

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Doctoral studies comprise academic and professional activities through which students acquire advanced scientific competencies and general skills that prepare them to hold high-level positions in all social and economic sectors. PhD candidates are required to carry out an original and innovative research project and formulate and implement a personal ongoing training plan to support their research projects.

This document defines the respective rights and obligations of the signatories (from here on, the parties), as well as their mutual commitments, with the purpose of ensuring that the aforementioned objectives are achieved during the period of doctoral studies. The signatories are:

The PhD candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

The Tutor: \_\_\_\_\_

The Thesis Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

The Thesis Supervisor (when corresponding): \_\_\_\_\_

The Thesis Supervisor (when corresponding): \_\_\_\_\_

The Head of the Doctoral Programme: \_\_\_\_\_

This agreement must be signed by all parties within one month of the student's enrolment in the Doctoral Programme.

### 1. Mutual commitments

The signatories undertake to establish a relationship based on mutual collaboration in order to achieve the following aims, in accordance with the procedures and timetables stipulated in the Regulations for Managing Official Doctoral Studies at the University of the Basque Country (approved at the Governing Board meeting held on 24 April, 2024):

- Submitting the research plan and personal training plan.
- Supervising and assessing said plan.
- Writing and defending the Doctoral Thesis.

### 2. Responsibilities and expectations of the Tutor

It is the Tutor's responsibility to guide the PhD candidate in their interactions with the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme and to ensure that the candidate's training and research activities comply with the principles stipulated in the Report of the Doctoral Programme and Doctoral School. The Tutor:

- Is familiar with the legislation on doctoral studies, particularly the regulations on doctoral studies specific to the University of the Basque Country and the Doctoral Programme.
- Undertakes to regularly fulfil all the functions outlined in the Doctoral School's Internal Regulations and the Regulations for Managing Official Doctoral Studies, in accordance with RD 99/2011.

### 3. Responsibilities of Thesis Supervisors

In accordance with the Regulations on the Management of Doctoral Programmes, the Thesis Supervisor is the primary person responsible for guiding the PhD candidate's training and research activities, ensuring that these activities are consistent and adequate and that the subject of the student's Thesis represents an original and substantial contribution to the discipline and assisting the candidate in planning and adapting their Thesis, where necessary, to any other projects and activities in which they are involved. The Supervisor:

- Is familiar with the legislation on doctoral studies, particularly the regulations on doctoral studies specific to the University of the Basque Country and the Doctoral Programme.
- Undertakes to fulfil all the functions outlined in the Doctoral School's Internal Regulations and the Regulations for Managing Official Doctoral Studies, in accordance with RD 99/2011. Specifically undertakes to regularly monitor the 'Research plan and personal training plan' and to regularly review the customised document of activities.
- Undertakes a) to regularly monitor the development of the doctoral thesis, providing guidance and helping to orient it towards the fulfilment of the stated aims; and b) to reorient the aims of the 'Research plan and personal training plan' if the results so require.
- At the same time, the Supervisor will encourage the candidate to take the initiative and become more self-reliant over the course of the project.
- Besides, will ensure that the candidate's research plan and personal training plan complies with the highest scientific standards of their field, that it is original, instructive and innovative, that it can be carried out in the terms proposed by the candidate and that it is consistent with the candidate's line of research.
- Supervisors working at the UPV/EHU must indicate their status in all publications and results stemming from the doctoral thesis.

### 4. Responsibilities and expectations of the PhD candidate

The student enrolled in the Doctoral Programme undertakes to:

- Enrol each academic year within the deadlines established on the academic calendar.
- Submit their research plan and personal training plan within the set deadlines and with the signature of all parties.

- Complete their doctoral studies in accordance with the applicable regulations and with any obligations arising from this statement of commitment, submitting their research plan and personal training plan for supervision and annual review and carrying out the academic activities suggested by their Thesis Supervisor.
- Regularly update their Thesis Supervisor on their progress, the results obtained and any issues that may arise during the course of their research project.
- Take any feedback from their Supervisor into consideration.
- PhD students must indicate their affiliation to the UPV/EHU in all publications and results stemming from their doctoral thesis.

To this effect, the time commitment expected of the PhD candidate will be established by the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme.

## **5. Responsibilities and expectations of the Academic Committee**

The Academic Committee has the following obligations towards the PhD candidates enrolled in the Doctoral Programme:

- Assigning a tutor and a thesis supervisor to each PhD candidate.
- Assessing the research plan and personal training plan and student activity report.
- Granting PhD candidates authorisation to complete their doctoral studies part-time, granting extensions for submitting Doctoral Theses and granting temporary leave from the Doctoral Programme.
- Granting PhD candidates authorisation to submit their Doctoral Theses.
- Authorising the proposal made by the Thesis Supervisors regarding the experts commissioned to write a report on the doctoral thesis (article 23, chapter VI of the Regulations for Managing Official Doctoral Studies).

## **6. Confidentiality**

The PhD candidate undertakes to keep secret any confidential data or information that may be provided or disclosed to them by any means by their Thesis Supervisor, tutor or any other member of the research team to which they belong, and to use any information obtained solely for the purpose of completing their Doctoral Thesis.

The PhD candidate also agrees not to disclose information or materials resulting from research in which they have participated, whether individually or as part of a group, to third parties, without first obtaining express written permission from their previous Thesis Supervisor. Even in the event of a change in Thesis Supervisor, express written permission must be obtained from the previous supervisor.

The parties signing this Agreement undertake to consider any information or sample received from the other parties that is characterised as secret and confidential to be just that, and to abstain from disseminating it to third parties without the prior consent of and express authorisation from the Issuing Party.

All direct industrial or intellectual property rights and all those that may derive from confidential information will be deemed to be the sole and exclusive property of the Issuing Party. Under no circumstances is the Receiving Party to be understood to have the right to use said confidential information for any purpose other than that expressly agreed upon.

The provisions of this clause will remain in force for three (3) years after the termination of this present Agreement, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

## **7. Intellectual and industrial property rights**

The rights of the doctoral students regarding their Doctoral Theses are protected under Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April, the Revised Law on Intellectual Property, and under any other applicable regulations.

The copyright for the Doctoral Thesis report is held by the PhD candidate.

The ownership and exploitation rights over the results of research contained in the Doctoral Thesis belong to the UPV/EHU, as well as any other business or R+D+I entity to which the PhD candidate is associated by contract with regard to their Doctoral Thesis. If the PhD candidate is preparing their thesis under a co-supervision agreement, the results of the research contained in the Doctoral Thesis will also belong to the university or universities in which they are enrolled under said co-supervision agreement.

Likewise, the ownership and exploitation rights over the results of the research contained in the Doctoral Thesis correspond to the entities of which the Doctoral Thesis Directors and the lead researcher of the research group or project in which the student is preparing their Doctoral Thesis form part.

In the case of Doctoral Theses carried out in partnership with companies or other R+D+I entities, the percentage corresponding to ownership and exploitation rights held by each party as regards the results of the research contained in the Doctoral Thesis must be established by written agreement. This agreement must be signed by a representative of each entity that has ownership of said rights.

## **8. Custody and protection of doctoral theses and institutional repository**

The University of the Basque Country and partner Universities that award degrees through Joint Doctoral Programmes or cotutelle agreements are entitled to keep and store a copy of the Thesis in print or electronic format in accordance with their respective procedures.

The Doctoral Thesis shall be submitted to the University of the Basque Country Library for publication in the University catalogue for the agreed-upon term in compliance with any non-disclosure agreements that may exist. The PhD graduate may retain all rights or choose to apply a Creative Commons license.

## 9. Modifications and conflict resolution

The parties will attempt to settle all disputes arising from the present agreement amicably. If they are unable to resolve a dispute, the conflict between the undersigned shall be referred to the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme, which will make all efforts to resolve the dispute in a mutually satisfactory manner.

If a conflict arises as a result of non-compliance with any of the points referred to in the present agreement, or due to any other cause related to the completion of the Doctoral Thesis, including a change in Supervisors, the parties agree to adhere to the decision handed down by the Academic Committee of the corresponding Doctoral Programme. The parties may lodge an appeal against this decision with the Doctoral School of the University of the Basque Country, which will, in turn, issue a decision against which a new appeal may be brought before the Vice-chancellor, or the body to whom they delegate that responsibility, in accordance with the terms of Law 40/125 of 1 October on the Legal System of the Public Sector.

If the Doctoral Programme is regulated by an agreement between two universities, the parties must abide by the specific provisions contained in the collaboration agreement, with which the signatories of this document must be familiar.

## 10. Ethical principles

The PhD candidate agrees to uphold the UPV/EHU Doctoral School's code of good practice (Permanent Committee agreement of 20 July 2020), which lists the main ethics that guarantee better scientific quality, protection of the researchers' legitimate interests, and the prevention of problems related to the integrity of the research.

## 11. Term

This statement of commitment is effective from the date on which it is signed and will continue in effect until the oral defence of the Thesis is conducted. However, the statement shall be rendered void in the event of non-compliance with any of the provisions of the present agreement or those of the Regulations for Managing Official Doctoral Studies at the University of The Basque Country set out in Royal Decree 99/2011.

In witness thereof, the parties hereby sign this Doctoral Tutelage and Supervision Commitment. The PhD student shall upload the document, signed by all the parties, to the GAUR application.

