

1. What is the Industrial Doctorate Mention?

When a doctoral thesis, covering any area of knowledge, is developed in collaboration with a company (whether it is in the private sector, public sector, or public administration) and within the context of an industrial research or experimental development project, it is considered a doctorate eligible for an Industrial Doctorate Mention.

In these circumstances, the University of Murcia, through the EIDUM services, offers its doctoral students the opportunity to obtain an Industrial Doctorate Mention in their doctoral degree, recognising and granting the importance of the relationships in the field of research between the business and academic world and the transfer of knowledge from the process of research to its practical application.

The International Doctorate Mention is included on the front of the doctoral degree certificate, provided that all the requirements are met.

The regulations governing the Industrial Doctorate Mention to the doctorate are based on the Spanish Royal Decree 195/2016 of May 13, specifically from section 5 of the third final provision, which amends Article 15 of the Spanish Royal Decree 99/2011 and was implemented at the University of Murcia in the Procedure for Obtaining an Industrial Doctorate Mention, approved by the EIDUM Board of Directors on September 21, 2022.

2. Which are the main features and requirements of a doctorate to be eligible for an Industrial Doctorate Mention?

For a doctoral thesis to obtain an “Industrial Doctorate”, the research plan developed by the student must be part of an industrial research or experimental development project of a business and must be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The student must be linked to the company through an employment or commercial contract.

The research plan must be developed by the doctoral candidate, at least partially, whilst employed by the company and while pursuing a doctoral degree at the UMU.

A company is understood to be any public or private entity that is legally able to establish an employment or commercial contract with the doctoral candidate. This excludes public research organisations, whether they are regional, national or international, and businesses or entities of any kind whose percentage of participation of a university or public research organisation exceeds 40%. Hospitals associated with any university or public research organisation are also excluded.

The duration of the employment or commercial contract must be long enough for the doctoral candidate to dedicate at least one year of effective work in the company to complete the research plan from the date when the industrial nature is recognised. Therefore, if the doctoral candidate is dedicated to the research project at the company full-time, the contract must have a minimum duration of one year. If the time assigned by

the company to the doctoral candidate to work on the research project is half of the working day, the minimum duration of the contract must be two years. Similarly, if the company assigns the doctoral candidate one third of the working day, the minimum duration of the contract should be three years, and so on.

2. The research plan of the doctoral candidate: the doctoral candidate must create a research plan, endorsed by the tutor and supervisor, which will include, in addition to the information required in any doctoral programme, the relation of the research plan with the industrial research or experimental development project of the company.

This research plan, which can be improved or become more detailed throughout the doctoral programme, and which should be submitted to the doctoral application, must state its industrial nature and be framed within the industrial research or experimental development project of the enterprise.

The research plan will not be effective until it has been approved by the academic personnel, who supervise and manage the thesis in the doctoral application.

3. Report: the relationship between the research plan and the industrial research or experimental development project of the company will be demonstrated by a descriptive report of the research project, which must be approved by the company and the University of Murcia.
4. The tutor must be a member of a UMU doctoral programme.
5. Person responsible at the company: the doctoral candidate will have a person responsible designated by the company among its employees who, if they meet the requirements, may also participate in the supervision of the thesis if so agreed.
6. An agreement or engagement letter.

If at least one of the supervisors of the thesis is a member of the UMU academic staff, an agreement must be signed between the university and the company.

If, on the other hand, none of the thesis supervisors is from the UMU, an engagement letter must be signed by the company.

The details and terms of the agreement and the engagement letter are included in Articles 4 and 5, respectively, of the Procedure for Obtaining an Industrial Doctorate Mention.

3. What steps must be followed to apply for an Industrial Doctorate mention?

As soon as possible and with sufficient time, a student, company or UMU professor must:

- 1) Inform the EIDUM about the intention to start an industrial nature doctorate, providing all the information at its disposal. The EIDUM will proceed with one of the following options:
 - a) If the thesis will have at least one UMU supervisor, then an agreement between the UMU and the company will be processed.
 - b) If the management of the research or industrial development project does not rely on any member of the UMU, no agreement will be signed, but a declaration of intent and commitment will be required for submission to the company (engagement letter).
- 2) A descriptive report of the research project shall be prepared. It must be approved by the company and UMU.
- 3) The research plan, as defined in section 2.b.2 of the present document, shall at all times reflect its relationship with the industrial research or experimental development project of the company.

Once the student is about to submit the thesis:

This will be the moment to apply for the Industrial Doctorate Mention by sending the following, in good time, to the Academic Commission of the doctoral programme:

- An application (according to a standardised format provided by the Academic Commission of the programme) stating the desire for the thesis to be considered of an industrial nature.
- A report issued by the person in charge of the company.
- A report from the thesis supervisor(s).
- A copy of the employment or commercial contract signed by the company or an employment history report.
- A descriptive report of the industrial research or experimental development project with the approval of the company and UM academic personnel.
- UM agreement: company or engagement letter signed and processed through the EIDUM.

Please remember that any doubts you may have can be resolved by contacting the International Doctoral School at eidum@um.es or by writing directly to our technical staff member, bmunyo@um.es