

Pursuant to Article 19 (3)(2) of the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity, Article 17(1)(8) of the Statute of the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, and Article 28 of the Regulations on Doctoral Studies at the University of Zagreb, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, at its session held on 24 September 2025, passed the following

REGULATIONS

ON THE UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDY OF LEGAL SCIENCES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

(1) The Regulations on the University Doctoral Study of Legal Sciences (hereinafter: the Regulations) regulate the organisation and implementation of the university doctoral study of Legal Sciences (hereinafter: the doctoral study) which is organised and implemented at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law (hereinafter: the Faculty).

(2) Gender-specific terms used in the Regulations shall be considered gender-neutral and shall apply equally to the male and female gender.

Article 2

Goals of the doctoral study

The goals of the doctoral study are, in particular:

- creation and implementation of new and relevant knowledge and insights
- education of researchers in the scientific field of law
- training doctoral students for an independent, research-based and interdisciplinary approach to problems, for independent research and critical evaluation of the work of others
- acquisition of knowledge, experience and skills that enable future doctoral degree holders to solve complex social and economic problems creatively and on the basis of research

- linking doctoral studies to the labour market
- increasing the international recognition of the Faculty through research in the scientific field of law.

Article 3

Organisation of the doctoral study

(1) The decision on the organisation of the doctoral study is adopted by the Senate of the University of Zagreb, following the proposal of the Faculty Council.

(2) Joint doctoral studies shall be organised by a special agreement.

Article 4

Holder and provider of doctoral studies

The holder of the doctoral study is the University of Zagreb, and the provider is the Faculty.

II. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Article 5

Competent bodies

(1) The doctoral study shall be organised as a single doctoral study.

(2) The bodies responsible for the management of the doctoral study are the head of the doctoral study (hereinafter: the head of the study) and the Faculty Council.

Article 6

Head of the study

(1) The head of the study is a vice-dean of the Faculty appointed by the Dean.

(2) The head of the study is accountable to the Faculty Council and the Dean.

(3) The head of the study:

- manages the implementation of the study programme, i.e., the syllabus of doctoral studies,
- prepares all activities envisaged by the study programme and manages them,
- ensures the implementation of the doctoral study programme in line with the applicable regulations,

- determines the class schedule in agreement with the teachers,
- takes care of the financial plan,
- makes sure the surveys are implemented to ensure the quality of doctoral studies and informs the Faculty Council and doctoral students about the results,
- submits an annual work report to the Faculty Council,
- appoints the candidate admission committees,
- assists mentors as study advisors,
- advises doctoral students, together with the mentor, in guiding doctoral student in the course of their studies,
- performs other tasks in accordance with applicable regulations.

Article 7

Faculty Council

The Faculty Council performs the following tasks:

- adopts the Regulations on the University Doctoral Study of Legal Sciences and its amendments,
- adopts the study programme and the syllabus of doctoral studies and their amendments,
- announces calls for enrolment in doctoral studies,
- decides on the admission of doctoral students,
- appoints a committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination,
- appoints a committee for determining the content of and carrying out the doctoral examination (hereinafter: doctoral examination committee),
- appoints a doctoral dissertation evaluation committee,
- appoints a doctoral dissertation defence committee,
- decides on the annual report on the work of doctoral students and mentors,
- decides on the content of surveys on the evaluation of all doctoral study activities,
- decides on the annual report of the head of the study,
- decides on the reports of the committees for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination,

- decides on the reports of the doctoral dissertation evaluation and defence committees,
- determines the tuition costs for doctoral studies and other fees payable by the doctoral student in the course of the studies,
- performs other tasks pursuant to the Regulations, the Statute of the Faculty and other applicable regulations.

Article 8

Professional and Administrative Tasks

(1) The professional and administrative tasks pertaining to the doctoral study are performed by the Student Affairs Office, in particular:

- tasks related to the organisation and implementation of the enrolment procedure,
- keeping records of student enrolment and the financial results of enrolment,
- informing teachers and students about the class schedule,
- facilitating communication between students, teachers, mentors, and the head of the study,
- keeping a doctoral portfolio for each student, containing all the important information about the student throughout their studies.

II. ADMISSIONS

Article 9

Call for applications

(1) Admissions to doctoral studies are carried out following a call for applications.

(2) The call for application of students to the doctoral study is announced at the beginning of the semester that precedes the first semester of doctoral studies and is published in the daily press and on the Faculty's website. The call for applications is open for one semester.

(3) The call for admission shall contain information on the requirements for admission, the manner of verifying the fulfilment of these requirements, list of documents that need to be attached to the application, enrolment deadlines, a reference to the application of the Regulations, study programme and other regulations governing doctoral studies and other information.

Article 10

General requirements for admission

(1) The general requirements for admission are:

1. A candidate must have completed the integrated undergraduate and graduate study of law and acquired the title of Master of Law (mag. iur.) or completed the 4-year university study of law obtaining the title of BA in law (dipl. iur.), or an equivalent of these studies abroad.
2. The required minimum grade point average of the completed study programme is 3.5, i.e., the candidate must have been in the top 20% best students of the generation in which he enrolled in the study, or a foreign equivalent, whereby this requirement can be substituted if the candidate did not have a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the completed study, but has completed a postgraduate specialist study programme in law with at least 90 ECTS and achieved a minimum grade point average of 4.5, or a foreign equivalent.
3. A high level of proficiency in English and one more world language for the candidate to be able to use foreign literature, i.e. write his dissertation in English if English is chosen as the language of the dissertation.

(2) If candidates do not meet the general requirement referred to in Point 1 of Paragraph 1, they must have completed a graduate study programme and a specialist study programme in the field of law.

(3) If the candidate does not meet the general requirement referred to in Point 2 of Paragraph 1, it may be substituted by three scientific papers of which he is the sole author in the field of law from the A1 category according to the regulations on the classification of scientific papers for the purposes of election to scientific titles.

(4) For the application of Paragraph 1 Point 1 of this Article, a candidate who has completed a study programme abroad must prove that said study programme provides access to the judicial or legal profession in the country in which he completed his studies.

Article 11

Application for admission

(1) Applications for admission must include:

- a curriculum vitae,
- a diploma attesting the completion of the study, a certificate with degree transcripts and an expressed grade point average, if any,
- language proficiency certificates, if any,

- scientific papers, if any, that can be further verified and evaluated,
- elaborated proposal of the doctoral topic which contains the basic theses and the goal of the research, the preliminary work plan and the preliminary bibliography,
- proposal of the mentor with the written consent of the proposed mentor agreeing to guide the doctoral student in relation to the topic proposal,
- two recommendations made by university teachers (one of whom may be the proposed mentor) or alternatively, one recommendation by a university teacher (may also be the proposed mentor) and one recommendation by a person who has achieved outstanding results in the legal profession.

(2) Applications and the accompanying documentation shall be submitted to the Student Affairs Office.

Article 12

Admission procedure

Candidate admission committee

(1) Based on the advisory opinion of the members of the department to which the proposed mentor belongs, the head of the doctoral study appoints a candidate admission committee, with three to five members, for each of the applicants.

(2) The members of the committee are teachers of the doctoral study who are experts in the topics related to the proposed topic of the candidate's doctoral dissertation.

(3) The head of the doctoral study appoints a chair from among the members of the committee.

(4) The proposed mentor of the candidate may not be a member of the committee.

(5) The competences of a candidate admission committee are:

- checking whether the candidate meets the requirements for admission to the doctoral study,
- conducting interviews with the candidate,
- checking the candidate's foreign language proficiency,
- checking the candidate's motivation,
- evaluation of the candidate's publications, if any,
- making a written proposal on the acceptance or rejection of applications,
- proposing a three-member committee in charge of determining the content of the doctoral exam taking into account the area of the proposed doctoral research.

(6) The committee will make a proposal for acceptance or rejection of applications based, *inter alia*, on the assessment of the candidate's motivation and the candidate's ability to conduct the proposed doctoral research within the deadline.

(7) The committee forwards its proposal on the acceptance or rejection of applications to the head of the study, who refers all proposals to the Faculty Council for a decision.

(8) The decision on the admission of candidates for doctoral studies is made by the Faculty Council.

Article 13

Admission quotas

All the candidates who have had a proposal for admission submitted by a candidate admission committee may enrol in the doctoral study.

Article 14

Doctoral study costs and study contract

(1) The tuition fees are determined by the Faculty Council.

(2) Tuition fees shall be paid before enrolling into each of the semesters.

(3) The costs of producing the doctoral dissertation, printing of the doctoral diploma and other material costs are not covered by the tuition fee.

(4) The candidate who is admitted to the doctoral study enters into contract of study, subject to a tuition fee.

(5) The contract referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article stipulates the student status, tuition fee amount and the deadlines for the payment of tuition and other fees, and other rights and obligations of the parties thereto.

(6) The contract referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article contains provisions stipulating that the costs referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article are not covered by the tuition fee.

III. STRUCTURE AND DURATION OF THE STUDY

Article 15

Structure

(1) The doctoral study shall be organised and implemented according to the study programme and syllabus.

(2) The doctoral study programme consists of the required course titled Research Methodology in Legal Sciences, a doctoral exam, a methodological conference, doctoral conferences, consultative instruction, individualised research work and other study contents.

Article 16

Doctoral exam and doctoral examination committee

(1) Doctoral exams may be written, oral or combined. The examination method is determined by a doctoral examination committee.

(2) The exam is taken before the doctoral examination committee. The chair and members of the committee are appointed by the Faculty Council based on the proposal of the candidate admission committees. The proposed mentor is a member of the committee. Members of the committee may include persons who were members of the candidate admission committee.

(3) The exam is taken by the end of the second semester of the study. Each doctoral student must pass the doctoral exam to enrol in the third semester and be permitted to submit the formal application for the topic of their doctoral dissertation.

(4) The success in the exam is indicated by the following grading system: excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), and satisfactory (2). Unsatisfactory (1) is a failing grade.

(5) Doctoral students participating in the study under the Regulations who were enrolled in doctoral studies at the Faculty under previous regulations governing doctoral studies and doctoral students who have been enrolled or have completed the postgraduate specialist study programme at the Faculty, who have fully or partially fulfilled their obligations, may have their obligations recognised as a passed doctoral exam in full or in part. This decision is made by the doctoral examination committee. If this is the case, the tuition fees for doctoral students will be proportionally reduced.

Article 17

Language

(1) The doctoral study programme may be implemented in Croatian or English. Certain forms of instruction may be conducted in other languages.

(2) A doctoral dissertation shall be written and defended in Croatian or English. Writing and defending a doctoral dissertation in another foreign language may be exceptionally approved. The decision is made by the Faculty Council on the proposal of the head of the study.

(3) The doctoral student must draft the title, abstract and keywords of the dissertation in English and Croatian, even if the dissertation is written in another language. The abstract

should facilitate understanding the purpose of the doctoral dissertation, research methods, results and conclusions.

Article 18

Duration

(1) The study programme is carried out over the course of six semesters.

(2) A doctoral student has the right to complete the study programme under the conditions specified at the time of admission and within six years from the beginning of the first semester. The period of suspension of obligations according to the provisions of the Regulations shall not be included in the specified period.

(3) The decision extending the doctoral study shall determine the deadline for completion of the study.

IV. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTION

Article 19

Structure of doctoral study

The doctoral study has a scientific-teaching and scientific-research component. The central component of the doctoral study refers to scientific research and creation.

Article 20

Instruction

(1) The obligations of students are determined by the study programme in line with the general acts of the Faculty and other applicable regulations.

(2) The study programme is implemented by semesters.

(3) The implementation of the study programme shall include lectures, a methodological conference, doctoral conferences, individual research work, consultations, consultations with the mentor and the head of the study, and other forms of teaching determined by the study programme and the syllabus.

Article 21

Teachers

Teachers at the doctoral study are employees of the Faculty appointed to scientific-research positions .

Teachers from other faculties and universities, as well as prominent scientists, can also participate in the instruction.

V. DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Article 22

Rights and obligations of doctoral students

(1) Doctoral students have the following rights:

- consult with course teachers, mentors, and the head of the study according to a pre-determined schedule,
- consult with the mentor in their role of a doctoral study advisor,
- consult with the mentor and study advisor,
- have access to all relevant resources of the Faculty (library, databases, etc.),
- file a written application to the Faculty Council to permit changing the mentor or the topic of the doctoral dissertation, accompanied by a statement by the newly proposed and the current mentor,
- participate in surveys conducted within the framework of the study programme and have insight into their results,
- carry out their studies under the adjusted requirements for students with disabilities, in accordance with the general act of the University,
- other rights under applicable regulations.

(2) Doctoral students have the following obligations:

- regularly attend and participate in all forms of instruction and fulfil the obligations set out in the study programme and the syllabus,
- defend the synopsis,
- defend the doctoral dissertation,
- pay the tuition fee and all other due costs within the deadlines stipulated in the study contract,
- once a year, at the end of each even semester, submit an annual report on your work and an annual personal research development plan,
- regulate their student status by enrolling in the next semester, i.e. next year of study or by re-enrolling the same semester or year of study,
- other obligations specified by regulations.

(3) During the course of studies, and before defending the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral student is required to publish at least one original scientific paper of which he is the sole author or one of the main authors, in an international or domestic scientific journal. The paper may be accepted for publication and must pertain to the scientific field to which the doctoral dissertation relates and thematically related to the doctoral research. One paper can be used to qualify only one doctoral candidate, unless there is an appropriate justification (for example, equal authorship). The paper must have been published with a reference to the name of the institution that carries out the study programme, while other institutions may also be indicated.

(4) In order to ensure the quality of the study, doctoral students shall inform the Faculty Library about the papers published during the course of their doctoral study.

Article 23

Monitoring a doctoral student's career

(1) The head of the study and mentor advise the doctoral student in planning their career during the course of their studies in line with the annual personal research development plan and the needs of the labour market.

(2) Mentors, the head of the study and other competent Faculty bodies shall assist liaise doctoral students with external stakeholders (employers, alumni of the Faculty and other persons) and labour market needs, without neglecting scientific principles.

(3) Once a year, the head of the study shall organise workshops for doctoral students, mentors, external stakeholders, and other persons. These workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss the possibilities of linking doctoral students' research with the labour market needs and the development of transferable skills.

Article 24

Suspension of rights and obligations

(1) The doctoral student has the right to seek the suspension of rights and obligations:

1. during the course of military service, excluding active military service,
2. during pregnancy,
3. for a doctoral student who is parent to a child up to the child's first birthday,
4. during leave as regulated by general acts governing maternal and parental aid,
5. for the course of incapacity due to illness or another comparable reason lasting more than three months,

6. during the course of international student exchange in the duration of more than 30 days, which takes place during classes, unless the doctoral student obtains 30 ECTS credits in the exchange,
7. in case of other legitimate reasons pursuant to a general act or decision of the Faculty, i.e. the University.

(2) The doctoral student is obliged to submit a request for suspension of obligations with documentation without delay, as soon as possible.

(3) The Faculty Council shall decide on the request, taking the prior proposal of the Head of the study into consideration.

Article 25

Termination of doctoral student status

Doctoral student status shall be terminated:

1. upon completion of studies,
2. upon expiration of the deadlines for the duration of studies referred to in Article 18 hereof,
3. if the student withdraws from the study,
4. if the student is excluded from the study pursuant to a general act of the Faculty.

VI. MENTORSHIP

Article 26

Mentor

(1) When deciding on the enrolment of a candidate, the Faculty Council shall appoint the proposed mentor as the doctoral student's study advisor, on the basis of the doctoral student's proposal and the written consent of the proposed mentor. The study advisor shall assist the doctoral student during the course of study, monitor their work and achievements, and, together with the doctoral student, prepare the annual personal research development plan and the corresponding annual reports. The study advisor shall perform these duties until a mentor is appointed following nomination by the committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination.

(2) A mentor may be appointed from among employees of the Faculty elected to a research-and-teaching position.

(3) A *professor emeritus*, or a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts who was an employee of the Faculty, may also be appointed as a mentor.

(4) A mentor who assumed mentorship prior to retirement shall have the right to continue serving as a mentor until the completion of the supervision, subject to the consent of the Faculty Council.

(5) A mentor must be an active researcher in the field of research to which the doctoral dissertation relates and must have published scholarly works within the preceding five years.

(6) To ensure the quality of the doctoral dissertation, a co-mentor may be appointed to the doctoral student, if there is a need for it (for example, interdisciplinarity of research or conducting research at several institutions). The co-mentor does not have to be an employee of the Faculty, but must hold a research-and-teaching or research position, or possess an equivalent honorary title or a qualification obtained abroad. A co-mentor who is not employed by the University of Zagreb or by a constituent unit of the University of Zagreb must conclude an agreement with the Dean of the Faculty regulating cooperation and the assumption of responsibility.

(7) One person may not be a mentor to more than two doctoral students according to the provisions of these Regulations.

(8) If a person is a mentor to more than three doctoral students from previous doctoral studies, they may be a mentor to only one doctoral student according to the provisions of these Regulations.

(9) The conditions stipulated in paragraphs 2 to 8 hereof shall apply to study advisors referred to in paragraph 1 hereof.

Article 27

Mentor's duties

(1) The mentor:

- guides the doctoral student in terms of literature and methodology of scientific research,
- assists the doctoral student, together with the head of the study, cooperates with the student, and monitors their work,
- advises the doctoral student, together with the head of the study, in planning their careers,
- encourages the doctoral student to participate in scientific projects,
- monitors the quality of the doctoral student's scientific work and the doctoral student's progress through mentoring reports,
- assists the doctoral student in preparing the public defence of the dissertation synopsis and the public defence of the dissertation,

- guides the doctoral student during the drafting of the doctoral dissertation.
- (2) If there are several mentors, each of them takes responsibility for a predetermined part of the research and the procedures for drafting the doctoral dissertation.
- (3) The mentor is obliged to submit a written report on the work of the doctoral student they mentor to the Faculty Council once a year.
- (4) The mentor may not be a member of the committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination, or the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee.
- (5) The mentor's duties stipulated in this Article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the study advisor referred to in Article 26(1) of these Regulations.

VII. DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Article 28

Doctoral dissertation

- (1) The doctoral dissertation is an original and independent research work, and in terms of methodology and its contribution to science, it is suitable for assessing the doctoral student's ability to act as an independent researcher in the scientific field of law.
- (2) By enrolling in the doctoral study, the doctoral student gives consent for their doctoral dissertation to be published on the Faculty's public website and in the public online repository of theses and dissertations of the National and University Library in Zagreb, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

SUBMISSION, EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF THE DISSERTATION SYNOPSIS

Article 29

Submission of the dissertation synopsis

- (1) In the third semester, the candidate shall publicly defend the dissertation synopsis. The defence of the synopsis is a requirement for enrolment in the fourth semester of study.
- (2) The dissertation synopsis shall include:
- general information on the doctoral student,
 - the doctoral student's curriculum vitae and list of publications,
 - the proposed title of the doctoral dissertation,

- a statement by the candidate that they have not submitted a doctoral dissertation on the same topic at another study programme of the University or at another university,
- information on the mentor,
- the primary objective, hypotheses, i.e. research questions, and the research plan,
- the research methodology,
- an explanation of the topic and the expected original scholarly contribution of the doctoral dissertation,
- a preliminary bibliography and other sources,
- an estimate of research costs.

(3) In addition to the dissertation synopsis, the doctoral student shall provide the Faculty ethics committee's reasoned approval where the research involves human participants.

Article 30

Committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination

(1) The procedure for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and the nomination of a mentor is initiated by the doctoral student upon submission of the synopsis.

(2) The Faculty Council shall appoint a committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination. The committee shall be proposed by the head of the study, taking into account the advisory opinion of the members of the department to which the doctoral student's study advisor is affiliated.

(3) The committee is appointed from among the Faculty teaching staff employed at least in the scientific-teaching position of assistant professor, persons employed at least in the scientific position of research associate, persons who hold an equivalent academic appointment or an appointment obtained abroad, and exceptionally, with a special justification, other distinguished scholars holding a doctoral degree who are active in the scientific branch or scientific branches to which the topic of the doctoral dissertation refers.

(4) The committee consists of three or five members.

(5) One member of the committee, or two members if the committee consists of five members, shall be a person who is neither a teaching staff member of the study programme nor employed at the Faculty.

(6) The nominated mentor may not be a member of the committee.

Article 31

Evaluation and defence of the dissertation synopsis

(1) The committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and mentor nomination shall determine the date for the defence of the dissertation synopsis. The date of the defence shall be published on the Faculty notice board and on the Faculty website. The defence of the dissertation synopsis is public.

(2) The committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall prepare a report on the defence of the dissertation synopsis containing an evaluation and a recommendation, to be submitted no later than 90 days from the date of appointment, or within 30 days of receipt of a revised synopsis, in cases where the synopsis has been returned to the doctoral student for revision

(3) The report of the Committee for the evaluation of the dissertation synopsis and the nomination of a mentor shall be submitted to the Faculty Council.

(4) If the committee's report is negative, or extensive revision of the dissertation synopsis is required, the doctoral student may undertake a repeated defence of the dissertation synopsis only once more.

(5) Based on the committee's positive opinion, the Faculty Council shall approve the dissertation synopsis and appoint a mentor.

EVALUATION OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Article 32

Request for doctoral dissertation evaluation

(1) A doctoral student who has fulfilled all the obligations provided for in the study programme may submit a request for doctoral dissertation evaluation to the Faculty, together with their declaration of originality.

(2) The request for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation shall be accompanied by the required number of unbound copies of the doctoral dissertation and an electronic version thereof, together with the mentor's written consent and opinion confirming the research conducted and the original scientific contribution achieved, which implies that the mentor has reviewed the results of the originality check performed using plagiarism-detection software and considers those results acceptable.

(3) If the mentor withholds the consent referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article, they must provide a written explanation of their reasons within 15 days. In both cases, the mentor's explanation shall be submitted to the members of the committee for the

evaluation of the doctoral dissertation who shall take it into account when performing the evaluation.

(4) Prior to **submitting** the doctoral dissertation for evaluation, the relevant documentation of the dissertation shall be verified, and it shall be determined whether the doctoral student has fulfilled all obligations prescribed by the study programme.

Article 33

Doctoral dissertation evaluation procedure

(1) The Faculty Council shall decide on the request for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation.

(2) The Faculty Council shall appoint a doctoral dissertation evaluation committee from among the Faculty teaching staff employed at least in the scientific-teaching position of assistant professor, persons employed at least in the scientific position of research associate, persons who hold an equivalent academic appointment or an appointment obtained abroad, and, exceptionally, with special justification, other distinguished scholars holding a doctoral degree who are active in the scientific field or fields to which the doctoral dissertation topic relates. The proposal shall be submitted by the head of the study taking into account the advisory opinion of the members of the department to which the proposed mentor is affiliated.

(3) The committee for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation shall consist of three or five members.

(4) One member of the committee, or two members if the committee consists of five members, shall be a person who is neither a teaching staff member of the study nor employed at the Faculty. The mentor may not be a member of the committee.

(5) Immediately following the appointment of the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee, the Faculty shall publish the title and abstract of the dissertation, in both Croatian and English, on its website.

Article 34

Doctoral dissertation evaluation report

(1) The doctoral dissertation evaluation committee shall, without undue delay and no later than within 90 days from the appointment and receipt of the dissertation, submit a written report with the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation. The chair of the committee shall prepare a report based on collected written opinions of committee members, and the report shall be signed by all committee members. Each committee member has the right to present a separate, reasoned evaluation.

(2) The doctoral dissertation evaluation committee presents a report in which it may propose:

1. the acceptance of the dissertation with an express statement on the achievement of an original scholarly contribution, or
2. the revision of the dissertation, with a mandatory justification and the specification of the deadline for resubmission, which shall not exceed six months; or
3. the rejection of the dissertation, with a mandatory justification.

Article 35

Notification of the doctoral dissertation evaluation report

Upon submission of a written report by the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee, the Dean shall immediately publish a notification on the Faculty bulletin board and the Faculty website stating that the report has been submitted and that all interested persons may, within 15 days of the publication of the notice, examine the completed doctoral dissertation and the report, on the Faculty premises, and submit their written remarks on the dissertation and the report.

Article 36

Decision on the doctoral dissertation report

(1) At its first session following the expiry of the period referred to in Article 35 of these Regulations, the Faculty Council shall consider the report on the doctoral dissertation evaluation and any written comments submitted on the report up to the date of the session, and shall adopt one of the following decisions:

1. acceptance of the positive report, following which a committee for the defence of the doctoral dissertation shall be appointed;
2. acceptance of the report requesting revision of the doctoral dissertation, following which, upon submission of the revised dissertation by the doctoral student, the evaluation procedure shall be repeated before the committee in the same composition that submitted the report requesting revision;
3. acceptance of the negative report, following which the doctoral student shall lose the right to obtain the doctoral degree within that study programme;
4. rejection of the report, following which the procedure for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation shall be repeated.

(2) The Faculty Council may accept a positive report only if it has been proposed by a majority of the members of the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee.

(3) Upon acceptance of the report confirming the positive evaluation of the doctoral dissertation, the Faculty shall make the dissertation publicly available on its website for a period of not less than 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the defence. Where the research results contained in the dissertation include an innovation capable of protection under intellectual property law, the relevant acts of the University of Zagreb shall apply.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DEFENCE

Article 37

Determining the doctoral dissertation defence

(1) If the Faculty Council accepts the positive report of the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee, it shall appoint a doctoral dissertation defence committee from among the Faculty teaching staff employed at least in the scientific-teaching position of assistant professor, persons employed at least in the scientific position of research associate, persons who hold an equivalent academic appointment or an appointment obtained abroad, and exceptionally, with special justification, other distinguished scholars holding a doctoral degree who are active in the scientific field or fields to which the doctoral dissertation topic relates. The proposal shall be submitted by the head of the study programme taking into account the advisory opinion of the members of the department to which the doctoral student's mentor is affiliated.

(2) The doctoral dissertation evaluation committee consist of three or five members.

(3) One member of the committee, or two members if the committee consists of five members, shall be a person who is neither a teaching staff member of the study nor employed at the Faculty. The mentor may not be a member of the committee.

(4) The Dean shall determine the date and place of the defence of the doctoral dissertation. The defence shall be held no earlier than 31 days and no later than 60 days from the publication of the dissertation on the Faculty website.

(5) The defence of the doctoral dissertation shall be held on the Faculty premises. In the case of joint or dual doctoral dissertations, the defence may be held at another university. The procedure for such a defence shall be determined by a separate protocol.

(6) The Dean shall publish a notification of the defence of the doctoral dissertation, containing information on the doctoral candidate, the topic of the dissertation, and the time and place of the defence, no later than eight days prior to the defence.

(7) If the doctoral candidate, without justified reason, fails to attend the defence within the period referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, the Dean shall, upon the proposal of the

doctoral dissertation defence committee, terminate the procedure and return the dissertation to the doctoral student.

Article 38

Doctoral dissertation defence procedure

- (1) The dissertation defence is public.
- (2) The chair of the doctoral dissertation defence committee shall open the defence procedure, presenting the doctoral student's general information, the results of their studies, the doctoral research and the report based on which the Faculty Council accepted the doctoral dissertation.
- (3) After the chair's presentation, the doctoral student presents the content and explains the conclusions of the doctoral dissertation.
- (4) After the doctoral student's presentation, the members of the committee ask questions and make remarks on the doctoral dissertation and may also ask for explanations regarding the doctoral dissertation and the oral defence.
- (5) The doctoral student is obliged to answer the questions of the members of the committee and provide the requested explanations.
- (6) When the committee concludes that the subject of defence has been sufficiently discussed, the chair of the committee shall announce that the defence has been concluded, and the committee shall withdraw to deliberate and vote.
- (7) The committee shall, by a majority vote, decide whether the doctoral student has successfully defended the doctoral dissertation.
- (8) The defence evaluation may be *rite*, *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* or *summa cum laude*.
- (9) The chair of the committee shall publicly announce the decision of the committee.
- (10) The dissertation may be defended only once.

Article 39

Record of the doctoral dissertation defence

- (1) A record of the doctoral dissertation defence shall be kept and signed by the members of the defence committee and the recorder.
- (2) The record of the doctoral dissertation defence shall be kept in the Croatian language, or in the English language in the case of a defence conducted in another language.

Article 40

Completion of doctoral studies

Once the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee has decided that the doctoral student has successfully defended the doctoral dissertation, and after the doctoral student has submitted the dissertation in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 41 of these Regulations together with the prescribed accompanying documentation, the doctoral student shall be deemed to have completed the doctoral study.

Article 41

Bound doctoral dissertation

(1) Following the successful defence of the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral candidate shall, in consultation with the Student Office, insert into the dissertation a page containing the details of the author, the members of the doctoral dissertation evaluation and defence committees, the signatures of the committee members, and the date of the defence.

(2) Within 15 days of the defence, the doctoral candidate shall submit four bound copies of the doctoral dissertation and one electronic copy, in accordance with the regulations of the University of Zagreb, for the purposes of the Faculty and other competent institutions in the Republic of Croatia.

VIII. ACADEMIC DEGREE

Article 42

Academic degree

A person who completes the University doctoral study programme in Legal Sciences shall be awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Science in the field of Social Sciences (dr. sc. socio.).

IX. DOCTORAL DIPLOMA

Article 43

Doctoral diploma

(1) Based on the positive decision referred to in Article 38, Paragraphs 7 and 8 of these Regulations, the University of Zagreb shall issue a diploma certifying completion of the programme – the doctoral diploma.

(2) A supplementary document on the results achieved during the doctoral study shall be issued to the doctoral student.

(3) Upon personal request, a supplementary document may be issued to a doctoral student before the completion of the study.

(4) The doctoral diploma and other documents issued in accordance with these Regulations are public documents. They are issued in the prescribed form in Croatian, and, upon request, the diploma may also be issued in Latin.

X. PROCEDURE FOR REVOCATION OF ACQUIRED ACADEMIC DEGREE

Article 44

Procedure for revocation of acquired academic degree

(1) After the Faculty has received a request for revocation of the academic degree from the competent bodies of the University, the Faculty Council shall appoint a committee comprised of three members employed in the scientific-teaching position of full professor.

(2) A person who was a member of the committee in the procedure for the award of the contested academic degree may not be appointed to the committee referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

(3) The committee shall, within 60 days from its appointment, submit a written statement on the validity of the request for revocation of the academic degree.

(4) The Dean shall communicate the statement referred to in Paragraph 3 of this Article to the person who requested the initiation of the procedure and to the person whose academic degree is being contested.

(5) The person who requested the initiation of the procedure and the person whose academic degree is contested may, within 30 days of receipt of the statement, submit their written statements.

Article 45

Deciding on the report

(1) Following the receipt of the statement of the person who requested the initiation of the procedure, or the person whose academic degree is contested, or upon the expiry of the deadline referred to in Article 44, Paragraph 5 of the Regulations, the Dean shall convene a session of the Faculty Council to discuss and decide on the report referred to in Article 44 of these Regulations.

(2) The person who requested the initiation of the procedure and the person whose academic degree is contested shall be invited to the session of the Faculty Council.

(3) The decision of the Faculty Council shall be referred to the competent bodies of the University for further consideration, no later than 120 days from the receipt of the request.

XI. INTERNAL EVALUATION AND DOCTORAL STUDY QUALITY ASSURANCE

Article 46

(1) To assess the quality of the doctoral study, the head of the study shall ensure the implementation of surveys.

(2) The head shall submit a report on the results of the survey to the Faculty Council and inform the doctoral students and, if necessary, initiate changes in the doctoral study. The head of the doctoral study shall ensure that the survey results are made available to all teaching staff of the doctoral study.

XII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 47

Integral part of the Regulations

(1) The study programme and the syllabus of the doctoral study, as well as the decision determining the tuition and study costs for the doctoral study, are considered to be an integral part of these Regulations.

(2) These Regulations, their amendments, the doctoral study programme, the syllabus, and the decision determining the tuition and study costs shall be published on the Faculty's website.

Article 48

Status of students of previous doctoral and specialist studies and enrolment in the doctoral study of legal sciences

Doctoral students who enrolled in the Faculty's doctoral study programme under previous regulations shall be entitled to complete the study programme in accordance with the provisions of the regulations in force at the time of their enrolment and within the deadlines specified therein.

Article 49

Entry into force

(1) These Regulations shall enter into force on 1 October 2025 and shall apply to cycles of the University doctoral study programme in Legal Sciences commencing after their entry into force.

(2) In respect of cycles of the University doctoral study programme in Legal Sciences that commenced in 2022 or thereafter, but prior to the entry into force of these Regulations, the provisions of the regulations in force at the time of enrolment shall continue to apply, subject to the corresponding application of Articles 8 and 24 of these Regulations and the provisions of Chapters VII, VIII, IX, X, and XII hereof.

Dean:

Professor Ivan Koprić

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