



To PhD Coordinators

Object: Implementation of the plans to extend the final term of the doctoral courses for a.y. 2020/2021 referred to in the Law May 21st, 2021, No. 69

Dear Coordinators,

The art. 33, Law May 21st, 2021, No. 69 published on the Gazzetta Ufficiale May 21st, 2021, "Measures to support universities, institutions of Higher Artistic Education Music and Dance and Research Institutions" has established:

*"...in order to allow an effective and timely reprogramming of research activities and to guarantee the right quality and maturity of the related projects, suspended following the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, **doctoral candidates holding a scholarship**, in accordance to the decree of the Minister of Education, University and Research February 8th, 2013, No.45, and Article 4 of Law July 3rd, 1998 No.210, may apply for an extension of the final date of the course, including the grant, not exceeding three months. PhD students who do not hold scholarships and employees of the public administration on leave for the attendance of the PhD course can apply as well. In this case, the relevant public administration will be in charge of the extension of the leave period for the same number of months of the PhD duration extension. For the purposes referred to in this paragraph, the ordinary financing fund referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, letter a) of Law no. 537 of 24th December, 1993 shall be increased by 61,6 million euros for the year 2021".*

Therefore, as distinguished by the previous extensions dispositions (art. 236, paragraph 5, Law 77/2020 and art. 21-bis, Law 176/2020), that allowed the extensions only to third year doctoral candidates, the new law is applicable for all candidates who resulted enrolled in doctoral courses by May 22nd, 2021, date of the entrance in force of Law 69/2021, with no distinction between PhD cycles and for all those who will apply in the time-limits listed below.

The online procedure for the applications will be open until September 24th, 2021 and the doctoral candidates will be able to apply by following the procedure at <https://www.studenti.uniroma1.it/phoenix/#/login>.

By September 30th, 2021 the coordinators should accept or deny the applications by visiting <https://phd.uniroma1.it/dottorati/>, only after having consulted the Scientific Board which will evaluate the motivations of extension given by each applicant (Board of Directors resolution, No.255/2020 July 21st, 2020).



In case of favorable decision, the system will request to select the number of months of extension; contrarily, it will be possible to add details in an explanatory notes field.

If the scholarship is funded by third parties, the Administration will require to this institution the additional instalments, in accordance with the decision of the Scientific Board and the obligations laid down in the Agreement.

Therefore:

A. For the doctoral candidates enrolled in the third and final year, the deadlines that must be followed are:

- **By January 31st, 2022** (previously October 31st), the doctoral candidates must submit the thesis to the external referees by means of the online platform, where the coordinators will previously have inserted the external referees' names by logging in at https://phd.uniroma1.it/referee_back;
- **By March 15th, 2022** (previously December 15th) the external referees must give their evaluation in order to proceed with the admission to the final exam;
- **By May 31st, 2022** (previously February 15th) the doctoral candidates must defend the thesis and attain the Doctoral Degree, without prejudice to possible, justified postponement;
- Doctoral candidates that must recover a period of suspension shall defend the thesis with the students of the subsequent cycle.

B. For the doctoral candidates enrolled in the second and first year:

- The deadlines related to annual assessments will not be modified; this because the extension has to be referred to the final date of the PhD course;
- The deadlines related to the thesis submission and discussion will be the same already mentioned in point A (these referring to year 2023 for second year candidates and year 2024 for first year candidates).

THE AROF DIRECTOR
Dr Giulietta Capacchione