

## **REGULATION FOR ESTABLISHING AND CONDUCTING THE PhD COURSE**

*(Rules issued 31/05/2022; revised 09/06/2026)*

### **Art. 1 – Aims and area of application**

1. This Regulation disciplines the establishment and function of the PhD course at the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research (hereinafter IRFMN), in respect of the criteria and requisites indicated in current law.

2. The PhD in Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology is based on a close relation between advanced cultural preparation and practical research, to which is given high priority. The course provides the skills required for clinical and experimental research in public and private organisations.

### **Art. 2 - Accreditation, organisation and duration of the courses**

1. IRFMN organises PhD courses subordinated to accreditation by the (Italian) Ministry of the University and Research (MUR). Accreditation involves authorisation to set up the PhD course (five-year duration), with periodical checks when the conditions for accreditation need to be met.

2. Except when otherwise allowed by law, the legal duration of the PhD course must not be less than three years.

3. IRFMN adopts a system to ensure the quality of the planning and management of the PhD training course, meeting the quality assurance standards set out for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

### **Art. 3 – Organisation of the PhD courses**

1. The courses are run by a Board of Teachers and a Coordinator, in agreement with the Director of IRFMN.

### **Art. 4 – Board of Teachers and the Coordinator**

1. The members of the Board of Teachers are proposed by the Heads of Department and nominated by the Director of the IRFMN among first and second level professors (full and associate), research department heads and top researchers whose research is in accordance with accreditation requirements and legal regulations. This appointment is made for each doctoral cycle.

2. Professors or researchers from a university or other body outside IRFMN can be nominated to the Board, with their employer's agreement. Professors, research heads, and anyone holding an equivalent position in a research organisation can be a member of the Board of Teachers.

3. As an organisation issuing qualifications equivalent to a research doctorate, for its PhD courses IRFMN, starting from the academic year 2022-2023 IRFMN will apply the procedures and accreditation requirements specified for High Schools with Special Regulations (see art. 3, section 3, DM 226/2021 [Ministerial Decree]). These specify that the IRFMN Board of Teachers must have at least six members, including the Coordinator. The Board must maintain gender balance, where possible. At least half the members of the Board should be first and second level university professors, or have equivalent qualifications in foreign universities or public research organisations. DM 226/2021 allows the Board to include up to one third of research experts not from universities or public research organisations but possessing the recognised high level of scientific or professional qualification in research in line with the program of the PhD training course. The composition of the Board must in any case respect the ministerial requirements for accreditation.

4. For PhD courses in agreement with foreign universities and institutions, the Board of Teachers must satisfy the criteria specified above, and their specific agreements.

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5. Each member of the Board may only participate in just one Board on a national level in Italy. The sole exception to this rule is when a member is part of a Board of another doctorate course organised in association form with other institutions, including industrial PhD courses and those considered as of national interest, as defined in DM 226/2021.
6. The composition of the Board is decided by the Director of IRFMN and updated yearly, at the occasion of the request for its activation, and is deposited with MUR, together with the application for accreditation.
7. At the beginning of each cycle, the Board of Teachers takes charge of cycles of the same course that are still active and not yet completed. In the case of newly established courses, the Board is competent to take decisions from the day after its appointment, in accordance with verification procedures and deadlines set by the MUR.
8. The Board of Teachers is entrusted with defining the aims, for planning and organising the PhD courses, and has scientific, organisational and didactic responsibility.
9. The Board of Teachers can pass resolutions on the following subjects:
  - a. definition and criteria for assessment of the tests for admission to the PhD course.
  - b. assigning study grants/fellowship;
  - c. appointing supervisors, as under sections 16 and 17;
  - d. yearly planning and monitoring of the research training;
  - e. terms and modalities of yearly verification of the activities carried out and the results produced by the PhD students, and admission of the students to the next year;
  - f. exclusion of students on the basis of motivated opinions from the supervisors and approval from the Director of IRFMN;
  - g. authorisation of activities compatible with the PhD course;
  - h. identification of the assessors of the PhD thesis;
  - i. setting the dates for the final research doctorate examination;
  - j. applications for transfer;
  - k. approval of agreements for joint supervision;
  - l. opinions on convention agreements with universities and research organisations, public or private institutions, or companies;
  - m. appointment of the members of the Admission Committee, as of article 9, and the Selection Committee as at article 22, to propose to the Director of IRFMN.
10. The Board of Teachers meetings are valid when attended, in person or telematically, by the absolute majority of the members, allowing for justified absences. The Board member cannot delegate its functions to non-members.
11. The resolutions of the Board of Teachers are validly accepted with a vote in favor by the absolute majority of the participants, present or remotely. Should the numbers of votes be equal, the Coordinator's vote holds.
12. The minutes of the Board of Teachers' meetings and their resolutions are duly signed, and transmitted to the appropriate offices within ten working days of the Board meeting.
13. To answer questions relating to didactic or organisational problems, the Board meetings may be attended by no more than two representatives of the students, who have no right of vote.
14. These two representatives of the students hold the position for three years. The election is then organised, in good time, by the Coordinator. The active and passive electorate comprises students enrolled at the date of the election. The election is valid if at least one third of those with the right to vote take part. If the numbers of votes are the same, a draw will be run.
15. The representatives of the students shall lapse if they lose their qualification, and if this is before the end of their mandate they are replaced by running through the list of candidates not elected, or by election when this is not possible. The mandate of the replacement ends with the three-year period of the other representatives.
16. For each student, the Board of Teachers will nominate a supervisor and one or more co-supervisors, at least one academic. They may come from outside the Board, but at least one must meet the same requirements as for the Board member.

17. Supervisors and co-supervisors are responsible for overseeing the student's research and preparation of the thesis. They cover this rule until the student graduates. supervisors must guarantee a number of years of service equal at least to the duration of the doctorate, including the award of the final title .

Should the supervisor retire during the course, s/he may be named co-supervisor and a new supervisor will be nominated. Researchers on fixed-term contracts may be nominated co-supervisors. Any changes to these nominations will be decided by the Board of Teachers.

#### **Art. 5 – Coordinator**

1.The Coordinator is a full professor working full-time or, if no such person is available, a full-time associate professor. The Coordinator should have a high-level scientific qualification, confirmed on the basis of the qualifications currently required by law for a full professor. The Coordinator can act in this capacity only in one Board.

2. The Coordinator is nominated by the Board of Teachers and holds the position for three years, renewable only once. Further mandates are possible after an interruption of at least one mandate.

3.The Coordinator can nominate a Deputy Coordinator to replace him/her in all the functions should s/he be absent or unable to attend to them. The Deputy Coordinator will be selected among the members of the Board of Teachers.

4.The Coordinator is responsible for the organization, management and coordination of the teaching work and for starting the research to be done during the course.

It is the Coordinator's responsibility:

a.To convoke and chair the Board of Teachers meetings and set the Order of the Day

b.To coordinate training during the course;

c.To adopt any urgent measures required by the Board of Teachers, and have them ratified by the Board.

5. The representatives of the students in the Area Council can take part in the Board of Teachers meetings when dealing with teaching or organizational matters.

#### **Art. 6 – Requisites for access to the Course**

1. Anyone with one of the following academic titles can enrol in the PhD Course, with no limit on age or nationality:

a. a specialised or master's degree in biology, pharmaceuticals, chemistry, medicine, veterinary and engineering, mathematics, statistics and informatics, to list only some examples.

b. degrees of the previous legal system (old system) in the subjects listed at a);

c. a second-level academic title issued abroad, recognised as equivalent to one of those listed at a) and b);

2. Any specific requirements will be indicated in the Call.

3. The academic title valid for access to the PhD course, as at section 1 above, must have been obtained by the date of enrolment in the course. Candidates awaiting receipt of the title, who have won a position in the course, can enrol under reserve. Enrolment will be considered final when the candidate produces proof of having obtained the title, with the modalities and within the terms set down in the Admission announcement. The title must in any event be obtained before the course starts.

4. For candidates with a title obtained abroad, a Selection Committee will check that it meets the requirements of current Italian law and that of the country where it was issued, and of any international treaties or agreements on the subject of recognising such titles.

At enrolment holders of titles earned abroad will have to present a document confirming their eligibility. This might be a Diploma Supplement, a Declaration of Value or a statement of validity issued by the Italian diplomatic authorities in the country where the qualification was obtained, and an affidavit of equivalence of qualification issued by the appropriate international centers.

IRFMN reserves the right to make any further checks even after the student has enrolled, should there be any doubt about the type or nature of the title.

5.Should these checks find that the title presented fails to meet the requirements for access as per sections 1, 3 and 4, the candidates concerned will be excluded from the course, and will be obliged to refund any grant funds inappropriately received.

### **Art. 7 – Call for participation**

1. Admission to the PhD courses is based on comparative assessment of the candidates, through a publicly consultable selection procedure.
2. The announcement, in Italian and English, is published on the IRFMN website, on the Euraxess site and the MUR site. It indicates:
  - a. the date when the course is scheduled to begin, and its legal duration;
  - b. the number of positions available including those with grants;
  - c. details of financial assistance, from research funds or other IRFMN resources, including research grants, which may be assigned to one or more candidates considered eligible;
  - d. the documents candidates need to present to take part in the admission tests;
  - e. modalities and times for the admission tests and selection criteria;
  - f. modalities and times for presenting an application.
3. Should further positions become available after the date set by the announcement, these may be assigned, as long as they are made known and published at least ten days before the admission tests are held.
4. Further candidates for the PhD course may be admitted, if funds are available, for up to a month before the course begins. Eligible candidates will be admitted in ranking order.

### **Art. 8 – Admission tests**

1. The Board of Teachers conducts the admission tests, in one of the following ways:
    - a. Assessment of qualifications, written test and interview, or
    - b. Assessment of qualifications, and interview.
  2. The admission tests will be held as specified in the Call for selection. They may be taken in any one of the languages indicated there.
- When the qualifications are being examined no candidates are allowed to be present.

### **Art. 9 – Admission committees**

1. The Director of the IRFMN, in response to a proposal from the Board of Teachers, will nominate an admission committee, usually made up of three to five members selected from the Board, the IRFMN training manager, research directors and top researchers.
2. The committee guarantees fair comparative evaluation of candidates on the basis of the criteria established by the Board of Teachers. Before the tests start the Commission can specify any sub-criteria for evaluation, publicised the same way as the Call for Admission.
3. If agreed in advance the Commission can call in one or more experts to assess only candidates involved in Conventions.
4. The Committee can conduct its preliminary meeting and the evaluation of qualifications and/or research projects remotely.
5. The Committee is chaired normally by the most senior professor; if there are two of equal rank the oldest serves as chairman. The Committee may establish other criteria for nominating its chairman.

### **Art. 10 – Ranking by merit**

1. When the selection procedure is complete, the Admission Committee will draw up a single ranking list. It may draw up other specific ranking lists for admission if there are any positions reserved by law or in other cases where the Call allows for reserves.

If the Call includes positions on specific topics, the Admission Committee assesses the suitability of candidates who have expressed interest in these positions to be selected, following the procedures and schedules set down in the Call. Their assessment takes into consideration the candidate's specific skills, experience and attitudes, and how these meet the requirements of the position to be filled.

The Director of the IRFMN will approve the minutes of the selection meetings, and the general ranking according to merit.
2. Candidates who have passed this evaluation are admitted to the PhD course in the order of rank, up to the number of places available. Places for specific topics will only be assigned to candidates judged suitable by the Admission Committee.

3. Those awarded places must complete their enrolment in the times set out in the Call.
4. Should someone renounce a position, and posts with study grants become available, all those assigned positions without grants will be contacted, including any who had already withdrawn.
5. Should a winning candidate expressly or tacitly renounce the post, a communication is sent to the candidate next on the list, as required by the Call. Suitable candidates to take this place, but who have not enrolled at the time and in the way indicated in this communication, will be considered to have tacitly renounced the post.
6. Scrolling down the ranking list can continue to within no more than 45 days from the beginning of the Course.
7. Winners already enrolled in a PhD course must give up their place in that course to be able to enrol in this one. Candidates who have already received a study grant for a doctorate in Italy cannot use it a second time.

#### **Art. 11 – Admission of extra students**

1. Extra students fulfilling the following conditions can be admitted if they have participated in the Call for Admission as in art.7, and pass the admission tests, as in art.8:
  - a. recipients of study grants from Italian ministries or equivalents in their country of birth, nationality, residence and/or domicile;
  - b. candidates receiving funds under international training and mobility programs, and/or from countries with an agreement for admission to the PhD course.
2. Candidates falling under b. above can be admitted to the PhD course as extra numbers without being obliged to participate in the Call referred to in art.7, or passing the admission tests, as at art.8, but must be selected following the comparative evaluation procedure, with a positive opinion from the Board of Teachers on their scientific eligibility.

#### **Art. 12 – Taxes and enrolment fees**

1. Enrolment in the course is tax-free for the PhD student.

#### **Art. 13 – Study grants**

1. To be accredited as a non-associated doctoral course, there must be at least three study grants.
2. Students receive their study grants at the end of each month, starting from the date when the course begins.
3. The minimum study grant is established by Ministerial Decree. When the course is starting the Director of IRFMN may raise this minimum, to an amount decided annually by the academic bodies, in respect of legal requirements. When this happens, the increase is applied to all the study grants offered during the PhD course.
4. All the students, for whatever purpose they enrolled, must receive an additional ‘allowance’ of half their study grant, for research abroad. This allowance cannot be spent on any stay shorter than one whole month, and not in the student’s place of residence. The foreign research allowance can be used for up to 12 months.
5. For all students, regardless of their reasons for enrolling in the PhD course, from the start of the course and until they receive their doctorate, IRFMN guarantees an allowance of not less than 10% of the study grant. This sum, managed by the Institute, is to be used to finance training and research in Italy and abroad, including travel expenses.
6. Holders of study grants are obliged to make INPS (Italian healthcare and pension scheme) contributions as required by current law. The IRFMN will pay two thirds and students one third. Doctoral students benefit full protection and related rights.
7. Students with unfunded PhD positions may carry out paid activities with no income thresholds, provided that they are compatible with the regular progress of the PhD course and as long as they are previously authorised by the Board of Teachers. The research activity must be carried out full-time, thus ensuring the student’s presence at the selected site for the PhD course, in accordance with the student’s research project and the Board of Teachers’ decision.

#### **Art. 14 - PhD students’ rights and duties**

1. On enrolling in a PhD course students follow the course until they graduate, or are excluded from the course, or decide to leave it. Exclusions from these courses are decided by the Director of IRFMN. The legal duration of the course does not affect the compatibility or incompatibility described at articles 15 and 16.
2. Students must attend the PhD course full time for its whole legal duration, in line with articles 14, 18 and 24.
3. Students must attend teaching programs and work on the research planned by the Board of Teachers for each academic year, presenting their calculations and results as specified by the Board.  
The Board of Teachers will assess the students' work at least once a year. Students with a negative assessment will be excluded from the course and their study grants will be stopped at the date of the exclusion Decree.
4. Presenting the appropriate application to the IRFMN, a student may at any time irrevocably renounce the following:
  - a. enrolment in the PhD course;
  - b. the study grant, while remaining enrolled in the PhD course.
5. Either of these decisions will result in the study grant stopping from the date of the renouncements.
6. A student who is excluded or leaves the course, as at points 3 and 4, will be obliged to reimburse any payments received after the date of exclusion or renouncement.
7. During the legal duration of the PhD course, with the authorisation of the Board of Teachers, students may do research or training work in line with their doctorate project, at highly qualified institutions abroad.
8. As part of their training program, students may, with the approval of the Board of Teachers and without increasing their study grants, tutor students in master's and other degree courses. At the end of the PhD course this condition will no longer apply.
9. Male and female students will benefit from the Protection of Parenthood measures under current law.
10. To continue the course, PhD students must enter in the IRIS catalogue all the data relating to their scientific production, maintaining all the confidentiality rights set out at art.20.1.
11. On completing the PhD course, students will be asked to complete an online questionnaire assessing the course.

#### **Art. 15 - Compatible activities**

1. The Board of Teachers may ask students to serve as tutors, after obtaining a favorable opinion from the supervisor, and assessing how this would be compatible with their training, and useful for their research.
2. Students must obtain authorisation before undertaking any tutoring work.

#### **Art. 16 – Incompatibility and accumulation of work**

1. Enrolment in a PhD course is incompatible with the following:
  - a. enrolment in another PhD course, and other such hypothetical situations falling under current law;
  - b. work as a contract professor as the owner of courses, teaching schemes and language training, at any university or other institution that issues academic titles.
2. The PhD study grant cannot be accumulated with:
  - a. other study grants, for whatsoever title except those issued by national and international institutions, or by foreign countries, to be employed for the student's stays abroad;
  - b. funds allocated to doctors receiving specialist medical training. The PhD study grant is suspended as long as the student is enrolled at the same time in the specialisation school.
  - c. Research grants. Recipients of research grants, winners of study grants as part of a PhD course, must give up the research or study grant as of the starting date of the courses.
3. Incompatibility as at a) renders the second enrolment invalid. Any other incompatibilities and prohibitions on accumulation of funds exclude the student from the PhD course.

#### **Art. 17 – Clinical assistance by medical and veterinary PhD students**

1. PhD students with medical and veterinary subjects may, when authorised by the Board of Teachers, provide clinical and veterinary assistance, in the forms and following the methods disciplined by their respective academic bodies, and agreed between IRFMN and the structures involved.

### **Art. 18 – Combined attendance of PhD courses and medical specialization schools**

1. Doctors training to be medical specialists can also follow the PhD courses, under the following conditions:
  - a. compatible distances between the medical specialisation school and the PhD course, confirmed by the Board of the specialisation school, and the PhD Board of Teachers;
  - b. incompatibility between the PhD study grant and any payments, under whatever heading, received from the specialisation school.
2. Students combining their work, as above, may apply to the Board of Teachers for a reduction of their doctoral studies. The Board will consider the request if it deems the research done during the student's medical specialisation compatible with the PhD project. The specialisation school will also be asked to assess whether the application is compatible with its own teaching aims. If this application is accepted, the PhD course will still last no less than two years.
3. For students enrolled in a medical specialisation course, the Regulation referring to specialisation schools, issued under D.R. No.1/2011, dated 03/01/2011, and the specialist training contract will apply.

### **Art. 19 – Suspension and extensions**

1. PhD students may request suspension of the course, in the following situations:
  - a. obligatory civil service;
  - b. documented serious disease;
  - c. documented serious personal or family reasons.
2. In any of these situations, the student may apply for suspension of studies for from one to six months, unless the law specifies different conditions.
3. Attendance at the course is obligatorily suspended in case of fully documented maternity, paternity, adoption or fostering, as specified under current law, and for illness or accident lasting more than 30 days. PhD students enjoy protection of maternity as per the Minister of Labor and Social Security decree dated 12 July 2007, and the provisions of the last part of section 6 of art. 22 of Law no. 240, dated 30 December 2010, which also applies to pension funds other than INPS.
4. The legal duration of the course is extended by the sum of the suspension periods.
5. The student's work cannot be suspended beyond the end of the Course.
6. Applications for suspension should be made by presenting a documented request to IRFMN, and the suspension cannot start before the date of this application.
7. During a suspension the PhD student's work and any study grant payments are also suspended.
8. At the end of the suspension, the student attends the course again, informing the Research Doctorate Secretariat that s/he is still enrolled for the current academic year. Students who fail to do this will be excluded. Study grant recipients will receive their payments when they return to the course, for up to the total grant.
9. In response to a request from the supervisor and with the students' agreement, the Board of Teachers may decide to extend the course for motivated scientific reasons. The course may be prolonged for a month at a time, for up to six months, and will be financed by IRFMN funds.
10. In response to a request from a student, the Board of Teachers can also extend the time limit for presenting the doctoral thesis – for not more than six months, when the student can prove it is not possible to complete it in the scheduled time. This extension is allowed with no charge to IRFMN.
11. Suspensions or extensions allowed to the PhD students, as set out here, must not exceed 18 months, unless the law specifically permits them.

### **Art. 20 – Ownership of results and confidentiality**

1. Intellectual and industrial ownership rights on results obtained by the students, including – merely as examples – software, industrial inventions, patentable or not, know-how, models, data and data collections, are managed in line with current law and with IRFMN regulations or, as appropriate, on the basis of single agreements with universities, companies or other bodies involved.
2. PhD students will sign an undertaking regarding the confidentiality of all information, data and documents to which they have access in the course of their work at and/or for the IRFMN.

### **Art. 21 – Achieving the title of research doctor**

1. The title of research doctor, sometimes specifying the curriculum followed, is awarded as the result of a positive evaluation of the student's doctoral thesis, which contributes to the advancement of knowledge and methods in the research area selected. The final diploma should come with a document certifying the training work done by the student (Diploma Supplement). Starting from the 40th cycle and by the date of submission of the thesis, doctoral students must have published or submitted for publication a scientific article or review relevant to their doctoral project. It is essential that the article/review is published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

2. The doctoral thesis, with an Abstract in English, summarises the topic, with a report of the work done, and a list of the relative publications, in Italian or English, or any other language authorised by the Board of Teachers.

3. The thesis, with the report describing the work during the course, and the list of any articles published, is submitted to at least two reviewers, unpaid volunteers not connected to the organisation issuing the thesis, selected by the Board of Teachers. At least one of the reviewers should be a university staff member. Within 30 days of receiving the thesis, the reviewers will provide a written analytical assessment, and propose its admission for discussion, or else allow not more than six months for any significant additions or corrections they consider necessary. At the end of this period the thesis is admitted for discussion, with a new opinion from the reviewers, taking account of the modifications made.

4. For admission to discussion, the student must deposit the thesis in digital format in the IRFMN institutional archive, where it will be stored and made publicly consultable.

5. The thesis will be discussed with the selection committee, as specified at article 22, and unless there are exceptional reasons to keep the results confidential, it will be public. At the end of the discussion, the committee will write a full report with its joint assessment of the thesis and explaining the decision.

6. Should the student be absent without justification at the final examination, s/he will lose the right to the PhD.

### **Art. 22 – Examination Panels**

1. The director of the IRFMN, in response to a proposal from the Board of Teachers, will nominate an examination panel for the PhD course, maintaining gender balance when possible. The committee is normally composed of three to five professors and/or university researchers. For a PhD course divided according to subject matter, the committee may be enlarged to include at least one professor or researcher competent in each subject. Each committee nominates a number of spare members.

2. Supervisors and co-supervisors of the students cannot serve in the panel, and at least two thirds of its members must not be from the administrative center of the course, and not more than one third involved in the course, as at art.3, section 2 of D.M 226/2021. At least two thirds of the panel members must hold academic positions.

3. After the discussion, the committee sets down its opinion in detail in writing, and when there is unanimous agreement on the scientific merit of the thesis, it may assign honors.

4. Reimbursement of the committee's expenses is covered by the regulation on missions, transfers and relative reimbursement of expenses, issued with D.R. no. 21/2014 dated 10/01/2014.

5. Panel members can take part remotely in the discussion of a thesis.

6. The panel is usually chaired by the most senior professor, and if there are two or more equal, the oldest. Should any member be unavailable for any reason, his/her place will be taken by one of the extra members nominated as at point 1 above.

### **Art. 23 – International agreements on PhD degrees**

1. IRFMN promotes the use of international PhD agreements with foreign institutions and centers, aimed at establishing cooperation for several years. With the approval of the Board of Teachers, IRFMN can draw up agreements for the following purposes:

- a. organising joint PhD programs;
- b. entering into co-tutelle agreements;

- c. incentivating and encouraging PhD students to move around.
2. Agreements for joint PhD programs cover the materials listed at art.24, section 3, and also discipline the following:
- a. the site for enrolment of PhD students;
  - b. students' contributions and exonerations;
  - c. the selection procedures, as indicated under arts. 11 and 12, by international committees and/or European Union institutions when there is a competitive financing procedure;
  - d. establishing the criteria for the composition of examination and assessment panels;
  - e. arranging students' mobility and the staff involved;
  - f. establishing the procedures for writing and discussing the theses;
  - g. deciding the name and type of title to be issued (double, multiple or joint).
- 3.Co-tutelle agreements: besides the subjects referred to in art.24, section 3, these also discipline the following:
- a. PhD course(s) involved;
  - b. students' contributions and exonerations;
  - c. insurance schemes;
  - d. the modalities and place where the final examination will be held;
  - e. criteria for the composition of the examination panel, making sure all contracting universities are equally represented;
  - f. the exact names of the titles issued by the contracting universities to students who pass the final examination.
4. Individual co-tutelle agreements discipline the following:
- a. the starting date and duration of the PhD course;
  - b. the subject of the research project;
  - c. mobility plans. For the individual co-tutelle agreements in favor of students enrolled at foreign universities, the student must spend at least one year- not necessarily continuous - doing research at IRFMN. Periods of less than one year, but in any case more than six months, must be approved by the Board of Teachers;
  - d. the provisional title of the thesis;
  - e. the names of supervisors from the administrative center and the host center;
  - f. the exact titles issued by the contracting universities to students who pass the final examination.
5. Individual co-tutelle agreements can be drawn up for students enrolled at IRFMN or foreign universities. Individual co-supervision agreements are usually drawn up during the student's first year. In certain cases, individual co-supervision agreements can be drawn up for students in the first semester of their second year.
6. Students with co-tutelle arrangements are expected to observe the rights and obligations set out in the present Regulation. Their work and results may be evaluated by the Board of Teachers, to decide whether they can move on to the next year of the course.

**Art. 24 - Final and transient details**

- 1.This 'Regulation' will come into effect on the day after the date of publication, and will be applied starting from the 39th cycle.
2. For any question not specifically covered here reference is made to Ministerial Decree no. 226, dated 14 December 2021, and current law on research doctorates.

Milan, 09 June 2026



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