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Pursuant to Article 10 of the Statute of the Faculty of Law in Rijeka, the Faculty Council, at its session held on 17 September 2025, adopted the following

Regulations on the Doctoral Study Programme in the Field of Social Sciences, Area of Law of the Faculty of Law in Rijeka

I. Introductory Provisions

Article 1

(1) These Regulations govern the organisation and delivery of the Doctoral Study Programme in the field of Social Sciences, Area of Law (hereinafter: the Doctoral Study Programme) at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka (hereinafter: the Faculty), the procedure for the award of the academic degree of Doctor of Science within the Doctoral Study Programme, as well as other matters related to the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) Matters not regulated by these Regulations shall be governed by the general acts of the Faculty and of the University of Rijeka (hereinafter: the University).

(3) Terms used in these Regulations which have a gendered meaning shall apply equally to both masculine and feminine genders.

II. Organisation and Delivery of the Doctoral Study Programme

Article 2

(1) The Doctoral Study Programme shall be organised as a general programme within the scientific field of social sciences, area of law.

(2) The Doctoral Study Programme shall be delivered as a full-time programme of three years' duration or as a part-time programme of six years' duration. Periods of approved suspension of rights and obligations shall not be included in the duration of the programme.

(3) Upon completion of the Doctoral Study Programme, no less than 180 ECTS credits shall be awarded.

Article 3

(1) The structure of the Doctoral Study Programme shall consist of study obligations established by the accredited study programme, whereby no less than 90 ECTS credits shall be obtained through scientific research, the preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis proposal, as well as through scientific research, the preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The Doctoral Study Programme shall train doctoral students for independent and critically grounded scientific research, with consistent adherence to the principles of academic integrity and the application of scientific methodology in accordance with ethical and research standards within the European Research Area.

(3) Forms of instruction within the Doctoral Study Programme shall include lectures, research seminars, consultations, practical classes, workshops, group discussions and other forms of teaching aimed at acquiring educational and research competences, scientific research methodology, critical thinking and academic integrity.

Article 4

(1) The Doctoral Study Programme shall be delivered in the Croatian or English language.

(2) The doctoral thesis shall be written in the Croatian language, but, subject to the conditions set out in these Regulations, it may be written in one of the additional languages of the programme: English, German, Italian or French.

III. Provider and Competent Bodies of the Doctoral Study Programme

Article 5

(1) The provider and implementing institution of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be the Faculty.

(2) The Doctoral Study Programme shall be governed by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme and the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme.

(3) Administrative support to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme and to the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be provided by the Secretary of the Doctoral Study Programme and the professional services of the Faculty.

Article 6

(1) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be the Faculty Council.

(2) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall:

- adopt the Regulations on the Doctoral Study Programme and any amendments and supplements thereto,
- adopt the study programme of the Doctoral Study Programme and any amendments and supplements thereto,
- adopt the implementation plan of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- announce the public call for applications for enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme,
- decide on the admission of applicants to the Doctoral Study Programme and on other individual acts relating to the Doctoral Study Programme,
- appoint the committee for the submission and evaluation of the doctoral thesis proposal,
- appoint the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis,
- decide on the report of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis proposal,

- decide on the report of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis,
- decide on the annual evaluation of mentors and doctoral students,
- determine the amount of tuition fees for the Doctoral Study Programme,
- decide on the annual report on the work of the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- perform other tasks in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Article 7

(1) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be appointed by decision of the Dean from among the academic staff employed at the Faculty who have been elected to the position of Associate Professor or higher in the field of law. The term of office of the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be three years and may be renewed.

(2) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall:

- ensure the delivery of teaching and other study activities in accordance with the accredited programme of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- prepare draft Regulations on the Doctoral Study Programme, draft public call for applications for enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme, draft decisions on the admission of applicants to the Doctoral Study Programme, as well as draft other general and individual acts relating to the Doctoral Study Programme to be decided upon by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- appoint committees for interviews with applicants for enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme,
- during the application procedure, provide support to applicants in defining their research topic and establishing contact with a potential mentor, and, together with the potential mentor and the Secretary of the Doctoral Study Programme, provide support in the preparation of application documentation and the drafting of the personal study plan,
- together with the mentor, advise the doctoral student in planning and fulfilling study obligations, as well as in planning the doctoral student’s career,
- ensure and, where necessary, carry out checks of the originality of the doctoral thesis submitted for evaluation,
- propose to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis proposal, the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, and the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis,
- attend the public defence of the doctoral thesis proposal and the defence of the doctoral thesis, unless prevented by justified reasons,
- ensure the public availability of the doctoral thesis in accordance with the law,
- organise a doctoral conference at the Faculty and other activities for doctoral students and mentors,
- ensure the organisation of training for doctoral students and mentors in cooperation with academic staff, the Faculty Library, or the dissemination of information on such training,
- ensure the implementation of annual evaluations of mentors and doctoral students,
- ensure the regular maintenance of records on doctoral students in the Doctoral Study Programme within the Student Affairs Office,

- submit an annual report on activities to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme,
 - perform other tasks in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- (3) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be accountable for his or her work to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme and to the Dean.

IV. Admission and Enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme

Article 8

- (1) Admission and enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme shall be carried out on the basis of a public call for applications issued by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme no later than 1 May of the current year, for one or two enrolment periods, and shall be published on the Faculty's website and elsewhere as necessary.
- (2) The public call for applications shall contain the number of available enrolment places, the conditions for admission and enrolment, the deadline for submission of applications, as well as information on the admission and enrolment procedure and the documents required for admission and enrolment.

Article 9

- (1) The Doctoral Study Programme may be admitted and enrolled in by a person who has completed an integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme in law (univ. mag. iur.) or a pre-Bologna undergraduate university study programme in law (dipl. iur.) and who:
1. fulfils one of the following conditions:
 - (a) has achieved an average grade of 3.5 or higher in:
 - the completed integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme in law or the pre-Bologna undergraduate university study programme in law,
 - a completed postgraduate master's scientific study programme in legal science,
 - the completed first year of a postgraduate scientific study programme in law or another field of science in which all study obligations for the first year have been fulfilled, or
 - a completed university specialist study programme; or
 - (b) has published, as sole author or as one of two or three authors, three scientific or professional papers, of which no less than one is a scientific paper recognised in accordance with the applicable regulations for scientific appointment in the field of law,
 2. has proficiency in the English language and no less than one additional foreign language,
 3. has submitted a draft doctoral research proposal,
 4. has submitted the consent of a supervisor who has published scientific papers related to the proposed doctoral research topic, including no less than one supervisor from among the academic staff of the Doctoral Study Programme,
 5. has submitted recommendations from two university teachers elected in the field of law or from two other distinguished legal professionals, and

6. has successfully defended the draft doctoral research proposal before the committee for interviews with applicants within the enrolment procedure for the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may admit to the Doctoral Study Programme a person who has completed a university study programme in a scientific field other than law, provided that they pass the following bridging study courses with an average grade of 3.5 or higher:

- Theory of Law and State,
- Constitutional Law,
- General Part of Civil Law and Law of Obligations,
- Civil Procedural Law,
- Criminal Law,
- Criminal Procedural Law,
- Administrative Law,
- International Law, and
- European Law I or European Law II.

Article 10

(1) An applicant for admission and enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme shall submit a printed or electronic application consisting of the following documents:

- application form,
- a copy of the diploma of completed graduate, or pre-Bologna undergraduate, study and other studies, if referred to therein,
- transcript of grades from the graduate, or pre-Bologna undergraduate, study and other studies, if referred to therein,
- draft doctoral research proposal,
- consent of the proposed supervisor to the draft doctoral research proposal,
- list of publications of the proposed supervisor,
- proposal of four elective courses which the applicant wishes to enrol in,
- proposal of one or more foreign, internationally recognised higher education institutions or scientific institutes in the field of legal science at which the applicant intends to undertake a study stay,
- certificate or declaration of proficiency in two foreign languages, one of which must be English,
- copy of birth certificate and certificate of citizenship or an equivalent document for foreign nationals (foreign nationals shall submit a birth/civil status certificate and proof of citizenship),
- one photograph (4 × 6 cm),
- two recommendations from university teachers in law or other distinguished legal professionals,
- curriculum vitae of the applicant indicating address and contact details (e-mail, telephone number),

– declaration by the applicant that they will bear the costs of the study themselves, or a certified declaration by the employing institution or another institution that will bear the costs of the study,

– copies of papers and abstracts of presentations, if referred to therein, and

– other documents to which the applicant refers.

(3) An applicant who has obtained a diploma of completed studies at a foreign university must also submit a decision of the competent authority on the academic recognition of the foreign higher education qualification or recognition of the period of study.

(4) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall review the application for admission and enrolment and, if it is incomplete, shall invite the applicant to complete it within a reasonable period. If the applicant fails to complete the application within the deadline, the application shall be deemed withdrawn.

(5) An applicant who has submitted a complete application within the prescribed period shall undergo a mandatory interview before the committee for interviews with applicants within the admission and enrolment procedure for the Doctoral Study Programme. The committee shall consist of three members from among the academic staff employed at the Faculty and shall be appointed by the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 11

The decision on the admission or the decision on the rejection of admission of an applicant to the Doctoral Study Programme shall be adopted by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, upon the proposal of the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, on the basis of the application, the documents submitted therewith and the interview conducted with the applicant before the committee for interviews with applicants within the admission and enrolment procedure for the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 12

(1) With a doctoral student who has been admitted in the Doctoral Study Programme by decision of the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme and who has enrolled in the Doctoral Study Programme, the Faculty shall conclude a study contract regulating their mutual rights and obligations.

(2) An integral part of the study contract shall be a signed declaration by the doctoral student consenting that the Faculty make the doctoral thesis, in the version positively evaluated by the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and adopted by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, available to the public by publication on its website no less than 30 days prior to the date of the doctoral thesis defence.

(3) An integral part of the study contract shall also be a signed declaration by the doctoral student consenting that the Faculty publish the doctoral thesis within 30 days from the date of its defence in the national repository or the repository of the higher education institution.

(4) The declarations referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be in conformity with generally recognised international standards and rules on open access to scientific information, which ensure that the doctoral student retains their copyright to the extent that

it does not prevent the fulfilment of the purposes of the statutory obligations additionally regulated in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

V. Recognition of Previously Acquired ECTS Credits and Learning Outcomes

Article 13

Upon enrolment or during the Doctoral Study Programme, an applicant may be granted recognition of the fulfilment of part of the study obligations prescribed by the study programme through the system of recognition and validation of prior learning, to the extent that the achieved learning outcomes correspond, in terms of their profile, level, scope and quality, to the learning outcomes of the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 14

The following study obligations within the Doctoral Study Programme may not be reduced for an applicant:

- submission and defence of the doctoral thesis proposal (10 ECTS credits), and
- preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis (80 ECTS credits).

VI. Tuition Fees and Scholarships

Article 15

(1) The amount of tuition fees for the Doctoral Study Programme shall be determined by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, whereby the tuition fee shall be calculated on the basis of the price of one ECTS credit.

(2) The tuition fee for an individual doctoral student shall be calculated by multiplying the price of one ECTS credit by the number of ECTS credits enrolled by the doctoral student. The enrolment fee is not included in the tuition fee.

Article 16

(1) The Faculty may award scholarships to doctoral students in the form of full or partial exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees.

(2) A scholarship shall be awarded to a doctoral student who:

(a) during their studies has achieved outstanding results, i.e. was among the top 5% of students according to overall final achievement in their cohort in the integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme in law or an equivalent study programme considered for enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme within the meaning of Articles 10–11 of these Regulations;

(b) during their doctoral studies has achieved academic success, i.e. has fulfilled all study obligations within the prescribed time for no less than two consecutive semesters in full-time status or four consecutive semesters in part-time status; or

(c) is in a financial situation in which they are unable to pay the tuition fee without jeopardising the coverage of living expenses during the course of their studies.

(3) The amount of the scholarship granted under points (a) or (b) of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be one third of the tuition fee for the respective semester, while the amount of the scholarship granted under point (c) of paragraph 2 of this Article shall depend on the financial situation of the doctoral student, which shall be proven by appropriate documents. Scholarships granted under different points of paragraph 2 of this Article may not be accumulated.

(4) A doctoral student wishing to exercise the right to a scholarship shall submit an application to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme together with the application for enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme or, if already enrolled, no less than one month before the end of the current semester for the following semester.

(5) The right to a scholarship in the determined amount shall continue as long as the student duly fulfils all their study obligations.

VII. Doctoral Students

Article 17

(1) By enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme, an applicant acquires the status of a doctoral student of the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) The status of a doctoral student shall cease:

- upon completion of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- upon withdrawal from the Doctoral Study Programme,
- upon exclusion from the Doctoral Study Programme in the procedure and under the conditions laid down in these Regulations or in the general acts of the Faculty or the University,
- if the student does not complete the Doctoral Study Programme within the deadline for completion prescribed by the law governing higher education and scientific activity.

Article 18

(1) A doctoral student shall have the rights and obligations laid down by law, the Statute of the University of Rijeka, these Regulations, the general acts of the Faculty, the study programme, and the study contract, and in particular the right to:

- delivery of the study programme in accordance with the implementation plan of the study programme,
- participation in scientific and professional work,
- freedom of expression of opinions and viewpoints during teaching and other activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics,

- completion of the study programme in a period shorter than the prescribed duration, provided that all study obligations have been fulfilled and the full amount of tuition fees has been paid,
- use of the Faculty Library resources and scientific and professional sources at the Faculty without payment of a fee,
- use of other research resources of the Faculty, subject to availability and agreement with the supervisor and the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, without payment of a fee,
- attendance of courses within another study programme in accordance with the study programme or with the approval of the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- expressing opinions on the quality of teaching and academic staff no less than once a year within the internal quality assurance system,
- proposing a doctoral thesis topic by a reasoned written request and changing the topic with the consent of the supervisor,
- changing the supervisor by a reasoned written request,
- electing representatives to the bodies of the University and the bodies of the study provider, as well as electing representatives to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- suspension of the status of doctoral student, exercised in accordance with the regulations,
- lodging complaints regarding violations of rights prescribed by the law governing higher education and scientific activity and by the general acts of the Faculty,
- other rights prescribed by law, the Statute of the Faculty, and other general acts of the Faculty.

(2) A doctoral student is obliged to timely fulfil teaching and other study obligations, to submit an annual report on their work to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, and to comply with the general acts of the Faculty and the University.

(3) The annual report of the doctoral student shall be submitted on the appropriate University form, which shall contain:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- the doctoral student's report on their work,
- the supervisor's evaluation of the work, and
- the date of preparation and the doctoral student's signature.

Article 19

(1) If, in the mentor's report, the overall assessment of progress in the Doctoral Study Programme and the evaluation of the doctoral student are insufficient (1), and the mentor considers that the doctoral student does not have the capacity to continue the programme, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision on enhanced monitoring of the doctoral student's work or a decision on the exclusion of the doctoral student from the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) When adopting the decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme must take into account the doctoral student's prior statement, which shall be submitted on the appropriate University form containing:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,

- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- the text of the doctoral student’s statement, and
- the date of preparation and the doctoral student’s signature.

(3) If, in the previous reporting period, a decision on enhanced monitoring of the doctoral student’s work was adopted, and the mentor’s report again contains insufficient (1) overall assessments and the mentor considers that the doctoral student does not have the capacity to continue the Doctoral Study Programme, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision on the exclusion of the doctoral student from the programme. When adopting this decision, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme must take into account the doctoral student’s prior statement.

VIII. Supervisor

Article 20

(1) Along with enrolment in the Doctoral Study Programme, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall appoint a supervisor for the doctoral student from among the academic staff of the Faculty. The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may appoint at most one additional supervisor to the doctoral student.

(2) The minimum criteria for the selection of supervisors in doctoral study programmes shall be prescribed by a special decision of the Senate of the University.

(3) In addition to the prescribed criteria for the selection of supervisors under the decision of the University Senate, both the supervisor from among the academic staff of the Faculty and the doctoral student must have a publicly visible affiliation with the University and the Faculty in scientific and teaching databases (ORCID).

(4) The supervisor must have the positive opinion of the Faculty regarding their supervisory work, and each supervisor may simultaneously supervise a maximum of three doctoral students, and only in particularly justified cases four doctoral students. Where a doctoral student has two supervisors, the participation of each supervisor shall count as half of a supervision.

Article 21

(1) The supervisor is obliged to guide the doctoral student during the Doctoral Study Programme and the preparation of the doctoral thesis, to monitor the quality of the doctoral student’s work, to encourage the publication of academic papers, and to enable the doctoral student to participate in scientific projects or research groups.

(2) The supervisor is obliged to submit a report on the doctoral student’s work to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme no less than once a year.

(3) The annual report of the supervisor on the doctoral student’s work shall be submitted on a University form containing:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- general information on the doctoral student,

– an assessment of the doctoral student’s overall progress in the Doctoral Study Programme, an assessment of their work according to individual aspects, and an opinion on their ability to continue the programme, and

– the date of preparation and the supervisor’s signature.

(4) If the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme adopts a negative report of the supervisor on two occasions, the doctoral student shall lose their status as a doctoral student. Prior to the adoption of a negative report, the doctoral student must be given the opportunity to submit a response to the supervisor’s report.

Article 22

(1) A doctoral student has the right to change their supervisor during the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) A request for a change of supervisor shall be submitted by the doctoral student on the appropriate University form containing:

– the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,

– general information on the doctoral student and general information on the newly proposed supervisor,

– the title of the doctoral thesis topic, if applicable,

– a justification of the request,

– the opinion of the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme on the request, and

– the date of preparation and the signatures of the doctoral student, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, and the newly proposed supervisor.

IX. Suspension of Study Obligations

Article 23

(1) A doctoral student shall have the right to the suspension of study obligations in the following cases:

1. pregnancy of a female doctoral student or maternity or parental leave of a female doctoral student who is a mother,
2. parental leave of a male doctoral student who is a father,
3. illness of the doctoral student,
4. a declared natural disaster in the area of the doctoral student’s place of residence or stay, or
5. other justified reason.

(2) A request for the suspension of study obligations in the current semester shall be submitted by the doctoral student to the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme in writing, no later than 15 days before the end of the current semester.

(3) The reason referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be considered justified if it lasts continuously for 45 days or longer.

(4) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall decide on the request for suspension.

Article 24

(1) The reason referred to in Article 23, paragraph 1 of these Regulations shall be proven by a credible document to be submitted with the request. Generally known facts do not need to be proven.

(2) In the case of the reasons for suspension referred to in Article 23, paragraph 1, points 1 and 2 of these Regulations, a credible document shall be a certificate issued by an authorised healthcare institution, an authorised specialist physician or a general practitioner. In the case of maternity or parental leave, a birth certificate or adoption certificate, or a certificate issued by the competent administrative authority granting parental leave, shall be considered a credible document.

(3) In the case of the reason for suspension referred to in Article 23, paragraph 1, point 3 of these Regulations, a credible document shall be an opinion issued by the competent student health service physician based on submitted documentation.

(4) In the case of the reason for suspension referred to in Article 23, paragraph 1, point 4 of these Regulations, a credible document shall be a decision of the competent authority.

(5) In the case of the reason for suspension referred to in Article 23, paragraph 1, point 5 of these Regulations, the request must be substantiated. When deciding on such a request, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall independently assess the justification of the reason for suspension.

Article 25

(1) Suspension on the basis of Article 23, paragraph 1, points 1–5 of these Regulations shall be approved for each semester separately and shall last during the semester in which the circumstance constituting the reason for suspension exists.

(2) The period of suspension shall not be included in the total duration of the study programme.

X. Continuation of Studies

Article 26

(1) A doctoral student who has not enrolled in a semester of the Doctoral Study Programme may, upon their own request submitted in writing to the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, continue the Doctoral Study Programme if no more than three academic years have elapsed from the date of interruption of the studies until the submission of the request.

(2) The decision on the doctoral student's right to continue the studies shall be adopted by the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme.

XI. Doctoral Thesis

Article 27

- (1) The doctoral thesis is an original and independent scientific work that confirms the doctoral student's ability to conduct research as a researcher in accordance with high scientific and ethical standards.
- (2) The doctoral thesis shall be prepared by the doctoral student under the supervision of the supervisor.
- (3) The doctoral thesis shall be public.
- (4) The preparation and formatting of the doctoral thesis shall be defined by the University guidelines.

Article 28

- (1) Forms of the doctoral thesis are:
 - (a) a monographic doctoral thesis;
 - (b) a doctoral thesis consisting of a collection of published scientific papers with accompanying constituent parts (the so-called Scandinavian model).
- (2) The doctoral thesis referred to in paragraph 1, point (a) of this Article is a single, coherent and systematically structured scientific work on a specific topic, in which the doctoral student independently, under the guidance of the supervisor, presents the results of their own scientific research, including mandatory components in accordance with the rules of the scientific and professional community in the field of law within the European Research Area and at the University and the Faculty.
- (3) The doctoral thesis referred to in paragraph 1, point (b) of this Article shall consist of:
 - a collection of thematically related published scientific papers forming a coherent thematic scientific whole, and
 - mandatory accompanying parts consisting of an introductory and concluding section in which the doctoral student explains the research objectives, methodology, and originality of the scientific contribution, critically discusses the interrelation of the published papers and the research results, and provides a list of all literature used.
- (4) The minimum number of scientific papers to be included in the doctoral thesis referred to in paragraph 1, point (b) of this Article is four. All papers must:
 - be original work of the doctoral student as sole author,
 - clearly indicate the doctoral student's affiliation with the University and the Faculty,
 - be supervised and approved by the supervisor during the Doctoral Study Programme in the same manner as the preparation of a monographic doctoral thesis is supervised and approved,
 - have been previously approved by the supervisor for publication in the relevant scientific journal,
 - be published in a journal which, at the time of publication, belongs to the highest quality category in accordance with applicable national university scientific criteria for appointment to scientific-teaching positions and indexed in the Web of Science or SCOPUS databases. The papers must not be published in journals published or co-published by the Faculty or the student's employing institution. A maximum of one paper may be published in a domestic

journal, and no less than two papers must be published in foreign journals published in the European Union.

(5) The form of the doctoral thesis shall be proposed by the doctoral student with the consent of the supervisor in the application for the approval of the doctoral thesis topic referred to in Article 29 of these Regulations, and shall be decided upon by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme when deciding on the report of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis proposal.

XII. Application, Defence and Evaluation of the Doctoral Thesis Topic

Article 29

(1) The procedure for the application, public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall be initiated by the doctoral student by submitting to the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme an application for the doctoral thesis topic on the University form, which shall contain:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- the title of the thesis,
- an abstract,
- an introduction and overview of previous research,
- the aim and purpose of the research,
- the content, methodology, and research plan,
- the expected scientific contribution,
- a list of cited literature and other sources,
- the application of research results,
- information on research costs and the source of funding, and
- the date of preparation and the signatures of the doctoral student and the supervisor.

(2) The form shall be submitted in the Croatian language, except where the doctoral student, with the consent of the supervisor, intends to prepare the doctoral thesis in one of the additional languages of the Doctoral Study Programme. In such a case, the form shall be submitted in that language, accompanied by a translation into Croatian or English.

Article 30

(1) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall examine the completeness of the application for the doctoral thesis topic referred to in Article 26 of these Regulations.

(2) If the application is complete, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall submit it for discussion and decision to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, together with a proposal for the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic.

(3) If the application is incomplete, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall return it to the doctoral student for completion. The deadline for completion of the application, which

may not be shorter than 15 days, shall be determined by the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme according to the circumstances of the case. If the doctoral student fails to complete the application within the deadline, the application shall be deemed withdrawn.

Article 31

The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision on the appointment of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic.

Article 32

(1) The committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall consist of no less than three members. The number of committee members must be an odd number.

(2) A member of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic may be a domestic or foreign researcher employed in a scientific-teaching or scientific position, or appointed as an adjunct (honorary) teacher or adjunct (honorary) researcher, who is a recognised expert in the field to which the doctoral thesis topic relates. No less than one member must be a teacher employed at the Faculty, and no less than one member must be from a higher education institution or research institute outside the University. When appointing committee members, due regard shall be given to the avoidance of conflicts of interest and to gender equality.

(3) The supervisor may not be a member of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic.

Article 33

(1) The place of the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall be the Faculty.

(2) In the case of a joint doctoral degree (cotutelle), the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic may be held at another higher education institution or by means of real-time electronic communication tools.

(3) The date and time of the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic shall be determined by the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, in agreement with the doctoral student, the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic, and the supervisor.

(4) The Head of the Doctoral Study Programme shall appoint a record-keeper for the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic, as a rule from among the academic staff or associates employed at the Faculty.

(5) Notice of the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic shall be published on the notice board and on the Faculty's website no less than eight days prior to the date of the public defence.

Article 34

- (1) The procedure for the defence of the doctoral thesis topic shall be public.
- (2) The public defence of the doctoral thesis topic shall be attended by the doctoral student, the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic, the supervisor, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme or the Vice-Dean for Research, if the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme is justifiably prevented from attending, and the record-keeper.

Article 35

- (1) The doctoral thesis topic shall be defended in the Croatian language, except where the doctoral student, with the consent of the supervisor, intends to prepare the doctoral thesis in one of the additional languages of the Doctoral Study Programme. In such a case, the doctoral thesis topic shall be defended in that language.
- (2) The minutes of the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic shall be kept in the language in which the defence is conducted.
- (3) The public attending the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic must be allowed to ask questions in the Croatian or English language. Where necessary, the Faculty shall provide translation of the questions posed and the answers given into Croatian or English.

Article 36

- (1) The Chair of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall conduct the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic in the manner prescribed by these Regulations.
- (2) The Chair of the committee shall establish the presence of the persons referred to in Article 34, paragraph 2 of these Regulations.
- (3) A maximum of one member of the committee may attend the public defence of the doctoral thesis topic by means of real-time electronic communication tools.
- (4) The Chair of the committee shall invite the doctoral student to present the statements contained in the application for the thesis topic and shall determine a time for the independent presentation lasting 20 to 30 minutes.
- (5) After the presentation of the statements contained in the application for the thesis topic, the Chair of the committee shall invite the members of the committee to ask questions to the doctoral student. The doctoral student shall answer the questions in the order in which they are posed.
- (6) After answering the questions of the committee, the Chair of the committee shall invite those present to ask questions. The doctoral student shall answer the questions in the order in which they are posed.
- (7) Minutes of the public defence shall be kept on the appropriate University form, which shall contain:
 - the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,

- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- general information on the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic and their appointment,
- the title of the proposed doctoral thesis topic in Croatian and English, or, if the topic is defended in a foreign language, in that language and in Croatian or English,
- the place and time of the session,
- the duration of the presentation and the duration of the discussion,
- the questions posed by the members of the committee and the attending public,
- particularly important elements of the discussion,
- the opinion and proposal of the committee, including any proposed change or amendment of the title and a proposal for a change of supervisor, and
- the date of preparation and the signatures of the members of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic.

Article 37

(1) The committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall evaluate the doctoral thesis topic by deliberating in closed session.

(2) The committee shall evaluate the originality and scientific contribution of the proposed doctoral thesis topic in accordance with the accepted quality standards for doctoral degrees within the European Research Area, the objective feasibility of the proposed research, and the doctoral student's ability to carry out the proposed research and prepare the doctoral thesis.

(3) The committee may give the positive or negative evaluation of the topic, or request its revision, within one month from the defence of the topic.

(4) If the committee gives the positive evaluation of the topic, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may adopt a decision accepting or rejecting the topic.

(5) If the committee give the negative evaluation of the topic, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may adopt a decision requesting the revision of the application for the topic or rejecting the topic. When adopting this decision, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall take into account the prior opinion of the supervisor, which the supervisor is obliged to submit within eight days from the date of receipt of the committee's evaluation.

(6) The committee is authorised to propose the revision of parts of the application for the doctoral thesis topic or a change of supervisor. For revision or modification, the committee shall determine an appropriate period of not less than one month and not more than four months. Within one month of submission, the committee shall evaluate the revised or amended application for the doctoral thesis topic, without the possibility of inviting the doctoral student to revise or amend it again. If the committee gives the negative evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic after revision or amendment has been requested and submitted, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision rejecting the topic and may approve the submission of a new topic or adopt a decision on the exclusion of the doctoral student from the Doctoral Study Programme. If the committee gives the positive evaluation of the topic, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may adopt a decision accepting or rejecting the topic.

(7) The committee shall adopt its decision and enter it into the appropriate University form, which shall be signed by all members of the committee. A member of the committee may express a dissenting opinion in the same form, which they shall sign separately. The signed form shall be submitted by the committee to the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme, who shall forward it to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme for decision-making. A form prepared in one of the additional languages of the Doctoral Study Programme shall be translated into Croatian or English.

(8) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt the decisions referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Article within two months from the date of submission of the report containing the opinion and proposal of the committee.

Article 38

(1) A doctoral student has the right to change the topic during the study programme. A request for a change of topic shall be submitted by the doctoral student on the appropriate University form, which shall contain:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- the new title of the proposed doctoral thesis topic,
- a justification of the request for a change of topic,
- the opinion of the supervisor on the change of topic, and
- the date of preparation and the signatures of the doctoral student, the supervisor, and the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme.

(2) Together with the form for the change of topic, the application for the new topic shall also be submitted on the form referred to in Article 29 of these Regulations.

(3) If the request for a change of topic is considered justified, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall appoint a committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic, and the subsequent procedure for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic shall be carried out in accordance with these Regulations.

XIII. Evaluation and Defence of the Doctoral Thesis

Article 39

(1) Upon fulfilment of all other study obligations within the Doctoral Study Programme, the doctoral student may submit a request for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The following documents must be enclosed with the request for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis:

- an unbound copy of the doctoral thesis,
 - a report on the conducted originality check of the thesis,
 - a certificate of language editing of the thesis title,
 - a written statement by the supervisor that the thesis meets the criteria of a doctoral thesis,
- and

– the doctoral student’s curriculum vitae in the standardised Europass format.

(3) The request for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and its enclosures may be submitted in printed or electronic form.

Article 40

(1) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision on the appointment of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis shall consist of no less than three members. The number of committee members must be an odd number.

(3) A member of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis may be a domestic or foreign researcher employed in a scientific-teaching or scientific position, or appointed as an adjunct (honorary) teacher or adjunct (honorary) researcher, who is a recognised expert in the field to which the doctoral thesis topic relates. No less than one member must be a researcher at the Faculty, and no less than one member must be a researcher from a higher education institution or research institute outside the University. When appointing committee members, due regard shall be given to the avoidance of conflicts of interest and to gender equality.

(4) The supervisor may not be a member of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis. A member of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic may be a member of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

Article 41

(1) The committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis shall decide on the evaluation of the doctoral thesis by a majority vote. Each member of the committee shall independently prepare a report on the appropriate University form. The Chair of the committee shall prepare a joint report on the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and submit it to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme within two months of receipt of the doctoral thesis. The individual reports of the committee members shall be attached thereto.

(2) The individual report of a member of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis shall be submitted on a University form containing:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme;
- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor;
- general information on the members of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis;
- the title of the doctoral thesis;
- the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, including a conclusion expressly stating and substantiating the existence of an original scientific contribution of the doctoral thesis;
- the opinion and proposal to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme; and
- the date of preparation and the signature of the committee member.

(3) The joint report of the committee on the evaluation of the doctoral thesis shall be submitted on the appropriate University form containing:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme;

- general information on the doctoral student and the supervisor;
- general information on the members of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis;
- the title of the doctoral thesis;
- the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, including a conclusion expressly stating and substantiating the existence of an original scientific contribution of the doctoral thesis;
- the opinion and proposal to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme; and
- the date of preparation and the signature of the Chair of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

(4) If the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis give the negative evaluation of the doctoral thesis, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme may adopt a decision requiring revision of the doctoral thesis or rejecting the doctoral thesis. When adopting this decision, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall take into account the prior opinion of the supervisor, which the supervisor is obliged to submit within eight days from the date of receipt of the committee's evaluation. If the committee gives the negative evaluation of the doctoral thesis after revision has been requested and submitted, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision rejecting the doctoral thesis and excluding the doctoral student from the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 42

(1) If the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme accepts the positive evaluation of the doctoral thesis by the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, it shall, at the same session, appoint the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis shall consist of no less than three members. The number of committee members must be an odd number.

(3) A member of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis may be a domestic or foreign researcher employed in a scientific-teaching or scientific position, or appointed as an adjunct (honorary) teacher or adjunct (honorary) researcher, who is a recognised expert in the field to which the doctoral thesis topic relates. No less than one member must be a researcher at the Faculty, and no less than one member must be a researcher from a higher education institution or research institute outside the University. When appointing committee members, due regard shall be given to the avoidance of conflicts of interest and to gender equality.

(4) The supervisor may not be a member of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis. A member of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic or the evaluation of the doctoral thesis may be a member of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis.

Article 43

(1) The place of the defence of the doctoral thesis shall be the Faculty.

(2) In the case of a joint doctoral degree (*cotutelle*), the defence may be held at another university or faculty, or by means of real-time electronic communication tools.

(3) The date, time and place of the defence of the doctoral thesis, as well as the possible use of real-time electronic communication tools, shall be determined by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, in agreement with the doctoral student, the members of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis, and the supervisor.

(4) By the decision referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall appoint a record-keeper for the defence of the doctoral thesis, as a rule from among the academic staff or associates of the Faculty.

(5) The Faculty shall make the doctoral thesis, in the version positively evaluated by the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and adopted by the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, available to the public by publication on its website no less than 30 days prior to the date of the doctoral thesis defence.

(6) The Faculty shall publish on its notice board and website the name and surname of the doctoral student, the title of the doctoral thesis, the composition of the defence committee, and the time, date and place of the defence, no less than eight days prior to the date of the doctoral thesis defence.

Article 44

(1) The procedure for the defence of the doctoral thesis shall be public.

(2) The defence of the doctoral thesis shall be attended by the doctoral student, the members of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis, the supervisor, the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme or the Vice-Dean for Research, if the Head of the Doctoral Study Programme is justifiably prevented from attending, and the record-keeper.

Article 45

(1) The doctoral thesis may be defended only once.

(2) If the doctoral student fails to attend the defence without a justified reason, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall, upon the proposal of the committee for the defence, adopt a decision on the exclusion of the doctoral student from the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 46

(1) The doctoral thesis shall be defended in the Croatian language, except where the doctoral student, with the consent of the supervisor, has prepared the doctoral thesis in one of the additional languages of the Doctoral Study Programme. In such case, the doctoral thesis shall be defended in that language.

(2) The minutes of the defence of the doctoral thesis shall be kept in the language in which the thesis is defended.

(3) The public attending the defence of the doctoral thesis must be enabled to ask questions in Croatian or English. Where necessary, the Faculty shall provide translation of the questions posed and answers given into Croatian or English.

Article 47

(1) The Chair of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis shall conduct the defence procedure in the manner prescribed by these Regulations.

(2) The Chair of the committee shall open the defence procedure, establish the presence of all persons referred to in Article 45, paragraph 2 of these Regulations, present general information on the doctoral student, the results achieved during the study programme and his or her works, and read the essential part of the justification of the evaluation of the doctoral thesis from the joint report.

(3) After the report of the Chair of the committee, the doctoral student shall present the content of the doctoral thesis and explain the conclusions reached in the thesis, within a duration of no less than 45 minutes.

(4) After the presentation of the doctoral student, the members of the committee shall pose questions and comment on the doctoral thesis, and may also request additional explanations from the doctoral student. The doctoral student is obliged to answer the questions of the committee members and provide the requested explanations.

(5) After the doctoral student has answered the questions of the committee members and provided explanations, and with the permission of the Chair of the committee, the doctoral student shall answer questions from the attending public.

(6) When the committee determines that sufficient discussion on the subject of the defence has taken place, the Chair of the committee shall announce that the defence is closed, and the committee shall withdraw for deliberation and decision-making. The committee shall decide on the defence of the doctoral thesis in closed session.

(7) Minutes of the defence of the doctoral thesis shall be kept on the appropriate University form, which shall contain:

- the name of the study provider and the name of the Doctoral Study Programme,
- the name and surname of the doctoral student and general information on the supervisor,
- general information on the members of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis,
- a record of the implementation of all procedural steps prescribed by this Article, the decision on whether the doctoral student has successfully defended the doctoral thesis,
- if the decision on the defence is positive, the proposal that the Rector of the University promote the doctoral student, and
- the date of preparation and the signatures of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis.

Article 48

(1) Upon completion of the defence of the doctoral thesis, the committee shall adopt a decision on the outcome of the defence, which may state:

- defended by unanimous decision of the committee,
- defended by majority vote of the committee, or
- not defended.

(2) The Chair of the committee shall publicly announce the committee's decision, which shall be entered into the minutes of the defence of the doctoral thesis on the University form referred to in Article 47, paragraph 7 of these Regulations.

(3) If the committee adopts a decision that the doctoral student has not defended the doctoral thesis, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision on the exclusion of the doctoral student from the Doctoral Study Programme.

Article 49

(1) A doctoral student who has completed the Doctoral Study Programme may be awarded a distinction from the Latin classification of honours, as follows:

– a doctoral student who is the author of no less than two published papers in the field of the doctoral thesis, co-authored with the supervisor, another doctoral student, or as sole author, each of which belongs to the highest qualitative category in accordance with the applicable national university scientific criteria for appointment to a scientific-teaching position, and which is published in a foreign journal within the European Union indexed in the Web of Science or SCOPUS database at the time of publication, and who has demonstrated scientific excellence in his or her doctoral thesis in such a way that the thesis contains an original scientific contribution at the highest level, such as a new scientific finding, a new scientific method, or a proposal for a new application – SUMMA CUM LAUDE (doctoral student with the highest distinction),

– a doctoral student who is the author of no less than two published papers in the field of the doctoral thesis, co-authored with the supervisor, another doctoral student, or as sole author, each of which belongs to the highest qualitative category in accordance with the applicable national university scientific criteria for appointment to a scientific-teaching position and is published in a journal indexed in the Web of Science or SCOPUS database at the time of publication, of which no less than one is in such a foreign journal, and who has demonstrated scientific excellence in his or her doctoral thesis in such a way that the thesis contains an original scientific contribution at a very high level, such as a new or significantly improved scientific finding, a new or significantly improved scientific method, or a proposal for a new or significantly improved application – MAGNA CUM LAUDE (doctoral student with high distinction),

– a doctoral student who is the author of no less than two published papers in the field of the doctoral thesis, co-authored with the supervisor, another doctoral student, or as sole author, each of which belongs to the highest qualitative category in accordance with the applicable national university scientific criteria for appointment to a scientific-teaching position and is published in a journal indexed in the Web of Science or SCOPUS database at the time of publication, and who has demonstrated scientific excellence in his or her doctoral thesis in such a way that the thesis contains an original scientific contribution at a high level, such as a new or improved scientific finding, a new or improved scientific method, or a proposal for a new or improved application – CUM LAUDE (doctoral student with distinction).

(2) The distinction referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be awarded by the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis and entered into the minutes of the defence of the

doctoral thesis on the University form referred to in Article 47, paragraph 7 of these Regulations.

Article 50

(1) The procedure for the preparation, evaluation and defence of the doctoral thesis may be conducted in accordance with the standards for the award of the informal academic degree of European Doctor of Science (*doctor europaeus*).

(2) The conditions under which the right to the informal academic degree of European Doctor of Science is acquired are as follows:

- that no less than two-thirds of the members of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis are from higher education institutions or research institutes of Member States of the European Union other than the Republic of Croatia,
- that no less than one-third of the members of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis are from higher education institutions or research institutes of Member States of the European Union other than the Republic of Croatia,
- that the defence of the doctoral thesis is conducted in English or another official language of the European Union other than Croatian, and
- that the doctoral thesis is partially prepared as a result of the doctoral student's stay in a Member State of the European Union other than the Republic of Croatia for a period of no less than three months.

Article 51

(1) The Doctoral Study Programme shall be completed by passing examinations, fulfilling other study obligations, and preparing and defending the doctoral thesis.

(2) Upon completion of the Doctoral Study Programme, the academic degree of Doctor of Social Sciences is awarded. The abbreviation of the academic degree of Doctor of Social Sciences (PhD in Soc. Sc.) shall be placed before the name and surname.

(3) On the basis of the decision of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis, the Faculty shall issue to the doctoral student who has defended the doctoral thesis a diploma on the awarded doctorate and a diploma supplement, and shall keep official records thereof. The doctoral student shall be issued, free of charge, in Croatian and English, in signed and certified printed form as well as in digital form, the diploma and diploma supplement confirming that he or she has passed the examinations with specified grades, and containing other information necessary for understanding the acquired qualification.

(4) A doctoral student who, under the conditions referred to in Article 48 of these Regulations, has defended the doctoral thesis may be issued a certificate of attainment of the informal academic degree of European Doctor of Science (*doctor europaeus*).

(5) The ceremonial promotion of doctors of science shall be carried out at the University in accordance with the protocol prescribed by the University. At the ceremonial promotion, the doctoral student shall be entered into the joint register of doctors of science and doctors of arts kept by the University.

Article 52

(1) After the successful defence of the doctoral thesis, a sheet containing information on the author of the thesis, the composition of the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis and their signatures, as well as the date of the defence, shall be added to the copies of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The doctoral student shall submit the doctoral thesis to the Secretariat of the Doctoral Study Programme in three bound copies within 10 days after the defence.

(3) The doctoral student shall also submit an electronic version of the doctoral thesis in the format and on the medium prescribed by the University of Rijeka Library.

(4) The Faculty is obliged to publish the doctoral thesis within 30 days from the date of the defence in the national repository or the repository of the higher education institution, and to deliver one printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the National and University Library in Zagreb and one to the University of Rijeka Library.

XIV. Revocation of the Academic Degree of Doctor of Science

Article 53

The academic degree of Doctor of Science obtained at the Faculty shall be revoked if it was acquired:

- contrary to the prescribed conditions for its attainment,
- by serious violation of study regulations, or
- on the basis of a doctoral thesis that constitutes plagiarism or falsification.

Article 54

(1) A request for the revocation of the academic degree of Doctor of Science may be submitted by any person. The request shall be submitted to the Faculty in writing. The request must contain the full name and address of the applicant, the title of the doctoral thesis to which the request relates, a detailed justification of the truthfulness of the allegations contained therein, as well as any proposed evidence.

(2) The Dean is authorised to declare confidential all information concerning documents and actions taken from the moment of receipt of the request until the adoption of the decision of the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme referred to in Article 58 of these Regulations.

Article 55

(1) The Faculty shall not act upon a request that does not contain the mandatory elements referred to in Article 53, paragraph 1 of these Regulations.

(2) A request that contains all mandatory elements referred to in Article 53, paragraph 1 of these Regulations shall be submitted to the person whose academic degree is being challenged, to their supervisor in the Doctoral Study Programme, and, if the request relates

to a doctoral thesis, to the members of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis. If the request concerns another activity carried out within the Doctoral Study Programme, it shall be submitted to the persons responsible for the implementation of the contested activity. The persons to whom the request has been submitted shall be invited to submit a written statement on the allegations contained in the request within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request.

(3) The request, together with the received statements, shall be submitted to the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme, which shall proceed further in accordance with Article 56, paragraph 1 of these Regulations within 45 days from the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

(4) The person whose academic degree of Doctor of Science is challenged in the request has the right to inspect all documents, records and evidence in the file and has the right to propose evidence.

Article 56

(1) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall appoint a committee for examining the merits of the request for revocation of the academic degree of Doctor of Science, consisting of five members holding a scientific-teaching position of full professor or full professor with permanent tenure, or a scientific position of scientific advisor or scientific advisor with permanent appointment. The members of the committee shall be recognised researchers in the field to which the doctoral thesis relates, of whom no less than two shall be from a higher education institution or research institute outside the University. The supervisor, a member of the committee for the public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic, the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, and the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis, as well as any other person responsible for the implementation of the contested activity within the Doctoral Study Programme, may not be members of this committee. When appointing members of the committee, due regard shall be given to the avoidance of conflicts of interest and to gender equality.

(2) The committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be obliged, within three months from the submission of the request, to prepare a report on the request for revocation of the academic degree of Doctor of Science. The report of the special committee shall contain an opinion on the truthfulness of the allegations stated in the request, an analysis of the evidence, an assessment of the fulfilment of the conditions referred to in Article 53 of these Regulations, and a proposal for a decision to:

- revoke the academic degree of Doctor of Science, or
- reject the request.

(3) In verifying the truthfulness of the allegations in the request and analysing the evidence, the committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may request from the Faculty Library or another library or information institution an IT-based comparative analysis, without scientific or legal assessment, of the contested doctoral thesis with previously published works of the same or other authors, as well as with other sources.

(4) The Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall discuss the report of the committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article at its first subsequent session.

Article 57

(1) On the basis of the report of the committee referred to in Article 56 of these Regulations, the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme shall adopt a decision to:

- revoke the academic degree of Doctor of Science, or
- reject the request.

(2) A person who is a member of the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme and whose academic degree of Doctor of Science is challenged in the request, who is a supervisor or a member of the committee for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis or the committee for the defence of the doctoral thesis, or who is responsible for the implementation of the contested activity within the Doctoral Study Programme, as well as the applicant, shall be excluded from voting in the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme in relation to that request.

(3) The applicant and the person whose academic degree of Doctor of Science is challenged in the request shall be invited to attend the session of the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme at which the request is discussed and the decision is adopted.

Article 58

(1) If the Expert Council of the Doctoral Study Programme adopts a decision on the revocation of the academic degree of Doctor of Science, the Dean shall, by decision, annul the diploma on the revoked academic degree of Doctor of Science.

(2) A person whose academic degree of Doctor of Science has been revoked is obliged to return to the Faculty all printed copies of the diploma on the revoked academic degree of Doctor of Science and to delete from storage all electronic copies of that diploma.

(3) Printed and electronic copies of the diploma on the revoked academic degree of Doctor of Science shall be annulled by the inclusion of an annulment clause thereon.

(4) The Dean's decision on the revocation of the academic degree of Doctor of Science shall be entered into the official records of the Faculty and submitted to the University for the purpose of making an entry in the joint register of doctors of science and doctors of arts kept by the University.

XV. Final provisions

Article 59

(1) These Regulations shall be published on the Faculty's website.

(2) These Regulations shall enter into force on 1 October 2025.

(3) Upon the entry into force of these Regulations, the following shall cease to be valid:

- Decision on enrolment in the doctoral study programme of the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka (CLASS: 643-03/13-01/9, REG. NO: 2170-57-02-13-5) of 25 September 2013, and the
- Decision on amendments to the Decision on enrolment in the doctoral study programme of

the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka of 30 January 2019 (CLASS: 643-03/19-01/3, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-19-01),

– Decision on the recognition of ECTS credits upon enrolment in the doctoral study programme of the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka of 11 September 2018 (CLASS: 643-03/18-01/1, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-18-7),

– Decision on conditions for the suspension (deferral) of study obligations in the doctoral study programme of the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka of 18 July 2016 (CLASS: 643-03/16-01/14, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-16-1),

– Decision on re-enrolment in the postgraduate doctoral study programme in the field of social sciences, law field of 8 March 2017 (CLASS: 643-03/17-01/1, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-17-6),

– Decision on the procedure for application, public defence and evaluation of the doctoral thesis topic of 9 January 2017 (CLASS: 643-03/17-01/1, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-17-1),

– Regulations on handling applications for the revocation of doctoral degrees of the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka of 17 May 2016 (CLASS: 003-01116-01/3, REG. NO: 2170-57-01-16-1), and

– Article 7 of the Regulations on awarding students of the Faculty of Law in Rijeka of 31 January 2024 (CLASS: 003-01124-0116, REG. NO: 140-01-24-1).

CLASS: 003-01/25-01/6

DOCKET NUMBER: 140-01-25-1

Rijeka, 17 September 2025

DEAN:

Prof. Dr. Dario Đerđa