



Procedure for Obtaining an Industrial Doctorate Mention

Approved by the Board of Directors on June 14, 2019 and amended to the Regulations of 07.22.2022 by the General Doctoral Commission on 09.21.2022.

Preamble

This type of doctorate is developed with the collaboration of the productive and business fabric in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to society by collaborating with enterprises of the public or private sector, as well as with a public administration. In accordance with the Spanish Royal Decree 99/2011 (Article 15bis), where the possibility of an "Industrial Doctorate mention" is introduced, and with the Spanish Royal Decree 195/2016, where the conditions for the issuance of the European Diploma Supplement (EDS) for a doctoral degree are established, considering by now the concept of "Industrial Doctorate". Article 34 of the Doctoral Studies Regulations of the University of Murcia establishes that:

Article 34. Thesis that are eligible for an "Industrial Doctorate mention".

1. The "Industrial Doctorate mention" shall be granted when the following conditions are met:

a) The existence of an employment or commercial contract with the doctoral candidate. The contract may be signed by an enterprise belonging to the private or public sector, as well as by a public administration.

b) The doctoral candidate must participate in an industrial research or experimental development project developed in the enterprise or public administration where service is provided, which must not be a university. The industrial research or experimental development project in which the doctoral candidate is involved must be directly related to the thesis. This direct relationship will be certified by means of a report that must be endorsed by the university.

2. If the industrial research or experimental development project is conducted in cooperation between the university and the enterprise or public administration where the doctoral candidate is employed, a collaboration framework agreement between both parties must be signed. This agreement shall state the obligations of the university and the obligations of the enterprise or public administration, in addition to the selection procedure followed for the admission of doctoral candidates.

The doctoral candidate will have a thesis mentor assigned by the university and a supervisor assigned by the enterprise or public administration, who may also be the thesis director if the requirements stipulated in the doctoral regulations are met.

3. The General Doctoral Commission will determine the procedure for the submission of theses that intend to apply for the Industrial Doctorate mention, examine the documentation submitted and, if appropriate, authorize the thesis to be processed under the mention.

4. Once the doctoral thesis is completed, the doctoral candidate shall request the authorization of the thesis with an Industrial Doctorate mention in the thesis authorization document envisaged in the Article 35 of these regulations.



1. REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING AN "INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE"

From an academic and administrative perspective, for a thesis to result in an "Industrial Doctorate":

- The research plan developed by the student during the doctoral training must be directly related to and be part of an **industrial research or experimental development project** of an enterprise (private or public) or a public administration other than a university institution (with the exception of those obtaining grants in specific "Industrial Doctorate" public competitive tenders), specified in an **employment or commercial contract with the doctoral candidate**.
- The **mentor** must be a professor of a doctoral programme at UMU, as for any other doctoral candidate of the University of Murcia and will assume the responsibility of ensuring the adequacy of the work developed in the doctoral thesis and the training of the doctoral candidate in accordance with the requirements established in the doctoral programme.
- The **responsible person** designated by the enterprise or public administration may, if applicable, be the thesis director, if that person meets the requirements stipulated in the doctoral regulations.
- If the industrial research or experimental development project is conducted in cooperation between the university and the enterprise or public administration where the doctoral candidate is employed, a **collaboration framework agreement** between both parties must be signed.

1.1. Procedures for formalizing the "Industrial Doctorate" mention.

The doctoral candidate should preferably provide the Academic Commission, during the first year of enrolment on the doctoral programme, the following information:

- a) The responsible person in the enterprise or public administration.
- b) A report containing a brief description of the industrial research or experimental development project.
- c) The industrial nature of the thesis must be clearly reflected in the research plan.
- d) A collaboration agreement, when applicable, whose elaboration will be managed through EIDUM after the corresponding application by the doctoral candidate.

1.2. Procedures for the granting of an "Industrial Doctorate" mention.

Once the production of the thesis has been completed, **the doctoral candidate must request** authorization for the submission/deposit with an "International Doctorate"



mention in writing **to the Academic Commission** of the doctorate programme. This writing must be accompanied by the following:

- 1) **A favourable report from the thesis director** or from all the co-directors. If none of them has academic relations with the University of Murcia, a favourable report from the mentor will be required.
- 2) **A copy of the thesis.**
- 3) **An application form for authorization** to apply for an Industrial Doctorate mention, to which must be attached:
 - a) The original report signed by the responsible person assigned by the enterprise or public administration.
 - b) The **original report by the thesis director(s)** on the merits to be accredited with an "Industrial Doctorate" mention.
 - c) **A report** demonstrating that the thesis is part of an industrial research or experimental development project developed in an enterprise or public administration.
 - d) **A copy of the employment contract signed** with the enterprise or public administration, in order to prove the contractual link during the development of the thesis.
 - e) *The duration of this contract must be at least one year if the thesis is full-time and two years if it is part-time, both of which must be within the period of elaboration of the thesis.*
 - f) *If the thesis is to be completed in a shorter period, the contract must cover at least the entire period of the thesis development.*
 - g) **A copy of the agreement signed** between the University of Murcia, the enterprise or public administration and the doctoral candidate for the performance of this research, if applicable.

A report must be issued by **the Academic Commission** of the doctoral programme that the doctoral candidate must provide along with the documentation submitted, to enclose it with the application for the submission of doctoral thesis to the **General Doctoral Commission**, indicating, where appropriate:

- a) The procedures required to apply for an "Industrial Doctorate" mention are met.
- b) That a research or experimental project has been conducted in the enterprise or public administration during the contract years established in Article 3.4.



The documentation submitted will be examined by the **General Doctoral Commission** who, if appropriate, will authorize the approval of the thesis in order to apply for the aforementioned mention.

2. GUIDELINES FOR THE “INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE” MENTION

Article 1. Admission and enrolment in a doctoral programme

1. The procedure as well as the deadlines to apply for admission to a doctoral programme will be established by the University of Murcia.
2. The procedure as well as the enrolment period in the instance that the student has been admitted will be established by the University of Murcia.

Article 2. Guardianship, thesis supervision and research plan

1. Once the student has been admitted to the doctoral programme and enrolment has been verified, the Academic Commission responsible for the programme must assign a mentor to each doctoral candidate. This mentor must be a professor of a doctoral programme at the University of Murcia and will have the duties described in the regulations.
2. In accordance with the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Murcia, the Academic commission responsible for the programme must assign each doctoral candidate at least one doctoral thesis director no later than three months after enrolment. The people involved in the thesis supervision may or not be professors at the University of Murcia, but they will, in any case, be under the regulations established by this university.
3. Before the end of the first year, the doctoral candidate must produce a research plan, approved by the mentor and director, which may be improved and detailed during the programme, and which must include at least the following sections:
 - a) Identification information of the doctoral candidate and the proposed director or co-directors of the thesis.
 - b) Thesis proposal title.
 - c) Intended objectives.
 - d) Relationship between the research plan and the industrial research and experimental development project of the enterprise.
 - e) Methodology to be used.
 - f) Equipment, materials and other items to be used.
 - g) Expected results (publications, patents).
 - h) Schedule.
 - i) Bibliography.
4. The industrial nature of the research plan that may result in the attribution of an



“Industrial Doctorate” mention is conferred by the condition of being part of an industrial research or experimental development project of an enterprise. Therefore, this plan must clearly demonstrate its industrial nature and be framed within the industrial research or experimental development project of the enterprise. This research plan will not be effective until it has been validated by the mentor and the director of the thesis.

5. The relationship between the research plan and the industrial research project will be proved by a report that will need to have the approval of the enterprise and the University of Murcia, through the Academic Commission of the doctoral programme, who will examine the final report that must demonstrate the connection between the doctoral thesis and the industrial research or experimental development project developed in the enterprise or public administration, in order to approve the mention proposal. This report, which must include the title of the doctoral thesis, should be submitted by the doctoral candidate along with the research plan and a request indicating the wish for the thesis to be considered of an industrial nature.
6. For all purposes, the starting date of the industrial nature of the thesis, that may result in an Industrial Doctorate mention, will be that on which the research plan has been approved by the mentor and the director and when the report and the request described in section 5 have been submitted.
7. In the event that the initial research plan submitted by the doctoral candidate does not present the industrial nature mentioned in section 4, it will be possible to improve it during the enrolment period of the doctoral candidate in the programme in order to archive this industrial mention. Under all circumstances, a thesis will only be considered of an industrial nature when the conditions described in section 4 and 5 are met, and only at that point will the date of initiation of the industrial nature of the thesis be established. Therefore, there must exist an employment or commercial contract for such assignment to be valid.

Article 3. Contract of the doctoral candidate with an enterprise

1. It is a basic condition for obtaining an “Industrial Doctorate” mention that the doctoral candidate has developed the research plan, at least partially, while being employed by an enterprise.
2. In this protocol, the term “enterprise” is used when referring to the entity with which the doctoral candidate signs an employment or commercial contract. Any public or private entity that is legally able to establish an employment or commercial contract with the doctoral candidate can be considered valid.
3. The duration of the employment or commercial contract must be sufficient for the doctoral candidate to dedicate at least one year of effective work in the



enterprise to develop the research plan from the date on which the industrial nature has been recognized according to Article 3 of this protocol.

4. The enterprise must guarantee in writing the commitment of the doctoral candidate. Accordingly, the duration of the contract must be at least one year if the thesis involves full-time work and two years if it involves part-time work and must be within the period of preparation of the thesis. If the thesis is completed in a shorter period of time, the contract must cover at least the whole period of thesis development.

Article 4. Collaboration agreement between the enterprise and the University of Murcia

1. In the instance that the industrial research or experimental development project is conducted in collaboration between the University of Murcia and the enterprise in which the doctoral candidate is employed, a collaboration framework agreement between both parties must be signed. If there is already an existing framework collaboration agreement, a specific one will be signed for the development of each industrial doctorate.
2. It will be understood that there exists a collaboration between the enterprise and the University of Murcia when the thesis has, as minimum, a director belonging to the University of Murcia.
3. The doctoral candidate will have a responsible person assigned by the enterprise from among its employees. If this person has a doctoral degree may be the thesis supervisor if all the requirements established by the regulations of the University of Murcia are met.
4. This agreement, without limiting the terms of the contract between the enterprise and the doctoral candidate, shall indicate both the obligations of the university and of the enterprise and must include, at least, the following:
 - An explicit acknowledgement of the interest of the enterprise in the development of the industrial research project and the research plan of the doctoral candidate.
 - The commitment of one of its employees to be responsible for the doctoral student until the end of the doctoral thesis.
 - The commitment to allow the doctoral candidate to invest the time needed within the working day to complete the doctoral thesis.
 - The selection procedure for doctoral candidates.
 - A brief description of the research project of the enterprise and its direct relation to the research plan of the doctoral candidate.
 - The relevance of the doctoral thesis project and the importance of developing the project under the Industrial Doctorate programme.
 - The doctoral thesis title. Any subsequent changes to this title must always



- be approved by the responsible person in the enterprise.
- The percentage of working day that the doctoral candidate will dedicate to the development of the research plan.
 - Confidentiality clauses.
 - Agreements related to the publication of research results.
 - Agreements related to the exploitation of potential patents.
 - The name of the mentor assigned by the University of Murcia.
 - The name of the responsible person assigned by the enterprise.
 - The name of the director(s) of the thesis, who must comply with the doctoral regulations of the University of Murcia.
 - The commitment of the enterprise to facilitate the deposit and defense of the thesis procedures when the doctoral candidate, along with their directors and mentor, consider that is the time to do so. If in doubt, the decision of the University of Murcia will prevail through the General Doctoral Commission.
 - The commitment of the enterprise to respect the ethical rules and good practices in the research of the University of Murcia in the development of the research project.
5. The signing of this agreement is a precondition for the submission of the report mentioned in Article 2 of this protocol, which is required to validate the industrial nature of the research plan.

Article 5. Compromise document of the enterprise

1. If the industrial research or experimental development project is conducted by the enterprise without the collaboration of the University of Murcia, and consequently, the thesis is to be supervised by, at least one doctorate from the enterprise, a collaboration agreement will not be required.
2. In any event, the mentor of the doctoral candidate must be a professor from a doctoral programme at the University of Murcia, who will be responsible for ensuring the adequacy of the work developed in the doctoral thesis and the training of the doctoral candidate in accordance with the requirements established in the doctoral programme.
3. In this case, a compromise document containing at least the following information must be signed by the enterprise:
 - The explicit acknowledgement of the interest of the enterprise in the development of the industrial research project and the doctoral candidate research plan.
 - The name of the director assigned by the enterprise and the commitment of supervision of the doctoral thesis until it is complete.



- The commitment for the doctoral candidate to invest the necessary time in the working day to develop the doctoral thesis.
- The percentage of working day devoted by the doctoral candidate to the development of the research plan.
- Confidentiality clauses, including in all processes that lead to the presentation of the thesis, which must be in accordance with the protocol established by the university.
- Agreements related to the publication of research results.
- Agreements related to the exploitation of potential patents.
- The name of the mentor assigned by the University of Murcia.
- Ownership of industrial and intellectual property rights.
- The commitment of the enterprise to facilitate the process, in any case, when the doctoral candidate in agreement with the directors and mentor, considers that it is the right time to deposit the doctoral thesis. In case of doubt, the decision of the University of Murcia will prevail through the General Doctoral Commission.
- The commitment of the enterprise to respect the ethical rules and good practices in the research of the University of Murcia in the development of the research project.

All these issues will have to comply with the doctoral regulations of the University of Murcia.

4. The signing of this agreement is a precondition for the submission of the report mentioned in Article 2 of this protocol, which is required to validate the industrial nature of the research plan.
5. At any time and at the initiative of a doctoral candidate or professor at the University of Murcia, EIDUM can be requested to start the procedures to solicit this compromise document to the enterprise. The enterprise may also present this document to EIDUM on its own initiative.
6. EIDUM will facilitate the process by providing templates of different documents that can be adapted to each specific case. Once the agreements with the enterprise have been concluded, EIDUM will be responsible for the internal management of the documentation.

Article 6. Communication between the individuals involved

1. It is essential for the proper monitoring of the progress of the training of the student and the development of the research plan, that there is fluid and frequent communication between all the individuals involved.
2. The responsible person at the enterprise and the directors of the thesis, if different,



must meet at least twice a year, preparing a record of these meetings which must be sent to the Academic Commission of the programme. The mentor must attend at least one of these meetings.

3. The doctoral candidate must have regular communication with the responsible person at the enterprise, as well as with the thesis directors and the mentor, if different. The doctoral candidate will include an overview of these meetings in the activity document of the dossier. As a reference, the doctoral candidate should communicate at least every two weeks with the responsible person at the enterprise and the directors, and at least every three months with the mentor.

Article 7. Entry into force of these Guidelines

1. This protocol will be applied to students enrolling for the first time in a doctoral programme of the University of Murcia starting in the 2022-23 academic year.
2. For students enrolled prior to the 2022-2023 academic year, the protocol approved by the General Doctoral Commission on December 17, 2017, as proposed by EIDUM Board of Director on December 13, 2017, will be applied.