Art. 1
Scope of Application

The present Regulations govern the aims, the organisation and the bodies overseeing the "Life and Health Sciences" Graduate School.

Art. 2
Aims and Objectives

1. The University promotes the establishment of graduate schools whose purpose is to organise and manage high-level education through research in various disciplines and interdisciplinary fields (which task may involve processes of internationalisation). Activities should be common to more than one PhD programme in that particular area of research and for any problems related to carrying out the research, European and worldwide systems of research, assessment of results and protection of intellectual property may be consulted.
2. Graduate Schools are organisational structures which plan the activities common to several PhD courses in order to provide accreditation and spread knowledge of best practices within each individual school.
3. The PhD courses pertaining to the various Schools, despite sharing common teaching and research programmes (selected and managed by the Schools), maintain their own academic and disciplinary characteristics in order to comply with accreditation and periodical assessment requirements.
4. The title of "Doctor of Philosophy" will be awarded by the University and the related certificate will bear the name of the Graduate School and the title of the PhD course.

Art. 3
School Authorities

The following are the School authorities:
1. The Director (Direttore);
2. the School Council (Consiglio della Scuola);
3. the Academic Committee (Comitato Scientifico).

Art. 4
School Director

1. The School Director is a full-time professor with a chair at the University who boasts unexceptionable scientific knowledge and continuity in their own academic output. The Director is appointed by the Chancellor (Rettore), after consultation with the Academic Board (Senato Accademico). Candidatures for the post as School Director, complete with the respective curricula vitae, will be accepted by the Coordinators of the PhD courses, forwarded to the Chancellor and submitted for examination by the Academic Board. The office of Director lasts for five years; the Director is in charge of the School, stands as its representative and coordinates all its day-to-day activities. In the event of the Director no longer being able to carry out their duties, these will be taken over by the most senior Coordinator until the Director can be substituted.

The assessment of the academic expertise of the School Director is based on an assessment of their academic work, documented in a brief CV containing:
- a subset of their publications from the past five years,
- their experience in coordinating research groups and/or national and international projects,
- any national or international awards received,
- any other element demonstrating their academic standing.

2. The Director of the Graduate School:
- represents the Graduate School in the outside world and in relations with other University bodies;
- convenes and chairs the meetings of the School Council;
- coordinates and organises the normal teaching and research activities;
- presents a detailed annual report about the state of affairs of the Graduate School; this will be first submitted to the Assessment Board (Nucleo di Valutazione), which will formulate any observations it deems necessary to make to the Academic Board;
- submits proposals to the Chancellor for the award of PhD degrees approved by the Graduate School.

3. The post of School Director is incompatible with the posts of PhD Coordinator, Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor or Chancellor's Delegates, Director of another Graduate School, Director of a Specialisation School, Department Director, member of the Quality Assurance Body, member of the Assessment Board, member of the Board of Directors or member of the Academic Board. This incompatibility can be resolved by opting for one of the two offices.

4. The appointment as Director may be revoked by the Chancellor in the event of a negative opinion expressed by the Assessment Board.

Art. 5
School Council

1. The School Council is composed of:
   a) the School Director;
   b) the Coordinator of each PhD Course;
   c) the PhD Students' Representatives

2. The School Council:
   a) organises all the teaching and research activities year by year and structures a standard academic credit attribution system for each type of academic activity;
   b) establishes all the aspects common to the various School courses and coordinates any interdisciplinary initiatives;
   c) oversees the running of the School as regards the PhD courses;
   d) proposes agreements and contracts regarding the normal activities carried out by the School;
   e) establishes the assessment criteria common to the PhD Courses;
   f) presents a yearly report to the relevant university bodies on the School's activities;
   g) meets at least thrice yearly.

Art. 6
Academic Committee

1. The Academic Committee is made up of the School Director - who chairs the committee - and at least two scholars appointed by the School Council (Italians or non-Italians as the case may be) who are undoubted academic authorities and do not form part of the teaching staff on the PhD Courses offered by the School;
2. The Academic Committee is appointed for a period of three years;
3. The Academic Committee's function is to guide and support: it expresses its judgement on the teaching and research programmes offered by the school and the various PhD Courses and on the state of the PhD Courses;
4. The Academic Committee meets at least once yearly - either in person or using telecommunications - and forwards its judgements to the University's Assessment Board and the
School Council;
5. External members of the Academic Committee may be awarded remuneration, the amount of which will be decided by the School Council and which may be in addition to reimbursement of expenses incurred when travelling on university business.

Art. 7
PhD Students' Representatives

1. The PhD Students' Representatives represent the students from all the PhD courses offered by the school;
2. The number of PhD Students' Representatives is calculated as follows:
   - for schools offering up to three PhD courses, one Representative per course;
   - for schools offering more than three PhD courses, the number of Representatives will be half the number of Courses (rounded up to the nearest whole number), plus one if there is an even number of Council members;
3. The students enrolled on the various PhD courses offered by the School elect Representatives from within the school for a two-year period;
4. The elections to choose the PhD Students' Representatives are called once every two years by the Director.

Art. 8
Regulations for Admission to the Courses

1. Admission to the PhD Courses offered by the School is governed by the conditions stated in the Call for Applications (Bando).

2. For admission to the PhD Courses, the School acts as garantor of the standardisation of the formulation and timing of the notices, in which
   - the applicant's CV, including any publications, is requested;
   - the applicant's degree certificate, with a list of all the exams passed, is requested;
   - reference letters are requested;
   - an interview - in Italian or another language - is expected (this may be held through video conferencing, under the conditions and in compliance with the means stated in the Call for Applications).

Art. 9
Academic Credits (AC) and Research Supervision

1. All courses require the attainment of 180 AC, divided as follows:
   a) at least 30 AC pertaining to the teaching activities offered by the School and by the individual PhD Courses
   b) at least 90 AC to be attained in the chosen field of research.
2. The division of credits between teaching and research activities, as well as the types of academic activities and the corresponding number of ACs offered by the School are listed in Appendix A.
3. Each Teaching Body (Collegio dei Docenti) for the PhD Courses draws up the academic activity plans and submits them to the School Council for approval before the beginning of the courses; in these plans they propose the allocation of credits in accordance with Appendix A.
4. The Teaching Body for each PhD Course assigns a supervisor to each student, and if appropriate also one or more co-supervisors who will assist them in structuring the research and assessing the PhD student's work.
5. At the end of each academic year, the Teaching Staff for each PhD Course decides whether to admit the student to the following year's programme of studies and, at the end of the final year, decides whether to admit them to the final examination, having obtained the judgement of the examiners. To this end, each student is required to produce:
   a) their proposed thesis title by the end of the first year;
   b) evidence of the progress of their thesis by the end of the second year;
   c) initial presentation of their thesis by the end of the third year.
6. Any of the following may act as co-supervisors: teaching staff on any of the Courses offered by the Graduate School, teaching staff from any other Italian or foreign universities, experts on the subject of acknowledged academic standing appointed by the Teaching Body for the course.

Art 10
Award of the Degree

1. The title of Doctor of Philosophy, abbreviated in Italian as "Dott.Ric." and in English as "Ph.D." is awarded following the positive assessment of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodology in the candidate's chosen field of study.

2. The doctoral thesis, complete with an extract in Italian or English, shall be written in Italian or English, or in another language if the previous authorisation of the Teaching Body has been obtained. The thesis, which must be accompanied by a report written by the candidate on the activities they engaged in over the course of their doctoral studies and any articles they published during that time, will be examined by at least two highly qualified professors (who may hold chairs at foreign universities) who must not have been involved in the candidate's doctoral studies; henceforth these shall be denominated "examiners". The examiners make a written analysis of and judgement on the thesis and either recommend approving it for a final oral examination or send it back to the candidate for a period of no more than six months if they deem it necessary to make significant additions or amendments to it. Once this period has elapsed, the thesis will then be approved for the oral examination, complete with the new opinion written by the same examiners in the light of the corrections or additions made. In the oral examination, the candidate will have to defend their thesis to a board of examiners composed in compliance with Art. 11 of the present Regulations. At the end of the examination, the thesis will be either approved or rejected, with a written justification provided by the board. If the board votes unanimously, it may also award the doctorate *cum laude* if the thesis presents results of exceptional academic import.

3. The candidates admitted to the final oral examination shall deposit their thesis with the *Catalogo di Ateneo* (U-GOV), no more than two weeks before the date of the examination. The thesis will be published no more than 30 days after the oral examination, except in the case of a period of embargo being placed on theses containing data protected by trade secret laws and/or copyright.

Art. 11
Board of Examiners for the Final Oral Examination

1. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by an extract written in either Italian or English, shall be written in Italian or English, or another language if the previous authorisation of the course Teaching Body has been obtained.

2. The oral examination will take place before a board composed of three members chosen from among the university's own teaching staff and researchers of proven academic standing (Italian or non-Italian) who are experts in the disciplines studied on the PhD Course. At least two of the members must not be from the Teaching Staff for the course.
3. The Board of Examiners is appointed by the Chancellor upon the recommendation of the Teaching Body for the Course the candidate is enrolled on. To this end, the supervisors recommend to the Teaching Body the scholars deemed most appropriate to form part of the board, and the Teaching Body decides whether to approve the proposal or invite the supervisors to amend it.

4. For the formation of Boards of Examiners for co-supervised theses, please consult the specific regulations and individual agreements between universities.

**Art. 12**

**Financial Resources**

1. The financial resources allocated to the Schools are drawn from a specific university fund. This university fund allocates a set amount available to each Coordinator and a variable amount available to the School Council, established in line with the principle of individual Departments and the University co-funding initiatives. The School may also be financed by any and all other resources it manages to obtain independently from the Departments and/or public and private institutions, through the negotiation of conventions and agreements.

2. Each School’s own funds (as established by the Academic Board in the sessions held in July and October 2007) will remain in the main University accounts and will be spent only with the authorisation of the School Director.

3. The funds allocated to the PhD Courses offered by the School may be used by the Coordinator after obtaining approval of the overall expenditure plan before the start date of the cycle of studies.

4. The Graduate School has its own separate administrative staff.

**Art. 13**

**Validity**

For every matter not expressly governed by the present Regulations, reference will be made to Italian law, the university statute, the "Framework Regulations for Graduate Schools at the University of Verona" and the "Regulations for Doctoral Studies at the University of Verona".

The Regulations of the School will become effective and valid after they have been approved by the School Council and the relevant academic bodies have been informed. The Regulations for each PhD course will adhere to the stipulations of the present Regulations.