterally, without the award of a Doctoral Title, by decision of the relevant Faculty.

The studies of a doctoral candidate are terminated unilaterally by decision of the relevant Faculty if:

- The doctoral candidate fails the comprehensive oral examination twice
- The doctoral candidate exceeds the maximum duration of studies as per the provisions of paragraph A.2.1
- The doctoral thesis is rejected twice on the recommendation of the Five-Member Examination Committee
- The doctoral candidate fails, for a second time, to successfully defend his/her doctoral thesis
- The doctoral candidate has not registered in a Module for two consecutive semesters, without requesting suspension of studies / attendance
- The doctoral candidate is sanctioned with expulsion as a result of disciplinary proceedings.

### D.2 Submission of Thesis

The doctoral candidate has the right to submit his/her thesis for examination after the elapse of at least three (3) years from his/her registration in the Doctoral Programme. The thesis can be examined up until the end of the sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) semester, unless re-submission and re-examination are requested. In this case, the doctoral candidate receives a mark of "incomplete" in the last Thematic Unit of his/her studies "ΔXXX891- Writing and Defence of Thesis" and is granted an extension of one academic semester for the re-submission and re-examination of the thesis.

The doctoral candidate may request not to be examined in the last Thematic Unit of his/her studies “ΔXXX891- Writing and Defence of Thesis” within the time period mentioned above and to be granted an extension of one (1) academic semester. In this case, provided he/she agrees, the Supervisor submits a recommendation to the Dean of the relevant Faculty, who may approve it. If the request is accepted, the doctoral candidate does not need to re-register in the Module “ΔXXX891- Writing and Defence of Thesis”, but receives the mark “Incomplete” and is released from any further financial obligations. The Module “ΔXXX891- Writing and Defence of Thesis” must receive a “Pass” up until the end of the immediately following semester, otherwise it is marked as “Fail”.

The doctoral candidate submits his/her doctoral thesis to the Three-Member Advisory Committee on the approval of the Supervisor.

The thesis must be formatted in accordance with the “Formatting instructions for Doctoral Theses” specified by each Faculty based on a relevant model approved by decision of the Senate.

### **D.3. Appointment of Examination Committee**

Together with the thesis, the Supervisor also submits to the relevant Faculty:

- A report substantiating the compliance of the thesis with the requirements of paragraph C.4
- A proposal for a Five-Member Examination Committee, with sufficient argumentation as to why the proposed members of the Committee cover all the areas/topics of the doctoral research.

The Five-Member Examination Committee comprises the members of the doctoral candidate’s Three-Member Advisory Committee plus two (2) additional members. Overall, the Committee comprises two (2) faculty members of another local or foreign University or members holding a position in a recognized local or foreign Research Centre, whose specialization is directly related to the overall area/topic or individual aspects of the doctoral thesis. The Five-Member Examination Committee is chaired by a member other than the Supervisor. A person related to the doctoral candidate up to the fourth degree either by blood or marriage or a person maintaining a particular relationship of friendship or hostility with the doctoral candidate is not allowed to participate in the Five-Member Examination Committee.

The Five-Member Examination Committee is appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty.

## **D.4. Duties and Responsibilities of the Five-Member Examination Committee**

### ***D.4.1 Preliminary Assessment of the Thesis***

The Faculty forwards to the members of the Five-Member Examination Committee the Supervisor's report, the decision for the establishment of the Committee, the thesis and instructions on the assessment process.

Each member of the Five-Member Examination Committee, with the exception of the Supervisor, submits to the Chair of the Committee, separately and independently from the other members, a written report within six (6) weeks from receiving the doctoral thesis. The report includes the member's preliminary comments and positions on the thesis, and in particular:

- A short summary of the thesis
- An assessment of the academic quality of the thesis, including its originality
- An assessment of the methodological approach, argumentation, use of bibliography, presentation and validity of the results and conclusions
- An assessment of the contribution of the thesis towards enriching scientific knowledge in the relevant scientific field
- General observations and comments
- A suggestion on whether the doctoral candidate should be allowed to defend his/her thesis.

The independent preliminary reports are sent to all the members of the Five-Member Examination Committee before the examination of the thesis and are attached, together with the Supervisor's report, as Appendices to the Committee's final report.

Further to a decision taken by simple majority vote of its members, the Committee submits a reasoned recommendation to the Senate, suggesting the following by simple majority:

- To allow the doctoral candidate to defend his/her doctoral thesis, or
- To reject the thesis.

The Committee's recommendation is communicated to the doctoral candidate who may, if he/she wishes, submit comments on the Committee's recommendation within a period of ten (10) days. The Senate decides based on the Committee's recommendation and the doctoral candidate's comments, if any. The doctoral candidate cannot object to the Senate's decision.

#### ***D.4.2 Defence of the Thesis***

The candidate defends his/her thesis during a meeting of the Five-Member Examination Committee, which takes place within one month from the date of the decision of the Senate to allow the candidate to defend the thesis.

The place and time of the defence are publicly announced at least ten (10) working days in advance.

The defence may take place in Greek or English, unless the Faculty has allowed the use of another language.

The Doctoral Thesis is presented in a forty-five (45) minute public lecture; the physical presence of the candidate in the University premises is required. The external members of the Five-Member Examination Committee may participate in the defence of the Doctoral Thesis either in person or via teleconference, on the condition that at least three (3) members of the Five-Member Examination Committee participate in the meeting in person. At the end of the lecture, the audience is allowed to ask the candidate questions. After the completion of the question and answer session, the audience leaves the room and there follows an examination/discussion with the candidate and the members of the Five-Member Examination Committee. After the examination, the candidate leaves the room and the Five-Member Examination Committee convenes to prepare its recommendation.

#### ***D.4.3 Final Assessment of the Thesis***

Following the doctoral student's defence, the Five-Member Examination Committee submits a written recommendation to the Senate, suggesting either the award of the Doctoral Title to the candidate or the re-submission of the thesis, or the rejection of the thesis. The recommendation is based on a simple majority vote of the Committee's members and is accompanied by a report containing detailed argumentation. The Committee's report and recommendation are communicated to the doctoral candidate who may, if he/she

wishes, submit relevant comments within a period of ten (10) days.

In the first case, if corrections are needed, the doctoral candidate has up to six (6) months to complete the required corrections. This period of time includes time needed by the Five-Member Examination Committee, or one of its members appointed to do so by the Committee, to check the revised Doctoral Thesis. In the second case, the re-submission and re-examination of the Doctoral Thesis must take place within twelve (12) months maximum, and within this period, a second defence of the thesis must take place as well.

The Senate decides on the basis of the Recommendation prepared by the Five-Member Examination Committee and may refer it for additional justification.

If the recommendation is positive, the report must discuss in detail the significance and originality of the research conducted and state its scientific contribution to the relevant subject area. The report of the Five-Member Examination Committee must also state which parts of the Thesis which are suitable for publication and in which form (monograph, articles, etc.). In case publications have already resulted from the research on the Doctoral Thesis, the list of publications together with the relevant texts are attached.

## **D.5 Award of the Doctoral Title**

The title of “Doctor of the Open University of Cyprus” is awarded by the Senate, who decide to award the Doctoral Title (Doctorate) or not based on the relevant recommendation of the Faculty and the report of the Five-Member Examination Committee.

The Dean of the relevant Faculty submits to the Vice-Rector the Faculty’s recommendation, together with the report of the Five-Member Examination Committee, the completed Supporting Documents Submission Form, the Acknowledgement of Receipt of the Doctoral Thesis by the University’s Library, one printout and one digital copy of the Thesis.

Upon verifying that all the required supporting documents have been submitted and the correct procedure has been followed, the Vice-Rector forwards them to the Senate to decide on the award of the Doctoral Title.

## **D.6 Certificates**

The Senate informs the Students and Programmes of Study Support Unit and the Faculty of the exact title of the Doctoral Thesis to be awarded and stated on the Certificate, as well as the date of award of the title. The following will be issued to each successful doctoral candidate: The Title of Doctor (Doctorate), Transcript and Certificate. The Title of Doctor and the Transcript state the Faculty and the specific subject area in which the candidate has graduated. The Title of Doctor is accompanied by a Certificate stating the title of the Thesis and the names of the Five-Member Examination Committee, also mentioning the name of the Supervisor.

The successful candidate is awarded a Doctoral Diploma (Doctorate) signed by the Rector and the Dean of the relevant Faculty. The type of diploma is determined by decision of the Senate on the recommendation of the Studies Committee.

The Open University of Cyprus issues diploma supplements in accordance with the relevant regulations.

## E. Joint Doctoral Titles and Co-supervision Agreements on Doctoral Studies

Further to a decision of the Senate, the Open University of Cyprus may conclude with other local or foreign Universities agreements for the granting of a joint or double/multiple doctoral title, as well as agreements for the co-supervision of doctoral studies. These agreements are signed by the Rector.

A joint doctoral title is defined as a title resulting from a collaborative programme of doctoral studies between two or more Universities, which are jointly responsible for the programme of doctoral studies, the admission, academic supervision, award of the title and other provisions of this regulation. As a rule, collaboration is established in the form of a partnership and is governed by an agreement between the members of such partnership. On the completion of a joint doctoral programme of studies, the following are awarded:

- A doctoral title issued jointly by the members of the partnership, or
- More than one doctoral titles, each of which is issued by each member of the partnership, or
- A combination of the above two options.

A co-supervision agreement is defined as an agreement between Universities for the joint academic supervision of doctoral candidates and collaboration in their training as researchers.

### E.1. Progress Monitoring and Provisions for Joint Doctoral Titles

The joint doctoral title agreements must, as a minimum, include provisions on the student admission procedure and criteria, the cost of the studies, the compulsory attendance of Modules/courses, if any, the supervision, attendance requirements in each participating Institution, if any, the monitoring of the progress of the doctoral candidates, the language and structure of the thesis, the thesis assessment procedure, the doctoral title award procedure, the type of the doctoral diploma and the copyright on the results.

Based on decision of the Senate, divergences from the provisions of this regulation are allowed if necessary for purposes of convergence with the provisions of the respective regulations of the other institutions participating in the partnership and in order to enable the conclusion of a joint or double/multiple doctoral title

agreement or a doctoral studies co-supervision agreement. The relevant decision of the Senate must substantiate that these divergences, considered both individually and as a whole, do not affect the standard of academic quality that doctoral studies at the Open University of Cyprus are required to meet. Nonetheless, it is not possible in any case to eliminate

- The provision for availability of the doctoral thesis to the public
- The provision on the public defence of the thesis
- The provision on the minimum duration of studies (3 years).

Each student of a joint Doctoral Programme of Study must be admitted by all institutions participating in the joint programme.

## F. Transitional Provisions

These regulations enter into effect in the academic year following the accreditation of the Doctoral Programmes by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education. The attendance of students who are already registered in a Doctoral Programme is regulated by the regulations previously in force and the relevant decisions of the Studies Committee and the Senate of the Open University of Cyprus.

***The revised “Internal Regulations for Doctoral Studies” were approved during the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, and ratified at the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, and apply as of the academic year following the accreditation of the Doctoral Programmes of the Open University of Cyprus by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education.***

***The revised “Internal Regulations for Doctoral Studies” were approved during the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 and ratified at the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.***