



Guidelines to be fulfilled to obtain the Ph.D. title released by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore within the International Doctoral Program in Science

This document defines the roadmap and the requirements for obtaining the Ph.D. degree in Science released by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) as approved by the UCSC members of the scientific committee.

1. Enrollment at UCSC

After the selection procedure, the students will be contacted by the doctoral office and should enroll at UCSC following the procedure provided.

2. Enrollment at the partner university

Students are encouraged to gather information from the partner institution concerning the requirements for the enrollment at the partner institution, the double degree and share it with the tutor. The enrollment process is supported by the UCSC doctoral office.

3. Individual agreement

For each student, a specific individual agreement between the two co-tutoring partner universities should be signed. The template of the individual agreement is provided by the UCSC doctoral office.

4. Courses and activities

Considering the heterogeneity of the research areas involved in the Program, there are no mandatory courses required by UCSC.

However, each student, in agreement with the respective tutor, is required to provide a plan of the courses and activities, with the aim to widen knowledge and skills with in terms of the research project.

The courses might be taken from those provided by the partner institutions.

It is also highly recommended to dedicate part of the learning activity to acquisition of soft interdisciplinary skills.

The tutors, in collaboration with the scientific committee, support the educational development of the doctoral students.

5. Residence period abroad

Each student supported by UCSC is required to spend at least one year abroad at the co-tutor institution to develop the research project.

6. Annual report

Every year each student must submit to the scientific committee a report of all the activities taken during the academic year within September 30th of the same year. This report must be signed by the tutor prior to submission and will serve as the basis to admit the student to the next academic year. The scientific committee reserves the right to suggest possible actions to be taken to improve the quality of the student activity.

The report template is available on the course website

7. Thesis and publications

The Ph.D. dissertation should report the results of the research project developed between the UCSC Faculty tutor in collaboration with the tutor of the partner university, and it must be



written in English. The thesis must be based upon original research work, providing contributions from a theoretical and/or an experimental standpoint. The thesis chapters may be in the form of full length research papers.

Each student is required to have at least one accepted publication in an international peer-reviewed scientific journal reporting on the results obtained during the thesis work.

8. Examination committee (EC)

The EC is composed by at least three members and it will include both supervisors and at least one external reviewer.

9. Submission and defense of the dissertation

- a) Within month 45 of the doctorate calendar the Program Scientific Committee approves the Examination Committee (EC) proposed by the tutors/student.
- b) Within month 47 of the doctorate activities, the doctoral candidate submits to the EC the PhD dissertation, unless the supervisor requests a motivated extension of the deadline. The submission is accompanied by a report on the activities carried out in the PhD program.
- c) The EC transmits the dissertation to two reviewers not involved in the research project of the student and external to the partner institutions.
- d) The reviewers will send written reports to the EC within 6 weeks. They will have to express an analytical judgment on the dissertation. The EC, on the base of the reports, will propose admission to public discussion or postponement for a period not exceeding six months. In the latter case, the review process will be repeated.
- e) At the end of the public discussion, the dissertation, with motivated collegiate written judgment, is approved or rejected by the EC. The doctoral title is issued following the positive evaluation of the thesis defense. The EC, with unanimous vote, has the faculty to attribute the praise in the presence of especially relevant scientific results.