
Regulations for the promotion to Medical Doctor MD (Dr. med.)

Regulations for the promotion to Medical Doctor of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences of the Università della Svizzera italiana

The Faculty of Biomedical Sciences of the Università della Svizzera italiana, based on the Statutes of the USI and on the Statutes of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, adopts the following regulations for the a:

1. General Provisions

Art. 1 Scope of application

These doctoral regulations govern the doctorate of medicine of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences of the USI (hereinafter referred to as Faculty), for the promotion to MD (Dr. med).

Art. 2 Structure of the Doctorate of Medicine

1. The doctorate comprises the writing of the doctoral dissertation (thesis), certifying that the candidate is qualified to carry out and redact independent scientific research.
2. The doctoral dissertation can be an in-depth analysis related to a topic treated in a Master dissertation accomplished in medical degree programs.

2. Purpose

Art. 3 Purpose

The doctorate certifies the candidate's ability to gain new insights through independent scientific research in the medical, human or natural sciences.

Art. 4 Title

1. The faculty shall award the candidate with the title of Doctor of Medicine (*Doctor medicinae*, Dr. med.)
2. The title «*Doctor medicinae*» (Dr. med.) is translated in English as «Medical Doctor» (MD)

3. Admission

Art. 5 Preliminary Condition

The admission to the respective doctorate requires:

- A federal medical diploma or a medical degree recognized by the Federal Office of Public Health.
- The agreement with a member of the faculty (Faculty Member, Titular Professor, Private Lecturer) to supervise the dissertation (Dissertation Supervisor).

Art. 6 Dissertation Commission (Dr. med.)

1. The Dissertation Commission, composed of at least two members, is appointed by the Faculty and deliberates on the candidate's admission.
2. There is no entitlement to admission.

4. Dissertation

Art. 7 Content of the dissertation

1. The doctoral dissertation is an independently written scientific report that is proof of the candidate's ability to grasp a scientific problem, to work on it independently, to gain new insights and to present it. This, by taking also into account current literature.
2. The doctoral dissertation may consist of an original work accepted for publication or already published, the scientific value of which justifies its recognition as a doctoral dissertation.
3. In the case of multi-authored publications, the applicant must appear as the first or last author. Equivalent first or last co-authorships will only be accepted if these are explicitly declared in the publication (in such case, the applicant must submit a report on his/her own scientific contribution to the research). The expert opinion of the Dissertation Director must also comment on the candidate's own scientific performance.
4. The dissertation is preferably written in English. Italian, German or French dissertations are also accepted.
5. The Director may agree to entrust a particularly challenging subject to two candidates. The contribution of the two candidates must be accurately specified by the Director of the thesis in the document "Dissertation Director's evaluation".
6. The dissertation work may consist of a teaching aid (audiovisual self-learning program, a learning program using a simulation model). In this case the thesis director must also be supported by a specialist of the field. The proposal to accept the dissertation work must be signed by the director and the field specialist.

Art. 8 Submission of the dissertation

1. The dissertation can be definitively accepted at least one whole semester after successful conclusion of the Master's degree.
2. The written application must be submitted to the Dean.
3. To the application, the candidate must enclose:
 - Curriculum vitae

- Federal medical diploma obtained after passing the federal examination in human medicine, or a certificate of the medical degree recognized by the Federal Office of Public Health through the Medical Professions Commission
- Proof of enrollment at the faculty for the semester of application
- Doctoral dissertation agreement
- Doctoral dissertation
- Dissertation Director's evaluation (Art. 10 and Art. 14).

Art. 9 Fraudulent acts

1. In the event of fraud, in particular of plagiarism, the Faculty Council declares the dissertation as rejected.
2. Should the candidate already possess the title of Dr. Med. when the fraud is discovered, this will be revoked on the basis of a faculty decision. Any certificates already issued will be confiscated.
3. The Faculty Council decides whether disciplinary proceedings should be requested as per the art. 50 et seq. of the USI Statutes.

5. Direction and supervision of doctoral candidates

Art. 10. Supervision of the dissertation

1. The dissertation is supervised by a faculty member, a titular professor or a private lecturer of the faculty. (Dissertation Director)
2. Upon request the Dissertation Commission may entrust the direction of the dissertation to a member of another Faculty of the USI.

Art. 11 Co-direction of the dissertation

1. The dissertation may be supervised by one person or, in exceptional cases, by several persons who have not completed their habilitation yet but who have independent research experience. They guarantee regular feedback on the quality and progress of the research work to the Dissertation Director.
2. The Dissertation Director determines the co-direction of the dissertation.

Art. 12 Doctoral dissertation agreement

A dissertation agreement is concluded between the doctoral candidate and the Dissertation Direction, in which topic, expected duration and a time-structured work plan are specified.

6. Assessment of the dissertation

Art. 13 Expert opinions

After completion of the dissertation, the Dissertation Direction prepares an evaluation report.

Art. 14 Second Opinion

1. The dissertation and the Director's evaluation report are submitted to the Dissertation Commission, who examines the dissertation and determines a second reviewer.

2. The second opinion is given by a member of the faculty, of another faculty of the USI or of a faculty of another university. This person or persons, whose name or names are only known to the Dissertation Commission, does/do not come from the same clinic or institute as the dissertation supervisor. He or she submits his or her written assessment within three months.
3. If a dissertation is published in a journal with Peer Review (Art. 7, cap. 3) as an original report, systematic review, meta-analysis, short communication, preliminary communication or research letter, the Dissertation Committee may consider it as a second evaluation.

7. Doctoral degree graduation

Art. 15 Assessment by the Dissertation Commission

1. Once the expert opinion of the Dissertation Director is available and the second opinion has been received, the dissertation is evaluated by the Dissertation Commission.
2. Shall the dissertation be assessed as sufficient by the Dissertation Commission, the Commission will recommend to the Faculty Council to accept it.
3. Shall the dissertation be assessed as not sufficient by the Dissertation Commission, the dissertation Director will be informed and a revision will have to be arranged.
4. Shall the revised dissertation be evaluated by the Dissertation Commission a second time as not sufficient, the Dissertation Commission recommends to the Faculty Council to reject the dissertation.

Art. 16 PhD resolution

1. The dissertation evaluated by the Dissertation Commission as sufficient as well as the dissertation recommended for rejection by the Dissertation Commission will be made available for inspection in the Dean's Office for a period of two weeks together with all expert opinions, prior announcement in the Faculty Council.
2. The Faculty Council shall finally decide on the acceptance or rejection of a dissertation by a simple majority. Shall the resolution not be fulfilled, a maximum of a second dissertation on a new topic can be prepared and submitted to the faculty.

Art. 17 Publication

The diploma "Doctor medicinae" (Dr. med.) is awarded and is legally valid if the dissertation has been publicly presented.

Art. 18 PhD Certificate

1. The doctoral certificate contains the title of the dissertation.
2. The doctoral certificate is issued in Italian with an English translation.
3. The doctoral certificate shall bear the signatures of the Rector and the Dean of the Faculty.

8. Legal protection

Art. 19 Objection and appeal

Appeals may be lodged against decisions, based on these regulations and in accordance with Art. 51 et seq. of the USI statutes.

Art. 22 Legal force and entry into force

This Regulation, approved by the USI Senate on 15 October 2020, becomes effective immediately.