REGULATIONS FOR THE PhD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
(APPROVED BY THE TEACHING STAFF COUNCIL ON……………) 

Art. 1
DEFINITION

1. The aims of the research doctorate are training in research, through teaching and research activities in the course’s area of discipline and other related fields. This activity will lead to original contributions to scientific knowledge and will be the subject of the student’s final thesis.

2. The training consists of a research programme combined with advanced training aimed at increasing the student’s scientific knowledge and methodological and planning skills, as well as training relevant to the international arena.

Art. 2
AIMS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

1. The objective of the PhD programme in Computer Science is the acquisition of critical and analytical methodological tools relevant to the field of computer science. The PhD aims in particular to train researchers to have a vast, in-depth knowledge of computer science and its applications, a high capacity to learn and the ability to apply advanced methods of research.

2. To this end, the research project is complemented by a wide range of methodological training activities co-ordinated by the relevant School, with relevance to foreign collaborations, including research management, research systems and financing, research results exploitation and intellectual property.

3. The professional profile of Doctors of research will enable them to embark on a successful career in a range of academic and corporate sectors.

Art. 3
DOCTORATE COURSE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

These are:
1) the Co-ordinator
2) the Teaching Staff Council

Art. 4
COORDINATOR

Coordinator: election and appointment
The Coordinator is elected from among the full-time teachers by the members of the Teaching Staff Council.

In case of withdrawal, resignation, termination of qualification or loss of eligibility requirements, the outgoing coordinator announces the expiration of his term or gives notice of his resignation to the Teaching Staff Council. The Dean of the College simultaneously requests nominations from among the members of the Board itself and sets the terms for the holding of the election of a new Coordinator, which must take place within thirty days of the expiry of the outgoing Coordinator’s mandate.

In the period between the expiry of the outgoing Coordinator’s term of office and the new Coordinator’s assumption, the Dean acts as the interim Coordinator.

The election is by secret ballot in accordance with the procedures established by the University’s general Regulations (Art. 4, para 2).
Art. 5

TEACHING STAFF COUNCIL

The Coordinator schedules Teaching Staff Council meetings (possibly via teleconferencing) in order to ensure the Council is complying with its duties as set out in the University General Regulations and in accordance with the Doctorate School’s wishes.

The Teaching Staff Council has the following functions:
- definition of the training activity calendar by the beginning of the current year’s PhD cycle;
- verification of the proper conduct of scheduled activities and, in case of non-compliance, implementation of appropriate corrective actions;
- recognition of graduate student credits in accordance with Art. 9 of the Regulations of the School relevant to the course and as indicated in the following Art. 7;
- admission of doctoral students to the following years and the final exam after obtaining, for the latter, the binding opinion of external evaluators (Art. 8 DM PhD 06/05/2013);
- proposals for teachers’ and researchers’ teaching duties as part of the doctoral programme in accordance with deadlines set by the competent bodies;
- defining course admission procedures, including an indication of evaluation criteria and their scores;
- in the case of conventions aimed at developing doctorates in collaboration with companies: defining methods of conducting research and deciding on the level of commitment of the doctoral student;
- authorisation of work activities;
- definition of measures to be implemented in the event of default by the various parties;
- definition of duties of tutors and the internal commission, if any;
- course admission proposals;
- proposals of external evaluators in accordance with Art. 8 of DM 06/05/2013;
- proposals for the final exam evaluation commission;
- defining procedures to be implemented in the event of a negative assessment of the thesis by the assessors.

Art. 6

PhD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Each cycle of PhD students elects a Representative from among their own ranks. The election of Representatives is convened by the PhD course Co-ordinator within sixty days of the start of the PhD cycle.

Art. 7

COURSE CREDITS

The allocation of credits is in accordance with Art. 9 of the implementing regulations of the Graduate School to which the course pertains.

For training activities not covered by the Course or the Graduate School, the allocation of credits requires the approval of the Council.

The allocation of credits relative to didactic training activities given by the School or the Course in the three-year period includes:
- The achievement of 20 credits for educational activities provided by the School;
- The achievement of 20 credits for educational activities provided by the Course.

The student’s acquisition of credits from the various training activities is tested annually for admission to the following year.

Verification of the number of credits achieved as required for admission to the final examination will be performed at the end of the final academic year.
Art. 8
ADMISSION TO SUBSEQUENT YEARS

In conformity with Art. 9 of Regulations of the Graduate School of Natural and Engineering Sciences, admission to the second and subsequent years is dependent on
a. The presentation of the thesis proposal by the end of the first year;
b. The presentation of the progress of the thesis by the end of the second year;
c. The preliminary presentation of the thesis by the end of the final year.

The Board deliberates on admission to the following years and on whether to submit the thesis for the consideration of external evaluators at the end of the final year.

Art. 9
ATTAINMENT OF PhD

In accordance with Art. 8 of DM 06/05/2013, the title of PhD is awarded following the positive evaluation of the thesis. The procedure includes:

- Sending the preliminary version of the thesis to the internal commission by thirty days before the end of the final year of the course (31st October);
- Sending the preliminary version of the thesis to the external evaluators by two months before the end of the final year of the course (30th November), with the prior approval of the Teaching Council;
- Receiving the binding opinion of the external evaluators by four months before the end of the final year of the course (31st January). In the event of a positive assessment, the thesis defence shall be scheduled by the 30th April of the following calendar year. In the event of a negative evaluation, the candidate must conclude the review of the thesis according to a schedule allowing evaluators to give their final evaluation no later than six months following the initial evaluation.
- Public discussion takes place before a commission whose composition is proposed by the Teaching Staff Council and appointed by the Rector in accordance with Art. 15 paragraph 3 of the University’s General PhD regulations.

Final exam:
By 28th February the Teaching Staff Council considers the evaluators’ judgment and deliberates on the admission of candidates to the final exam, and simultaneously decides on who will make up the judging commission.

Registration for final examination:
By 15th March of the calendar year following the end of the course, and after the publication of the list of those admitted to the final exam, students must register for the final exam and provide an original of the thesis frontispiece, signed by the Coordinator, tutor and student, along with the registration form.

By 15th March the Examination Commission nominations will be published.
The public discussion is held before a commission in the April of the calendar year following the final year of the course.
After the discussion the thesis, by means of a joint written judgment, is approved or rejected. The commission, by a unanimous vote, has the right to give an honours award to a thesis it judges to be of particular scientific importance.

Thesis deposit:
Students admitted to the final exam must deposit their thesis with the University library (U-GOV) up to fifteen days prior to the discussion. The thesis will be made public within thirty days of the discussion subject to any embargos due to information protected by trade secrets and / or publishing rights.
Failure to deposit the thesis with the University library will lead to exclusion from the thesis discussion.
Art. 10

TEMPORARY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

2. Active doctoral cycles will be completed according to rules in force at the same institution. The provisions of this Regulation shall be applied from PhD cycle XXIX cycle. In particular, the timing relating to the award of evidence (Art. 10) for cycles XXIX and XXX will be rescheduled, taking into account the different conclusion of the last year of the course.

3. Matters not covered by this Regulation are covered by the rules of law, ministerial regulations, statutory provisions and the General Regulations of the University.

4. These Regulations shall come into force on the fifteenth day following its publication by the University.