Art. 1
(Scope)

In these regulations the aims, the organisation and the governing bodies of the Graduate School of Natural and Engineering Sciences are set out.

Art. 2
(Objectives and Aims)

1. The University promotes the establishment of Doctoral Schools with the task of organising and managing, including through international collaboration, advanced training through research in various disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields, providing activities common to several doctoral research fields and their related problems, while respecting European and international research systems, the enhancement of research results and intellectual property.
2. The Doctoral Schools organise accreditation activities common to several doctoral courses and ensure knowledge of best practice within the schools themselves.
3. The Schools’ doctoral courses, while having common educational and research programmes set up and run by the Schools, maintain their scientific-disciplinary character through their accreditation criteria and periodic evaluations.
4. The title of "Doctor of Research" is awarded by the University, and the diploma bears the name of the School and the details of the doctoral programme.

Art. 3
(School administrative bodies)

These are:
1. the Director;
2. the School Council;
3. the Scientific Committee.

Art. 4
(School Director)

1. The Director of the School is a full-time tenured professor of the University, with a proven high standard of scientific competence and continuity in scientific production. The Director is appointed by the Rector after consulting the Senate. Applicants’ CVs are gathered by the PhD Programme Coordinator, given to the Rector and discussed by the Academic Senate. The Director holds office for a period of five years; he is the Head of the School, its representative and coordinates its normal activities. Should he no longer be able to perform his functions, these are taken over by the most senior Coordinator until a new Director is appointed.

The School Director’s scientific qualifications are evaluated by a short CV focusing on:
- A subset of publications made over the last five years;
- Experience of coordinating research groups and / or national and international projects;
- Any national or international awards obtained;
- Any other relevant information.
2. The Director of the Graduate School:
- represents the Graduate School to outside organisations and to other agencies of the University of Verona;
- convenes and chairs the School Council;
- coordinates and organises common training activities;
- gives an annual report detailing the Graduate School’s activities, which is submitted first to the Evaluation Group for comments and thereafter to the Academic Senate;
- advises the Rector on the granting of degrees by the Doctoral School.

3. The role of School Director is incompatible with the roles of PhD Coordinator, Rector, Vice-Rector and Assistant Rectors, Director of another Graduate School, Director of Specialisation School, Department Director, and member of the Quality Assurance Board, the Evaluation Group, the Board of Directors and the Academic Senate. Conflicts of interest can be resolved by opting for one of the two positions.

4. The position of Director can be revoked by the Rector in the case of the Evaluation Board giving its negative judgement.

**Art. 5**
**(School Council)**
1. The School Council consists of:
   a. the School Director;
   b. the Coordinator of each PhD course;
   c. doctoral student representatives.
2. The School Council:
   a. organises training activities annually, providing a uniform system of allocation of credits for each type of activity;
   b. determines all aspects common to the School’s courses, and coordinates any interdisciplinary initiatives;
   c. ensures PhD courses are progressing well;
   d. proposes agreements and contracts related to joint activities undertaken by the School;
   e. defines evaluation criteria common to doctorate courses;
   f. submits an annual report on the School’s activities to the relevant bodies;
   g. meets at least three times a year.

**Art. 6**
**(Scientific Committee)**
1. The Scientific Committee is composed of the Director of the School, who is its chairman, and by at least two experts appointed by the School Council, who can also be from outside the University, who have a proven scientific record and who are not teachers of the University’s Doctorate courses;
2. The Scientific Committee’s term lasts for three years;
3. The Scientific Committee has the responsibility of giving its opinion on the School’s training activities and on its Doctorate Courses and their progress;
4. The Scientific Committee meets at least once a year (even via internet) and forwards its evaluations to the Evaluation Board and the School Council;
5. The external members of the Scientific Committee may be entitled to a fee whose value is decided on by the School Council and is added to the reimbursement of other expenses related to their role.

Art. 7
(PhD student representatives)
1. The representatives of the doctoral students are students of all the School’s PhD courses;
2. The number of representatives of the doctoral students is calculated as follows:
   - Schools with up to three doctorate courses have a representative for each course;
   - Schools with over three doctorate courses have a number equal to half the number courses, rounded down by one should this be an even number;
3. PhD students elect representatives for their own schools to serve a two-year term;
4. The Director holds Student Representative elections every two years.

Art. 8
(Course admission)
1. Admission to the School’s PhD courses is as announced.
2. The School guarantees the fairness of the running of the applications procedure, in which the following are required:
   - A CV and a list of any relevant publications;
   - A degree certificate and a list of all relevant course exams;
   - Letters of reference;
   - An interview will be conducted in Italian or in another language, if necessary by video conferencing according to the established terms and conditions.

Art. 9
(Academic credits and tutoring)
1. Each academic programme consists of 180 credits distributed as follows:
   a. at least 30 credits related to training activities offered by the School and individual PhD courses.
   b. at least 90 credits to be gained through research.
2. The balance of credits between teaching activities and research, as well as the types of training activities and the corresponding number of credits offered by the School are defined in Annex A.
3. The teaching staff of each doctorate course draws up a plan of the training activities on offer by the start of the course, and their value in terms of credits in accordance with Annex A, and submits this to the School Council for their approval.
4. The PhD teachers assign a tutor and possibly other co-tutors to each PhD candidate, who work alongside him in his research and evaluate his activities.
5. At the end of each year, the Academic Board of the PhD decides whether the candidate will proceed to the following year, and whether he will be admitted to examinations at the end of the final year, based on the judgment of his evaluators. To this end, the student must produce:
   a. a thesis proposal before the end of the first year;
   b. a report on the progress of the thesis by the end of the second year;
   c. a preliminary presentation of the thesis by the end of the final year;

6. All teachers from the Doctorate school, teachers from other Italian or foreign universities or experts in the relevant field recognised as such by the Teaching Staff Council can be co-tutors.
Art. 10
(Awarding of title of PhD)
1. The title of Doctor of Research, abbreviated to Dott.Ric. or PhD, is awarded following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodology in the chosen field of inquiry.

2. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by a summary in Italian or English, is written in Italian or English or in another language with the prior approval of the Teaching Staff Council. The thesis, along with which the candidate provides a report on any activities and publications during his period of studies, is evaluated by at least two appropriately qualified external teachers, who may be members of foreign institutions and who have not contributed to the PhD, hereafter referred to as assessors. The assessors make an analytical judgment on the thesis and either propose its admission to public discussion or suggest a delay of at most six months for necessary additions or corrections. After this period, the thesis is in any case admitted to public discussion, accompanied by a new written opinion by the assessors made following any corrections or additions. The public discussion is held before a commission whose composition is defined in Art. 11 of these Regulations. After the discussion the thesis is either approved or rejected, with reasons given in a document written jointly by the assessors. The commission, by unanimous vote, may state that the results of the thesis are of particular scientific importance.

3. Students taking the final exam must deposit their thesis with the University library (U-GOV) fifteen days prior to the discussion.

The thesis will be made public within thirty days following the discussion, subject to any embargos due to information protected by trade secrets and / or publishing rights.

Art. 11
(Evaluating commission)
1. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by a synthesis in either Italian or English, must be written in Italian or English or in another language subject to the prior approval of the faculty.

2. The public discussion is held before a commission composed of three members chosen from university professors and researchers of proven scientific competence, which may include foreign experts in disciplines relevant to the PhD programme. At least two members should not belong to the University’s teaching staff.

3. The Commission is appointed by the Rector on the proposal of the PhD student’s relevant Teaching Staff Council. The Relator must submit the CVs of those he or she proposes as members, and the College decides whether to approve the choices or ask for different proposals.

4. For the establishment of the examination boards for joint PhD programmes, reference is given to legislation and individual agreements between universities.

Art. 12
(Financial resources)
1. The School’s financial resources derive from a specific fund set aside by the University. A fixed amount is put at the disposal of each Coordinator and a variable amount is available to the School Council, determined by co-financing between each department and the University. The School can also be financed by any other resources it succeeds in obtaining from Departments and from public and private bodies through signed agreements or conventions.
2. The Schools’ own funds (as established by the Academic Senate in its sessions of July and October 2007) remain as part of the University’s core budget and are spent following the authorisation of the School Director.

3. School funds allocated to the Doctorate Courses can be used by the Coordinator if approved in the overall spending plan at the start date of the PhD cycle.

4. The Graduate School dedicates administrative staff to these purposes.

Art. 13
(Legal force)

Matters not covered by these Regulations are subject to the rules of law, statutory provisions, the "University of Verona Doctorate School Regulations" and the "University of Verona PhD Regulations"

These Regulations come into force after approval by the School Council and communication to the relevant academic bodies. The Regulations of each PhD programme adapt to the content of this statutory instrument.