

Doctoral College - University of Strasbourg

CHARTER OF THE DOCTORATE of the universities of Strasbourg and Haute-Alsace

(Validated by the Council of the Doctoral College - University of Strasbourg, meeting on October 26, 2022

Validated by the Research Commission of the University of Haute-Alsace on November 25, 2022

Validated by the Board of Directors of the University of Haute-Alsace on December 12, 2022)

For the sake of conciseness, wherever the forms "he/him" and "his" appear, they are to be understood in the generic sense that includes "she" and its related forms. In this document, the terms to describe people are used in the generic sense, including both men and women.

The PhD programme combines high-level training with professional research experience. After defending the thesis, it is recognised with the degree of Doctor. The fundamental doctoral activity consists of an innovative research project supervised by one or more supervisors, in a research unit tied to a doctoral school. The programme concludes with the writing of a thesis to validate a scientific project. The title of Doctor guarantees a high level of competence, which can be used across the whole socio-economic fabric.

The University of Strasbourg and University of Haute-Alsace award the doctorate without honours; however it is accompanied by a report specifying the scientific quality of the thesis and presentation.

This Doctoral Charter sets out the principles laid down by the Doctoral College – University of Strasbourg (governed by the convention annexed to the site convention outlining the organisational and operational procedures of the Doctoral College – University of Strasbourg and its branch at the University of Haute-Alsace) for the preparation of a thesis to promote high scientific quality in the work undertaken, as well as high-quality cross-disciplinary training provided by the institutions.

It is based on and refers to the decree of August 26, 2022, amending the decree of May 25, 2016, setting the national framework for training and the procedures leading to the award of the national doctoral diploma, the European Charter for Researchers, the principles of the national charter of ethics for research professions, the site's doctoral policy and the missions of the doctoral schools (whether attached to a single institution or co-accredited or associated with the University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute-Alsace)

The PhD programme is carried out in one of the doctoral schools of the Doctoral College - University of Strasbourg. The doctoral school is involved in selecting PhD students, organising their programme and helping to prepare them for their careers. The research project is based on the voluntary agreement made between the student and the supervisor in a research unit of the University of Strasbourg, University of Haute-Alsace or a partner institution. This agreement, formalized in the individual training agreement, covers the precise topics and working conditions needed to carry out the research, including of a financial nature. The thesis supervisor and PhD candidate therefore have respective rights and duties that demand a high level. All PhD students are recognised as full-time researchers and treated as such.

Universities are committed to ensuring that the principles laid down by the Charter are upheld during the thesis preparation. For doctorates under joint supervision or in partnership with a non-university organisation, the partner must acknowledge this Charter and agree to comply therewith.

The signatories are:

- **The PhD student.** He agrees, by enrolling in the PhD, to carry out the previously established research project and to undertake the other educational activities prescribed by his doctoral school.
- **The thesis supervisor and/or co-supervisor.** As the first point of contact for the PhD student, the thesis supervisor must be part of a research unit that is tied to the doctoral school. He is/they are responsible for establishing the research topic, as well as its implementation and monitoring. He has / they have sole responsibility over the scientific framework. He ensures/they ensure that the PhD student undertakes the educational activities prescribed by the doctoral school and that the student exhibits a sense of innovation.
- **The supervisor in the company or in the private law host organization.** The first contact in the host company or organization is responsible for the follow-up in the host institution.
- **The director of the research unit.** He is responsible for the successful integration of the PhD student into his unit, and for the quality of the working conditions required for the research to be carried out successfully.
- **The head of the host company or organization under private law.** He/she is responsible for the proper integration of the doctoral student into his/her institution and for the quality of the working conditions necessary for the successful completion of the research project.
- **The doctoral school director (or his representative in the UHA branch where necessary).** He ensures the validation and monitoring of doctoral research projects. He also ensures the quality of the PhD training that the student receives and oversees compliance with the rules governing student conduct.
- **The President of the University.** He validates the registration of the doctoral student

The signatories of this charter undertake to take note of the procedures in force at the doctoral college and to apply them. They agree to consult the websites of their respective universities, the website of the doctoral school to which they are attached and the website of the doctoral college.

1 - The thesis, a stage in a personal and professional project

The thesis preparation must be in keeping with the framework of a personal and professional plan, which is clearly defined in terms of goals and requirements. It shall have clear objectives and means to achieve them.

The doctoral school director ensures that as many doctoral students as possible receive funding. The objective of a thesis supervisor and a research unit director is to obtain a contractual remuneration covering the time of preparation of the doctorate for doctoral students with no other professional activity.

The candidate must receive information on all opportunities in his field, as well as national statistics on the future of doctors and information on the professional prospects for doctors trained at its doctoral school. The PhD researcher shall discuss his career plans with his supervisor. To ensure that the career prospect information is provided to prospective PhD students of the laboratory, all outgoing doctors must notify their supervisor, as well as the doctoral school director, of their professional status for a period of six years after graduating. The doctor agrees to respond to questionnaires sent by the university and notify it of any changes to his postal and email address during this period. In addition, all former students are encouraged to update their entry in the directory of former PhD students of the University throughout their career. Institutions shall ensure that the email addresses of all former PhD students remain active for a period of three years after their last year of enrolment.

Once enrolled in a PhD programme, the doctoral student must comply with the regulations in force, regarding his training. In order to broaden their field of scientific and transferable skills, training courses are offered. Organized in a complementary manner under the responsibility of the doctoral school and the college, they raise the doctoral student's awareness of research ethics, scientific integrity, sustainable development, open science, and career opportunities, and enable him or her to acquire diversified skills. This strategy may include participation in any other training approved by the doctoral school, including at the initiative of the doctoral student (conferences, study days, etc.).

All training courses are subject to a certificate issued by the director of the doctoral school or his/her representative at the college and a diploma supplement issued by the university. This document must highlight the skills acquired by the doctoral student such as: scientific expertise, cutting-edge techniques, transversal know-how (teamwork, network building, monitoring, etc.) as well as personal skills (autonomy, creativity, written and oral expression, etc.).

It is the responsibility of the doctoral student to create and update a portfolio containing the individualized list of all his activities during the PhD in order to highlight the skills he has developed during the preparation of his doctorate.

It is the responsibility of the PhD student to engage in his career prospects.

2 - Thesis topics and feasibility

All doctoral schools shall display their recruitment procedure and selection criteria for PhD students.

The topic of research, research unit and university awarding the degree are specified when registering for the thesis.

The thesis topic will give rise to a project that is both original and educational, and that can be feasibly carried out within the established time period. The choice of thesis topic is agreed by the researcher and thesis supervisor, and is formalised at the time of registration and in the individual training agreement. The thesis supervisor, who is selected for their established knowledge in their respective field of research, must help the student to pursue an innovative project in its relevant scientific context and ensure that it is topical. The supervisor must define the means necessary to conduct the work and allow access to these means.

In this respect, the student shall be fully integrated into his research unit with access to the same facilities as other researchers in order to carry out his research: equipment, tools (especially IT), documents, as well as opportunities to attend seminars and conferences and to present their work at scientific meetings.

PhD students shall have the right of expression and representation at the general meeting and boards of the research unit, as well as the right of association and the right to organise. They are represented by elected members within the various boards of the research unit, doctoral school and Doctoral College and within the research committee of the academic board of their university.

The team members accepting the researcher must require him to uphold a number of rules on their community life. The PhD student shall not compensate for the shortcomings of the technical staff of the laboratory, nor be assigned tasks that fall outside of the field of his thesis or of the technical tasks of the unit as a whole. If the research is carried out in partnership with a company or administration, the student must not be given an additional workload that falls outside of his thesis project. The PhD student shall agree to a time and pace of work. He has the duty to regularly inform his supervisor of the progress of his thesis and the difficulties he encounters. He must demonstrate initiative and an innovative spirit in conducting his research. He shall accept the National Charter for Ethics in Research Activities, as well as the internal regulations of his research unit.

3 - Supervising and monitoring the thesis

The PhD student must be informed by his supervisor of the number of PhD students under his supervision. The maximum number of PhD students that a thesis supervisor can take on is established by the research committee of each university as proposed by the boards of each doctoral school. This number may vary by discipline. The doctoral schools shall ensure compliance with these limits.

The PhD student has the right to personal monitoring by his supervisor, who agrees to devote him a significant portion of his time. The principle of regular and frequent meetings shall be settled in the initial agreement and formalized in the individual training agreement. Co-supervision with a researcher – whether or not they are authorised to supervise research projects – does not release the thesis supervisor from his duty to regularly and effectively monitor the progress of the research. In order to provide high-quality personal mentoring, the college organizes specific training for PhD supervisor with an HDR or those who wish to direct research.

The PhD student agrees to submit to his director as many midway notes as required for his subject and to present his work in the seminars of the research unit. The supervisor shall undertake to regularly monitor the progress of the work and discuss any new directions to be taken in light of the results achieved thus far. He has a duty to inform the student of any positive comments or objections/criticisms that his work may receive.

Before his second registration and then annually for any new registration, the student shall carry out a progress review of his work and present it to a monitoring committee in accordance with the terms set out by each doctoral school. The main objective of this review is to identify and address any issues that might hinder the proper completion of the PhD within the set time and career goals of the doctoral student. (both with regard to the progress of the work and to any problems of conflict, moral or sexual harassment or sexist behaviour).

A guide to the individual monitoring committee is offered to each doctoral student indicating the composition, organization and functioning of this committee.

The report of this committee is a prerequisite for the re-enrolment of the doctoral student.

The rules for organising the thesis defence, including designating the attending experts and examining committee, are laid down by the regulations and procedures approved by the boards of both universities

4 - Duration of the thesis

The duration of the thesis preparation is three years full-time. In other cases, the duration of the thesis can be up to six years.

Upon a justified request by the candidate, time exemptions may be granted by the director of the institution based on the proposal of the doctoral school director (or his representative at the UHA branch), after consulting with the supervisor and after advice from the individual monitoring committee and the director of the doctoral school. This agreement does not automatically entail an extension of the candidate's funding.

Extensions must be rare and reserved for specific situations, such as paid work (excluding doctoral funding), specific issues in the research relating to certain disciplines, the assumption of a particular risk, maternity or paternity or parental leave, or extended sick leave. Extensions may take account of the PhD working conditions but shall in no way substantially change the nature and intensity of the research as initially decided by mutual agreement.

In the event of a dispute over the refusal of an extension, the student may take advantage of the legal means of appeal available under the regulations.

In any case, the PhD preparation requires the PhD student to renew his enrolment to the university each year. A non-breakable gap of up to one year may occur once in accordance with a procedure validated by the boards of both institutions. Ceasing the thesis on a voluntary basis (withdrawal) must be reported, by written, to the doctoral school by the student and his supervisor.

To comply with the schedule of the thesis work, in the interest of the student, both the student and supervisor must meet their commitments in relation to the necessary work time. Repeated breaches of these commitments between the student and the supervisor may lead to a mediation process.

5 - Scientific integrity and oath

"The University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute-Alsace promote the conduct of doctoral students' research in accordance with the requirements of scientific integrity and research ethics. Doctoral students follow and validate training in the principles and requirements of research ethics and scientific integrity. They undertake to respect them. The University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute-Alsace, the directors of doctoral schools, thesis directors, research unit directors and all persons supervising or participating in the work of a doctoral student undertake to encourage and support this commitment. "

At the end of the defense and in case of admission, the doctor is encouraged to take the oath individually. The following text will be provided at the end of the defense.

« In the presence of my peers.

With the completion of my doctorate, in my quest for knowledge, I have carried out demanding research, demonstrated intellectual rigour, ethical reflection, and respect for the principles of research integrity. As I pursue my professional career, whatever my chosen field, I pledge, to the greatest of my ability, to continue to maintain integrity in my relationship to knowledge, in my methods and in my results. »

6 - Publication and promotion of the thesis

The quality and impact of the thesis can be measured through the publications or patents and industrial reports deriving from the work, be it in relation to the thesis itself or articles produced during or after the preparation the manuscript. The PhD student must appear among the authors or co-authors in all articles or books referring to his research, including after his departure from the research unit.

The student must be familiar with the national legal requirements regarding data protection and confidentiality, and must uphold them at all times. Under the National Charter for Ethics in Research Activities signed by the student, it is recalled that: *"The results of a research project should be brought to the attention of the scientific community and the public, recognising the intellectual and experimental contributions behind them, as well as intellectual property rights"*.

The university uses an archiving and electronic distribution system for theses. Authorisation to disseminate the thesis is agreed by the author and covers its distribution online. A thesis dissemination agreement is provided to each PhD student at the time of submitting his thesis for the defence.

The PhD student shall be made aware that including quotes in his work while failing to cite their sources shall constitute an act of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a copyright and intellectual property infringement.

7 - Mediation process

Any persistent dispute between the student and the supervisor that cannot be settled amicably shall be brought by either party to the knowledge of the director of the research unit, who shall work to remedy it. Should the dispute continue, the student, his supervisors or the director of the research unit shall refer it to the doctoral school director or his representative at the UHA branch.

Should the initiatives taken lead to no solution, the latter can then appeal to the Vice President of "Research and doctoral education" of the university concerned.

Where no solution is found, the Vice President of "Research and doctoral training" may appeal to the University Ombudsman

Lastly, a final appeal may be made to the University President.

Through all these steps, the student may request to be assisted by a chosen PhD student.

8- Information on the processing of doctoral student data

As part of their public service missions (Article 6(1) e. of the GDPR), the University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute-Alsace via the Doctoral College – University of Strasbourg carry out automated processing of your personal data.

The data processed are the identity, place and date of birth, personal contact details, professional contact details, telephone numbers, the institution or institutions of attachment, data related to the financing of your doctorate. Where applicable, bank data and social security number in connection with an employment contract.

Your personal data is essential to ensure:

- Administrative management of your Phd file (registration and follow-up of your training, organisation of the defence, awarding of the diploma);
- Management of access to institutions' digital and educational resources, including university library services;
- Management of the selection and publication of thesis subjects;
- Financial management as part of the training activities or missions of doctoral students
- If the registration institution is also an employer, for the management of your employment contract with one or the other of the establishments;

Your data may also be used for statistical purposes, particularly in the context of studies on vocational integration and the methods of financing doctoral students. They may also be communicated as part of evaluations by the High Council for Research and Higher Education Evaluation (UNHCR)

Your data has been collected:

- by the University of Strasbourg during your pre-registration in thesis, registration and administrative re-registration
- by the University of Haute Alsace during your registration and re-registration – step 1 and administrative registration and re-registration -step 2

Outside the Doctoral College-University of Strasbourg your data can be processed

- by partner institutions for the multi-site management of certain aspects related to the doctorate, including training, for the management of access to educational and digital resources
- by the Ministry of Research Education and Innovation (MESRI) in particular for disseminating theses on the theses.fr platform

Your data is stored on the server and in paper storage according to the same classification structure and up to five years after the end of your thesis. In addition, such data may be archived in paper or computerized form in accordance with the rules applicable to public and private archives.

Processing does not involve automated decision-making. No data transfer is carried out outside the European Union. The University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute Alsace ensure the storage of your data and implement appropriate security measures.

You have access rights, rectification and deletion of your data. You may also request or object to the limitation of this treatment.

To exercise them, please send your requests to:

- Dir-formdoct@unistra.fr if you are enrolled at the University of Strasbourg
- ecoles.doctorales@uha.fr if you are enrolled at the University of Haute Alsace

You can also contact the Data Protection Officers

- from Unistra to dpo@unistra.fr or by post to:

To the attention of the Data Protection Officer:

Direction of the digital
14 Rue René Descartes
67084 STRASBOURG CEDEX

- UHA, at dpd@uha.fr or by post to:

To the attention of the Data Protection Officer:

Delegation for Data Protection
Building B
2 rue des Frères Lumière - 68093 Mulhouse Cedex

If you feel, after contacting us, that your rights on your data are not respected, you can address a complaint (complaint) to the CNIL: <https://www.cnil.fr/en/webform/address-une-plainte>

Produced in _____ on:
 * Precede the signature with the words "Read and approved"

The PhD Student* :	The Supervisor* :	The Co-supervisor* :
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
The thesis director/supervisor in the host company or organization under private law* :	The Unit Research Director* :	The person in charge of the host company or organization of private law/or his representative* :
The Director of the doctoral school to which the PhD student belongs		
<div></div>		