

UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

DOCTORAL-STUDIES REGULATION

Government Gazette B' 4176/08.07.2026

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

*This translation is provided for informational and administrative purposes. In
the event of any discrepancy, the formal Greek text published in the
Government Gazette prevails.*

Rethymno, 2026

DOCTORAL-STUDIES REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

Article 1

ORGANISATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

(a) Doctoral studies in the Department of Psychology at the University of Crete (UoC) constitute the third cycle of studies and are organised in accordance with the legislation in force, with the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-study Programmes of the UoC as well as with the current Doctoral-studies Regulation of the Department of Psychology.

(b) Third-cycle study programmes in Psychology aim to produce original knowledge that contributes to the advancement of psychological science at both theoretical/experimental and applied levels. Doctoral studies adopt a broad perspective that concerns not only the successful completion of this cycle of studies but also the preparation of the candidate for an independent research and scientific career in fields treated by psychological science. This preparation is rendered possible through a collective framework of departmental actions which aim at encouraging constructive dialogue and mobilising candidates towards pursuing scientific challenges and innovative scientific research as based on the ethical and epistemological principles governing psychological science.

(c) The Department's Doctoral-studies Programme includes the compulsory writing of a doctoral dissertation on objects of study related to the scientific fields treated by the Department of Psychology or collaborating Departments. Upon decision of the Departmental Assembly, it may also include a self-contained curriculum. Upon successful defence of the doctoral dissertation, the Programme leads to the award of a doctoral degree. This degree is a high-level academic qualification corresponding to Level eight (8) of the National and European Qualifications Framework, in accordance with Article 47 of Law 4763/2020.

(d) Doctoral studies are organised either exclusively by the Department of Psychology of the UoC or in collaboration with other Departments of the UoC or with other institutions or bodies in Greece or abroad, in accordance with the legislation in force, with the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-study Programmes of the UoC, and with the current Regulation. Doctoral studies may be organised under joint supervision through collaboration between the Department and another Department of a Higher Education Institution (HEI), research centre, or other scientific body. In this case, a special cooperation protocol is drawn up between the participating bodies and one supervisor is appointed by each body. Administrative responsibility is assumed by one of the collaborating institutions and the dissertation must be written over a period of at least three (3) years from the appointment of the supervising faculty members or researchers. Topics pertaining to the procedure of dissertation writing, from the selection of the doctoral candidate to the award of the doctoral degree as well as the award of a single or separate title where institutions collaborate, are provided in the relevant special cooperation protocol. The Protocol is drawn up by the collaborating Departments or bodies and is approved by the relevant Senate or the collective governing bodies of the research centres or scientific bodies in question.

(e) Doctorates under Article 96 of Law 4957/2022 (“Industrial Doctorates”) may be implemented for candidates who meet the admission requirements, in accordance with the provisions for the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC and with the current Regulation.

Article 2

COMPETENT BODIES

a. The competent bodies for establishing and operating the Doctoral Studies Programme are the Senate of the UoC and the Assembly of the Department of Psychology. The Assembly of the Department of Psychology exercises all power conferred upon it by law and by Article 29 of the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC.

b. The Secretariat of the Department of Psychology provides secretarial and administrative support for the Doctoral-studies Programme, including registrations, record-keeping, and related operations.

Article 3

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Candidates are eligible to apply for the treatment of a doctoral dissertation provided that they meet the following requirements:

a. They hold a first-cycle degree and a postgraduate degree awarded by a Greek HEI or by a recognised equivalent institution abroad, recognised by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (DOATAP); or they are graduates of an HEI undergraduate programme of at least five years' duration corresponding to three hundred (300) credits under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Where the foreign institution is not included in the register of recognised institutions and qualifications, the doctoral candidate may be conditionally admitted to the Doctoral-studies Programme, and registration shall be finalised only if the institution and the qualification held by the candidate are recognised by DOATAP.

b. For a doctoral dissertation in the fields of Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology, the candidate must hold a degree in Psychology from an HEI and a postgraduate specialisation degree in the corresponding or a related field, or equivalent documented professional experience.

c. At least one of the candidate's qualifications, whether the first-cycle degree or the postgraduate degree, must clearly pertain to Psychology, a branch of Psychology, or an academic field related to the research topic of the doctoral dissertation, and its relevance to psychological research must be adequately substantiated. In the latter case, the Departmental Assembly may require the candidate to successfully complete specified courses in an undergraduate or postgraduate study programme as a condition for pursuing the doctoral dissertation, in addition to any compulsory self-contained course programme provided for in the call for expressions of interest or the vacancy announcement under the procedures prescribed in the current Regulation. In such a case, the relevant Selection Committee submits to the Departmental Assembly a proposal identifying the courses to be attended to by the candidate. Attendance and successful examination in any such courses must be completed no later than the end of the second year of study.

d. They possess certified knowledge of English at a minimum level of B2.

Article 4

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

a. At least once in an academic year, the Department of Psychology publishes a call for expressions of interest in pursuing a doctoral dissertation. The call is publicised by all appropriate means and posted on the Department's website. It specifies in detail the application periods, requirements, terms, deadlines, required supporting documents, any maximum number of doctoral candidates to be admitted, procedures for submitting and selecting applications, the language of the dissertation, and any additional obligations of doctoral candidates, clauses, deliverables and deadlines for completing doctoral dissertations, in accordance with the current Regulation. The call for expressions of interest may also include a self-contained programme of courses under Article 1(c) of the current Regulation. Where such a programme is included, successful completion is compulsory and forms part of the candidate's formal obligations.

b. The Department may announce additional doctoral-candidate positions in specified academic fields, subject to special additional terms and conditions beyond those otherwise provided for in the current Regulation.

c. Applications to pursue a doctoral dissertation are submitted to the Department's Secretariat in printed or digital form. They are submitted during at least two periods in an academic year, from 1 to 20 September and from 1 to 20 January, unless otherwise specified in the call for expressions of interest aforementioned in paragraph (a) of this Article. In accordance with Article 38(2) of Law 4485/2017 and Article 31(3) of the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC, the application must state the proposed title of the doctoral dissertation, the proposed language of writing, which may be a language other than Greek and, in this event, preferably English, and the proposed supervisor, whose academic field or scholarly work must be related to the topic of the proposed doctoral dissertation.

The application shall be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

- (a) A detailed curriculum vitae.
- (b) A copy of the applicant's identity card or passport.
- (c) A declaration under Law 1599/1986 stating that the applicant is not concurrently pursuing a doctoral dissertation at an HEI in Greece or abroad.
- (d) A copy of the first-cycle degree and postgraduate degree, a full academic transcript or a certificate stating the degree grade, and, where required, a copy of the DOATAP recognition decision.
- (e) Evidence of knowledge of English.
- (f) Evidence of research, writing and/or professional experience, where such experience is stated in the curriculum vitae.
- (g) Two reference (2) letters from the applicant's professors in an undergraduate and/or postgraduate study programme.
- (h) A doctoral research plan, drafted as a research proposal in the proposed language of the dissertation, between 3,000 and 3,500 words in length, including at least: (i) the proposed title, the branch of Psychology studied, and the proposed supervisor; (ii) a concise literature review, the purpose and objectives of the proposed research, and its expected contribution to

science, with reference to its originality; (iii) the proposed methodology, data analyses and an estimation of expected results; and (iv) a bibliography.

Article 5

SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

- a. The Departmental Secretariat receives applications and supporting documents, verifies their formal correctness in accordance with the legislation in force and the current Regulation, registers them, and forwards them to the Departmental Assembly.
- b. Having considered the applications submitted, the Departmental Assembly appoints the competent three-member Candidate-selection Committee, which consists of Departmental faculty members whose fields of study are identical or related to the topic of the proposed dissertation. The Selection Committee examines the relevant applications and accompanying documents and may invite candidates to an interview. It subsequently submits a detailed memorandum to the Departmental Assembly outlining the reasons for recommending or not recommending the candidate's admission, any conditions attached to admission, and the proposed supervisor, subject to the supervisor's consent. The Departmental Assembly factors in the Committee's memorandum and approves or rejects the candidate's application through an informed decision.
- c. Following approval of the candidacy, the Departmental Assembly appoints the Three-member Advisory Committee, upon the suggestion of the proposed supervisor in accordance with the criteria prescribed in Article 6 of the current Regulation and Article 33 of the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC.
- d. The Departmental Secretariat informs all applicants, enters successful applicants in the Department's Register of Doctoral Candidates, and provides them with the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC, the relevant Doctoral-studies Regulation, and any other relevant regulative or informational document that the Department considers as required.
- e. A successful applicant is admitted to the Department's Doctoral-studies Programme with the dissertation topic having been submitted in their original application. Requests to approve a change, amendment or further specification of the topic and/or content of the doctoral dissertation are submitted by the doctoral candidate under the agreement of the Three-member Advisory Committee and are approved by the Departmental Assembly.
- f. In the case of collaboration with other universities, research centres, or bodies in Greece or abroad, matters pertinent in this Article are specified by the relevant Special-cooperation Protocol, in accordance with the current Regulation and the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC.
- g. The names of doctoral candidates, supervising faculty members or researchers, the titles and brief summaries of doctoral dissertations in progress as well as the members of the Three-member Advisory Committees are posted on the Department's website in Greek and English.

Article 6

SUPERVISION OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

- a. The following individuals may serve as members of the Three-Member Advisory Committee: (a) members of the Teaching and Research Staff (faculty members) of any rank in the Department of Psychology; (b) faculty members in other Departments of the UoC or another HEI; (c)

professors emeriti and retired faculty members of the Department of Psychology; (d) members of the Teaching and Research Staff of Higher Military Educational Institutions and Higher Ecclesiastical Academies; (e) researchers of any rank serving in research and technological bodies under Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 (Government Gazette A' 258), including the Academy of Athens and the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, provided that they hold a doctoral degree and conduct research related to the topic of the doctoral dissertation as well as emeriti and retired researchers of those bodies, subject to the same conditions; and (f) professors in foreign institutions and researchers in foreign research organisations.

b. The Three-member Advisory Committee consists of the supervisor and two additional members. Its responsibility is to support the doctoral candidate throughout the preparation and writing of the doctoral dissertation and to monitor its progress. Committee members must belong to an either identical or related academic field, or identical or related scholarly work, to the dissertation being treated. No more than one (1) professor emeritus or retired faculty member may serve on the Three-member Advisory Committee. Primarily, the doctoral candidate's supervisor is a faculty member of the Department of Psychology and belongs to the same or related academic field as that in which the doctoral research is being conducted. The supervising faculty member chairs the Three-member Advisory Committee. Where the supervisor falls within the categories (c) to (f) of paragraph (a) of this Article, at least one member of the Three-member Advisory Committee must be a faculty member of the Department of Psychology of the UoC whose academic field is identical or related to, or whose scholarly work is related to, the topic of the doctoral dissertation. In addition, one other Committee member must be a faculty member of the Department of Psychology or another Department of the UoC whose academic field is identical or related to, or whose scholarly work is related to, the topic of the doctoral dissertation. Where the supervisor is a faculty member of another Department of the UoC, at least one member of the Three-member Advisory Committee must be a faculty member of the Department of Psychology whose academic field is identical or related to, or whose scholarly work is related to, the topic of the doctoral dissertation. The supervisor and the members of the Advisory Committee are not entitled to remuneration or other compensation for supporting the treatment of the doctoral dissertation.

c. Faculty members on research leave may be appointed as supervisors or members of the Three-member Advisory Committee.

d. The doctoral candidate's supervisor chairs the Three-member Advisory Committee, which is responsible for supporting the candidate throughout the treatment of the doctoral dissertation. More specifically, the Three-member Advisory Committee:

- advises the doctoral candidate on defining the thematic area of the study and the research questions addressed through regular meetings, held at least twice a year;
- receives an annual update from the doctoral candidate on the progress of the research and evaluates this progress;
- evaluates and approves the candidate's annual progress memoranda and reports;
- discusses with the doctoral candidate matters relating to career prospects upon completion of the studies, whether in academia or another sector; discusses academic integrity and research ethics with the candidate and helps them develop an in-depth understanding of those matters;
- recommends to the Departmental Assembly that the doctoral candidate be removed from the Programme in the cases provided for in the current Regulation; and

- recommends to the Departmental Assembly a change, amendment, or further specification of the topic and/or content of the doctoral dissertation upon a request submitted by the doctoral candidate.
- e. The supervisor, in particular, works closely with the doctoral candidate, provides guidance, proposes corrections and offers advice on individual chapters during the writing of the doctoral dissertation, and reviews its overall completeness. At the same time, the supervisor encourages the candidate to engage in a broad range of activities (related to the wider academic field of the dissertation) and promotes participation in scientific conferences, seminars and workshops.
- f. A member of the Three-member Advisory Committee may be replaced by the Departmental Assembly following a substantiated justification submitted by the supervisor. Up to one member who has retired or transferred to another Department of the UoC, another HEI, or a research institution may remain on the Three-member Advisory Committee. If two Committee members retire or transfer, at least one of them shall be replaced by another member under decision of the Departmental Assembly.
- g. Where the supervisor must be replaced, treatment of the doctoral dissertation continues normally, with one of the other two members of the Three-member Advisory Committee undertaking supervision and a new member belonging to one of the categories in paragraph (a) of this Article being appointed to complete the Committee.
- h. Where the supervisor retires or transfers to another Department of the UoC, another HEI, or research institution, the supervisor may continue to supervise any doctoral dissertation already undertaken, provided that the supervisor consents.
- i. If, for any reason, the supervisor ceases to be available, is unable to perform the supervisory duties, or demonstrably fails to fulfill them, the Departmental Assembly may assign supervision to another supervisor following a request by the supervisor or the doctoral candidate. The new supervisor is preferably one of the other two members of the Three-member Advisory Committee. Alternatively, the new supervisor must meet the conditions applicable to the supervision of a doctoral dissertation. This provision applies correspondingly to the members of the Three-member Advisory Committee.
- j. If issues or disagreement arises between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate and/or members of the Three-member Advisory Committee, the issue is referred to the Departmental Assembly, which shall decide within a reasonable period of time.
- k. An individual may not serve on a doctoral candidate's Three-member Advisory Committee if this individual is related to the candidate by blood or affinity up to and including the fourth degree, or retains a particular relationship of friendship or hostility with the candidate.
- l. No supervisor may supervise more than the maximum of six (6) doctoral candidates.

Article 7

COMPOSITION AND CONDITIONS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

- a. The minimum period for treating a doctoral dissertation for the award of a doctoral degree may not be less than three (3) full calendar years from the date on which the Three-member Advisory Committee is appointed. The maximum period is six (6) calendar years and may be extended by decision of the Assembly of the Department of Psychology, where this is considered necessary, following a reasoned request by the doctoral candidate and the agreement of the Three-member

Advisory Committee. In exceptional circumstances, doctoral candidates are entitled to suspend the dissertation process for twelve months. The relevant decision is taken by the Departmental Assembly following an application by the doctoral candidate. The period of suspension is not counted towards the maximum prescribed duration of regular study. During the suspension, all provisions to the doctoral candidate are withdrawn.

b. The Three-member Advisory Committee evaluates progress annually. The doctoral candidate must submit a Progress Report to the Three-member Advisory Committee at least thirty (30) days before the end of each year following the Committee's appointment. The report describes the specific steps taken during the preceding year towards completion of the doctoral dissertation and sets out a timetable of activities for the following year. The doctoral candidate subsequently provides the Three-member Advisory Committee with an oral update on the progress of the dissertation at a meeting convened specifically to this end. The Three-member Advisory Committee completes a special form containing any observations on the report and submits it to the Departmental Secretariat, which places the documentation in the candidate's individual file, following submission of the candidate's Annual-progress Report and, optionally, an oral presentation before the Committee, which submits its evaluation to the Departmental Secretariat. The Departmental Assembly ratifies the Annual-progress Report.

c. The topic of the doctoral dissertation must be sufficiently contributing and innovative, must significantly advance knowledge in the field treated, and must yield results suitable for publication in the international scientific literature. Depending on its topic, the dissertation may be organised either in chapters, comprising an introduction, a literature review, a methodology, and the results and discussion, or as a series of research articles organised according to the standards of scientific journals, together with an appropriate introduction and literature review. In both cases, it is recommended that the text follow the writing-composition rules of the current edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, since those rules are established as an international standard in Psychology.

d. Where the dissertation is organised in chapters, a condition for proceeding to its defence is the acceptance for publication of at least one full article, rather than an abstract, in an international peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in international scientific databases, such as the ISI Web of Science, PsycINFO or Scopus-Elsevier. The article must be based on the dissertation and the doctoral candidate must appear as first author. Edited volumes and proceedings of international conferences are not taken into account for fulfilling this requirement, even when they apply peer review. The journal must be selected with the agreement of the Three-member Advisory Committee and with due regard to its standing in the international scientific community.

e. Where the dissertation is organised as a series of research articles, it must include at least three (3) articles, which must likewise be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in international scientific databases, such as the ISI Web of Science, PsycINFO or Scopus-Elsevier. Before the defence, the candidate must have secured final acceptance for publication of at least two (2) of the articles in such journals, and one additional article must have been submitted to a comparable journal and be under review. Edited volumes and proceedings of international conferences are not taken into account for fulfilling this requirement, even when they apply peer review. The journals must be selected with the agreement of the Three-member Advisory Committee and with due regard to their standing in the international scientific community.

f. In the scientific works referred to in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Article and published as scientific articles, one or more members of the Three-member Advisory Committee and/or other

members of the research team who have made a substantial contribution may be listed as co-authors, but the doctoral candidate must appear as first author.

g. The doctoral dissertation may be written in Greek or other language, preferably English. In both cases, the relevant rules of grammar and syntax must be followed with special care so that the text is readily readable. When the dissertation is written in Greek, it must include an extended summary of 2.000-3.000 words in English. Conversely, when it is written in other language, it must include an extended summary of 2.000-3.000 words in Greek.

Article 8

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

a. Doctoral studies are provided free of charge.

b. Doctoral candidates have the rights conferred upon postgraduate students by the applicable legal framework as well as all other rights and obligations prescribed in the current Regulation. For up to five (5) years after completion of their doctoral dissertation, doctoral candidates retain rights of access to, borrowing from, and use of the electronic services of the UoC Library.

c. Doctoral candidates are required to provide assistant teaching, laboratory or other research work, upon instruction from the supervisor and approval of the Departmental Assembly, in accordance with the legislation in force. Specifically, doctoral candidates must provide twelve (12) hours of assistant educational work per year and nine (9) hours of exam invigilation per semester, and may also be involved in other academic activities. These auxiliary duties must contribute meaningfully to preparing the candidate for a successful independent academic career, in accordance with the purpose of doctoral studies described in Article 1 of the current Regulation. The Departmental Assembly may approve hourly remuneration for such services where financial resources and an appropriate institutional framework are available.

d. Throughout the treatment of the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral candidate must follow the instructions of the supervisor and the members of the Three-member Advisory Committee and comply with the timetables prescribed in the current Regulation. Compliance with those obligations must be recorded in the Annual-progress Reports. Failure to fulfil those obligations renders the candidate's progress unsatisfactory. In such a case, the Three-member Advisory Committee is required to inform the Departmental Assembly, which shall decide on the issue.

e. The doctoral candidate is required to attend courses, seminars or lectures relevant to the treatment of the dissertation and to code of conduct and ethics of research, where such attendance is required during the candidate's assessment, under Article 1 of the current Regulation, or expressly stipulated in the call for expressions of interest or vacancy announcement, under Article 4 of the current Regulation, or required by the Three-member Advisory Committee.

f. The doctoral candidate commits to making promptly and willingly all corrections, improvements, and other changes indicated during the treatment of the dissertation and after its defence, and to submitting the completed final text to the Departmental Secretariat, the UoC Library, and the National-documentation Centre, before taking the doctoral oath.

g. Doctoral candidates must comply with the UoC policy on the management of intellectual property when publishing their dissertations or individual works which will be treated. In addition, throughout the implementation of their research and treatment of their doctoral dissertation, doctoral candidates must strictly comply with all Regulations concerning Ethics and Code of conduct approved by the Senate of the UoC.

h. Doctoral candidates may participate in UoC research projects and programmes and may receive scholarships or remuneration through co-funded, self-funded or other projects and programmes in order to finance their doctoral research.

Article 9

TREATMENT OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

a. The treatment of the doctoral dissertation begins upon the candidate's registration. The dissertation is treated by the doctoral candidate and is the product of the candidate's independent research, conducted in accordance with internationally-recognised standards, the legislation in force, the current Regulation, the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC, and the University's general institutional framework.

b. The doctoral dissertation is treated at the UoC using the infrastructure and equipment of the relevant Laboratory, the Department and the University, in communication with the supervisor and with the agreement of the head of the relevant unit. Part of the doctoral dissertation may be treated in other institutions and research centres in Greece or abroad with the agreement of the Three-member Advisory Committee. In the latter case, if the other institution or research centre requests from the doctoral candidate to sign any form of contract, the candidate must immediately inform the Departmental Assembly and submit the contract before signing it, so that it is communicated to the UoC Postgraduate-studies Committee and subsequently forwarded to the UoC Legal Service for the necessary review.

c. The title of the doctoral dissertation may be partially amended for scientific reasons, with the agreement of the supervisor, following a reasoned application by the doctoral candidate and a decision of the Departmental Assembly. An application for amendment may be submitted until the Three-member Advisory Committee files its explanatory report. In the case that the topic of the doctoral dissertation changes completely, the doctoral candidate is entitled to submit a new application and research proposal. The Departmental Assembly approves the new topic and the treatment of the new doctoral dissertation, while concurrently deciding to discontinue the previous doctoral dissertation. Then, the selection and supervision procedures prescribed in the current Regulation are followed from the beginning, and the time period already elapsed is not counted.

d. The composition of the Three-member Advisory Committee and the Seven-member Examination Committee must be stated prominently on the inside of the title page of every doctoral dissertation submitted and approved.

Article 10

REMOVAL OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES FROM THE PROGRAMME

a. A doctoral candidate may be removed from the Doctoral-studies Programme by decision of the Departmental Assembly following a reasoned recommendation by the Three-member Advisory Committee. Grounds for removal include the following:

- (a) A request by the doctoral candidate for voluntary withdrawal from the Department's Doctoral-studies Programme.
- (b) Unjustified exceeding of the maximum time period for treating the doctoral dissertation, in accordance with the legislation in force and the current Regulation.
- (c) Failure to submit two (2) consecutive detailed annual reports on the progress of the dissertation.

- (d) Systematic refusal by the doctoral candidate to follow the scientific guidance of the Three-member Advisory Committee or failure to respond to repeated attempts at communication by the supervisor and the members of the Three-member Advisory Committee.
- (e) A substantiated breach of ethical rules or other inappropriate academic or research conduct, including plagiarism, falsification of data and/or results, deliberate and malicious destruction or falsification of laboratory protocols or research diaries during the treatment of the doctoral dissertation, or more general research conduct that brings the Department and the UoC into disrepute.

Article 11

PROCEDURE FOR THE DEFENCE, EVALUATION, AND AWARD OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

- a. Upon completion of the research part of the doctoral dissertation and its composition, the doctoral candidate submits a request to the Three-member Advisory Committee for its public defence. The request is accompanied by the full text of the doctoral dissertation and a signed formal declaration stating that the dissertation contains original results produced from the research activity of the doctoral candidate and the candidate's collaborators, whose contribution to producing those results is expressly acknowledged. The request for public defence is also accompanied by the candidate's formal declaration that the dissertation is original and is not a product of plagiarism. Within a period not exceeding forty (40) days, the Three-member Advisory Committee examines the doctoral dissertation and verifies whether the remaining conditions prescribed in the current Regulation have been met. The Departmental Assembly appoints by decision the Seven-member Examination Committee with the aim to examine and evaluate the doctoral dissertation, in accordance with the legislation in force and the current Regulation.
- b. The Seven-member Examination Committee must include the members of the Three-member Advisory Committee and four (4) additional members belonging to the categories specified in cases (a) to (f) of Article 94(1) of Law 4957/2022. At least four (4) of its seven (7) members must be faculty members of the UoC. Retired faculty members and professors emeriti may not number more than two (2). In the case that a doctoral dissertation is prepared under joint supervision and/or in collaboration with another body, the provisions of the cooperation protocol between the collaborating institutions or bodies shall apply.
- c. If the Three-member Advisory Committee does not submit the report referred to in paragraph (a) to the Departmental Assembly within the prescribed period, the procedure may continue upon application by the doctoral candidate. In such a case, the Departmental Assembly examines the issue and sets a period of thirty (30) days within which the Three-member Advisory Committee must submit its report. In the case that the report of the Three-member Advisory Committee is negative, a period not exceeding six (6) months is set for applying improvements to the doctoral dissertation, after which the doctoral candidate submits a new request for public defence. If the Committee's report is negative again, the Departmental Assembly, at the request of the doctoral candidate, considers whether the procedure may continue and whether a Seven-member Examination Committee should be appointed.
- d. Following submission of the explanatory report by the Three-member Advisory Committee and appointment of the Seven-member Examination Committee by the Departmental Assembly, the doctoral candidate must submit the doctoral dissertation in digital form to the Departmental Secretariat, along with a formal declaration stating that:

“I am the sole author of the submitted doctoral dissertation entitled ‘...’. This doctoral dissertation is original and was treated exclusively for the purpose of obtaining the doctoral degree from the Department of Psychology ... All assistance received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and accurately stated in the doctoral dissertation. I also accurately state all sources used in the doctoral dissertation and restate by name any data or ideas that constitute a product of others’ intellectual property, even where their inclusion in the current doctoral dissertation was indirect or paraphrased. More generally, I certify that, in treating the doctoral dissertation, I have strictly complied with all legal provisions on intellectual property, the legislation on the protection of personal data, the principles of research ethics and code of conduct and academic integrity more generally.”

The formal declaration is attached on the verso before the title page of every doctoral dissertation submitted to the Department. Where it bears a digital signature, it may be retained on file electronically at the Departmental Secretariat.

e. The supervisor convenes the Seven-member Examination Committee, within a month from its appointment, by a special invitation to a specified place and time for the public defence of the doctoral dissertation. Where the supervisor is unable to do so, or after the passing of the month, the invitation is issued by the Departmental Head. The invitation is posted on the Department's website and displayed prominently on Departmental premises for the information of interested parties.

f. The place and time of the meeting for the public defence and examination of the doctoral dissertation are jointly determined by the supervisor and the doctoral candidate. The defence must take place no later than six (6) months after the Departmental Assembly appoints the Seven-member Examination Committee. At least fifteen (15) days before the defence, the supervisor informs the Departmental Secretariat of the place and time of the meeting. The Secretariat publicises the place and time at least seven (7) days before the date of the defence.

g. The doctoral candidate publicly defends the doctoral dissertation before the members of the Seven-member Examination Committee on UoC premises. The public defence may also be conducted by videoconference where the physical presence of all members of the Seven-member Examination Committee is not possible, provided that the doctoral candidate and at least three (3) members of the Examination Committee are physically present in the room. The supervisor coordinates the meeting and the entire examination procedure. Upon completion of the defence, the Seven-member Examination Committee confers in closed session, evaluates the doctoral dissertation in terms of quality, completeness, originality of thinking and contribution to science, and, on the basis of those criteria, approves the dissertation, as submitted or subject to incorporation of changes proposed by the Committee, or rejects the award of the doctoral degree by a reasoned decision. Award of the doctoral degree requires a positive evaluation of the dissertation and the agreement of at least five (5) members. The procedure may take place with a minimum attendance of five (5) members. The Seven-member Examination Committee composes a formal evaluation report on the doctoral dissertation and submits it to the Departmental Secretariat for forwarding to the Departmental Assembly.

h. By a majority decision of the members present, the Seven-member Examination Committee may propose additions, amendments or corrections, which must be provided to the doctoral candidate in writing and bear the signatures of the relevant members. In this case, the defence is evaluated as “successful subject to conditions” and, before the completion of the defence procedure, the members of the Seven-member Examination Committee provide the doctoral candidate with specific instructions concerning the corrections to the text they consider necessary.

The candidate must complete the changes within ninety (90) days of the defence and send the revised text to all seven members of the Examination Committee. At least five members must communicate with the supervisor and confirm in writing that they are satisfied with the corrections. The supervisor then informs the members of the Three-member Advisory Committee and the Departmental Assembly. Taking into account the decision and evaluation report of the Seven-member Examination Committee, together with the supervisor's confirmation that the corrections have been successfully completed, the Departmental Assembly declares the doctoral-dissertation process complete. The final version of the minutes of the Seven-member Examination Committee is signed by all members present, whether they participated in person or by videoconference. In the case of corrections, the Three-member Advisory Committee evaluates the completeness and accuracy of the final text.

i. Where the dissertation is approved, the Seven-member Examination Committee grades it as Good, Very Good, or Excellent. At the end of the procedure, minutes are composed, signed by all members of the Seven-member Examination Committee present, and submitted to the Departmental Assembly so that the doctoral candidate may be formally proclaimed a Doctor. The minutes must definitely include the reasons for the outcome of the procedure. Doctoral status is acquired on the date on which the Seven-member Examination Committee approves the doctoral dissertation. The proclamation by the Departmental Assembly is declaratory in character.

Article 12

PROCLAMATION AND OATH-TAKING-DOCTORAL-DEGREE CERTIFICATE

a. Following completion of the evaluation procedure and provided that the outcome is positive, the doctoral candidate submits the doctoral dissertation in digital form to the Departmental Secretariat, together with certificates confirming its submission both to the University's Library/Doctoral-dissertation Repository and to the National-documentation Centre.

b. At a meeting of the Departmental Assembly, the Head of the Department publicly presents to the body the documents certifying successful completion of the oral presentation and evaluation of the doctoral dissertation. These documents are ratified and incorporated into the minutes of the meeting.

c. The Doctor then takes the prescribed oath and is awarded the doctoral degree in accordance with the special chapter on ceremonial and protocol rules in the Internal Regulations of the UoC.

d. The doctoral-degree certificate states by name the UoC, the Department of Psychology, the full name of the Doctor, the grade awarded to the dissertation, namely Good, Very Good, or Excellent, the date of formal proclamation, and bears the logo of the UoC. The certificate is signed by the Rector, the Head of the Department of Psychology, and the Departmental Secretariat, and bears the seal of the University.

Article 13

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES

a. Doctorates under Article 96 of Law 4957/2022 ("Industrial Doctorates") may be implemented for candidates who meet the admission requirements, in accordance with the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC and the current Regulation.

b. Candidates who meet the general requirements for admission to doctoral-study programmes under Article 92 of Law 4957/2022, as in force, and the special requirements prescribed in the

current Regulation may apply to treat a doctoral dissertation in collaboration with a business or industry which is established or operates a branch in Greece. The dissertation shall involve industrial or applied psychological research aimed at generating research results for the production of innovative, usable knowledge or services. The procedure for treating the dissertation shall comply with the current Regulation and the corresponding Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC.

c. A cooperation protocol between the UoC, the collaborating company or industry or other private body or organisation, and the doctoral candidate, which is approved by the University's Senate, following a recommendation by the Departmental Assembly, specifies: the particular terms of collaboration for treating the doctoral dissertation within the company or industry and for producing the research results; the use of the University's infrastructure equipment, when the research is conducted at the University; and the obligations and rights of each contracting party, including the specification of intellectual-property rights in the work conducted during of the treatment of the doctoral dissertation. .

d. The collaborating company or industry designates one (1) representative with experience and knowledge relevant to the topic of the doctoral dissertation, whose duties include guiding the doctoral candidate. The representative may attend meetings of the Three-member Advisory Committee and the Seven-member Examination Committee without voting rights and may express their views.

e. During treating the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral candidate may conduct all or part of the research activity on the premises of the company or industry, with the agreement of the Three-member Advisory Committee, provided that the support and guidance by the supervisor are ensured and the Internal Regulations of the UoC and the current Regulation are applied. In this case as well, doctoral candidates retain all rights and obligations provided for in the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC and the current Regulation.

f. During their studies, doctoral candidates treating industrial doctorates are insured for monetary benefits and benefits in kind through the Electronic National Social Security Agency (e-EFKA), unless they are concurrently insured, directly or indirectly, for healthcare through a health-insurance body. The obligation to pay social-security contributions for the insured and the employer, which are calculated on the minimum wages, rests with the collaborating company or industry. But when the treatment of the doctoral dissertation is funded through the company or industry for the implementation of a project or programme through the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE), the social-security contributions may be charged to the budget of the funded project or programme through ELKE. Companies or industries established or operating a branch in Greece may fund an industrial doctorate in whole or in part. The financial management of such funding is carried out through the ELKE of the UoC. The Scientific Coordinator of the project or programme is designated in the cooperation protocol, as provided for in the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC.

g. An industrial doctorate may be funded from resources of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and by companies or industries established or operating a branch in Greece.

Article 14

PLAGIARISM

- a. The text of the doctoral dissertation must be original. Reference to the work of other authors must be appropriately cited, and standard rules governing the use of external sources in scientific writing must be followed.
- b. Copying/plagiarism constitute serious academic misconduct. Plagiarism is considered as copying another person's work as well as using another person's work without proper acknowledgement. The inclusion of any supporting material, including material from the candidate's own previous studies, without appropriate reference constitutes serious academic misconduct, contravenes intellectual-property law, is subject to the applicable provisions on legal protection, and may result in the candidate's removal from the Doctoral-studies Programme under Article 10 of the current Regulation.
- c. When submitting the doctoral dissertation or any other work or publication produced within the Doctoral-studies Programme, doctoral candidates are required to declare that they have not used the work or views of others without appropriate reference. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate also submits to the Three-member Advisory Committee a formal declaration that the dissertation is the product of the candidate's own work and is not, either in whole or in part, the product of plagiarism.
- d. Any use of artificial-intelligence applications by doctoral candidates during the treatment of the doctoral dissertation must be made known to the Three-member Advisory Committee and must comply with the relevant instructions and rules as arising from the relevant decisions of collective bodies and the applicable Regulations of the UoC and the Department of Psychology.
- e. Any misconduct or breach of academic code of conduct is referred to the Departmental Assembly to confront the issue and in order to determine whether there arises reason to refer the issue to the Ethics Committee of the UoC.

Article 15

INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY RIGHTS AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. The author of the doctoral dissertation is the beneficiary of the material and moral intellectual-property rights in the text of the dissertation or in any part of the original research work contained therein, in accordance with Law 2121/1993 (as amended and in force).
- b. Industrial-property rights(e.g. patents), which may arise solely from the research results of the doctoral dissertation, belong to the Doctor, the supervisor and the UoC, in the proportions prescribed by law. Such rights may also belong to members of the research team who made a substantial contribution to the creation and exploitation of those research results. On these matters, an agreement between the parties may be signed at any stage of the research.
- c. In the case of a jointly-supervised doctorate or an Industrial Doctorate, the intellectual-property rights of each contracting party in the work conducted during the treatment of the doctoral dissertation are specified in the Special-cooperation Protocol which is signed by the collaborating Departments, Institutions or bodies.

Article 16

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- a. The current Regulation does not have retroactive effect. Doctoral candidates who began treating their doctoral dissertation before publication of the current Regulation remain subject to the Regulations in force at the time their candidacy was approved by the Departmental Assembly.
- b. Matters not regulated by the legislation in force, the current Regulation and the Regulations for Postgraduate and Doctoral-studies Programmes of the UoC are regulated by decisions of the competent bodies.

Article 17

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The current Regulation enters into force upon its publication in the Government Gazette.

This decision must be published in the Government Gazette.

Rethymno, 3 July 2026

The rector

Georgios Kontakis