

Ratified by the President of the
Scientific Council on May, 23rd, 2023



Universidade do Minho
Escola de Arquitetura, Arte e Design

Regulatory Norms
for the cycle of studies leading to the
DOCTORAL DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

May 2023

Contents

Foreword	3
Article 1 – Nature and scope of application	3
Article 2 – Doctoral Degree in Architecture	3
Article 3 – Curricular Structure and Study Plan	3
Article 4. – Study cycle Management Bodies	4
Article 5. – Responsibilities of the Course Management Board	4
Article 6. – Responsibilities of the Course Director	5
Article 7. – Admission qualifications	6
Article 8. – Application	6
Article 9. – Criteria for assessing Applicants	7
Article 10. – Specific criteria for admission and ranking of candidates	8
Article 11. – Acceptance of applications and deadlines.....	8
Article 12. – Enrolment and Tuition Fees	9
Article 13. – Registration in a Research Centre	9
Article 14. – Thesis Supervision	9
Article 15. – Registration of the thesis topic and project.....	10
Article 16. – Application and admission to public examinations.....	10
Article 17. – Thesis formatting and writing guidelines	11
Article 18. – Appointment and constitution of the jury	11
Article 19. – Procedure prior to the defence of the thesis.....	11
Article 20. – Thesis Defence	12
Article 21. – Discussion of the Thesis	12
Article 22. – Jury’s deliberation	13
Article 23. – Legal Deposit.....	14
Article 24. – Deadlines	14
Article 25. – Doubts and Omissions.....	14
Article 26. – Review of these Regulatory Norms	14
Article 27. – Entry into force	14

Foreword

These Regulatory Norms, hereinafter referred to as Norms, establish the rules that must be followed by the Doctoral Degree in Architecture of the School of Architecture, Art and Design of the University of Minho (UMinho), School which will be hereinafter referred to as EAAD, in compliance with the provisions of Decree-Law 74/2006, in its current wording, and the Academic Regulations of UMinho in force, hereinafter referred to as RAUM.

The provisions contained in these Norms are intended to create the conditions for students from diverse backgrounds, training, and cultures to gain access, through the EAAD, to higher-level academic studies, with a view to becoming researchers with a solid preparation through scientific development, reflective capacity, and technological innovation, in higher education establishments and research laboratories, as well as in public institutions and companies, in Portugal and abroad.

Article 1 – Nature and scope of application

In accordance with the Statutes of UMinho, the Statutes of the EAAD, and the RAUM, these Norms define the functioning of the cycle of studies leading to the Doctoral Degree in Architecture taught by the EAAD, as well as the process for submitting applications to it.

The curricular structure and study plan are enshrined in the corresponding order RT/C-34/2020, in force at UMinho, which applies to Plans A and B.

Article 2 – Doctoral Degree in Architecture

1. The University of Minho, through the EAAD, confers the Doctoral Degree, in the context of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture, in the following specialties:
 - a) City and Territory;
 - b) Construction and Technology;
 - c) Architectural Culture.
2. The Doctoral Degree is divided into 2 (two) alternative programmes, both with 180 ECTS (one hundred and eighty), and has a duration of 6 semesters:
 - a) Plan A, with a curriculum component (2 semesters);
 - b) Plan B, without a curriculum component.
3. The award of the Doctoral Degree is dependent, in both Plan A and Plan B, and in any of the specialties, on the preparation, discussion, and approval of an original Thesis.
4. The Doctoral Degree is certified by a Doctoral Certificate, accompanied by the Diploma Supplement.
5. The completion of the curriculum component of Plan A, which takes place in the first two (2) semesters, confers the right to an Advanced Studies Diploma in Architecture.

Article 3 – Curricular Structure and Study Plan

1. The curricular structure and the study plan of the Doctoral Degree are enshrined in a Rectoral Order, which is also published in the *Diário da República*.

2. As mentioned in Number 2. of the previous article, the Doctoral Degree in Architecture is subdivided into 2 (two) alternative plans, A and B, both with 180 ECTS and a duration of 6 (six) semesters:

- a) Plan A:

Plan A includes 2 (two) initial academic semesters for compulsory attendance of the Course Units (UC) of training provided for in the Study Plan, and 4 (four) semesters with tutorial monitoring of the Thesis.

In Plan A, the Elective UC will be chosen from the third-cycle semester courses offered by the EAAD in the scientific areas of Architecture, or offered by other Organic Units (UO) of the UMinho in the scientific fields of Social Sciences or Engineering.

- b) Plan B:

This plan allows students to work directly on their doctoral thesis, provided that their previous educational, scientific or professional career is recognised as relevant by the Scientific Council of the EAAD (CC-EAAD).

Applying for Plan B implies submitting a Work Plan, the admission of which is subject to approval by the Scientific Council, under the proposal of the faculty members of the Course Management Board who make up the assessment panel. Plan B includes 6 (six) semesters with tutorial supervision of the thesis.

Article 4. – Study cycle Management Bodies

1. The Doctoral Degree in Architecture is directed and managed by the following bodies:
 - a) Course Management Board;
 - b) Course Director.
2. The Course Management Board is made up of:
 - a) The Course Director;
 - b) A teacher from the course, proposed by the Course Director to the Pedagogical Council (CP) of the EAAD;
 - c) two student representatives, proposed by their peers, from among the delegates and sub-delegates of the year when applicable, equal in number to the teachers, including the Director.
3. The student representatives' term of office is one year.
4. The members of the Course Management Board referred to in paragraph 2 b) are appointed by the Pedagogical Council, on a proposal from the Course Director.
5. The members of the Course Management Board referred to in paragraph 2. c) are appointed by the Pedagogical Council, on a proposal from the representatives of each curricular years of the course.

Article 5. – Responsibilities of the Course Management Board

1. The Course Management Board is responsible for:
 - a) Promoting coordination between the UC, seminars, internships and other activities of the study cycle;
 - b) Monitoring the development of the study cycle and, based on the results of the experience, proposing possible corrections, in future editions, to the study plan, the UC list or the curricular structure;

- c) Encouraging complementary activities and exchanges with programmes in the same field of study;
 - d) Expressing an opinion on the cycle's self-evaluation reports, drawn up for the purposes of the SIGAQ and accreditation of the course by A3ES;
 - e) Preparing the proposal for the selection and ranking of candidates to be admitted to Plan A and Plan B of the study cycle, when applicable, to be approved by the CC-EAAD;
 - f) Assessing the suitability and feasibility of the Work Plans and the suitability and availability of the supervisor teams;
 - g) Proposing, in accordance with current regulations and the procedures established by the EAAD, the constitution of juries for doctoral academic examinations;
 - h) Exercising any other competences conferred on it by the regulations in force or delegated by the EAAD's CP or CC.
2. The Course Management Board is responsible for
- a) Promoting the coordination between the UC, seminars, internships and other activities of the study cycle;
 - b) Monitoring the development of the study programme and, based on the results of the experience, proposing possible corrections to the study plan, the list of UC or the curricular structure in future editions;
 - c) Encouraging complementary activities and exchanges with programmes in the same field of study;
 - d) Expressing their opinion on the self-evaluation reports of the study cycle, drawn up for the purposes of the SIGAQ and accreditation of the course by A3ES;
 - e) Preparing the proposal for the selection and ranking of candidates to be admitted to Plan A and Plan B of the study cycle, when applicable, to be approved by the CC-EAAD;
 - f) Assessing the suitability and feasibility of the Work Plans and the suitability and availability of the supervisor teams;
 - g) Proposing, in accordance with current regulations and the procedures established by the EAAD, the constitution of juries for academic doctoral examinations;
 - h) Exercising any other competences conferred on it by the regulations in force or delegated by the CP or by the CC of the EAAD.
3. The competences referred to in points e) to h) are exercised exclusively by the teachers from the Course Management Board.
4. The Course Management Board may delegate certain competences to its President or to the coordinator of the area of specialisation, if applicable.
5. The Course Management Board meets ordinarily every academic semester and extraordinarily when convened at the initiative of the Director or at the request of two thirds of its members.

Article 6. – Responsibilities of the Course Director

1. The Course Director is a teacher of the course, a member of the School who belongs to one of the compulsory scientific areas of the course. The Course Director is appointed by the Dean of the EAAD.
2. The Course Director is responsible for:
 - a) Chairing and representing the Course Management Board;
 - b) Co-ordinating its work and chairing its meetings;

- c) Dealing with any current affairs related to the course;
- d) Exercising all other competences assigned to him by the regulations or delegated by the CC-EAAD.

Article 7. – Admission qualifications

1. Holders of a bachelor's degree (pre-Bologna) or master's degree awarded by a national institution or by a foreign institution and recognised by a national institution are eligible to apply for Plan A and Plan B of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture.
2. Holders of a bachelor's degree (pre-Bologna) or master's degree awarded by a foreign institution and not recognised by a national institution may apply for Plan A and Plan B of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture. Admission to the programme depends on the final classification awarded by the teachers of the Course Management Board who constitute the assessment panel, based on an analysis of the candidate's qualification certificate(s).
3. The conversion referred to in the previous number only has an effect on access to the cycle of studies leading to the Doctoral Degree, and does not confer the holder the recognition of the bachelor's, master's or specialist degree.
4. Admission to the course will be based on the assessment, classification and ranking process, the criteria for which are set out in articles 9. and 10. Admission will depend on obtaining a minimum ranking classification by the candidate and on the number of places available.

Article 8. – Application

1. The number of places for each edition of the course is established by Rectoral Order, and must be equal to or less than the maximum admissible limit approved by A3ES.
2. Applications to both Plans A and B of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture are made on the Academic Portal, within the deadlines defined and publicised by the EAAD, selected from the periods set annually by UMinho.
3. In the case of Plan B, applications are open permanently, although the communication of results also follows the calendar posted on the EAAD portal.
4. The application process must be completed on the Academic Portal platform as follows:

For Plan A, through the submission of:

- a) Application form;
- b) Documents proving the applicant's qualifications;
- c) Updated curriculum vitae;
- d) Letter of Motivation;
- e) Signed letter(s) of recommendation which, taking into account the constitution of the CC-EAAD and the Course Management Board, do not give rise to situations of conflict of interest;
- f) Proof of payment of the application fee.

For Plan B, through the submission of:

- a) Application form;
- b) Documents proving the applicant's qualifications;
- c) Updated curriculum vitae;

- d) Letter of Motivation;
- e) Signed letter(s) of recommendation which, taking into account the constitution of the CC-EAAD and the Course Management Board, do not give rise to situations of conflict of interest;
- f) Term of acceptance from the Scientific Supervisor(s);
- g) Work Plan specifying:
- h) Theme; Objectives; State of the Art; Methodology; Phasing and Timetable; Justification of the Supervisor Team; Research Framework in the Host Institution (EAAD/Lab2PT/UMinho).
- i) Proof of payment of the application fee.

Article 9. – Criteria for assessing Applicants

Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their academic record and scientific and professional CV, in accordance with the criteria and weighting indicated below.

1. The evaluation of the candidates' academic record (PCC), totalling 20 points, is based on the following criteria:
 - a) Applicants with a master's degree from an integrated master's programme:
 - i. Final classification of the integrated master's degree, on a scale of 0 to 20, multiplied by 0.9;
 - ii. Scientific area of the integrated master's degree, with two points being awarded if in Architecture and zero otherwise
 - b) Candidates with a bachelor's degree cumulative or not with a master's degree:
 - i. Final degree classification, on a whole scale of 0 to 20, multiplied by 0.45;
 - ii. Final classification of the master's degree, on a whole scale of 0 to 20, multiplied by 0.45;
 - iii. Scientific area of the degree, with a classification of 1 if in Architecture, 0,5 in related areas (including Design and Visual Arts) and 0 in other cases;
 - iv. Scientific area of the master's degree, with a classification of 1 for Architecture, 0,5 for related areas (including Design and Visual Arts) and 0 in other cases.
 - 1.1. Applicants with a degree in Architecture prior to the Bologna process are subject to point 1(a);
 - 1.2. In the selection and ranking of candidates simultaneously covered by the criteria defined in points a), b) and c), the one that most benefits the candidate should be considered.
2. The evaluation of the candidates' scientific curriculum (CCC), totalling 20 points, is based on the following criteria:
 - a) Participation in research projects (30%), carried out in R&D institutions based on the following criteria: participation as a research assistant or grant holder; participation as a member of a research team; participation as a coordinating researcher;
 - b) Scientific publication (40%), namely: Authorship or co-authorship of book(s); Book chapter; paper in an international journal; paper in a national journal; Proceedings of a scientific event;
 - c) Other scientific activities (30%), namely: organisation of a national or international conference; organisation of seminars, conferences and workshops; author or curator of an exhibition.
3. The assessment of the candidates' professional curriculum vitae (CPC), totalling 20 points, is based on activities carried out, namely as:
 - i. Researcher or lecturer in Higher Education Institutions in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts);

- ii. Researcher or lecturer in Higher Education Institutions in other scientific areas;
 - iii. Author of a project in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts); staff member or technician of public or private institutions in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts);
 - iv. Technician and service provider in other areas.
4. Evaluation of the Work Plan (PTC), totalling 20 points, only for Plan B candidates, according to the following criteria:
- a) Letter of Motivation (10%), explaining the reasons for the application and highlighting the reasons for the choice of the research topic in the context of the educational, scientific or professional background;
 - b) Letter of Recommendation (10%), explaining the context of the relationship with the candidate and the framework of the research proposal;
 - c) Theme and Objectives (30%), explaining the relevance and grounds of the study;
 - d) State of the Art (20%), showing the state of knowledge;
 - e) Methodology and Timetable (20%), demonstrating the feasibility of the study;
 - f) Supervisor team (5%) presentation justifying the reasons for the choice;
 - g) Host institution (5%), contextualising the research within the research projects and activity plan of EAAD/Lab2PT/UMinho).

Article 10. – Specific criteria for admission and ranking of candidates

1. Candidates for Plan A will be ranked on the basis of the following classification resulting from the weighting of the results obtained in points 1, 2 and 3 of Article 9.:

$$\text{Weighted Classification} = 0,75 \times \text{PCC} + 0,25 \times [\text{CCC} + \text{CPC}] / 2$$

2. Candidates with a weighted classification, rounded to the nearest whole number, equal to or greater than eleven points are considered eligible for Plan A.
3. Candidates for Plan B will be ranked on the basis of the following classification resulting from the weighting of the results obtained in points 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9:

$$\text{Weighted Classification} = 0,50 \times \text{PCC} + 0,25 \times [\text{CCC} + \text{CPC}] / 2 + 0,25 \times \text{PTC}$$

4. Candidates with a weighted classification, rounded to the nearest whole number equal to or greater than twelve points are considered eligible for Plan B.

Article 11. – Acceptance of applications and deadlines

1. The Course Management Board will draw the minutes with the candidates' assessment. Candidates will be ranked according to their classification and the score obtained in the criteria referred to in Article 9. The minutes will include a list of the admitted candidates and alternates, their respective order of placement, as well as an indication of the candidates not admitted.
2. The final decision on the admission of the candidates is made by the CC-EAAD, under proposal of the teachers of the Course Management Board who are part of the evaluation panel, based on the duly reasoned minutes referred to in the previous point.

3. After final approval by the CC-EAAD, candidates are notified of the decision to accept or reject their application. The results are also duly published on the Academic Portal, within the deadlines set for this purpose.
4. The minutes of the ranking and selection of candidates are then sent to the UMinho Academic Management Services Unit (USGA).

Article 12. – Enrolment and Tuition Fees

1. Candidates who are admitted must enrol at the USGA by the deadline set for this purpose. The letter notifying candidates will contain information to this effect.
2. Enrolment and registration fees are due in amounts set annually by Rectoral Order.
3. Enrolment in the Doctoral Degree in Architecture must be renewed annually, which is the sole responsibility of the doctoral student.
4. The tuition fees set by the Rectoral Order for each academic year must be paid using the payment plan (instalments) in force.

Article 13. – Registration in a Research Centre

Students of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture must join Lab2PT, EAAD's Research and Development (R&D) Centre, in accordance with its rules.

Article 14. – Thesis Supervision

1. The preparation of the doctoral thesis, including the associated research work, must be supervised by one (1) or more professors or researchers with a Doctoral Degree from an EAAD research unit, at least one of whom must be an EAAD professor/researcher.
2. Professors or researchers from other Research Centres, as well as specialists recognised as suitable by the CC-EAAD, may also be part of the Supervisor Team.
3. Candidates accepted onto the Doctoral Degree in Architecture must submit a proposal to the Course Director for the appointment of their supervisor(s) by the CC-EAAD, at the end of the second semester, within the scope of the curricular unit "Thesis Project in Architecture" in Plan A, or, in the case of Plan B, at the time of application.
4. The thesis project prepared within the scope of the "Thesis Project in Architecture" UC of Plan A is assessed by the teachers of the Course Management Board and approved by the CC-EAAD.
5. The Thesis Plan, presented during the application process for Plan B, is assessed and approved by the CC-EAAD based on the minutes of the assessment drawn up by the teachers of the Course Management Board who make up the assessment panel.
6. Once the research work has begun, the student must draw up annual progress reports to be assessed by the CC-EAAD, after analysing and receiving the opinion of the respective supervisor(s).
7. The CC-EAAD may allow a change of supervisor and/or thesis topic, following a reasoned request from the candidate and/or supervisor(s) and an opinion from the Course Director.

8. The CC-EAAD, for duly substantiated reasons, following an opinion from the Course Director and the supervisor(s) and after hearing the student, may refuse that the student continues his/her research work, with the consequent cancellation of the enrolment in the study cycle, which must be communicated to the student and the USGA.

Article 15. – Registration of the thesis topic and project

1. The acceptance by the CC of the thesis topic and project and the proposed Supervisor(s), or a change to them, will be communicated by the EAAD simultaneously to the USGA and to the candidate; the candidate will be informed of the steps to be taken, the deadlines to be met and any specific requirements to be fulfilled before being allowed to take public doctoral examination.
2. The candidate must, within 30 days of the notification referred to in the previous paragraph, register the thesis topic and respective plan and the supervisor(s), or any changes thereto, with the EAAD.
3. The candidate will be notified of the registration and the USGA.
4. Registered data is kept for the duration of the thesis, provided there is no interruption, and made available in accordance with the law.
5. The cancellation of enrolment in the study cycle or its non-renewal determines that the registration expires, and the academic services must inform the CC and the service unit responsible for the registration in good time.

Article 16. – Application and admission to public examinations

1. The student, after passing the curricular units of the doctoral course (in the case of Plan A) and completing the thesis (Plans A and B), must submit the request to take public doctoral examination at the EAAD, on the Academic Portal, accompanied by the elements listed in Article 185 of the RAUM, at the EAAD.
2. The application for public examinations must be prepared in advance to ensure that, at the time of submission, the student's situation at UMinho is regularised and that he/she has all the necessary documents, some of which depend on third parties (e.g., the supervisor's/supervisors' opinion) or may take some time to obtain.
3. The application is submitted through the Academic Portal's Electronic Secretariat, under the option "Request for Public Examination".
4. The Request for Public Examination cannot be submitted before three years have elapsed since the student was admitted to the Doctoral Degree in Architecture (180 ECTS).
 - a) In the case of Plan A, the deadline for requesting the public exams is the one set out in the Academic Calendar, i.e. between the deadline for filling in the special season exams lists and the deadline for submitting the thesis set out in that calendar.
 - b) In the case of Plan B, the deadline for requesting exams is counted from the 1st of the month following to that in which the student was admitted and enrolled in the Doctoral Degree.
 - c) In the case of attending the study cycle on a part-time basis, for the purposes of admission to the thesis defence, each year of attendance on that basis corresponds to 30 credits.

Article 17. – Thesis formatting and writing guidelines

1. The Doctoral Degree in Architecture involves the elaboration of an original thesis, specially prepared for this purpose, appropriate to the nature of the branch of knowledge and the specialty.
2. The formatting of the doctoral thesis must comply with the rules set out in the corresponding Rectoral Order in force (available on the Academic Portal), and other regulations issued by the CC-EAAD, except in cases where there are protocols that stipulate otherwise.
3. The requirements to be met by the thesis, as well as authorisation to write in a foreign language, are the responsibility of the CC-EAAD, under proposal of the Course Director.

Article 18. – Appointment and constitution of the jury

1. The members of the Jury are appointed by the CC-EAAD, under proposal from the Course Director, within the next subsequent 30 (thirty) days after the submission of the application.
2. The Jury is composed by:
 - a) the President of the CC-EAAD, who presides, or a full professor of the UO, who he appoints for this purpose;
 - b) a minimum of 4 (four) and a maximum of 6 (six) doctoral members, one of whom may be the candidate's Supervisor Team;
3. Whenever there is more than one supervisor, only one can be part of the jury, and this one must belong to UMinho.
4. At least two members of the jury, excluding the supervisor, are appointed from among professors and researchers who hold a Doctoral degree from two other national or foreign higher education institution or research establishment.
5. In addition to the provisions of the previous paragraph, the jury may also include an individuality of recognised competence in the scientific area of the thesis, considered as such by the CC-EAAD.
6. The majority of the jury must be professors or researchers in the scientific field of the thesis.
7. At least two members must have a contractual relationship with UMinho.
8. With the exception of the Supervisor, the members of the jury must not have had any involvement in the process of preparing the thesis, namely in terms of publications co-authored with the candidate, and must declare that they are not covered by this incompatibility or by any other provided for in the Code of Administrative Procedure.
9. The order appointing the jury must be communicated in writing within 5 (five) days to the President of the jury, the members of the jury and the candidate, and publicised on the EAAD website.

Article 19. – Procedure prior to the defence of the thesis

1. Within the next 45 (forty-five) days after being notified, the jury, in a face-to-face meeting or by videoconference, will decide whether to accept the thesis or, alternatively, make a reasoned recommendation to the student that it needs to be reformulated.
2. Minutes of the jury meeting must be drawn up and include the votes of each of its members and the duly reasoned declaration of acceptance of the thesis or its reformulation, which may be common to all or

some of them. The minutes will be signed by the President of the jury and the Secretary, and, where appropriate, the changes to be made by the candidate should be mentioned in a document attached to the minutes.

3. After receiving the recommendations for reformulating the thesis, the student has 120 (one hundred and twenty) days, which cannot be extended, during which he/she can reformulate the thesis or declare that he/she intends to keep it as presented.
4. Once the reformulated thesis or the declaration referred to in the previous paragraph has been received, the public defence of the thesis is scheduled.
5. The student is considered to have withdrawn if, after the deadline referred to in no. 3. of this article, he or she has not submitted the reformulated thesis or declaration.
6. The defence of the thesis must take place within a maximum of 60 (sixty) days from the date of the acceptance order, the date of submission of the reformulated thesis or the submission of the declaration referred to in no. 2, except in cases of manifest impossibility by the jury, but it cannot exceed 90 (ninety) days.
7. At the student's request, and in duly substantiated exceptional cases, the deadline referred to in no. 6. may be extended, not exceeding 120 (one hundred and twenty) days.
8. The constitution of the jury, the date and place where the public defence of the thesis will take place must be published by the EAAD, at least 5 (five) days in advance, on the respective EAAD website, as well as on the website of the Doctoral College. It may also be publicised by the usual means of dissemination used by the School.

Article 20. – Thesis Defence

The thesis defence consists of a public discussion of an original thesis, under the terms of the legislation in force.

Article 21. – Discussion of the Thesis

1. The public discussion of the thesis cannot take place without the presence of the President and the majority of the members of the jury.
2. The discussion of the thesis lasts a maximum of 3 (three) hours, and all the members of the jury may take part, without prejudice to the possibility of appointing one or more main arguers.
3. In the discussion of the thesis, the President of the jury may authorise the participation by videoconference of a number of members not exceeding 50%, provided that they are external to UMinho and there are technical conditions for their full participation in the work.
 - a. Jury members belonging to UMinho may be authorised to participate remotely in videoconference status conference only when they are in a service situation that demonstrably justifies it and as long as the physical presence of 50% of the members is guaranteed.
 - b. Failure to communicate with the member(s) participating in videoconference status during the public examinations for the thesis defence for a period of more than ten minutes prevents them from participating in the final decision and means that they cannot be considered for the purposes of a *quorum*.
4. Candidates must take part in the public examination in person.

5. Before the examination takes place, the jury will decide on the order and form of its members' interventions.
6. In the public examination, before the discussion begins, the candidate has a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes to present its thesis.
7. During the discussion of the thesis, the candidate must be given the same amount of time as that given to the members of the jury.
8. The discussion of the thesis must take place in Portuguese, without prejudice to the possibility of it being conducted in other languages, provided that the members of the jury and the candidate agree or that the characteristics of the Doctoral Degree require it.

Article 22. – Jury's deliberation

1. Once the examination has been completed, the jury meets to assess and decide on the student's final assessment, the result of which is expressed by the formulae "Pass" or "Fail".
2. Those who have passed are graded "Good", "Good with Distinction" or "Very Good". It must be recorded in the minutes whether the grading was unanimous or by majority vote.
3. The qualifications referred to in the previous no. 2. may take into account the marks obtained in the curricular units of the doctoral course, if any, and the merit of the thesis assessed in the public act.
4. The jury's decisions are taken by a majority of its members by means of a justified roll-call vote, and abstentions are not permitted.
5. The President of the jury shall have the casting vote.
6. The minutes of the public examination and the jury meeting must be drawn up and, after being read aloud in front of all the members of the jury, signed by the members physically present, which include the votes of each member and their respective reasons, the final classification and any need for corrections.
7. Jury members taking part in the public examinations by videoconference must send their vote and the reasons for it, signed with a qualified digital signature, by email after the public examination. If it is impossible to have a qualified digital signature, the vote and reasons must be sent by email using a manually signed and digitised document, the original of which will be sent to the course Secretariat for recording and filing in the candidate's individual file.
8. Any corrections to the thesis requested by the jury following the public discussion will be included in a document attached to the minutes of the exams.
9. In cases where corrections are made to the thesis, the student must submit the following documents to the EAAD within 30 (thirty) days of the public examinations:
 - a) a copy of the thesis, in paper format, corrected;
 - b) one copy of the thesis, in digital format, corrected;
 - c) a declaration from the supervisor(s), in digital format, attesting that the corrections requested by the jury have been made;
 - d) an up-to-date declaration for the deposit of the thesis in the RepositóriUM.
10. In the cases provided for in the previous paragraph, the jury's decision becomes final once it has been ratified by the President of the jury, a procedure on which the holder of the doctoral degree depends.

11. Completion of the Doctoral Degree confers the right to a Diploma and a Doctoral Certificate, which state the field of knowledge and the doctoral speciality, if applicable, in which the degree is obtained.
12. Completion of the curricular part of the course confers the right to an Advanced Studies Diploma, in accordance with the conditions defined in the Rectoral Order creating the study cycle.

Article 23. – Legal Deposit

1. Doctoral theses are subject to:
 - a) deposit of a copy in digital format in the UMinho Repository, under the responsibility of the EAAD;
 - b) legal deposit of a paper copy in the National Library, for which EAAD is responsible
2. The award of the doctoral degree must be registered in the RENATES platform after the thesis has been deposited in the UMinho Repository, in addition to the elements already registered, under the terms of Article 183. of the RAUM.

Article 24. – Deadlines

1. The time limits laid down in these Rules shall be counted in working days, in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure, unless otherwise specified.
2. The deadlines for the deliberations of the collegiate bodies provided for in these Rules are suspended during school holidays.
3. The deadlines for the submission, reformulation and public discussion of the thesis may be suspended by the Rector, after hearing the CC-EAAD, at the request of the interested parties, in exceptional cases provided, provided by law and duly substantiated.

Article 25. – Doubts and Omissions

Situations not covered by these Rules are subject to the provisions of the Academic Regulations of the University of Minho and the relevant legislation in force, with any omissions being decided by the Course Management Board.

Article 26. – Review of these Regulatory Norms

These Regulatory Norms may be revised two years after the date of their publication or at any time if proposed by the Course Management Board and with the favourable opinion of the EAAD Scientific Council.

Article 27. – Entry into force

The Regulatory Norms come into force after approval by the EAAD Scientific Council, once the opinion of the Course Management Board and the CP-EAAD has been considered, and they must be published on the EAAD website.