

**UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS**

 **Regulation of Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies at the University of Piraeus**

* Approved by the Postgraduate Studies Committee of the University of Piraeus on 22.11.2023 (recommendation to the Senate)
* Approved by the Senate of the University of Piraeus on 28.11.2023
* Published in the Government Gazette (Government Gazette 7102B/2023)

**CHAPTER A : REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

Article 1 Organisation of Postgraduate Programmes

1. Postgraduate Studies Programmes (MSc) aim at promoting knowledge, develop research and meet the educational, research and development needs of the country. The MSc programmes are governed by scientific coherence, have a subject related to the scientific fields of the Department that organises them and meet the requirements that guarantee a high level of study.

2. The University is responsible for the establishment, operation and financial management of the MSc programmes. The establishment of Postgraduate Studies Programmes (MSc) is included in the multi-year development plan of each Department/Faculty of the University and is part of the strategic planning of the University.

3. The second cycle of studies concerns the organization of Postgraduate Programmes (MSc) with a minimum number of sixty (60) credit units (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - (ECTS)) and a minimum duration of two (2) academic semesters. Successful completion of the postgraduate programmes leads to the award of the Diploma of Postgraduate Studies (D.M.S.). The MSc is a degree at level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

4. Departments providing first cycle studies may organise and run:

α) (i) One-department MSc programmes (mono-departmental)

b) Inter-departmental MSc courses, in cooperation with other Departments of the University of Piraeus,

c) Interinstitutional MSc programmes, in cooperation with Departments of other Universities of Applied Sciences, Higher Military Educational Institutions, Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, research and technological institutions of article 13A of the law. 4310/2014 (A' 258), Research University Institutes, the Academy of Athens, the Institute of Medical Biological Research of the Athens Academy, as well as recognized scientific institutions and associations operating under public law. Partnership with educational institutions of non-formal post-secondary education of Law 3696/2008 (A’ 177) is not allowed. In case of partnerships with institutions that do not provide equivalent education and equivalent degrees with those of the Universities, the academic function of the MSc belongs exclusively to the University of Piraeus.

d) Joint MSc programmes, in cooperation with foreign institutions and research organisations, European and international institutions and organisations.

e) Professional Postgraduate Studies Programmes are organized by one (1) or more Departments in a specific subject area treated by the Department with the aim of providing formal education at postgraduate level exclusively to the staff of private or public sector institutions, within the framework of the implementation of a contract or programmatic agreement between the University of Piraeus and a private or public sector institution, which undertakes the financing of the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Programme.

f) Joint International Inter-Institutional Degree Programmes, the Universities participating in transnational university alliances within the framework of the European Commission's "European Universities" initiative may establish, organise and operate Joint International Inter-Institutional Degree Programmes.

Article 2 Procedure for the establishment of a Postgraduate programme

1. By decision of the Senate, following the opinion of the Postgraduate Studies Committee, the establishment of a new MSc is approved upon the recommendation of the Assembly of the Department, within whose cognitive subject the content of the MSc to be approved falls.

2. The recommendation of the Assembly of the Department is necessarily accompanied by: a) a) a decision of establishment, b) a detailed budget of revenues and expenses for the first five (5) years of operation of the programme, c) a feasibility and sustainability study, d) a report on the distance education methods of the MSc (if distance education methods are used), and e) a special protocol of cooperation, in case of interdepartmental, interinstitutional or joint MSc.

α) a decision to establish the programme shall be drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force and of the current Regulations.

(b) Detailed budget of revenues and expenditure for the first five (5) years of operation of the programme, including the programme’ s resources of all kinds, its operating costs, such as fees for the administrative-technical support of the programme, teaching staff fees, travel expenses, costs of consumables, equipment and infrastructure, costs of granting scholarships and other operating costs (e.g. publicity - promotion costs, purchase of educational material, conference organisation, costs of fieldwork). In drawing up the budget of the MSc with tuition fees, the following should be taken into account:

(i) revenues are calculated according to the maximum number of admissions to the programme,

(ii) the amount corresponding to 30% due to the exemption of students from tuition fees is then deducted,

(iii) the 30% retention for the benefit of the Special Account for research Funds is calculated; and

(iv) the resulting amount is allocated to the categories of expenditure.

(c) a feasibility and viability study of the programme to be established, setting out in detail the scientific and social reasons that make the operation of the MSc necessary and important, its scientific coherence, its connection with the first cycle programmes of study provided by the Department, the teaching staff expected to teach in the MSc, the existing teaching staff of the Department with a relevant subject area, as well as other staff who are to support the organisation and operation of the MSc, the infrastructure, equipment and building infrastructure expected to be used for the operation of the programme.

(d) a report on the distance learning methods of the MSc (if distance learning methods are used). The decision to establish an MSc programme organised using distance learning methods shall be accompanied by a report containing an analysis of the methods of distance learning, such as synchronous, asynchronous, blended learning, the digital learning material, any digital student assessment methods and digital assessment material, the infrastructure of the Higher Education Institution (H.E.I) to support distance learning curricula and the digital skills of teaching staff.

(e) A specific cooperation protocol. If the organization of the MSc is carried out by more than one (1) Departments of the same or another domestic H.E..I, as an interdepartmental or interinstitutional MSc respectively, a special cooperation protocol shall be established. By decision of the Senate of the H.E.I., following the recommendation of the Assembly of each cooperating Department, the special protocol of cooperation is approved. The decision to set up the partnership shall be accelerated by the higher education institution which is responsible for the administrative support of the programme. Specifically for the MSc programmes organised in cooperation with foreign institutions (joint MSc programmes), the special cooperation protocol shall stipulate, in addition to other arrangements, whether the successful completion of the joint MSc programme entails the award of a single degree by the cooperating institutions or the award of discrete degrees by each cooperating institution. By decision of the Senate of the H.E.I., the special cooperation protocol for the organisation of joint MSc programmes shall be approved in accordance with the legislation in force.

3. After the adoption of the decision to establish a Postgraduate Studies Programme and before the start of its operation, the accreditation of the Programme by the National Authority for Higher Education (NEA) is required, in accordance with the legislation in force. If the founding decision is amended, the accreditation of the MSc by the Higher Education Commission is required again, if the amendment concerns:

(a) the subject and purpose of the programme, the learning outcomes and the qualifications acquired upon successful completion of the MSc,

(b) the specialisations of the MSc, which may lead to the award of a different diploma.

4. The number of specialisations shall be specified in the decision establishing each MSc and should not be greater than five (5).

5. The duration of the programme is ten years. The duration of the programme can be extended by decision of the Senate, following the recommendation of the Assembly or the Programme of Studies Committee, subject to its non-accreditation during the periodic evaluation of the Department.

6. The decision to establish a MSc shall be communicated, in the care of the Institution, to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports within ten (10) days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Article 3 Postgraduate Programme Bodies

1. The following bodies are responsible for the organization and operation of the Postgraduate Study Programmes (MSc):

a) the Senate,

b) the Assembly of the Department (or the Programme Committee in case of MSc and joint MSc programmes)

c) the Coordinating Committee (CC), and

d) the Director of the MSc

e) the Postgraduate Studies Committee

2. The Senate is the competent body for the academic, administrative, and organisational matters of the MSc:

a) establishes the Postgraduate Studies Committee of the Institution,

(b) approves the establishment of a Postgraduate Studies Programme (MSc) or the amendment of the decision to establish a MSc,

(c) approves or amends the rules of operation of the MSc.

d) approves the conclusion of collaborations with domestic or foreign institutions or research centres - institutes and technological bodies of Article 13A of Law No. 4310/2014 (A' 258) for the organization of inter-institutional study programmes of second cycle, as well as the protocols for academic or research cooperation with domestic or foreign institutions.

e) approves the extension of the duration of the operation of the MSc,

(f) establishes the Programme of Studies Committee, in case of interdepartmental, interinstitutional or joint MSc programmes,

g) decides on the abolition of the MSc programmes offered by the H.E.I.,

(h) exercises those responsibilities relating to the MSc programmes which are not specifically conferred by law on other bodies.

3. The Assembly of the Department is responsible for the organization, administration and management of the MSc and has the following responsibilities:

a) to recommend to the Senate through the Postgraduate Studies Committee the necessity of establishing/modifying a Postgraduate Programme, as well as the extension of the duration of the P.M.S,

b) appoint the Director and the members of the Coordinating Committee of each MSc of the Department,

c) recommend representatives for the appointment of the Programme of Studies Committees for the interdepartmental MSc programmes in which the Department participates,

d) set up Committees for the evaluation of applications from prospective postgraduate students and approve their enrolment in the MSc programme,

e) assign the teaching work among the lecturers of the MSc and may assign assistant teaching work in the MSc to doctoral candidates of the Department or the Faculty, under the supervision of a lecturer of the MSc.

f) establish examination committees for the assessment of the postgraduate students’ dissertation and appoint a supervisor for each thesis,

g) determine the successful completion of the course of study for the award of the Postgraduate Degree,

h) approve the report of the MSc, upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee (SC),

i) assign postgraduate students to carry out assistant teaching work in the first cycle programmes (B.A) of the Department,

j) exercise any other legal responsibility defined by this Regulation.

By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the responsibilities of paragraphs d) and f) may be transferred to the Board of the MSc.

4. The Curriculum Committee in case of interdepartmental, interinstitutional, or joint MSc. The responsibilities of the Assembly shall be exercised by the Curriculum Committee, which is established by decision of the Senate of the H.E.I. that undertakes the administrative support of the Postgraduate Programme, on the recommendation of the Assemblies of the collaborating Departments or competent bodies of the collaborating institutions and consists of members of the Teaching and Research Staff. The number of members and its composition are defined in the Cooperation Protocol of the Postgraduate Studies Programme. If the Postgraduate Programme involves domestic or foreign institutions that do not provide equivalent education and equivalent University degrees, each institution may be represented in the curriculum committee by one (1) member, who is nominated by the competent body of the institution and participates in the teaching work of the MSc. If there is no Coordinating Committee, its powers shall be exercised by the Curriculum Committee, which shall also have general responsibility in matters of organisation, administration, and management in accordance with par. 2 of Article 82 and paragraph 2 of Article 82. 3 of Article 81 of Law No. 4957/2022. Professors Emeritus of the Department or of the collaborating Departments may participate in the Curriculum Committee if they provide teaching work for the MSc.

5. The Coordinating Committee (SC) consists of the Director of the MSc and four (4) members of the Department's Teaching and Research Staff (D.R.P.) and professors emeritus, who have a related subject to that of the MSc and undertake teaching work in the MSc. The Board is responsible for the monitoring and coordination of the operation of the programme and in particular:

a) prepares the initial annual budget of the MSc and its amendments, if the MSc has resources, and recommends its approval to the Research Committee of the Special Account for Research Funds (SRA),

(b) prepares the programme report and recommends its approval to the Departmental Assembly,

c) approves the expenditure of the programme,

d) approves the awarding of scholarships, contributory or not, in accordance with the provisions of the decision establishing the MSc and the Regulations for postgraduate and doctoral studies,

e) recommends the allocation of teaching work, as well as the assignment of teaching work to the Assembly of the Department,

f) recommends the invitation of Visiting Professors to cover the teaching needs of the MSc to the Assembly of the Department,

g) draw ups a plan for the modification of the curriculum, which shall be submitted to the Departmental Assembly,

(h) propose the reallocation of courses between academic semesters, as well as issues related to the qualitative upgrading of the curriculum to the Department Assembly.

i) exercises any other responsibility provided for by the provisions of this Regulation.

6. The Director of the MSc is selected from among the members of the Department's teaching staff, with priority to the rank of Professor or Associate Professor and is appointed by decision of the Department Assembly for a two-year term of office, renewable without limitation. In case of an interdepartmental, interinstitutional or joint MSc, one (1) member of the curriculum committee shall be appointed by the curriculum committee as Director of the MSc. The Director of the MSc has the following responsibilities:

(a) chairs the Board and the Curriculum Committee, as well as the Curriculum Committee, in case of an interdepartmental or interinstitutional or joint MSc, drawing up the agenda and convening its meetings,

b) recommends matters concerning the organisation and operation of the MSc to the Department Assembly or the Programme Committee,

c) recommends issues related to the effective operation of the MSc, to the Board and the other bodies of the MSc and the institution

d) becomes the Scientific Director of the programme and exercises the corresponding responsibilities,

e) monitors the implementation of the decisions of the bodies of the MSc and the Internal Regulations for postgraduate and doctoral programmes, as well as the implementation of the MSc budget,

(f) exercises any other responsibility specified in the decision establishing the MSc.

The Director of the MSc, as well as the members of the Board and the Curriculum Committee shall not be entitled to any remuneration or any compensation for the performance of the responsibilities assigned to them and related to the performance of their duties.

The Research Committee may, by decision of the Research Committee, appoint an alternate Scientific Officer for the project/programme, if deemed necessary, following a decision of the Assembly or the PSC.

7. The Postgraduate Studies Committee is constituted by decision of the Senate, following the proposal of the Deans of the Faculties of the institution and consists of one (1) member of the Teaching and Research Staff from each Faculty, one (1) member from the categories of Special Teaching Staff (STS), Laboratory Teaching Staff (LTS), and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (STS) of the institution and the Vice Rector, who is responsible for academic matters, as President. The members of the Committee have experience in the organization and participation in second cycle (MSc) curricula. The term of office of the Committee is two (2) academic years. The responsibility of the Committee is:

(a) to submit an opinion to the Senate on the establishment of new graduate degree programs or the modification of existing graduate degree programs, after evaluating the requests of the Department Assemblies for the establishment of new graduate degree programs, the relevant feasibility and viability reports and the costing of the operation of the MSc, as well as the possibility of a referral if the recommendation is not sufficiently justified or the accompanying reports are not complete,

b) the preparation of draft regulations for second and third cycle programmes of the institution and their submission to the Senate,

(c) the preparation of a model set of draft regulations for the operation of a Master's degree programme,

d) to control of the compliance of the Regulations for the operation of the Postgraduate Programme,

e) the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, the Regulations and the decisions of the administrative bodies of the institution by the MSc,

f) to monitor the implementation of the procedure for exemption from the obligation to pay tuition fees,

g) any other responsibility defined by these Regulations.

The Committee shall meet regularly in order to ensure that the procedure for the establishment/modification of a Postgraduate Studies Programme is carried out as quickly as possible. The Department of Postgraduate Studies shall provide administrative and secretarial support to the Committee.

8. Secretarial support of the MSc.

α) The Secretariat of the supervising Department is responsible for the secretarial and administrative support of the MSc.

b) The Secretary of the Department shall designate an employee or employees - depending on the number of MSc programmes and the workload - as responsible for the MSc programmes of the Department.

c) In case the MSc has its own resources, it may, in accordance with the legislation in force, hire external collaborators for secretarial and administrative support, who shall again be under the supervision of the Departmental Secretariat.

Article 4 Lecturers of the MSc

1. The teaching work of the Postgraduate Studies Programmes (MSc) is assigned, following a decision of the competent body of the MSc, to the following categories of lecturers:

(a) members of the Teaching Research Staff (D.R.P.), Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff (L.T.P.) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (S.T.L.P.) of the Department or other Departments of the institution or of another Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.) or Higher Military Education Institution (HEMI), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the MSc has tuition fees,

b) Emeritus Professors or retired faculty members of the Department or other Departments of the institution or other H.E.I.,

c) associate professors,

(d) appointed lecturers,

(e) visiting professors or visiting researchers,

f) researchers and special operational scientists of research and technological institutions of article 13A of the Law. 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centres and institutes in the country or abroad,

g) scientists of recognized prestige, who have specialized knowledge and relevant experience in the subject matter of the MSc.

2. All categories of lecturers may be remunerated exclusively from the resources of the MSc. The amount of the remuneration of each lecturer shall be determined by the decision of the competent body of the MSc on the assignment of teaching duties. In particular, lecturers who have the status of a member of the teaching staff may receive additional remuneration for the work they provide to the MSc, provided that they fulfil their minimum legal obligations as defined in paragraph 1.1. 2 of article 155 of Law 155. 4957/2022. The last subparagraph shall apply proportionately to members of the Special Teaching Staff, the Laboratory Teaching Staff, and the Special Teaching Laboratory Staff, provided they fulfil their minimum legal obligations. It is not permitted to employ members of the teaching staff exclusively in a MSc programme of the Department or Faculty.

c) By decision of the Assembly of the Department, assistant teaching work may be assigned to doctoral candidates of the Department or the Faculty, under the supervision of a lecturer of the MSc.

Article 5 Assignment of teaching

1. The assignment of the teaching work of the MSc is carried out by decision of the competent body, following the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee of the MSc, if it exists, otherwise by the Director of the MSc.

2. The allocation of teaching assignments shall take place before the beginning of the academic year, both for the winter and the spring semester. If the allocation of teaching work cannot be carried out simultaneously for both academic semesters, the decision shall be taken before the beginning of each academic semester. By reasoned decision of the Department Assembly or the Curriculum Committee, the teaching assignment may be modified during the academic year.

3. Lecturers, who are on sabbatical or suspension, may provide teaching work for the MSc, if they consider that their timetable allows it, provided of course that, under the circumstances, this is practically and essentially feasible, a matter which must be duly decided on a case-by-case basis.

4. The members of D.E.P., E.D.I.P., E.T.E.P., E.E.P. of the University of Piraeus, may undertake teaching work in POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME of other universities.

Article 6 Supervision of graduate dissertations

1. The following teaching staff are entitled to supervise dissertations provided that they hold a doctoral degree:

(a) members of the Teaching Research Staff, Special Teaching Staff, Laboratory Teaching Staff and Special Technical Laboratory Staff of the Department or other Departments of the University of Piraeus or other Higher Educational Institution (H.E.I.) or Higher Military Educational Institution (HEMI), with additional employment beyond their legal obligations, if the MSc has tuition fees,

b) Emeritus Professors or retired members of the Department or other Departments of the University of Piraeus or other Higher Education Institutions,

c) Associate Professors,

d) appointed lecturers,

e) visiting professors or visiting researchers,

f) researchers and special functional scientists of research and technological institutions of article 13A of Law No. 4310/2014 (A' 258) or other research centres and institutes of the country or abroad.

2. By decision of the competent body of the MSc, the supervision of dissertations may be assigned to members of the Department's faculty members, who have not undertaken teaching work in the MSc.

Article 7 Funding of the POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Resources

1. The resources of a Postgraduate Studies Programme (MSc) may come from:

a) tuition fees,

(b) donations, sponsorships, and financial aid of any kind,

(d) funds from research projects or programmes,

(e) own resources of the higher education institution (H.E.I.); and

(f) the State budget or the public investment programme.

2. The payment of tuition fees, if provided for, shall be made by the student themselves or by a third natural or legal entity on behalf of the student, if this is provided for in the decision establishing the MSc.

3. The management of the resources of the MSc programmes of the University is carried out by the Special Account for Research Funds (SRA) of the Institution or by the SRA that has undertaken the administrative support of the programme, in case of an interinstitutional or joint MSc programme.

4. The resources of the MSc are allocated as follows:

(a) an amount corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total revenue derived from tuition fees shall be retained by the SRA. This amount shall include the percentage of retention in favour of the SRA for the financial management of the Postgraduate Programme. When the revenue of the MSc comes from donations, sponsorships and financial aid of any kind, legacies, or funds from research projects or programmes, the deduction for the benefit of the SRA shall be the same as for revenues from the corresponding funding sources,

(b) the remainder of the total revenue of the MSc shall be allocated to cover the operating costs of the MSc.

5. Financial cooperation of the MSc.

α) If a Department or School of the University of Piraeus organizes more than one (1) Postgraduate Studies Programmes (MSc), financial cooperation between MSc's is possible through the establishment of a joint project/programme, funded from MSc resources, to cover common needs and activities of the MSc's of the Department or School. The project/programme shall be without a clear end date, shall have an autonomous budget and shall be financed annually from part of the revenues of the operating MSc programmes of the Department or School, allocated to it for expenditure aimed at meeting common needs. Exceptionally, the project/programme may be financed from the balance of the cash resources of the programmes of the same Department or School, which have no other financial obligations and their objective has been successfully completed.

b) The acceptance of the project/programme management of par. 5. a) and the percentage of the annual revenues of the MSc with which the project/programme is financed and the Scientific Manager of the project, who is one (1) of the Directors of the MSc that finance the project is determined by decision of the Research Committee, following a joint recommendation of the Directors of the same Department or Faculty. Expenditure shall be made on the joint recommendation of the Directors of the MSc programmes which fund the project/programme.

Article 8 Categories of candidates

1. Holders of first cycle degrees of higher education institutions (Universities and Technical Universities) of the domestic or equivalent institutions of foreign countries are admitted to the MSc.

2. If the candidates hold a first cycle degree (B.A.) from a foreign country, the Secretariat of the MSc, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation, checks whether the institution of origin belongs to the National Register of Recognized Institutions of Foreign Countries and whether the type of degree belongs to the National Register of Types of Degrees of Recognized Institutions maintained and updated by the DOATAP THE COMPETENT GREEK BODY. Also, if accepted, the candidate must submit a certificate of Place of Study, issued and sent by the foreign university. If the place of study or part of the studies is confirmed as being in Greece, the diploma will not be recognised, unless the part of the studies undertaken in Greece is at a state university. Additional supporting documents are specified in the Regulations of the MSc.

Article 9 Criteria for determining the upper and lower number of admissions to the Postgraduate Programme

The upper and lower number of admissions to the MSc is determined by each Department and is defined per MSc, by decision of the collective body, taking into account the specificity of the subject matter, any specializations, the number of lecturers of the MSc and the student-teacher ratio, the infrastructure, the classrooms, as well as the absorption of graduates by the labour market.

Article 10 Criteria for the admission of students and the way in which they are selected

Selection of postgraduate students

Announcement of admission places

1. By decision of the Assembly, a notice for the admission of postgraduate students to postgraduate programmes shall be published and posted on the website of the Department and the Institution. The relevant applications together with the necessary supporting documents are submitted electronically or deposited at the Department's Secretariat, within a deadline set in the announcement and may be extended by decision of the Department Assembly or the Committee of study Programmes.

2. The admission requirements to the MSc are included in the provisions of the MSc's operating regulations and may be indicatively among those indicatively listed below:

α) Academic criteria, such as the degree grade, the grade in the courses relevant to the subject of the MSc, the performance in a thesis/dissertation, where this is provided for in the first cycle of studies, possession of a second degree of A', B', C' cycle/course of studies

(b) Knowledge of at least one language other than the language of the MSc and the level of language proficiency required

c) Relevance of the Department of origin to the MSc

(d) Type and extent of the candidate's work and/or research experience

(e) Publications, participation in conferences

(f) Letters of recommendation from members of the faculty of an H.E.I. and/or from an employer

(g) The candidate's performance during the interview

η) Verification of foreign academic qualifications

i) Adequate knowledge of the Greek language, as determined by the Admission Selection Committee of the MSc, or a certificate of Greek language proficiency for foreign candidates wishing to participate in a MSc organised in Greek

ι) Additional criteria defined by the Departmental Assembly or the HPS and included in the regulations of the MSc.

3. The Assembly or the Committee of Study Programmes may establish a Committee for (Additional Internal) Examinations, upon the proposal of the Selection Committee for all or some candidates. The Selection Committee shall determine the subject matter and timing of these examinations.

4. Selection of candidates for admission. The evaluation of applications from prospective postgraduate students shall be carried out by a committee of members of the teaching staff (Selection Committee), established by decision of the Assembly. The Assembly shall approve their enrolment in the MSc.

α) The selection of the admitted is defined in the Regulations of the MSc and is made by evaluation of the candidate's file or by examinations or by oral interview or by a combination of all the above, based on objective criteria, which ensure the principles of equality and meritocracy.

b) Administrative staff and members of the categories of E.E.P., E.D.I.P., E.T.E.P., E.T.E.P., are admitted as supernumeraries and only one per year and per Postgraduate Programme, in a programme that is relevant to the subject of the degree and the work they perform in the Institution.

c) The relevant Regulations of the MSc include a provision concerning the cases of equal ranking, whereby those who are equally ranked shall be admitted, provided that the number does not exceed the maximum number of admissions specified in the founding act of the Postgraduate Programme.

5. Selection criteria

The selection criteria for postgraduate students which can be taken into account by the MSc are as follows:

a) the grade of the first degree

(b) the grade of the thesis or dissertation (if any)

(c) the grade in undergraduate courses in the subject related to the MSc

(d) the relevance of the candidate's university degree and knowledge to the subject matter of the MSc

(e) the candidate's research or professional activity in a relevant field of knowledge

(f) publications, participation in conferences or performance at the interview

(g) their marks in the entrance examinations for the MSc

(h) possession of a postgraduate or doctoral degree

(i) knowledge of a foreign language or languages

ι) the regulations of each MSc may specify other additional criteria.

1. Knowledge of foreign language(s)

2. Relevance of the Department of origin to the MSc

3. Possession of a second degree of A' and B' cycle of studies (B.A., M.A.)

4. Type and scope of work and/or research experience

5. Interview

6. Letters of recommendation from members of the faculty of an H.E.I. and/or from an employer

7. Additional criteria defined by the Department Assembly or the Committee of Study Programmes by decision.

6. The details of the application of the criteria (e.g. points, coefficients, etc.) shall be determined by decision of the Assembly or the Committee of Programmes of Study.

7. The selection procedure shall be carried out by the Selection Committee, which:

α) draws up a complete list of those who have applied.

b) Rejects the candidates who do not meet the minimum criteria in case such criteria have been set by the Assembly or the PSC and are included in the Regulations of the MSc or their file is incomplete with regard to a document/document.

c) Invites those candidates who are screened for an interview. The interview shall be conducted by the members of the Selection Committee.

(d) Organises any internal examinations for candidates as may be deemed necessary.

e) Ranks the candidates in order of merit and submit its recommendation for final approval to the Assembly or the Committee of Study Programmes.

8. The successful candidates shall be registered with the Departmental Secretariat within a deadline set by the Departmental Assembly or the CSP.

9. In case of non-registration of one or more students, the runners-up, if any, will be invited to enroll in the program, based on their order in the approved evaluation list.

Article 11 Tuition fees

1. In those MSc programmes that operate at the University of Piraeus and that provide for the payment of tuition fees, the amount of tuition fees is determined by taking into account be taken into account:

α) (a) the expected number of postgraduate students of the MSc.

b) The costs of the fees of the lecturers of the programme

(c) The costs of the fees for the teaching staff of the programme; c) The costs of covering the travel expenses of teaching staff coming from abroad.

d) The costs of administrative support for the programme and support for the laboratory infrastructure.

e) the costs of organising conferences, workshops, and study tours.

f) the costs of awarding scholarships, both contributory and non-reimbursable, to postgraduate students

(g) Expenditure on the assignment of assistant teaching work by doctoral candidates (tutorials, etc.)

η) expenditure on the maintenance and renewal of programme equipment and the purchase of database and software licenses for the programme laboratories.

(i) Other operating expenditure

2. The amount of the tuition fee is set per student, per semester, per specialization, for full and part-time attendance. The tuition fees shall be calculated in accordance with the annual budget of the MSc, based on the criterion of covering the operating costs of the MSc. Each School/Department will determine the tuition fees on a cost-effective basis, and it is reasonable that tuition fees may vary per MSc. The amount of the fees will be decided by the Postgraduate Studies Committee and may not exceed EUR 20,000.

3. The amount of the planned tuition fees is specified in the decision establishing each MSc and payment of these fees by postgraduate students is compulsory. The payment of the tuition fees shall be made to the Special Account for Research Funds and may be paid in instalments following a decision by the competent body. Any tuition fees paid shall not be refunded in case a student wishes or is forced to discontinue his/her studies in the programme.

4. For students from non-EU countries, the tuition fees may be increased by a percentage determined in the Regulations of the MSc.

5. Postgraduate students must have paid the tuition fees before the examination of the thesis (viva voce).

6. According to the current legislation, the possibility of exemption from the payment of tuition fees is provided if the following conditions are met.

α) Registered students of a Postgraduate Studies Programme (MSc) - who are not citizens of third countries (Clarification: a third country is any country outside the European Economic Area (EEA). (EEA countries are the 28 member states of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein). These students may study for free (or with a 50% discount on tuition fees) in a MSc, if they meet the financial or social criteria in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

b) A prerequisite for granting the right to study free of charge on the basis of economic or social criteria is the fulfilment of excellence requirements during the first degree (B.A.), corresponding at least to the possession of a grade equal to or higher than seven and a half with an excellent mark out of ten (7,5/10) on a ten-point evaluation scale.

c) The total number of students attending free of charge or with a 50% discount on tuition fees may not exceed the number corresponding to thirty percent (30%) of the total number of students enrolled per academic year. The submission of applications for free attendance per MSc takes place after the completion of the registration process of students in the MSc.

7. The examination of the criteria for exemption from tuition fees is carried out by the Assembly of the Department of the Postgraduate programme or the Committee of the Programmes of Study. The possibility of exemption is provided exclusively for the study in one (1) POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME organized by a domestic university.

Article 12 Obligations and rights of postgraduate students

1. Postgraduate students shall have all the rights and benefits provided for students of the first cycle of studies, except for the right to free textbooks. Benefits to postgraduate students relating to health and hospital care in the National Health System, a special student ticket and meals shall be regulated in accordance with the legislation in force.

2. The Institution shall ensure equal access to the premises of the institution for students with disabilities or special educational needs, as well as the accessibility of infrastructure, services, physical and digital, equipment and educational materials.

3. Postgraduate students are invited to participate in and attend e.g., seminars of research groups, visit to laboratories, conferences/meetings with a subject related to the subject of the MSc, lectures or other scientific events of the MSc, etc.

4. The Liaison Office provides student counselling in matters of study and professional fulfilment.

5. Postgraduate students participate in Information/Computer Literacy courses conducted by the library concerning: strategies for searching information sources and evaluating results (validity, timeliness, relevance), bibliography compilation and bibliographic citation standards, information ethics (avoiding plagiarism) and self-deposit of theses in the DIONI Institutional Repository.

6. there is a maximum limit of absences for each course as indicated in the regulations of the MSc.

7. The Assembly of the Department, (after the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee), may decide to withdraw postgraduate students if:

a) they exceed the maximum number of absences

b) have failed the examination of a course or courses and have not successfully completed the programme,

c) exceed the maximum duration of study in the MSc, as defined in the current Regulation,

d) have violated the applicable provisions regarding the treatment of disciplinary offences by the competent disciplinary bodies,

e) automatically upon request of the postgraduate students,

(f) failing to pay the prescribed tuition fee.

8) Postgraduate students pay tuition fees for their attendance at the MSc and the payment of the fee is made on the dates / deadlines indicated in the MSc's operating regulations.

9. Scholarships. The POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES of the Institution, as specified in the Programme Regulations, may award: a) scholarships for excellence and awards, and b) rewarding scholarships. The specific terms and conditions are set out in the Regulations for the operation of the MSc programmes.

9.1 Scholarships of excellence. The MSc may award scholarships of excellence.

based on their performance in their studies and their individual or family financial situation, with full or partial exemption from tuition fees

9.2 Rewarding scholarships. By decision of the Assembly of the Department or the Programme Committee it is possible to approve the participation of postgraduate students in the provision of assistant teaching work in first cycle programmes of study with the granting of a rewarding scholarship, based on their performance in their studies and other criteria specified in the Regulations of the Programme. The assistant teaching work is defined as the assistance of the members of the Teaching and Research Staff in the exercise of their teaching work, the training of first cycle students, the conduct of tutorials, laboratory exercises, the supervision in examinations and the correction of exercises. The Regulation of each MSc may specify the details regarding the selection of the assistant teaching staff, the maximum amount of the grant of a rewarding scholarship per student, the maximum number of hours of employment per week and other details regarding the granting of scholarships.

10. The academic calendar and the timetable shall be drawn up within the framework of the academic calendar of the University of Piraeus and approved by the Assembly or the Programme Committee on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee.

11. By enrolling in the MSc, the student must be aware of the MSc's Rules and Regulations and declare in writing that s/he accepts the rules of the MSc. He/she must also be aware of the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies and the Code of Conduct and Good Practice of the University of Piraeus, which are posted on the main website of the institution.

Article 13 Duration of studies

1. The duration of studies for the award of the Master of Science Degree shall be specified in the founding decision for the full-time and part-time programmes, including the time for the preparation of the thesis.

2. The maximum time allowed for the completion of studies is defined in the operating regulations of each MSc.

3. The postgraduate student may apply for a temporary suspension of studies for a period not exceeding two consecutive semesters. The semesters of suspension of student status shall not count towards the maximum period of regular study.

Article 14 Title of studies

1. The Master of Science Certificate (M.Sc.) shall be a public document. Its form shall be determined by decision of the Senate. It shall be drawn up in the Greek language. In case of an English-speaking MSc, the MSc shall be drawn up in Greek and in any other language expressly mentioned in the founding decision of the MSc.

2. The MSc leads to a level 7 qualification in accordance with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

3. The MSc awarded by the Postgraduate Programme which is organised by a Department shall be signed by the Rector, the Chair of the Department and the Secretary of the Department. In case of an Interdepartmental MSc, the title is signed by the Rector, the Director of the Interdepartmental MSc and the Secretary of the Department having the administrative support of the MSc. In case of an Interinstitutional MSc, the title is signed by the Rector, the Director of the Interinstitutional MSc and the Secretary of the Department which has the administrative support of the MSc., unless otherwise specified in the specific Cooperation Protocol and the Regulations of the Interinstitutional MSc.

4. The grade of the certificate is marked as follows: from 5 to 6.49 GOOD, from 6.50 to 8.49 VERY GOOD and from 8.50 to 10 EXCELLENT.

5. The Register of the MSc holders shall be signed by the Secretary of the Department, the Chair of the Department or of the Graduate School and the Rector of the University.

6. A Diploma Supplement in the Greek and English language is attached to the MSc in accordance with the provisions of Art. 15 of the Law 3374/2005 (Government Gazette 189, vol. A and the Ministerial Decision Φ5 /89656/B3/13-8-07) (Government Gazette 1466, vol. B’).

Article 15 Swearing-in

1. A student who has successfully completed his/her postgraduate studies is taking an oath at a swearing-in ceremony, before the Rector or the Vice Rector as the representative of the Rector, the Dean of the Faculty, the President of the Department, and the Director of the MSc. The swearing-in is not a constituent type of successful completion of studies, but it is a necessary condition for the award of the postgraduate degree.

2. For reasons of force majeure and by application to the Secretary of his/her department, the postgraduate student may request the awarding of the degree without participating in the swearing-in ceremony or request to participate in a subsequent swearing-in ceremony. Prior to the swearing-in ceremony or exemption from it, post graduates may be given a certificate of successful completion of their studies.

3. The text of the oath for graduates obtaining a MSc shall be determined by decision of the Senate. Graduates who do not wish to take an oath of a religious nature may simply invoke their honour and conscience.

Article 16 Infrastructure of the MSc

1. For the proper functioning of the MSc, classrooms and seminars, auditoriums equipped with audiovisual equipment and laboratories of the Institution are available.

2. The funding of the MSc may come from: donations, endowments, bequests, sponsorships, research programmes, programmes of the EU or other international organisations, tuition fees and other sources, as provided for by the legislation in force.

Article 17 Organisation of the educational process of the MSc by distance learning MSc methods MSc

1. The organization of the educational process of Postgraduate Studies Programmes (MSc) may be carried out using modern distance education methods. The decision to establish a Master's degree programme organised using distance learning methods shall be accompanied by a report containing an analysis of the methods of distance learning, such as synchronous, asynchronous, blended learning, the digital educational material, the digital student assessment methods and the digital assessment material, the infrastructure of the University for supporting distance learning programmes and the digital skills of the teaching staff.

2. The organization of courses and other educational activities using modern distance education methods refers to courses and educational activities that by their nature can be supported using distance education methods and do not involve practical, laboratory or clinical training of students, which, in order to be conducted, require the students’ physical presence.

3. If the educational process is carried out using asynchronous distance learning methods, they may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the ECTS of the MSc.

4. Modern distance education is the educational method through technological mediation (videoconferencing environment) where the teacher and the students interact in a different place but at the same time with the possibility of two-way communication and sharing of multimodal content (slides, videos, etc.) in real time.

5. Asynchronous distance education is the educational method through an integrated technological environment (platform) of asynchronous education, where the teacher and the learners interact in a different place and at a different time. In particular, interaction takes place between: a. instructor - learner, b. learner - learning material, c. learners.

6. Blended Learning is the educational method developed under pedagogical conditions through the combination of Distance Education (synchronous or asynchronous) with the face-to-face educational process.

7. The organization of courses and other educational activities using methods of modern distance education refers to courses and educational activities that by their nature can be supported by using methods of distance education and do not involve practical, laboratory or clinical practice of students, for the conduct of which the participation of students with physical presence is required.

8. The educational process may be conducted using modern distance education methods, even in case of MSc programmes that have not included this possibility in their founding decision, only in the following cases:

α) In cases of force majeure or exceptional circumstances, where it is not possible to conduct the educational process in person or to use the infrastructure of the University of Piraeus to carry out educational, research and other activities,

b) the organisation of immersion courses and tutorial exercises, in addition to the compulsory teaching hours per course.

9. The organisation of the educational process using distance education methods ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities and special educational needs.

10. The Digital Governance Unit of the University of Piraeus is responsible for the support of the distance education process, as well as for issues related to the protection of personal data.

Article 18 Examinations and other methods of evaluation of postgraduate students

1. The assessment of postgraduate students may be carried out by means of written or oral examinations, intermediate progress examinations, written assignments, laboratory exercises, a combination of different assessment methods or other assessment methods suitable to the nature of each educational process. When written or oral examinations are used as assessment methods, the integrity of the process must be ensured.

2. If assessment is carried out by means of final examinations, such examination may be held either after the completion of each academic semester or after the completion of the teaching work of each course or the completion of each educational activity. Details of the re-examination or re-examination period are set out in the Operating Regulations of each MSc.

3. The final assessment and grading in the individual courses of the MSc is determined by the lecturer, who may, at his/her discretion, organise written and/or oral examinations or rely on assignments or laboratory exercises. Grading is on a ten-point scale: from 0 to 4.99 failing and from 5 to 10 passing. The course grades are submitted to the MSc Secretariat within 30 days after the end of the examination period.

4. In Postgraduate Programmes that provide for the preparation of a postgraduate dissertation, the student submits an application form, in which the proposed title of the thesis and the proposed supervisor are indicated. The Coordinating Committee shall recommend the three-member examination committee and the supervisor to the Assembly. The Assembly shall set up the three-member examination committee to approve the dissertation and appoint the supervisor. In order for the dissertation to be approved, the student must defend it before the examination committee. Details on how to submit, present, examine and grade the Master's dissertation are given in the Regulations of the MSc. The language of writing of the postgraduate dissertation may be in Greek and/or English, or in another language indicated in the Regulations. The Committee prepares and the Assembly approves a Guide for the writing of the Master's dissertation, which is communicated to the postgraduate students and includes guidelines for its writing, e.g., cover page, logo, font, minimum and maximum number of words, etc. The postgraduate dissertations, if approved by the examination committee, are posted by the student himself/herself in the Institutional Repository DIONI of the University of Piraeus Library.

5. In order to obtain the MSc, each postgraduate student must attend and successfully pass all the courses offered in the MSc and prepare a postgraduate dissertation (if provided), accumulating the ECTS of the programme of study.

6. The grade of the MSc is determined by the grades of the courses of the Programme and the grade of the postgraduate dissertation in a manner decided by the Assembly, or by the Board. The grade of the MSc, under the responsibility of the Secretariat, is entered in the student's individual file.

7. Any postgraduate student may fail a maximum number of courses per semester as stated in the regulations. Special cases of force majeure (illness, workload, etc.) in which a higher number of courses may be allowed may be determined by decision of the Assembly or the Programme Committee. If a student fails more than three (3) times in the same course, s/he may request, by application to the Director of the MSc, to be evaluated by a three-member committee consisting of MSc teaching staff of the same or relevant to the course to be examined subject, in which the course tutor must not participate.

8. Cases of misconduct such as copying in examinations or in the preparation of assignments and in solving exercises, inappropriate behaviour, etc., will result in disciplinary action as defined in the Regulations of the MSc and in the applicable legislation.

9. The papers must be kept for 1 year under the supervision of the teacher. After this period, the exam papers shall cease to be valid and shall be destroyed, unless there are pending criminal, disciplinary or any other administrative proceedings. It is best to destroy them in the institution's document shredders and the products of destruction should be recycled.

10. The internal rules of the University shall regulate: a) alternative methods for the evaluation of students with disabilities and special educational needs b) precautionary measures for the evaluation of students who are demonstrably ill or recovering from serious illness during the examination period, which shall also apply to postgraduate students.

Article 19 Evaluation - Certification POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

1. The evaluation of the MSc is carried out through the procedure of annual internal evaluation and external evaluation of the academic departments in accordance with the current legislation and the Internal Quality Assurance System (QAS). The University's Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) is responsible for the formulation of the Quality Assurance System and its implementation procedures. At the end of each semester, an evaluation of each course and each lecturer is carried out by the postgraduate students.

2. The Postgraduate Programmes of each Department, which includes interdepartmental, interinstitutional and joint Postgraduate Programmes, whose administrative support is undertaken by the Department, are evaluated in the framework of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit by the National Authority for Higher Education (NAHE).

3. The accreditation of the MSc is carried out by the NAHE, in accordance with the applicable legislation. In this context, the overall assessment of the work carried out by each MSc, the degree of fulfilment of the objectives set at its establishment, its sustainability, the absorption of graduates in the labour market, the degree of its contribution to research, the internal evaluation by postgraduate students, the feasibility of extending its operation, as well as other elements relating to the quality of the work produced and its contribution to the national strategy for higher education are evaluated. For the continuation of the operation of the MSc, its periodic accreditation is required every five (5) years as part of the periodic evaluation/certification of the academic unit to which it belongs.

4. Each MSc has the possibility of being accredited by other bodies, if it wishes to do so and specifies this in its operating regulations.

**CHAPTER B: REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES**

Article 20 Organisation of doctoral studies

1. The University of Piraeus may organize third cycle study (PhD) programs, which are organized by the academic Departments, in accordance with the applicable legislation, the present Regulation and the Regulations for Doctoral Studies established by each Department.

2. The third cycle curricula shall aim to promote original scientific research in the creation of high-quality scientific research, to create scientists capable of contributing to the advancement of science, research and applications, and to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge in at least one (1) scientific discipline. At the same time, doctoral studies are a source of academic prestige and international distinction for the Departments and for the University in general.

3. Third cycle programmes of study lead to the award of a doctoral degree after the preparation and successful defense (viva voce) of a doctoral thesis in a subject related to the scientific area of the Department. The successful completion of the doctoral studies leads to a degree at level eight (8) of the National and European Qualifications Framework. 4763/2020.

4. Third cycle study programmes may include an independent programme of doctoral studies courses, which consists of the attendance and successful completion of a complete cycle of courses or other educational or research activities, corresponding to at least thirty (30) credit units (ECTS).

5. Third cycle study programmes for the preparation of a doctoral thesis with co-supervision are organised by a Department of the institution in cooperation with one (1) or more Departments of the same or another higher education institution of the country, Higher Military Educational Institutions, Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, research and technological institutions of Article 13A of Law No. 4310/2014 (A' 258), Research University Institutes, the Academy of Athens, the Institute of Medical and Biological Research of the Academy of Athens, as well as with foreign institutions. The partnership with educational institutions of non-formal post-secondary education of the Law 3696/2008 (A’177) is not allowed. A Special Protocol of Cooperation (S.P.C.) is drawn up between the collaborating institutions, which is approved by the Senates of the Universities and the administrative bodies of the other institutions.

6. Industrial doctorates under Article 96 of Law No. 49547/2022. Candidates who meet the requirements for enrolment in doctoral programmes, according to Article 92 of Law 4954747. 4957/2022, may apply for a doctoral thesis in cooperation with an enterprise or industry, which is based or has a branch in the country, which concerns the conduct of industrial or applied research for the purpose of extracting research results to produce innovative products or services. A cooperation protocol between the University of Piraeus, the cooperating enterprise or industry and the doctoral candidate, which is approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Department, defines the specific terms of cooperation for the preparation of the doctoral thesis in the enterprise or industry and the export of the research results, the use of the infrastructure of the institution's equipment, if the research is carried out within the institution, the obligations and rights of each party, including the determination of copy right (intellectual property) on the work carried out throughout the doctoral thesis. The terms and conditions of the above-mentioned doctoral studies, the cooperation with private institutions for the conduct of doctoral research in these institutions, the terms and conditions and the possibility of representation of the institution in the three- and/or seven-member scientific committee are defined in the regulations for doctoral studies of each Department.

7. By decision of the Senate of the institution, upon the recommendation of the Assembly of the Department, the programme of doctoral studies and the regulation of doctoral studies are determined, and include all matters related to the organisation and operation of the third cycle of studies.

Article 21 Institutions-Administrative support

1. The Senate and the Assembly of the Department are the competent bodies for the establishment and operation of the Doctoral Studies

2. The Secretariat of the Department shall provide secretarial and administrative support to the doctoral studies (announcement, registration, record keeping, etc.).

Article 22 Announcement of doctoral candidates

1. The Departments may either adopt the procedure of announcing or inviting applications for the preparation of a doctoral thesis, or accept applications in specific periods of time or throughout the academic year, in accordance with the provisions of the Department's Regulations for Doctoral Studies. Notices and invitations are published and posted on the Department's and the Institution's websites.

2. The conditions, terms, deadlines and procedures for the submission of candidatures and the selection of doctoral candidates, as well as additional obligations, clauses, deliverables, are explicitly mentioned in the relevant announcements and invitations and in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of each Department.

3. The criteria for determining the maximum and minimum number of admissions per doctoral programme are defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of each Department and may include, for example, the number of members of the teaching staff, the maximum number of doctoral theses that can be supervised by the same member of the teaching staff, the infrastructure, the absorption of doctoral students by the labour market. The maximum number of doctoral candidates does not include doctoral candidates for an industrial doctorate and doctoral candidates with co-supervision, due to the specific conditions of the cooperation agreement for these doctorates.

Article 23 Selection of doctoral candidates

1. The right to apply for enrolment in a doctoral studies programme shall be granted to anyone who holds a postgraduate degree awarded by a Higher Educational Institution (H.E.I.) in Greece or abroad, or a graduate of an undergraduate degree programme of H.E.I., at least five years' duration corresponding to three hundred (300) credit units (ECTS), if there is a relevant provision in the Department's Doctoral Studies Regulations. The selection of doctoral candidates in each doctoral programme is carried out by decision of the Assembly of the Department responsible for the support of the doctoral programme. Specific issues, relating to the conditions of application for enrolment in a doctoral programme and the evaluation of candidates who do not hold a postgraduate degree, can be settled by the Regulations for Doctoral Studies.

2. Any interested person who fulfils the requirements of the regulations for doctoral studies may apply to the Assembly of the Department for the preparation of a doctoral thesis. The application shall include at least the following information:

 (a) the proposed title of the doctoral thesis,

 (b) a brief outline of the subject matter of the doctoral thesis,

 (c) the language of writing, which may be a language other than Greek,

 (d) a proposed supervisor of the doctoral thesis, whose field of knowledge or scientific work is relevant to that of the doctoral thesis to be written. The application shall be accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae of the candidate, as well as the documents/documents specified in the regulations of the programme of study to prove that the conditions required in each case are fulfilled.

3. The required documents and the selection procedure for doctoral candidates are defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of each Department.

Article 24 Duration of the doctoral thesis

1. The time for obtaining a doctoral degree may not be less than three (3) full calendar years from the date of appointment of the three-member advisory committee. The maximum duration for the completion of the doctoral thesis shall be six (6) calendar years.

2. The maximum duration of the doctoral thesis may be extended by decision of the Assembly of the Department, at the request of the doctoral candidate and with the agreement of the three-member advisory/supervising committee for good cause. The maximum duration of the extension and the specific issues concerning the right to extend the duration of the doctoral thesis are defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of the Department.

3. If the maximum duration of studies has not been exceeded, the PhD candidate may, with a sufficiently justified request, apply for a suspension of studies for up to two (2) years in total.

Article 25 Supervision of doctoral thesis

1. By decision of the Assembly of the Department, a three-member advisory committee is appointed, including the supervisor. The advisory committee may include members:

a) members of the Teaching and Research Staff of each level of the Department of the Institution,

b) members of the faculty of any Department of the same or another Higher Education Institution,

c) Emeritus Professors and retired members of the faculty,

(d) members of teaching and research staff in Higher Military Educational Institutions and Higher Ecclesiastical Academies,

e) researchers of any rank serving in research and technological institutions of Article 13A of Law No. 4310/2014 (A' 258), including the Academy of Athens and the Institute of Medical and Biological Research of the Academy of Athens, as well as the scientific staff of the Hellenic Geological Survey of Greece of article 25 of Law No. 25. 4602/2019 (A' 45), provided they have a doctoral degree and research activity related to the subject of the doctoral thesis,

f) professors of foreign institutions and researchers of foreign research organisations.

2. The members of the three-member advisory committee have either the same or related subject matter or the same or related scientific work as the doctoral thesis to be undertaken. The number of retired faculty members participating as members of the tripartite advisory committee may not exceed one (1). The three-member advisory committee shall be responsible for supporting the doctoral candidate during the process of preparing and writing the doctoral thesis and monitoring its progress. The supervisor and the members of the advisory committee shall not be entitled to any remuneration or other compensation for supporting the preparation of the doctoral thesis.

3. If one of the members of the three-member advisory committee, including the supervisor, passes away or unable to fulfil his/her duties, at the request of the supervisor or the doctoral candidate, a replacement may be appointed by decision of the Department Assembly until the completion of the doctoral thesis.

4. If the supervisor or a member of the three-member advisory committee moves to another Department of the same or another Higher Education Institute (H.E.I.), or if s/he leaves the service, s/he may continue to hold the position of supervisor of the doctoral thesis, provided that he/she consents, and the title is awarded by the H.E.I. where the Department to which the thesis was initiated belongs.

5. The appointment of the supervisor, the members of the three-member Advisory Committee and the members of the seven-member Examination Committee is made in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation and the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of each Department.

6. The maximum number of doctoral dissertations that can be supervised by the same Faculty member is defined in the regulation of doctoral studies of each Department.

Article 26 Rights and obligations of doctoral candidates

1. Doctoral candidates shall have the rights of postgraduate students and any other rights defined by the regulations of the doctoral studies of each Department, according to the applicable legislation.

2. Doctoral candidates may participate in research projects/programmes of the Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.) and may receive grants under co-funded, self-funded or other projects/programmes for the financial support of their doctoral research.

3. In addition, the PhD candidates., in accordance with the applicable legislation and as defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of the Departments:

α) Can carry out part of their research in another institution, institute or research centre in Greece or abroad, by decision of the Departmental Assembly.

b) Are encouraged to participate in conferences, workshops, etc., both in the country and abroad.

4. Doctoral candidates have the following obligations:

a) submit a detailed written report on the progress of their thesis on an annual basis to the three-member advisory committee and present the progress of the thesis orally, in accordance with the provisions of the Department's regulations for doctoral studies.

b) cooperate with the supervisor and the members of the advisory committee to support the preparation of their thesis.

(c) provide assistant teaching work in accordance with the needs of the first and second cycle programmes of the Department, as indicated by the supervisor.

d) before defending their doctoral thesis, they submit their work published in scientific journals (Greek and international), conference proceedings, bibliographic databases, and platforms (Academia, Google Scholar, Scopus, etc.) to the Department's Secretariat, in a Word or Excel file. The publication must have taken place during the thesis preparation, i.e. from the registration of the doctoral candidate until 31 December of the year of completion of the thesis.

(e) any other obligation as defined in the regulations for doctoral studies of each Department.

Article 27 Scholarships

The University of Piraeus and/or the academic departments may provide doctoral candidates with a) scholarships of excellence and awards and b) rewarding scholarships. The specific terms and conditions are defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of the departments.

α) Scholarships of excellence. Excellence scholarships and prizes may be awarded to doctoral candidates with outstanding performance in their research, with the aim of rewarding them based on their research work and their financial or family financial situation.

(b) Rewarding scholarships. By decision of the Assembly of the Department, rewarding scholarships may be granted to doctoral candidates, based on their performance in their studies and research, and other criteria specified in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies, with the obligation to support the educational process and provide assistant teaching work. Doctoral candidates may carry out assistant teaching work in first and second cycle programmes of study. Assistantship teaching is defined as assisting members of the teaching research staff in the exercise of their teaching duties, aiding students, conducting tutorials, laboratory exercises, supervising examinations, and correcting exercises. The Department's regulations for doctoral studies may specify the details concerning the selection of the assistant teaching staff, the maximum amount of the award of a rewarding scholarship per student, the maximum employment hours per week and other details concerning the award of scholarships.

The cost of the scholarships may be borne by private, own and international resources of the institution.

Article 28 Doctoral thesis

1. The title of the doctoral thesis may be partially modified for scientific reasons, with the agreement of the supervisor, following a reasoned request by the PhD candidate and a decision of the Department Assembly. The request for modification may be submitted until the submission of the report of the three-member advisory committee. When the subject of the doctoral thesis changes completely, the candidate has the right to resubmit an application and a draft. The selection and supervision procedures provided for in the Departmental Regulations are then followed, without counting the time already elapsed.

2. The Doctoral Thesis shall be written in a language decided by the Assembly of the Department, which shall consider the language of writing proposed by the doctoral candidate in his/her application. If the language of the thesis is not Greek, an extensive abstract in Greek must be submitted.

3.The composition of the three-member advisory committee and the seven-member examination committee of the doctoral thesis shall be mentioned on the cover page of each submitted and approved doctoral thesis in a prominent place. Further instructions for writing the doctoral thesis are set out in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies and/or posted on the website of each Department.

**Doctoral Thesis Review - Doctoral Degree**

1. After the completion of the writing of the doctoral thesis and the submission of the last progress report to the three-member advisory committee, the doctoral candidate submits a request for public defense of the thesis in accordance with the regulations for doctoral studies. Following a positive written recommendation of the three-member advisory committee to the Departmental Assembly, the Assembly shall appoint, by decision, a seven-member examination committee to judge and evaluate the doctoral thesis. The members of the seven-member examination committee must be the members of the three-member advisory committee and four (4) other members, who belong to the categories of paragraphs a) to f) of paragraph. 1 of Article 94. At least four (4) of the seven (7) members of the examination committee shall be members of the teaching and research staff of the Higher Education Institution (H.E.I.) where the doctoral thesis is being carried out.

2. If the recommendation of the previous paragraph is not submitted to the Assembly of the Department or if it is negative, the procedure may be continued upon application by the candidate, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations for Doctoral Studies.

3. The doctoral thesis shall be publicly defended by the doctoral candidate before the seven-member examination committee, which shall pose questions to the candidate. The meeting for the public support of the thesis may also be held by means of videoconferencing if it is not possible for all members of the examination committee to be physically present. After the completion of the thesis defense, the seven-member examination committee shall meet without the presence of third parties, evaluate the doctoral thesis in terms of its quality, completeness, originality of thought and contribution to science and, on the basis of these criteria, approve or reject the award of the doctoral degree. The award of the doctoral degree requires the agreement and positive evaluation of the doctoral thesis by at least five (5) members.

4. If approved, the seven-member examination committee shall evaluate the Doctoral Dissertation with the grades of GOOD, VERY GOOD or HONOURS.

5. On the date of approval of the doctoral thesis by the seven-member examination committee, the doctoral status is obtained. The process of the doctorate award, the designation and the awarding of the doctoral degree is carried out within the framework of the Departmental Assembly.

6. By decision of the Assembly of the Department, the candidate is promoted to doctoral degree, based on the proceedings of the Examination Committee.

The procedure to be followed prior to the conferral of the title of Doctor of Science includes:

α) (a) an application for a the graduation ceremony

b) Submission of the thesis to the Department's Secretariat in digital format

c) Deposit of the thesis in the Digital Repository "DIONI"

d) Deposit of the thesis at the National Documentation Centre

7. The Doctoral Degree (D.D.) is a public document. The type of the document is defined by decision of the Senate. The D.D. is signed by the Rector, the President of the Department and the Secretary of the Department.

Article 29 Evaluation- Certification of doctoral studies

Doctoral studies offered by the Departments of the University of Piraeus are subject to external evaluation and certification, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Article 30 Transitional provisions

1. The Academic Departments shall, within an exclusive period of six (6) months, harmonize the Regulations for the operation of the MSc and the Regulations for Doctoral Studies with the present Regulation so that the provisions do not contradict each other.

2. Issues that are not regulated by the present Regulation will be regulated by decision of the competent bodies.