



Universidade do Minho
Escola de Arquitetura, Arte e Design

DOCTORAL DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

**Regulatory Norms for the study cycle
leading to the Degree of Doctor in Architecture at EAAD**

October 2025

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Preamble

The Doctoral Degree in Architecture was provisionally accredited by the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES) on 2nd March, 2011, corresponding to registration number R/A-Ef 2377/2011, dated 18th March, assigned by the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES).

Its Curricular Structure and Study Plan were approved by Order RT/C-108/2011, on 20th September.

The study cycle was evaluated as part of the assessment of operational study cycles and accredited by decision of the A3ES Board of Directors, published on 3rd March 2014, with no changes made to its curricular structure or curriculum.

Upon re-accreditation, the Doctoral Degree in Architecture was evaluated and accredited by decision of the A3ES Board of Directors on 16th January 2020, and was registered by the DGES with the number R/A-Ef 2377/2011 /AL01 on 2nd July 2020.

Following a proposal from the legally and statutorily competent bodies of the School of Architecture, Art and Design (EAAD) at the University of Minho, the first amendment to the curricular structure and syllabus of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture was later approved. These changes were detailed in Order RT/C-34/2020, which came into effect for the 2020/2021 academic year, thereby revoking Order RT/C-108/2011 of 20th September, effective from the end of the 2019/2020 academic year.

As part of a new evaluation/accreditation process for existing study cycles, which began in 2024, and by decision of the A3ES Board of Directors, further changes to the course were approved. These were registered by the DGES with the number R/A-Ef 2377/2011/AL02 on 13th May 2025, and formalised by Order RTC-291/2025. These latest changes became effective in the 2025/2026 academic year.

These recent changes also led to a review and update of the course's Regulatory Norms, which were approved by the Scientific Council on 26th May 2023 (which will now be referred to as the "Norms"). This ensures they're aligned with the currently effective curriculum.

In this context, these Regulatory Norms establish the rules for the course of the Doctoral Degree in Architecture at the School of Architecture, Art and Design (EAAD) of the University of Minho (UMinho). They adhere to the guidelines set out in Decree-Law 74/2006 (in its current form) and the UMinho Academic Regulation (RAUM), which is currently in force.

The provisions within these Norms aim to create the conditions for students from diverse backgrounds, training, and cultures to access the highest level of academic study through EAAD. The goal is for them to become well-prepared researchers through scientific development, critical thinking, and technological innovation, whether they pursue careers in higher education institutions, research laboratories, public institutions, or businesses, both in Portugal and abroad.

Article 1 - Nature and Scope

Under the UMinho Statutes, the EAAD Statutes, and the RAUM, these Norms define the operation of the study cycle leading to the award of the Doctorate in Architecture taught by the EAAD, as well as the application submission process for the same.

The curricular structure and syllabus are set forth in Order RTC-291/2025 at UMinho.

Article 2 - Doctoral Degree in Architecture

1. The University of Minho, through the EAAD, confers the Doctoral Degree in Architecture in the following specialties:
 - a) City and Territory
 - b) Construction and Technology
 - c) Architectural Culture
2. The awarding of the Doctoral Degree in any of the specialties is contingent upon the production, defence, and approval of an original thesis.
3. The Doctoral Degree is certified by a Doctoral Parchment, accompanied by a Diploma Supplement.

Article 3 - Curricular Structure and Study Plan

1. The curricular structure and study plan for the Doctoral Degree in Architecture are approved by a Rectory Order, also published in the Portuguese *Diário da República* (Official Gazette).
2. The course curricular structure has Architecture as its only scientific area.
3. The Doctoral Degree in Architecture spans 6 semesters, with tutorial supervision for the thesis.
4. The study plan features a single course unit (UC), the "Thesis" UC, which accounts for 180 ECTS credits. This course unit allows students to immediately focus on their doctoral thesis work, provided their prior academic, scientific, or professional background is deemed relevant by the Scientific Council (CC-EAAD).
5. Completing this UC requires the submission and oral defence of an original thesis. Its approval during public examinations leads to the awarding of the doctoral degree in Architecture.

Article 4 - Course Management

1. The Doctoral Degree in Architecture is directed and managed by the following bodies:
 - a) Course Director;
 - b) Course Committee.
2. The Course Committee consists of:
 - a) The Course Director;
 - b) One professor from the study cycle;
 - c) Two student representatives, proposed by their peers from among the year delegates and sub-delegates (when applicable), in a number equal to that of the professors, including the Director.
3. The mandates of the representatives referred to in the preceding paragraph shall last for two years in the case of teachers, and one year in the case of students.

4. The member of the Course Committee referred to in point 2b) is appointed by the Pedagogical Council, following a proposal from the Course Director.
5. The members of the Course Committee referred to in point 2c) are appointed by the Pedagogical Council, following a proposal from the representatives of each academic year of the course.

Article 5 - Responsibilities of the Course Committee

1. The Course Committee is responsible for:
 - a) Promoting the coordination of the Course Unit (UC), including seminars, internships (stages), and other activities of the study cycle;
 - b) Monitoring the development of the study cycle and, based on experiential results, proposing any necessary corrections or alterations to the study plan, the list of UC, or the curricular structure, within the scope of future re-accreditation processes for the course;
 - c) Encouraging complementary activities and exchanges with programmes in the same field of study;
 - d) Providing an opinion on the self-assessment reports of the study cycle, prepared for the purposes of SIGAQ (Quality Assurance System) and course accreditation by A3ES;
 - e) Preparing the proposal for the selection and ranking of candidates to be admitted to the study cycle, when applicable, for approval by the CC-EAAD;
 - f) Assessing the suitability and feasibility of the Thesis Project, and the suitability and availability of the Supervisor(s), and proposing their acceptance to the CC-EAAD;
 - g) Organising and scheduling a period dedicated to the in-person seminar component in each academic semester;
 - h) Proposing, after consulting the Supervision Team and in accordance with current regulations and procedures established by the EAAD, the constitution of juries for doctoral academic examinations;
 - i) Exercising any other competencies conferred upon it by current regulations or delegated by the CP (Pedagogical Council) or the CC (Scientific Council) of EAAD.
2. The competencies referred to in points e) to i) of the previous no. 1. are exercised exclusively by the professors who are members of the Course Committee.
3. The Course Committee may delegate powers to the Director or to the specialty coordinator, if applicable.
4. The Course Committee meets ordinarily in each academic semester and, extraordinarily, when convened on the initiative of the Director or at the request of two-thirds of its members.

Article 6 - Responsibilities of the Course Director

1. The Course Director is a professor from the course, a member of the EAAD, representing one of the Programme's mandatory scientific areas, and is appointed by the President of the EAAD.
2. The Course Director is responsible for the following:
 - a) To chair and represent the Course Committee;
 - b) To ensure the planning, management, and smooth operation of the course, in coordination with the UC (Curricular Unit) coordinating faculty, the Course Committee, and the CP (Pedagogical Council),

particularly concerning matters such as timetables/schedules, assessments, welcoming new students, and course promotion/outreach;

- c) To mediate conflicts and resolve situations that jeopardize the smooth operation of the course;
- d) To ensure the assignment of a supervisor for the dissertation/project work/internship/thesis, choosing from the eligible faculty members within the course's scientific areas;
- e) To represent the Course Committee, coordinate its work, chair its meetings, and exercise the powers delegated to them by the committee;
- f) To prepare the course's self-assessment report, submit it for appraisal and approval by the Course Committee, as well as perform other duties and responsibilities within the scope of SIGAQ-UM (Quality Assurance System of the University of Minho) and as stipulated in the Quality Manual;
- g) To coordinate, in conjunction with the UO (Organic Unit) Pedagogical Council (CP), the preparation of the course's self-assessment report for A3ES accreditation purposes, and submit it for appraisal by the Course Committee;
- h) To exercise other powers provided for in this Regulation or that may be delegated to them, as the case may be, by the CP (Pedagogical Council) or the CC (Scientific Council).

Article 7 - Admission Requirements

1. Candidates who may apply for the Doctoral Degree in Architecture include:
 - a) Holders of a Pre-Bologna Bachelor's degree (5-year programme) or a Master's degree awarded by a national institution or by a foreign institution and recognised by a national institution;
 - b) Holders of a Master's degree or legal equivalent;
 - c) Holders of a Pre-Bologna Bachelor's degree (5-year programme) or a Master's degree awarded by a foreign institution and not recognised by a national institution. Admission in this case depends on the conversion of the final classification, carried out by the professors of the Course Committee who are part of the evaluation jury, based on the analysis of the candidate's qualification certificate(s).

The conversion referred to in this point c) applies solely to access to the study cycle leading to a doctoral degree and does not grant the holder recognition of an Undergraduate degree, a Master's degree, or a Specialist title.
 - d) Individuals with an academic background and a scientific or professional curriculum recognised by the Scientific Council, after consulting the Steering Committee, as attesting to their capacity to undertake doctoral studies.
2. Admission to the course will be based on an evaluation, classification, and ranking process. The criteria for this process are established in Articles 9 and 10, and admission is dependent on obtaining a minimum ranking classification and the number of available vacancies.

Article 8 - Applications

1. The number of vacancies is set for each edition of the course and subsequently determined by a Rectory Order. This number must be equal to or less than the maximum limit approved by A3ES.

2. Applications are submitted via the Academic Portal, adhering to the deadlines defined and publicised by the UMinho and the EAAD. These deadlines are selected from the periods annually set by UMinho.
3. The application process requires submitting the following documents through the Academic Portal platform:
 - a) An updated Curriculum Vitae (CV);
 - b) Documentary evidence of the candidate's qualifications. In the case of holders of foreign qualifications, these must be proven through a document authenticated by the official education services of the respective country and recognized by a Portuguese diplomatic or consular authority, through the Apostille of the Hague Convention, or through a declaration issued by the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC);
 - c) Citizen Card (optional for Portuguese candidates);
 - d) Passport (mandatory for non-Portuguese candidates);
 - e) Motivation Letter;
 - f) Letter(s) of Recommendation;
 - g) Provisional work plan, including thesis topic and proposed supervisor(s);
 - h) Term of acceptance from the proposed supervisor(s);
 - i) Other documents.

Article 9 - Applicant Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of applicants is based on their academic background and their scientific and professional curriculum, according to the criteria and weighting indicated below.

1. The evaluation of the Academic Background of Candidates (ABC), worth a total of 20 points, meets the following criteria:
 - a) Candidates with a master's degree obtained from an integrated master's course:
 - i. Final classification of the integrated master's degree, on a scale of 0 to 20 points, multiplied by 0.9;
 - ii. Scientific area of the integrated master's degree, with two (2) points awarded if in Architecture and zero (0)
 - b) Candidates with a bachelor's degree, cumulative or not, with a master's degree:
 - i. Final classification of the bachelor's degree, on a scale of 0 to 20 points, multiplied by 0.45;
 - ii. Final classification of the master's degree, on a scale of 0 to 20 points, multiplied by 0.45;
 - iii. Scientific area of the bachelor's degree, with one (1) point awarded if in Architecture, half a point (0.5) in related fields (including Design and Visual Arts), and zero (0) points in other cases;
 - iv. Scientific area of the master's degree, with one (1) point awarded if in Architecture, half a point (0.5) in related fields (including Design and Visual Arts), and zero (0) points in other cases.
 - c) For candidates with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture obtained before the Bologna Process, subparagraph a) of point 1 applies.
 - d) In the selection and ranking of candidates who simultaneously meet the criteria defined in points a), b), and c), the option most beneficial to the candidate should be considered.

2. The evaluation of the Candidates' Scientific Curriculum (CSC), totalling 20 points, is based on the following criteria:
 - a) Scientific research projects (25%), carried out in Research and Development (R&D) units, based on the following criteria, according to their participation as:
 - i. research assistant or fellow;
 - ii. research team member;
 - iii. coordinating researcher.
 - b) Scientific publication (25%), namely authorship or co-authorship of:
 - i. book(s);
 - ii. book chapter;
 - iii. paper in a national or international journal;
 - iv. paper in proceedings of a national or international scientific event;
 - v. abstract in proceedings of a national or international scientific event.
 - c) Scientific dissemination (25%), namely authorship or co-authorship of a communication at a national or international scientific event.
 - d) Other scientific activities (25%), namely:
 - i. organization of a national or international conference;
 - ii. organization of seminars, conferences, and workshops;
 - iii. participation in scientific committees of scientific events;
 - iv. editing or co-editing of proceedings from a scientific event;
 - v. authorship or curatorship of exhibitions;
 - vi. participation in interview(s), series, or other dissemination programs.

3. The evaluation of the Candidates' Professional Curriculum (CPC), totalling 20 points, is based on activities developed, namely as:
 - i. researcher or professor in higher education in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts);
 - ii. researcher or professor in Higher Education in other scientific areas;
 - iii. project author in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts);
 - iv. staff member or technician of public or private institutions in the field of Architecture and related areas (including Design and Visual Arts);
 - v. technician and service provider in other areas.

4. Evaluation of the Candidates' Intentions and Expectations (CIE), totalling 20 points, adhering to the following criteria:
 - a) Motivation Letter (10%), clarifying the reasons for the application and highlighting the reasons for choosing the research topic within the scope of their academic, scientific, or professional background;
 - b) Letter of Recommendation (10%), explaining the context of the relationship with the candidate and the framework of the research proposal;
 - c) Work Plan (70%), including:
 - Topic and Objectives, explaining the relevance and justification of the study;
 - State of the Art, demonstrating the current state of knowledge;
 - Methodology and Timeline, proving the feasibility of the study.
 - d) Suitability of the Supervision Team (10%), presentation justifying the reasons for the choice.

Article 10 - Specific Admission and Ranking Criteria for Candidates

1. Candidates will be ranked based on the following classification, resulting from the weighting of the scores obtained in numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Article 9:

$$\text{Weighted Score} = \mathbf{0,20 \times ABC + 0,20 \times CSC + 0,20 \times CPC + 0,40 \times CIE}$$

2. Candidates with a weighted score, rounded to the nearest whole number, equal to or greater than 12 (twelve) points are considered eligible.

Article 11 - Application Acceptance and Deadlines

1. Once the candidate evaluation is complete, reasoned minutes will be prepared. The minutes will include the classification and scores obtained for the criteria mentioned in Article 9. It must also list the admitted candidates and alternates, their respective ranking order, and indicate any non-admitted candidates along with the reason for their exclusion.
2. The final decision regarding candidate admission rests with the CC-EAAD, based on the proposal from the faculty members of the Course Committee who are part of the evaluation jury. This decision will be informed by the reasoned minutes report mentioned in the previous point.
3. After final approval by the CC-EAAD, candidates will be notified of the decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of their application via the email address provided during the submission process. The results will also be duly published on the Academic Portal within the stipulated deadlines. Regarding the notification of the decision on application acceptance or rejection, applicable legal terms will be followed, ensuring the transparency of the entire selection and ranking process.
4. The minutes report for candidate ranking and selection will then be sent to the UMinho Academic Management Services Unit (USGA) for automatic publication on the UMinho portal.

Article 12 - Enrolment and Fees

1. Admitted candidates must enrol through the Electronic Desk of the UMinho Academic Portal within the specified deadline. The email notification sent to candidates will include this information.
2. Enrolment and registration fees are due, with amounts set annually by the Rector's order.
3. Registration for the PhD in Architecture must be renewed annually. This is entirely the doctoral student's responsibility, and they should pay attention to the calendar published each year. Any questions regarding deadlines and fees should be directed to USGA (pos.graduacao@usga.uminho.pt).
4. The tuition fee amount set by the Rector's Order for each academic year is due for settlement, according to the payment plan in force.
5. The renewal of registration for a study cycle leading to a doctoral degree must be carried out by the last day of the month corresponding to the month in which the first registration was made.

Renewal of registration is not possible if the CC (presumably the Scientific Council or Comissão Coordenadora) issues an unfavorable, reasoned opinion on the continuation of the doctorate before the beginning of the month preceding the renewal of registration, in terms to be defined by the School's CC.

6. The non-renewal of registration leads to the cessation of enrollment (matriculation) and, consequently, to the interruption of the student's connection to UMinho (Universidade do Minho).

Article 13 - Joining a research group

Students enrolled in the Doctoral Degree in Architecture must join the Research and Development (R&D) unit associated with EAAD, which is the Laboratory of Landscapes, Heritage and Territory (Lab2PT), in accordance with its specific regulations, except in cases where protocols stipulate otherwise.

Article 14 - Thesis Supervision

1. The preparation of the doctoral thesis must be supervised by one or more professors or PhD researchers. In the case of a Supervisory Team, the first supervisor, in addition to having a contractual relationship with UMinho, must be a lecturer at EAAD and a member of Lab2PT.
2. Exceptionally, in duly justified cases, the CC-EAAD may accept the inclusion of a third supervisor for the research work.
3. The researchers referred to in paragraph 1 may be integrated researchers who carry out activities at UMinho research centres, regardless of whether they have a contractual relationship with UMinho, provided that the provisions of the final part of that paragraph are complied with.
4. One of the supervisors may be a specialist recognised as suitable by the CC, without prejudice to the provisions of the final part of paragraph 1.
5. Once the research work has begun, the candidate must prepare annual progress reports to be assessed by the CC-EAAD, after analysis and review by the Supervisor(s) and the Course Committee.
6. Research work defined as periods of Tutorial Guidance, in the form of face-to-face teaching and daytime classes, must complete one hundred and twenty (120) contact hours.
7. Any changes to the Supervision Team, the title, the subject or the objectives of the research must be reviewed and approved by the CC-EAAD, after consultation with the supervisor(s) and the Course Committee. To this end, the student must send the following to the course secretariat by email (pda@eaad.uminho.pt):
 - a) a signed request, duly justifying the intended change;
 - b) the opinion of the supervisor(s) on the request for change.
8. The CC-EAAD, for duly justified reasons, upon the opinion of the Course Director and the supervisor(s) and after hearing the student, may refuse to allow the research work to continue, with the consequent cancellation of enrolment in the study cycle, which must be communicated to the student and to the USGA.

Article 15 - Thesis Title and Project Registration

1. The student must register and submit for approval by the CC-EAAD the title, Thesis Project, and proposed supervisor(s) after the completion of the first interim assessment, during the second academic semester.
2. The EAAD must simultaneously communicate to the USGA and the student the acceptance and approval by the CC-EAAD of the proposed title, Thesis Project, and supervisor(s), or any alteration thereof. The student will then be informed of the necessary steps they must take, the deadlines to meet, and any specific requirements to satisfy before being able to present themselves for examination.
3. The student must, within 30 days from the notification referred to in the previous point, request the registration of the title and the respective Thesis Project and supervisor(s), or any alteration thereof, at the EAAD.

4. A declaration of registration will be issued to the candidate and the USGA will be informed.
5. The registered data will be retained for the duration of the research work inherent to the Thesis, provided there is no interruption, and made available in accordance with the law.
6. The cancellation of enrolment in the study cycle or its non-renewal will result in the expiry of the registration. The academic services must timely inform the CC-EAAD and the service unit responsible for registration for the appropriate effects.

Article 16 - Assessment of the Thesis

1. Students must successfully complete two interim assessment stages, which involve submitting:
 - a) one document – Thesis Project – during the second semester, including: title and subtitle; abstract; keywords; subject of study; objectives; methodology; references;
 - b) two documents – updated and expanded State of the Art and Activity Report – after two-thirds of the duration of the study cycle.
2. Research work defined as seminar periods, in-person teaching mode and daytime schedule, must complete eighteen (18) contact hours.

Article 17 - Application for and Admission to Public Defence

1. After completing the work for their Thesis, the student must submit the application for public examinations on the Academic Portal. This application needs to be accompanied by the documents listed in Article 195 of the RAUM.
2. Students should prepare their application for public examinations in advance. This ensures that at the time of submission, their status at UMinho is regularized, and they have all necessary documents. Some of these documents might depend on third parties (e.g., supervisor feedback) or could take some time to obtain.
3. This application is submitted through the Academic Portal's Electronic Secretariat, under the option "Requerimento de Provas Públicas" (Application for Public Examinations).
4. The application for taking the examinations cannot be submitted less than three years after the student's admission date to the PhD in Architecture (180 ECTS).

For students enrolled in the study cycle on a part-time basis, for the purpose of admission to the Thesis defence, each year of enrolment under that regime corresponds to one semester.

Article 18 - Special Regulations for Thesis Submission

1. Anyone who believes they meet the conditions for access to the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree may request the presentation of a Thesis in a public defence act, without enrolment in the study cycle and without supervision, paying the fees defined in the current fee schedule for this purpose.
2. The CC of the EAAD is responsible for deciding on the request, after evaluating the applicant's curriculum and the suitability of the Thesis or works to the objectives of the doctoral degree. They may refuse the request or accept it and propose the appointment of a jury.

3. The submission of this application is done through the Academic Portal's Electronic Secretariat, under the option "Self-Proposed Application for Public Examinations" (Requerimento Autoproposto de Provas Públicas).
4. This application is submitted via the Electronic Secretariat of the Academic Portal, under the option "Self-Proposed Application for Public Examinations."

Article 19 - Thesis Formatting and Writing Guidelines

1. The Doctoral Degree in Architecture involves the creation of an original Thesis, specifically prepared for this purpose, and appropriate to the nature of the field of knowledge and the specialisation.
2. The formatting of the doctoral Thesis must adhere to the regulations stipulated in the corresponding Rectoral Order currently in force (made available on the Academic Portal), and other guidelines issued by the CC-EAAD. This is only exempt in cases where specific protocols provide different arrangements.
3. The requirements the Thesis must meet, as well as the authorisation for it to be written in a foreign language, fall under the purview of the CC-EAAD, upon proposal from the Course Director.

Article 20 - Appointment and Constitution of the Examining Board

1. The Examining Board is appointed by the CC-EAAD, based on the Course Director's proposal and after consulting the Supervisory Team, within 30 days following the submission of the application for examinations.
2. The Examining Board is constituted by:
 - a) The President of the CC-EAAD, who presides, or by a full professor of the UO, from the career, whom they appoint for this purpose;
 - b) A minimum of 4 (four) and a maximum of 6 (six) doctoral members, one of whom may be the Supervisor.
3. If there's more than one Supervisor, only one can be part of the examining board, and they must belong to the EAAD.
4. At least two members of the board, excluding the Supervisor, are appointed from among professors and researchers holding doctorates from two other national or foreign higher education or research institutions.
5. In addition to the above, the board may also include an individual of recognised competence in the scientific area of the Thesis, as deemed by the CC-EAAD.
6. The examining board must predominantly consist of professors or researchers from the scientific domain of the Thesis.
7. At least two members must have a contractual link with UMinho.
8. With the exception of the supervisor, the board members cannot have had any involvement in the Thesis's development process, specifically regarding co-authored publications with the candidate. They must declare that they are not subject to this incompatibility or any other stipulated in the Administrative Procedure Code.
9. The order appointing the board must be communicated in writing to the Board President, its members, and the candidate, and publicised on the EAAD portal, within 5 (five) days.

Article 21 - Procedures Prior to the Thesis defence

1. Within 45 (forty-five) days following the communication of its appointment, the examining board, in a meeting held in person or by video conference, will deliberate on the acceptance of the Thesis. Alternatively, they may provide the student with a reasoned recommendation for its reformulation.
2. A minute of the examining board's meeting will be drawn up, recording the votes of each member and stating the acceptance of the Thesis or its reformulation, with proper justification. This justification can be common to all or some of the members. The minute will be signed by the President of the board and the secretary, and if applicable, any alterations to be made by the candidate should be mentioned in an annex to the minute.
3. If reformulation is recommended, the student has an unextendable period of 120 (one hundred and twenty) days during which they can proceed with the reformulation of the Thesis or declare their intention to maintain it as originally submitted.
4. Once the reformulated Thesis or the declaration mentioned in the previous point is received, the public defence of the Thesis will be scheduled.
5. A student is considered to have withdrawn if, after the deadline mentioned in section 3 of this Article, they haven't submitted the reformulated Thesis or the declaration.
6. The Thesis defence must take place within a maximum of 60 (sixty) days from the date of the acceptance order, the date of submission of the reformulated Thesis, or the submission of the declaration mentioned in section 2. This timeframe can only be extended in cases of clear impossibility on the part of the examining board, but it cannot exceed 90 (ninety) days.
7. At the student's request, and in exceptional, duly justified cases, the deadline mentioned in section 6 can be extended, though it cannot exceed 120 (one hundred and twenty) days.
8. The composition of the examining board, along with the date and location of the public Thesis defence, must be included in a notice disseminated by the EAAD at least 5 (five) days in advance on the EAAD's respective webpage. It can also be publicized through the EAAD's usual dissemination channels.

Article 22 - Defence Examination

The final assessment, known as the public defence examination, involves the presentation, oral discussion, and defence of the Thesis. This Thesis must be an original work, in accordance with current legislation.

Article 23 - Thesis Discussion

1. The public discussion of the Thesis cannot take place without the presence of the President and the majority of the examining board members.
2. The Thesis discussion has a maximum duration of 3 (three) hours. All members of the examining board may participate, without prejudice to the possibility of one or more main examiners being appointed.
3. For the Thesis discussion, the President of the examining board may authorise the participation by video conference of no more than 50% of the members, provided they are external to UMinho and there are technical conditions for their full participation in the proceedings.
 - a) Members of the examining board from UMinho can only be authorised to participate via videoconference if their service situation demonstrably justifies it, and provided that the physical presence of 50% of the members is guaranteed.

- b) Should communication with members participating via videoconference be lost for more than ten minutes during the examination, it prevents their participation in the final decision and means they cannot be counted for quorum purposes.
4. The candidate's participation in the examination must be in person.
 5. Prior to the examination, the examining board will define the order and format of its members' interventions.
 6. During the examination, before the Thesis discussion begins, the candidate will have a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes to present it.
 7. In the Thesis discussion, the candidate must be allocated an equivalent amount of time to that used by the examining board members.
 8. The Thesis discussion should be conducted in Portuguese, without prejudice to it being held in other languages, provided there is agreement from the examining board members and the candidate, or if the characteristics of the doctorate require it.

Article 24 - Examining Board Deliberation

1. Once the examinations are concluded, the examining board will convene to assess and deliberate on the student's final evaluation, the result of which is expressed by the formulas "Approved" or "Failed".
2. Those who have obtained approval will be assigned a qualification expressed by the mentions "Good", "Good with Distinction", or "Very Good". It must be recorded in the minutes whether the qualification was by unanimity or by majority.
3. The qualifications mentioned in the previous point may take into account the grades obtained in the doctoral programme's curricular units, if applicable, and the merit of the Thesis assessed during the public defence.
4. The examining board's deliberations are made by a majority of its members through a justified nominal vote, and abstentions are not permitted.
5. The President of the examining board holds a casting vote.
6. A minute of the examination and the examining board's meeting will be drawn up. After being read aloud to all members of the board, it will be signed by the physically present members. This minute will include the votes of each member and their respective justifications, the final classification, and any necessary corrections.
7. Examining board members participating in the examination via videoconference must electronically submit their vote and corresponding justification after the proceedings, signed with a qualified digital signature. If a qualified digital signature is not available, the vote and justification should be sent via email as a manually signed and scanned document. The original of this document must then be sent to the course Secretariat for registration and archiving in the candidate's individual file.
8. Any corrections to the Thesis requested by the examining board following the public discussion will be included in a document appended to the examination minutes.
9. In cases where corrections are made to the Thesis, the student must submit the following documents to the EAAD within 30 (thirty) days after the public defence examination:
 - a) One hard copy of the corrected Thesis;
 - b) One digital copy of the corrected Thesis;

- c) A declaration from the supervisor(s), in digital format, attesting that the corrections requested by the examining board have been made;
 - d) An updated declaration regarding the deposit of the Thesis in RepositóriUM.
10. Nos casos previstos no número anterior, a deliberação do júri assume caráter definitivo após a homologação pelo presidente do júri, procedimento de que depende a titularidade do grau de doutor.
 11. A conclusão do doutoramento confere o direito a um diploma e a uma carta doutoral, dos quais consta o ramo de conhecimento e a especialidade de doutoramento, caso se aplique, em que é obtido o grau.
 12. A conclusão da parte curricular do curso confere o direito a um diploma de estudos avançados, de acordo com as condições definidas no despacho de criação do ciclo de estudos.

Article 25 - Legal Deposit

1. Doctoral Theses Are Subject to:
 - a) the deposit of one digital copy in the RepositóriUM of UMinho, which is the responsibility of the EAAD;
 - b) the legal deposit of one paper copy at the National Library, also the responsibility of the EAAD.
2. The attribution of the doctoral degree must be registered in the RENATES platform after the Thesis is deposited in UMinho's RepositóriUM, complementing the information already registered, in accordance with Article 202 of the RAUM.

Article 26 - Deadlines

1. Unless stated otherwise, the deadlines outlined in these Regulations are counted in working days, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).
2. Deadlines for deliberations by collegiate bodies mentioned in these Regulations are suspended during school holidays.
3. The counting of deadlines for the submission, reformulation, and public discussion of the Thesis can be suspended by the Rector, after consulting the CC-EAAD, upon request from interested parties in exceptional, legally provided, and duly justified cases

Article 27 - Queries and Omissions

For situations not covered by these Regulations, the provisions of the Academic Regulation of the University of Minho and relevant current legislation apply. Any omissions will be decided by the Course Committee.

Article 28 - Amendment of the Regulatory Norms

These Regulatory Standards may be revised two years after their publication date or at any time upon proposal from the Course Committee and with the favourable opinion of the Scientific Council of the EAAD.

Article 29 - Entry into Force

The Regulatory Norms will enter into force after approval by the Scientific Council of the EAAD, once the opinion of the Course Committee and the CP-EAAD has been considered, and must be published on the EAAD webpage.

These Regulatory Norms are drafted in the Portuguese and English languages. This English version is provided for convenience only. In the event of any discrepancy, contradiction, imprecision, mistake, or omission between the versions, the Portuguese version shall prevail and shall be the sole binding and enforceable version.