

Academic and Research Regulations for the PhD Programme in Industrial Engineering for Design and Production (IPRI)

Regulations effective from the 40th PhD Cycle onwards.

This Regulation governs the organisational, academic, and research aspects of the PhD Programme in Industrial Engineering for Design and Production (IPRI).

Any matters not expressly governed by these Regulations shall be subject to the provisions of the current Regulations for PhD Programmes of the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

Educational Activities

The PhD program in Design, Manufacturing and Operations Engineering requires each student to attend, over the three-year period, at least 90 hours of structured courses included in the PhD Program's academic plan. Approximately thirty-five structured courses are available, comprising more than 110 hours, covering multidisciplinary topics specifically related to the PhD program. Every December, a survey is conducted with the student representative regarding the performance of the courses during the first two years.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to verify and certify actual participation in educational and training activities.

Participation in schools, training courses, workshops, and conferences related to the PhD student's educational path is also foreseen, subject to prior agreement with the supervisor.

Admission to the final examination requires the completion of at least 90 hours of official, in-person structured coursework delivered by members of the PhD Academic Board.

The Individual Study Plan must be submitted annually to the Programme Coordinator by 30 November.

To ensure the effective organisation of teaching activities, any absence from one or more classes included in the Individual Study Plan, as well as any exceptional request to attend a class online when it is scheduled to be delivered in person, must be justified solely by compelling, documented, and verifiable circumstances. The relevant notification must be sent to the Programme Coordinator, the course instructor, and the PhD Programme Office at least five days before the scheduled class.

During the first two years of the PhD Programme, any class included in the Individual Study Plan that is not attended may be made up in the following academic year.

Participation in workshops or thematic schools for PhD candidates, subject to the supervisor's prior approval, may count towards the training requirement, up to a maximum of 15 hours. Such participation may result in an amendment to the Individual Study Plan during the programme, subject to the Programme Coordinator's determination of the number of recognisable hours, in consultation with the supervisor. Amendments to the Individual Study Plan are permitted only during the first two years of the PhD Programme.

The assessment of the activities undertaken, together with the determination of the number of recognised hours, shall be the responsibility of the Steering Committee and the Programme

Coordinator as part of the annual evaluation for progression to the following year of the PhD Programme or admission to the final examination.

Scientific Output

It is the responsibility of the PhD candidate, in agreement with their supervisor, to disseminate the results of the research activities carried out during the PhD Programme. This dissemination shall take place through publications in national and international scientific journals, as well as through presentations at conferences and seminars at both national and international levels. In particular, the minimum requirements, within the period from the year preceding enrolment in the PhD Programme to the end of the doctoral period, are as follows:

- For admission to the final examination: two papers published or accepted for publication in scientific journals, or in peer-reviewed conference proceedings, indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science (WoS), on topics related to the PhD thesis research or to the relevant Scientific Disciplinary Sector (SSD).
- To be eligible for an "excellent quality" evaluation at the final examination: four scientific papers* published or accepted for publication by the date of the thesis defence in journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science (WoS), on topics related to the PhD thesis research or to the relevant Scientific Disciplinary Sector (SSD), of which at least one must be published in a journal classified in the Q1 quartile.
- To be eligible for a final examination evaluation with honours: five scientific papers** published or accepted for publication by the date of the thesis defence in journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science (WoS), on topics related to the PhD thesis research or to the relevant Scientific Disciplinary Sector (SSD), including at least two papers published in journals classified in the Q1 quartile, both addressing topics related to the PhD thesis research.

* For students enrolled in the 40th PhD Cycle, read: two scientific papers.

** For students enrolled in the 40th PhD Cycle, read: three scientific papers.

Monitoring PhD Student Activities

Each PhD candidate is assigned a supervisor, selected from among the members of the PhD Academic Board, and one or more co-supervisors, appointed by the PhD Academic Board either from among its members or from external experts.

In cases where the PhD candidate conducts their activities mainly at external institutions, an additional supervisor or co-supervisor at that institution may be appointed. The supervisor is responsible for agreeing upon the candidate's training and research programme and for continuously supervising their academic and research activities.

Every year, in October, all information on the scientific and training activities carried out by PhD candidates is collected through each candidate's concise activity report. The relevant template is available on the PhD Programme website. The report must be signed by the supervisor, who certifies its content.

At the end of each academic year, between October and November, PhD candidates must undergo an interview before the Steering Committee, appointed by the Programme Coordinator. Based on the activity report, the verification of completed teaching activities, and the interview outcome, the Committee formulates an assessment and submits a proposal to the PhD Academic Board on admission or non-admission for the following year.

A six-monthly progress review is also required for all PhD candidates, through an interview whose format and organisation, including the possibility of a poster session, are defined annually by the Programme Coordinator.

For third-year PhD candidates, the Committee evaluates the activities carried out throughout the entire PhD Programme and submits to the PhD Academic Board a proposal for admission (including an indication of possible eligibility for an "excellent" evaluation or for honours) or non-admission to the final examination.

Final PhD Examination

The final version of the PhD thesis must be submitted to the Programme Coordinator by 31 December following the completion of the third year of the programme, without prejudice to any extension periods communicated by the Programme Coordinator or suspension periods approved by the PhD Academic Board.

The Programme Coordinator shall submit the thesis for evaluation by at least two reviewers proposed by the supervisor. The reviewers must not be members of the PhD Academic Board or affiliated with the University of Rome Tor Vergata and must possess highly qualified expertise in the relevant field. At least one of the reviewers must be a university professor, in accordance with the Tor Vergata Rome Doctoral School Regulations.

The requirements and procedures for obtaining the European Ph.D. Label (the "Doctor Europaeus" label, developed by the Confederation of European Rectors' Conferences and reported on the doctoral degree certificate as an additional certification) are described in the Tor Vergata Rome Doctoral School Regulations.

The possible awarding of honours by the Examination Committee during the final examination is subject, in addition to meeting the publication requirements, to the submission of a reasoned proposal by the supervisor, unanimously approved by the PhD Academic Board.