

**ESCOLA
SUPERIOR
DE SAÚDE
POLITÉCNICO
DO PORTO**



ORDER
E2S/P-28-A/2026

**Regulations for Third Cycle Studies at the School of
Health of the Polytechnics Institute of Porto - ENG**

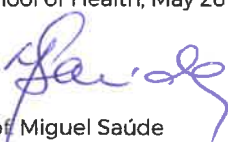
Considering:

- 1) The Decree-Law n° 74/2006, of March 24th, as amended by Decree-Law n° 27/2021, of April 16th, which confers upon the legally and statutorily competent body of each higher education institution the authority to regulate various matters of an academic nature;
- 2) The need to implement the Regulations for Third Cycle Studies at the School of Health of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, in order to align the regulations to the legislative update promoted by the publication of Decree-Law n° 27/2021, of April 16th, which constitutes the sixth amendment to the Legal Regime of Degrees and Diplomas of Higher Education;
- 3) The formal requirements concerning the start of the procedure for drafting the Regulations have been fulfilled, with a view to the possible constitution of interested parties, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph n° 1 of Article 98° of the Code of Administrative Procedure and paragraph n° 3 of Article 110° of Law n° 62/2007, of September 10th (RJIES).

Pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph b) of paragraph n° 1 of Article 15° of the Statutes of ESS|P.PORTO, it is hereby determined:

- 1) In accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of Article 38° of Decree-Law n° 74/2006, of March 24th as currently in force, the Regulations for Third Cycle Studies at the School of Health of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto are approved.
- 2) This Order and the attached Regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Gazette.

School of Health, May 26nd, 2026


Prof. Miguel Saúde
President

ESCOLA
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DO PORTO



Regulation

Third-Cycle Study

Programmes of the

School of Health of the

Polytechnic Institute of Porto

(E2S|P.PORTO)

MAIO 2026

DESPACHO E2S/P-28-A/2026

PREAMBLE

Law No. 16/2023, of 10 March, established the possibility of awarding the doctoral degree within the polytechnic higher education subsystem, amending Law No. 62/2007, of 10 September. Accordingly, and in compliance with the Legal Framework for Higher Education Degrees and Diplomas, approved by Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of 24 March, including subsequent legislative amendments, in fulfilment of Article 2 of the General Regulations for Third-Cycle Study Programmes of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (P.PORTO/P-006/2024), and after hearing the interested parties, the “Regulations for Third-Cycle Study Programmes of the School of Health of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (E2S|P.PORTO)” are hereby published.

CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

SUBJECT MATTER

These Regulations develop and complement the General Regulation for Third-Cycle Study Programmes of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (P.PORTO/P-006/2024), which are based on the legal framework governing study cycles leading to the doctoral degree established by Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of 24 March, as amended by Decree-Laws No. 65/2018, of 16 August, and No. 27/2021, of 16 April, and other applicable legislation.

ARTICLE 2

SCOPE

1. These Regulations apply to all study cycles leading to the doctoral degree delivered by E2S|P.PORTO, including study cycles developed in association with one or more other higher education institutions.
2. These Regulations establish the general guidelines to be followed by the study cycles referred to in the preceding paragraphs.
3. Without prejudice to the provisions of these Regulations, specific regulations may be approved for each study cycle, under the applicable legal and statutory terms.

ARTICLE 3**DOCTORAL DEGREE**

1. The doctoral degree is awarded to those who demonstrate:
 - a) The ability to understand systematically a scientific field of study;
 - b) Research skills, aptitudes and methods associated with a scientific field;
 - c) The ability to conceive, design, adapt and carry out significant research, respecting the requirements imposed by academic quality and integrity standards;
 - d) The completion of a significant body of original research work that has contributed to extending the frontiers of knowledge, part of which merits national or international dissemination in publications with a selection committee;
 - e) The ability to critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise new and complex ideas;
 - f) The ability to communicate with their peers, the wider academic community and society in general regarding the field in which they specialise;
 - g) The ability, in a knowledge-based society, to promote technological, social or cultural progress in an academic and/or professional context.
2. P.PORTO awards the doctoral degree in a branch of knowledge or in one of its specialities, through E2S.
3. The creation of new doctoral study cycles, including the respective branches of knowledge or specialities, is approved by Order of the President of P.PORTO, upon request from the President of the teaching and research organic unit (UOEI) that will deliver them, after hearing the statutorily competent bodies of the UOEI and the Academic Council, under point c) of Article 27 and sub-point ii) of point c) of Article 32 of the Statutes of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto.
4. The doctoral degree may be awarded by E2S in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement with one or more national or foreign higher education institutions, subject to a prior agreement established by the legally and statutorily competent bodies of the partner institutions, under the terms provided for by law.

**CHAPTER II – ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF THE STUDY CYCLE
LEADING TO THE DOCTORAL DEGREE****ARTICLE 4****STUDY CYCLE LEADING TO THE DOCTORAL DEGREE**

1. The study cycle leading to the doctoral degree at E2S includes the doctoral course and the preparation of an original thesis appropriate to the nature of the branch of knowledge or its speciality.
2. The doctoral course, where it exists, comprises a set of curricular units, taught in Portuguese or English, aimed at training for research and/or the development of complementary skills, integrated into the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree.

3. The doctoral course, where it exists, may include, if provided for in the study plan and respective accreditation record, curricular units from other third-cycle study programmes of P.PORTO or from other higher education institutions.
4. The doctoral course, where it exists, consists of a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 60 ECTS credits.
5. The doctoral course, where it exists, takes place in the first year.
6. After completing the doctoral course, the student may request, if so desired, a doctoral course certificate.
7. The study cycle leading to the doctoral degree also includes a Thesis curricular unit, of a multiannual nature, which must be associated with the duly contextualised compilation of a coherent and relevant set of research works already published in journals with selection committees of recognised international merit, according to one of the following requirements:
 - a) At least one article published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR — Science Citation Index Expanded, Web of Science Core Collection), classified as Q1 in the respective scientific area in the year of publication, with original data not resulting from a systematic review, and another article submitted to a journal classified at least as Q2 or Q3 in the respective scientific area in the year of publication, with all publications as principal author and the supervisors as co-authors.
 - b) At least two articles published or accepted for publication in scientific journals indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR — Science Citation Index Expanded, Web of Science Core Collection), one classified at least as Q2 and the other at least as Q3 in the respective scientific area in the year of publication, one of which with original data not resulting from a systematic review, and another article submitted to a journal classified at least as Q2 or Q3 in the respective scientific area in the year of publication, with all publications as principal author and the supervisors as co-authors.

ARTICLE 5

THESIS

The research activities integrated into the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree may be carried out in any national or international knowledge-intensive production environment, including higher education institutions, Associated Laboratories, State Laboratories and other public research institutions, hospitals and healthcare units, other entities integrated into the Public Administration where R&D activities are carried out, private non-profit institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities, companies whose activity has been recognised as being of scientific or technological interest or which have been awarded the title of Collaborative Laboratory, or consortia between any of these entities.

ARTICLE 6**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

1. The protection of intellectual property resulting from R&D activities carried out within the scope of the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree is governed by P.PORTO's own regulations and by the Code of Copyright and Related Rights.
2. When the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree is developed in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement with other national or foreign higher education institutions, or when the activities take place in several entities with their own intellectual property protection regulations, ownership of the intellectual property rights resulting from R&D activities is governed by an agreement previously established between the entities concerned and the student.

ARTICLE 7**COORDINATION**

1. The direction of third-cycle study programmes is ensured by the director of the study cycle.
2. The director of the third-cycle study programme must be a principal coordinating professor, a coordinating professor or, exceptionally, an adjunct professor, holding a doctoral degree, specialised in the branch of knowledge of the study cycle or its speciality and integrated into the higher education teaching career, and shall be appointed under the terms provided for in the Statutes of E2S|P.PORTO, being responsible for the coordination functions of the study cycle.
3. The director of the third-cycle study programme must present significant scientific output over the previous five years, considering articles published in journals indexed in JCR and participation in funded projects.
4. The director must ensure the normal operation of the study cycle and perform the functions set out in the Course Coordination Regulations in force at E2S|P.PORTO.
5. The director may appoint a vice-director of the study cycle, regardless of whether or not the study cycle includes different specialities, or one vice-coordinator for each speciality, where the study cycle includes different specialities, to assist or replace them in their duties in the event of absence or temporary impediment.

ARTICLE 8**COURSE COUNCIL, EVALUATION AND MONITORING COMMITTEE AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

1. The direction of third-cycle study programmes is assisted by the course council, the evaluation and monitoring committee and the scientific committee.
2. The course council and the evaluation and monitoring committee must have the composition provided for in the Statutes of E2S|P.PORTO and perform their functions in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes.
3. The scientific committee is composed of an odd number of at least three full members, one of whom is the director of the study cycle, who chairs it, and the remaining members are the vice-directors of the study cycle or professors holding a doctoral degree designated by the director of the study cycle, where there are not enough vice-directors of the study cycle.
4. The scientific committee is responsible for:
 - a) Issuing opinions on the scientific guidelines of the curricular unit programmes;
 - b) Proposing and implementing ways to monitor students' progress in preparing the thesis, through mechanisms it considers appropriate to the structure and objectives of the study cycle and to the scientific area in which it is included, with such mechanisms being able to take diverse forms;
 - c) Proposing the composition of thesis juries to the Technical-Scientific Council of E2S|P.PORTO;
 - d) Acting as the selection jury for the selection and ranking of candidates;
 - e) Supporting the overall coordination of the study cycle.
5. In the particular case of study cycles in association with one or more higher education institutions, the scientific committee may have a different name, composition and function, provided that the terms of its operation are established in the cooperation or consortium protocol.

ARTICLE 9**SPECIFIC REGULATORY RULES OF THE STUDY CYCLE**

1. The specific conditions concerning the structure and operation of E2S doctoral degree-awarding study cycles are defined in these Regulations, namely:
 - a) Appointment of the coordinator of the study cycle from among doctoral teaching staff integrated into the teaching or research career, under point e) of Article 29 of Decree-Law No. 65/2018, of 16 August, as well as of any scientific committee and other management bodies created in compliance with the normal operation of the study cycle;
 - b) The conditions for preparing the thesis;

- c) The monitoring process by the pedagogical and scientific bodies, under the legal and statutory terms;
 - d) Rules on the presentation and submission of the thesis;
 - e) Rules on the maximum deadlines for holding the public act of thesis defence;
 - f) Rules on the composition, appointment and operation of the jury;
 - g) Process for awarding the final qualification;
 - h) Specific process for registering the doctoral thesis.
2. The specific regulations of each doctoral study cycle, approved by the legally and statutorily competent body, must define the rules relating to the following matters:
- a) Rules on admission to the study cycle, especially academic and curricular conditions, application rules and criteria for selection, exclusion and summary rejection, whether or not the study cycle includes a doctoral course;
 - b) Speciality and duration of the study cycle;
 - c) Curricular structure and mode of operation of the doctoral course, where it exists;
 - d) Process for appointing the supervisor or supervisors, conditions under which co-supervision is admitted and rules to be observed in supervision;
 - e) Mechanisms and tools for monitoring progress in preparing the thesis.
3. Study cycles awarding the doctoral degree in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement between P.PORTO and other national or foreign higher education institutions, as provided for in paragraph 5 of Article 3 of these Regulations, are governed by specific Regulations to be approved under the terms of the agreement entered into between the partner institutions, in compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory rules, specifying the rules relating to the matters identified in the previous paragraph.

CHAPTER III – ACCESS AND ADMISSION TO THE STUDY CYCLE LEADING TO THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

ARTICLE 10

ACCESS CONDITIONS

1. The following may apply for access to the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree:
- a) Holders of a master's degree or legal equivalent;
 - b) Holders of a bachelor's degree who have a particularly relevant academic or scientific curriculum recognised by the Technical-Scientific Council as demonstrating capacity to undertake the study cycle to which they are applying;

- c) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional curriculum recognised by the Technical-Scientific Council as demonstrating capacity to undertake the study cycle to which they are applying.
- 2. The specific conditions for admission to the respective study cycle must be established in the specific regulations of the study cycle, under paragraph 2 of Article 9.
- 3. The recognition referred to in points b) and c) of paragraph 1 has effect solely for access to the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree and does not grant its holder equivalence to, or recognition of, a bachelor's or master's degree.

ARTICLE 11

PLACES, DEADLINES AND SELECTION AND RANKING CRITERIA

- 1. Upon proposal from the scientific committee of the study cycle, the President of E2S|P.PORTO approves:
 - a) The number of places and the minimum number of students required for the course to operate;
 - b) The deadlines relating to the entire application process;
 - c) The selection and ranking criteria.
- 2. The information referred to in the preceding paragraph shall appear in the opening notice of the study cycle, which shall be published on the E2S|P.PORTO website.
- 3. Candidates shall be ranked and selected by the respective jury in accordance with the following criteria, which shall be weighted specifically for each study cycle.

ARTICLE 12

ADMISSION TO THE STUDY CYCLE

- 1. Admission to E2S doctoral degree-awarding study cycles takes place through a specific call for applications, within the deadlines provided for in the academic calendar and under the terms of the respective Notices for each study cycle.
- 2. Study cycles in association between P.PORTO Organic Units or in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement with other national or foreign higher education institutions are subject to the rules established in the previously agreed collaboration agreement and defined in specific regulations, under the terms provided for by law.

ARTICLE 13**APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. The application process is submitted under the terms established in the opening Notice of the call and is valid only for the year in which it takes place.
2. In each academic year, the competitive application process for access to the doctoral study cycle shall begin with the publication, on the E2S website, of the opening Notice of the call.
3. The application is submitted online and is subject to payment of the fee provided for in the fee schedule in force, which shall not be refunded under any circumstances, namely in the event of summary rejection, exclusion or withdrawal.
4. By decision of the President of E2S, there may be more than one application phase.

ARTICLE 14**SELECTION JURY**

1. The selection, classification and ordering of candidates is carried out by a jury composed of an odd number of at least three full members, chosen from among the teaching staff of the scientific committee, with the coordinator of the study cycle being designated as chair.
2. The jury is responsible for analysing applications within the respective quotas, where applicable, and for drawing up minutes containing the ordered lists of ranked candidates and their final classification, indicating whether they have been placed, conditionally placed or not placed, as well as the list of excluded candidates, accompanied by the respective grounds.
3. The documents referred to in the previous paragraph are sent to the Technical-Scientific Council of E2S|P.PORTO for ratification.
4. In the event of a tie, the jury may break the tie by considering, first, the quality of the scientific and professional portfolio and, second, the highest academic classification.
5. Whenever, following the granting of an appeal, a candidate who was not admitted becomes admitted, an additional place is created, if necessary.

ARTICLE 15**FEES AND TUITION FEES**

1. Application and enrolment fees are due, in accordance with the fee schedule in force at P.PORTO.
2. Enrolment/registration requires payment of an annual doctoral tuition fee, in an amount to be set by the General Council, upon proposal from the President of P.PORTO, and under the regulations in force at the Institution and other applicable legislation.

3. Fees are due for admission to public examinations for defence of the Thesis, in accordance with the P.PORTO fee schedule.
4. Fees are also due for the issuing of the doctoral charter, diploma and respective diploma supplement, where applicable, in accordance with the P.PORTO fee schedule.

ARTICLE 16

ENROLMENT IN CURRICULAR UNITS

1. In each academic year, at the time of enrolment/registration, the student may enrol, if they so wish, as a part-time student.
2. The student may enrol in extracurricular curricular units, with payment due in accordance with the fee schedule in force.
3. The enrolments referred to in paragraph 2 are not subject to prerequisite rules, do not count towards the ECTS credits required to obtain the course diploma, and are recorded in the diploma supplement. Nevertheless, enrolment in curricular units, including extracurricular units, counts towards the semester or annual ECTS enrolment limit.

ARTICLE 17

ATTENDANCE AND ASSESSMENT REGIME, EXAMINATIONS, YEAR PROGRESSION, SPECIAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

1. The Attendance and Assessment Regime of curricular units follows the provisions of the P.PORTO Examination Regulations and the E2S|P.PORTO Regulations on the Assessment of Student Performance.
2. Whenever approval in a curricular unit includes taking a final examination, it shall take place during the periods defined in the academic calendar.
3. A student may only progress from the first to the second curricular year if they have completed at least 50% of the ECTS credits of the doctoral course.
4. During the period defined for this purpose in the academic calendar, a special examination period shall take place, for which students who meet the conditions defined in the P.PORTO Examination Regulations and the E2S|P.PORTO Regulations on the Assessment of Student Performance may request an examination.

CHAPTER IV – SUPERVISION AND SUBMISSION OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

ARTICLE 18

SUPERVISION

1. Without prejudice to the possibility of exemption provided for in Article 19, the preparation of the doctoral thesis must take place under the supervision of a doctoral holder from the scientific area or areas of the study cycle, belonging to the institutional perimeter of E2S|P.PORTO or, if accepted by the scientific committee, from another national or foreign higher education or research institution.
2. Supervisors, up to a maximum of three, shall be proposed by the scientific committee of the study cycle, after hearing the candidate and obtaining the express acceptance of the designated person or persons, and shall be appointed by the Technical-Scientific Council.
3. In duly justified exceptional cases, where the approach to the thesis is unequivocally multidisciplinary, a total of four supervisors may be admitted.
4. A career academic staff member of E2S|P.PORTO must always be included in the supervision team.
5. Specific supervision rules may exist for each speciality of the study cycle, to be defined in the specific regulations of the study cycle.

ARTICLE 19

SPECIAL REGIME FOR THESIS PRESENTATION

1. Any person who meets the conditions for access to a study cycle leading to the doctoral degree in a speciality framed by a third-cycle study programme of P.PORTO may request the presentation of a thesis for the public act of defence without enrolment in that study cycle and without the supervision referred to in Article 12.
2. It is the responsibility of the Technical-Scientific Council of E2S|P.PORTO to decide on the request, after assessing the applicant's curriculum and the suitability of the thesis or works to the objectives pursued by the doctoral degree, under Article 3.

ARTICLE 20

TOPIC, PLAN AND REGISTRATION OF AN ONGOING DOCTORAL THESIS

1. Under the terms provided for in Decree-Law No. 52/2002, of 2 March, doctoral theses in progress are subject to national registration.
2. The thesis topic is proposed by the supervisor as early as possible, in direct articulation with the student and, where a doctoral course exists, necessarily upon its completion.

3. Where there is no doctoral course, the thesis topic should, as a rule, be proposed by the end of the first enrolment, in the case of full-time enrolment, or by the end of the second enrolment, in the case of part-time enrolment.
4. Where the study cycle includes a doctoral course, enrolment in the thesis should preferably take place after approval in the latter, subject to a favourable opinion from the supervisor and the scientific committee of the study cycle, which shall take into account performance in the course and the thesis project or plan.
5. The registration expires if the thesis is not submitted within the following four years when the study cycle has 180 ECTS, or within the following five years when the study cycle has 240 ECTS, with proportional adjustment in cases where the student is enrolled on a part-time basis.
6. Expiry entails cancellation of the work, to be carried out by the Academic Services, in the National Register of Theses and Dissertations within 60 days from the date on which the determining fact occurs.
7. In the event of expiry of the registration provided for in the previous paragraph, it may be reviewed and renewed, upon proposal from the scientific committee, considering, in particular, the relevance and validity of the thesis topic, based on concrete and substantiated reasons.

ARTICLE 21

PREPARATION OF THE THESIS

1. The research activities integrated into the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree are carried out in R&D institutions, in any national or international context, including higher education institutions, Associated Laboratories, State Laboratories, other public research institutions, hospitals and healthcare units, other entities integrated into the Public Administration where R&D activities are carried out, private non-profit institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities, companies whose activity has been recognised as being of scientific or technological interest or which have been awarded the title of Collaborative Laboratory, or consortia between any of these entities.
2. The student prepares an annual summary report on the work developed, and, based on this report, the supervisors issue an opinion on the progress of the work, which is sent to the scientific committee up to thirty working days before the end of the period for which the candidate has valid enrolment.
3. The scientific committee must establish, in specific regulations, the mechanisms for monitoring progress in preparing the thesis that it considers appropriate to the structure and objectives of the study cycle and to the scientific area in which it is included, with such mechanisms being able to take diverse forms.
4. The scientific committee must deliberate within a maximum period of thirty working days on the feasibility of preparing and completing the thesis, so that the student may, within the applicable legal deadlines, complete their enrolment in the study cycle in the following academic year.

ARTICLE 22**RULES ON SUBMISSION**

1. The thesis, including that of candidates referred to in Article 19, must be submitted in a format consistent with the rules in force at E2S that may be approved by the President of E2S, defined in a manual prepared for this purpose, where the specific templates to be used for admission to examinations are identified.
2. Submission of the thesis, including that of candidates referred to in Article 19, is carried out exclusively in digital format.
3. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs do not dispense with the need to submit one paper copy for legal deposit purposes at the National Library of Portugal, under the terms provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 50 of Decree-Law No. 65/2028, of 16 August.
4. For the doctoral examination, the candidate shall submit an application to the academic services, according to the templates in force.
5. The application may not be submitted before the third or fourth enrolment in the study cycle, depending on whether the study cycle has 180 or 240 ECTS credits, respectively, unless a process of crediting previous training or professional experience has taken place or the student presents themselves for examination under their sole responsibility.
6. A student enrolled on a part-time basis may only submit an application for examination after the time resulting from the proportional adjustment of the general rules applicable to the study cycle concerned has elapsed.
7. Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, the application may only be submitted provided that the registration of the thesis topic and the candidate's enrolment remain valid.
8. The application shall be accompanied by:
 - a) Doctoral thesis and curriculum vitae, in digital format;
 - b) Opinion of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s), where applicable.
9. Once the process has been organised, the academic services shall submit it to the Technical-Scientific Council within ten working days from the date of thesis submission.

ARTICLE 23**SUSPENSION OF DEADLINE COUNTING**

1. The counting of the deadline for submission, reformulation and public defence and discussion of the thesis may be suspended by decision of the President of E2S, upon a duly substantiated and evidenced request.
2. Suspension of deadline counting shall not prevent the expiry of the registration of the doctoral thesis in progress at the maximum limit of its period of validity.

CHAPTER V – DOCTORAL JURY AND FINAL QUALIFICATION OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE**ARTICLE 24****COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE JURY**

1. The thesis is subject to appraisal and public discussion by a jury appointed by the President of P.PORTO, or by whoever has delegated competence for this purpose, upon proposal from the Technical-Scientific Council of E2S.
2. The doctoral jury is composed of:
 - a) The President of P.PORTO, who chairs it, or whoever receives delegation from them;
 - b) A minimum of four doctoral voting members, one of whom may be the supervisor, except in the case of candidates referred to in Article 19 of these Regulations.
3. Under point a) of the preceding paragraph, the President of P.PORTO may delegate the chairing of the jury to the President of E2S, who may, in the event of absence or impediment, subdelegate to the coordinator or vice-coordinator of the study cycle.
4. Whenever there is more than one supervisor, only one may be a member of the jury.
5. In study cycles in association with foreign higher education institutions, whenever there is more than one supervisor, two supervisors may participate in the jury, in which case the jury shall be composed of a minimum of seven doctoral voting members.
6. At least two of the jury members referred to in point b) of paragraph 5 of this Article are designated from among doctoral professors and researchers from other national or foreign higher education or research institutions.
7. An individual of recognised competence in the scientific area in which the thesis falls may also be part of the jury, provided they hold a doctoral degree.
8. The jury must include at least three professors or researchers from the scientific field in which the thesis falls.

9. In study cycles in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement with one or more Portuguese or foreign higher education institutions, the composition and appointment of the jury shall be regulated in a prior agreement established by the legally and statutorily competent bodies of the partner institutions.
10. Once the formalities relating to thesis submission have been completed, the scientific committee shall propose, within a maximum period of 10 working days, a jury to the Technical-Scientific Council, which must be appointed by the President within the 30 working days following the date of approval of the proposal.
11. The order appointing the jury must be notified to the candidate within five working days and posted in the usual public place.
12. The candidate may, within the fifteen working days following the notification referred to in the preceding paragraph or the date of public posting of the jury, object to any member of the jury on grounds of suspected bias, under the applicable legislation.

ARTICLE 25

OPERATION OF THE JURY

1. The jury's deliberations are taken by majority of its members, through justified nominal voting, with abstentions not permitted.
2. The chair of the jury has a casting vote and only exercises the right to vote:
 - a) When they are a professor or researcher in the scientific area or areas of the study cycle; or
 - b) In the event of a tie.
3. Minutes are drawn up of the jury meetings, recording the votes of each of its members and the respective grounds, which may be common to all or to some of the jury members.
4. Jury meetings prior to the public acts of thesis defence may be held by teleconference.

ARTICLE 26

DEADLINES AND CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION

1. Within sixty working days following the public posting of its definitive composition, the jury meets and issues a preliminary order declaring whether or not it accepts the thesis; in the event of non-acceptance, it shall issue a substantiated recommendation to the candidate for its reformulation.
2. The preliminary order referred to in the preceding paragraph shall state the conditions under which the examinations shall take place, namely:
 - a) Time allocated to the candidate for the oral presentation of the thesis;
 - b) Identification of the main examiners.
3. The public examination should not exceed three hours and must include:
 - a) An initial presentation by the candidate, with a maximum duration of 30 minutes;

- b) Examination by the main examiners, up to an overall maximum of two hours, with the time distributed evenly between each main examiner's intervention and the candidate's response. Where there are two main examiners, each examiner may have up to 30 minutes, with the candidate having an equal amount of response time for each examination;
 - c) Intervention by the remaining jury members, up to an overall maximum of 30 minutes, with this time distributed evenly between the questions asked and the candidate's answers.
- 4. If the jury recommends reformulation of the thesis, under paragraph 1, the candidate has a non-extendable period of one hundred and twenty working days during which they either reformulate the thesis or declare that they intend to maintain the thesis as submitted.
- 5. The candidate shall be deemed to have withdrawn if, once the deadline referred to in the preceding paragraph has expired, they do not submit the reformulated thesis or the declaration referred to in the same paragraph.
- 6. Once the reformulated thesis has been received or the declaration referred to in the preceding paragraph has been made, the chair of the jury may convene a new meeting for the appointment of the thesis examiners, if this did not occur at the first meeting, as well as to set the date and place of the public examinations for discussion and defence of the thesis.
- 7. The examination must take place within a maximum period of sixty working days counted, as applicable, from:
 - a) The date of the jury's order accepting the thesis;
 - b) The date of submission of the reformulated thesis or of the candidate's declaration that they waive reformulation.

ARTICLE 27

FINAL QUALIFICATION OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

1. Once the examinations have been completed, the jury meets to assess and deliberate on the candidate's final classification, to be awarded by reasoned nominal vote, with abstentions not permitted.
2. The final classification is expressed by the formulas "Approved" and "Rejected".
3. The final qualification is awarded by the jury referred to in Article 24, taking into account the classifications obtained in the curricular units of the doctoral course, where applicable, and the merit of the thesis.
4. The examination jury may, with justification, propose that the thesis be considered for a distinction of merit, when the thesis has resulted from at least three Q1 publications and represents a significant scientific and technological contribution.
5. The distinction mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall not appear on the diploma, but may be awarded symbolically at a public ceremony.

6. The doctoral thesis is subject to registration and deposit under the terms established in Articles 21 and 2 of these Regulations and applicable law.

CHAPTER VI – REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

ARTICLE 28

REGISTRATION OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS AND FINAL WORKS

The final doctoral thesis is subject to national registration, under the terms provided for in Ordinance No. 285/2015, of 15 September, and in Article 49-A of Decree-Law No. 65/2018, of 16 August.

ARTICLE 29

DEPOSIT OF THE THESIS

1. The process for depositing the doctoral thesis is carried out in digital format through:
 - a) The Scientific Open Access Repository of Portugal (RCAAP), under the Technical Regulations for the Deposit of Theses and Doctoral Works and of Master's Dissertations and Works published by Ordinance No. 285/2015, of 15 September;
 - b) The National Register of Theses and Dissertations (RENATES), as an information system of the Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics;
 - c) The Scientific Repository of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (RECIPP), as P.PORTO's information system allowing the storage, preservation and dissemination of the collection of scientific publications produced and respecting the policies and guidelines established by RCAAP.
2. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs do not dispense with the need to submit one paper copy for legal deposit purposes at the National Library of Portugal, under the terms provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 50 of Decree-Law No. 65/2028, of 16 August.

CHAPTER VII – AWARDING OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE AND CERTIFICATION

ARTICLE 30

AWARDING OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

The doctoral degree is awarded to those who have obtained approval in the public act of thesis defence.

ARTICLE 31**DOCTORAL CHARTER, DIPLOMA AND DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT**

1. The doctoral degree is certified by a registration certificate generally referred to as a diploma, issued by E2S and, if requested, by a doctoral charter issued by the President of P.PORTO.
2. The diploma is accompanied by a diploma supplement.
3. The doctoral charter, diploma and respective diploma supplement are, where applicable, subject to payment of the fees in force at P.PORTO and may only be issued after fulfilment of the obligations provided for in Articles 20 and 21, relating to the registration of the thesis or final works and the respective deposit, provided that the student has no outstanding debts.
4. When the doctoral degree is awarded by P.PORTO in association or under a co-tutelle arrangement with one or more national or foreign higher education institutions, the doctoral charter, diploma and respective diploma supplement are issued under the legal and regulatory terms provided for in the agreement previously entered into between the partner institutions.

CHAPTER VIII – FINAL PROVISIONS**ARTICLE 32****DOUBTS AND OMISSIONS**

The law and other rules and regulations in force shall apply to situations not covered by these Regulations, with omitted cases decided by Order of the President of E2S.

ARTICLE 33**ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These Regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, and take effect from the 2026/2027 academic year, inclusive.