

## Doctoral College Aix-Marseille Université

## Principles of doctoral education

**DOCTORAL CHARTER** 

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#### **Preamble**

The university doctoral thesis is regulated by the French amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, which sets the national framework of doctoral training and the conditions leading to the delivery of the national doctoral degree. It is prepared in a doctoral school within a research unit accredited as a hosting unit, under the responsibility of a thesis supervisor qualified to supervise research (Habilité à Diriger des Recherches: HDR). If accredited, a co-supervisor who may not yet have their HDR, may share the responsibility of the scientific supervision of the doctoral project jointly with the main supervisor (cf. Article 8 of this Charter).

In accordance with Article 12 of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, the present Doctoral charter defines the respective rights, duties and reciprocal commitments of the doctoral candidate and their thesis supervisor, as well as, if applicable, their thesis co-supervisor. The Charter is approved by the director of the doctoral school, the director of the hosting research unit and the thesis supervisor as well as, if applicable, the thesis co-supervisor. The Charter is co-signed, at the beginning of the first academic year of the thesis enrolment by the stakeholders in the doctorate. The director of the doctoral school guarantees its application.

The preparation of the doctorate must be part of a scientific, professional and personal project clearly defined in its objectives and requirements. The framework set by the Doctoral Charter guarantees high quality doctoral training as well as a dynamic preparation as regards the future career of the candidate. Accepting the conditions of the present Charter entails that the preparation of the doctorate is based on a freely consented agreement between the doctoral candidate and their thesis supervisor as well as, if applicable, their thesis co-supervisor, concerning the choice of the subject and the working conditions necessary for the progress of the work.

The doctoral candidate enrolled in a doctoral program in one of the doctoral schools of Aix-Marseille Université (AMU)'s doctoral college will, at the end of the defense of their doctoral thesis and after admission, be awarded the degree and title of "Doctor of Aix-Marseille Université" delivered by AMU in their discipline/specialty of registration. They then take the doctoral oath with regard to scientific integrity (see article 19 of the present Charter).

The present Doctoral Charter defines the principles, collectively agreed upon by the directors of the doctoral schools, governing the conditions of doctoral training within AMU's doctoral college. It sets the conditions of thesis monitoring and supervision and specifies the prescribed deadlines, the necessary coordination between the doctoral candidate, the thesis supervisor as well as, if applicable, their thesis co-supervisor, the director of the hosting research unit and the director of the doctoral school. It defines also the targeted objectives and the means needed in terms of training and preparation for the future career of the doctoral degree holder.

#### TITLE I – Enrolment in a doctoral thesis and duration of the doctoral training

Article 1 – The conditions of enrolment for a doctoral thesis are defined by the amended Ministerial Order published on May 25, 2016. In addition to these conditions, prerequisites may be set by each of the doctoral schools and specified in their rules and procedures. The doctoral thesis project is based on an agreement freely concluded between the candidate and their supervisor, who is a member of a research unit affiliated with an AMU doctoral school. Upon first registration, the doctoral thesis project is submitted to the doctoral school who examines the application for enrolment on the basis of the candidate's acceptance in the director's research unit, after agreement from the head of this unit. During the doctorate, the doctoral candidate is placed under the responsibility of the thesis supervisor. The scientific supervision of the doctoral project may be ensured jointly with a co-supervisor. When a person from public industrial and commercial institutions (EPIC) with research missions, private training or research institutions, private research foundations, private companies and administrations, ensures the co-supervision, the number of co-supervisors may be increased to two.

Article 2 – To promote the international dimension of doctoral training, the scientific cooperation between AMU's research units and their international partners and to encourage mobility among doctoral candidates, an international doctorate cotutelle may be established between AMU and one or more international higher education institutions. The conditions of this cotutelle are defined by an agreement, the terms and modalities of which are set out in articles 21, 22 and 23 of the amended Ministerial Order published on May 25, 2016. AMU and its contracting partners are mutually bound by the principle of reciprocity. The international doctoral cotutelle must be initiated from the first year of the doctorate and effective before enrolling in the second year.

If setting up an international doctoral cotutelle proves difficult, it remains possible to support the mobility of doctoral candidates by co-supervision of their doctorate at the national or international level within the framework of scientific cooperation between AMU's research units and their partners. In this case, a doctorate co-supervision agreement must be signed between AMU and the partner institution; the doctoral candidate will only be registered at AMU and will be awarded, after defense of the doctorate and in case of admission, their doctoral degree at AMU.

**Article 3** – The articles R 613-32 à R 613-37 of the Education Code dealing with the validation of acquired experience (VAE) in higher education institutions applies to diplomas awarded by universities, including doctorates.

According to the articles R 613-32 à R 613-37 of the Education Code, the acquired experience corresponding to some activities, may generate validation. The candidate must provide evidence of having acquired all or part of the knowledge and skills required to obtain the diploma they apply for.

The VAE process for the doctorate is carried out in accordance with the national laws regarding VAE in higher education on one hand and doctoral training on the other.

Article 4 – The legal duration of the doctorate, as defined by the amended Ministerial Order published on May 25, 2016, generally corresponds to 3 years of full-time research work. In the other cases, the candidate may be allowed a maximum period of 6 years. Doctoral registration must be renewed at the beginning of each academic year by the president of the university on the proposal of the director of the doctoral school after evaluations from the doctoral candidate's individual follow up committee, the thesis supervisor and the director of the hosting research unit (see Article 11 of this Charter). If the doctoral candidate does not take the necessary measures to register each year prior to the deadline set by the university, they will be considered as having abandoned their doctorate and will then be removed from the list of doctoral candidates in the doctoral school in which they first registered. In the case where a refusal of re-registration is envisaged, a justification is provided to the doctoral candidate by the director

of the doctoral school. The doctoral candidate may then request a second opinion from AMU's Research Commission within one month of receipt of the notification. In all cases, the decision to deny re-enrolment is made by the president of the university. The doctoral candidate is notified of this decision by the doctoral school to which they belong.

In case of drop-out, the doctoral candidate will not be allowed to re-enroll in a doctorate in the same discipline, unless an exceptional exemption is granted.

In case of drop-out or refusal of re-registration, the doctoral candidate cannot re-register for a doctorate on the same subject or thesis project.

**Article 5** – Beyond 3 years for a full-time doctorate, and beyond 6 years for a part-time doctorate, the reregistration in the doctorate presents a derogatory character. Derogatory enrolments are granted by the president of the university, upon a motivated request from the doctoral candidate and upon the proposal of the thesis supervisor, following the opinion of the individual follow-up committee and the director of the doctoral school. From the 5th year of full-time doctorate and the 7th year for a part-time doctorate, requests for enrolment must be supported by a detailed evaluation from the doctoral school council and validated by the Vice-President in charge of doctoral training. The list of beneficiaries is presented annually to the doctoral school council and transmitted to AMU's Research Commission.

Doctoral candidates with disabilities can be granted exemptions by the president of the university upon motivated requests.

In the case of maternity, paternity, childcare or adoption leave, parental leave, sick leave of more than 4 consecutive months, or any 2-month-leave following an accident at work, the duration of the preparation of the doctorate will be extended by the time equal to the time off if the person concerned so requests.

The break period (cf. Article 13 of this Charter) is not included in the duration of the doctorate.

**Article 6** – The doctoral candidate's scientific, material and financial resources required at the time of enrolment in the doctorate must be guaranteed throughout the doctoral program.

**Article 7** – Before enrolment in the doctorate, the candidate must be formally informed of the career paths to which they can reasonably aspire at the end of their doctoral training. Their doctoral school will provide answers regarding the future of AMU's doctoral graduates and present statistical data for career paths, both at the academic level (universities, public research institutions) and outside academia (service sector, private research, local and regional government bodies, among others)

#### TITLE II – Supervision and thesis development

**Article 8** – According to article 10 of the amended Ministerial Order published on May 25, 2016, the doctorate is prepared in a doctoral school, under the responsibility of the accredited institutions. The research work carried out as part of the doctorate is undertaken within a research unit evaluated by the Haut Conseil de l'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur or by other bodies for which it validates the procedures. Research work can also be carried out in public establishments of an industrial and commercial nature (EPICs), private training or research institutions, private research foundations and administrations. They are carried out under the responsibility of a thesis supervisor affiliated to a doctoral school or within the framework of a co-supervision as mentioned in article 16 of the same Order and in articles 1 and 2 of this Charter.

A researcher or faculty member, whether or not they are qualified as HDR, can be affiliated to only one doctoral school to which their assigned research unit belongs. If the research unit or team is affiliated to more than one doctoral school, the researcher or faculty member must choose the school that best fits

their research activities. Any request for an exemption from this rule must be motivated and examined by the doctoral college in order to be submitted to the Research Commission for approval.

The role of thesis supervisor can be undertaken by a HDR qualified researcher or faculty. The latter can only supervise a thesis within the doctoral school to which they are affiliated. Said supervisor may, upon request, co-supervise a thesis within another doctoral school, particularly in the context of interdisciplinary thesis projects.

A researcher or faculty member who does not hold a HDR qualification may not act as a thesis supervisor. They may, however, request an exemption to participate in the co-supervision of a thesis, or request a specific authorization for the supervision of a single thesis. In the latter case, they will not be authorized to supervise a second thesis before obtaining their HDR degree. Their request for an exemption will be submitted to the Research Commission for approval, following approval from the director of the doctoral school and head of the research unit.

An emeritus professor may continue to supervise or co-supervise theses that started before the date of retirement but cannot engage in the supervision of new doctoral candidates. Emeriti may participate in individual doctoral candidate follow-up committees and defense committees as a reviewer or examiner. They cannot chair a thesis defense committee.

**Article 9** – The thesis supervisor is responsible for supervising the doctoral candidate for the duration of the thesis. They must commit to allocating sufficient time to guide the doctoral candidate under their supervision to ensure an innovative approach in an up-to-date scientific context.

Unless an exemption is granted by the council of the doctoral school, an HDR qualified thesis supervisor or co-supervisor shall not supervise simultaneously more than:

- 3 doctoral candidates full-time (3x100%) or any combination equivalent to 300% in the disciplines
  of sciences and technologies and life and health sciences;
- 6 doctoral candidates full-time (6x100%) or any combination equivalent to 600% in the disciplines of human and social sciences.

The maximum number of new thesis supervisions or co-supervisions may not exceed two per year, unless an exceptional authorization is granted by the doctoral school council.

In case of co-supervision, the supervision of the doctoral candidate is equally divided: 50% for the thesis supervisor and 50% for the co-supervisor.

For a thesis co-supervisor who does not hold an HDR qualification, the maximum number of simultaneous co-supervisions may not exceed two. The overall supervision rate cannot exceed 100%.

#### TITLE III – Process of the thesis

**Article 10** – The research activity in the framework of the doctorate is carried out in accordance with the scientific and academic methods of the concerned disciplines. All research will adhere to legal rights as concerns secularism and the rights of others, notably with regard to intellectual property, image rights, copyright, patent law and the protection of drawings and models. The University does not explicitly endorse or oppose the opinions expressed, which are to be considered as their author's own.

The doctoral candidate, the thesis supervisor and if applicable the co-supervisor, commit themselves to respecting the <u>French national Charter for research integrity</u> signed by the French institutions of higher education and research. The doctoral candidate must also respect AMU's Charter relative to plagiarism.

AMU promotes the conduct of doctoral candidates' research in accordance with the requirements of scientific integrity and research ethics. AMU doctoral candidates have access to training in the principles

and requirements of research ethics and scientific integrity. They agree to respect these principles and requirements throughout their doctoral studies. This training is mandatory and must be competed and validated during the first year of the doctorate. AMU, doctoral school directors, thesis supervisors, research unit directors and all those who supervise or participate in the work of a doctoral candidate encourage and support this commitment.

Article 11 – During the first year of the thesis, an individual follow-up committee (CSI) is set up for each doctoral candidate, in order to ensure the regular progress of the doctorate according to the present Charter and the individual training agreement (see Article 14 of this Charter). Furthermore, it is up to the committee to evaluate, during an interview with the doctoral candidate in the absence of their supervisor and, if applicable, their co-supervisor, the conditions of their training and the progress of their research throughout the duration of the doctorate. The CSI must meet before enrolment in the second year and then before each new enrolment until the end of the doctorate. The role and modalities of composition, organization and operation of this committee are set out in article 13 of the aforementioned amended Order of May 25, 2016, and supplemented, if necessary, by the doctoral school's internal regulations. The members of the CSI do not participate in the supervision of the doctoral candidate's work The CSI makes recommendations and sends a report to the director of the doctoral school, the doctoral candidate and the thesis supervisor. If needed, the committee may act as a mediator in case of conflict

Article 12 – The doctoral candidate agrees to comply with all the rules of attendance, safety and discipline applicable within its research unit. They agree to dedicate the necessary time and rhythm of work for the completion of their doctorate within the allotted deadlines. They participate in all the relevant activities of their research unit and present their work in its seminars. They also agree to provide their thesis supervisor and, if applicable, the co-supervisor with as many progress reports as necessary. The thesis supervisor, for their part, agrees to provide the doctoral candidate, within a reasonable time, with feedback on the submitted reports. The doctoral candidate must inform their supervisor(s) of any difficulties encountered in the progress of their work.

**Article 13** – According to Article 14 of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, the doctoral candidate may exceptionally, and upon motivated request, benefit from an indivisible break of a maximum duration of one year, only once during the doctoral period.

The break period is granted by the president of the university where the doctoral candidate is enrolled, after agreement from the employer when any exists, and upon the opinions of the thesis supervisor, the director of the host research unit and of the director of the doctoral school; the request is then submitted to the council of the doctoral college for its opinion. The doctoral training and research work are provisionally suspended, but the doctoral candidate must remain enrolled at the university and pay the required fees.

For doctorates that are prepared on a full-time basis, the break can be done during the 2nd year of the doctorate but not at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. When the doctorate is prepared on a part-time basis, the break may also be requested during the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

The university guarantees that the doctoral candidate will be reintegrated at the end of the break period.

Article 14 – A Training Agreement, bearing mention of the elements set out in article 12 of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, is signed by the thesis supervisor, by the director of the host research unit, if applicable, by the head of the company or organization hosting the doctoral candidate, and by the doctoral candidate as soon as they enrol in the first year of the doctorate. The director of the doctoral school is responsible for its application. The Training Agreement sets out the conditions for carrying out research work and preparing for the doctorate. It specifies the objectives of the doctoral training program, details the terms of the doctoral candidate's research activity and the support they receive within the

university. It also sets out the prerequisites common to all Doctoral Schools, required to defend the thesis and obtain the doctoral degree, including the obligation of training and the creation of a portfolio of skills.

The doctoral candidate commits to a minimum of 100 hours of training, divided into 50 hours of scientific training and research support, and 50 hours of professional training to support career development, including two mandatory training courses on research ethics and scientific integrity in the research professions. This training can be disciplinary or interdisciplinary; it is intended to support doctoral candidates in the preparation of their professional project and provides the opportunity to acquire new scientific knowledge and develop transferable skills in future professional situations. Exemptions from this obligation (except for mandatory training) may be granted to the doctoral candidates employed in CIFRE (Conventions Industrielles de Formation par la Recherche) or VAE by the director of their doctoral school of affiliation.

A doctoral candidate's portfolio, comprising a list of all their activities during their training, including training courses followed, teaching, dissemination of scientific culture or technology transfer, and highlighting the skills they have developed during their doctoral period, shall be produced. The doctoral candidate must regularly update it.

This agreement may be modified as necessary, at the beginning of a new academic year, and must then be signed by both parties. The doctoral school of affiliation of the doctoral candidate guarantees its implementation.

**Article 15** –Doctoral candidates and their supervisor will ensure that the conditions for defending the thesis, defined by each of the doctoral schools of the AMU doctoral college, are met at the end of the doctoral education period, particularly in terms of minimum publication requirements and trainings.

**Article 16** – The results stemming from the work carried out by doctoral candidates as part of their doctorate must respect AMU's intellectual property charter, as well as the AMU Open Science Charter. Likewise, publications related to that work must comply with AMU's publication charter. Notably, they must bear the signature of Aix-Marseille Université and as applicable, those of the other institutions of the concerned research units.

**Article 17** – Rights of the doctoral candidate: Publications, patents or industrial reports related to the work carried out as part of their doctorate by the doctoral candidate, be it the doctoral thesis itself or articles produced during or after the preparation of the thesis defense, must include the doctoral candidate among the co-authors and possible beneficiaries.

#### TITLE IV - Thesis defense

**Article 18** – The conditions necessary for the defense of the doctorate defined by the doctoral school to which the candidate is affiliated, in accordance with the provisions of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, must be communicated to the doctoral candidate and their supervisor, as well as, if necessary, their co-supervisor upon enrolment in the doctorate. They constitute a compulsory prerequisite before engaging the defense procedure.

The composition of the defense committee must comply with Article 18 of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016. It must be composed of 4 to 8 members. Its composition should allow a balanced representation of women and men, and must include at least one member of each gender. At least half of its members must be external to the research unit where the doctorate was prepared, to the doctoral school and to AMU or any institution co-accredited with AMU for the award of the doctoral degree and must not be involved in the supervision of the doctoral candidate. Moreover, at least half must hold the rank of professor, research director or equivalent faculty as set in Article 6 of the amended Ministerial

Order published on May 25, 2016. Regardless of its composition, it is strictly required that more than half of the members of the defense committee take part in the final decision of admission or deferral after deliberation. The thesis supervisor and any other member of the defense committee who has participated in the supervision of the doctoral candidate do not take part in the decision.

For doctorates covered by a cotutelle agreement, the composition of the defense committee as well as the place of the defense must comply with the provisions of the aforementioned agreement.

**Article 19** – The request for the defense is submitted by the doctoral candidate on the proposal of their thesis supervisor. The thesis supervisor's signature on the application form for authorisation to defend the thesis engages its responsibility and is deemed validation of the scientific quality of the thesis work carried out by the doctoral candidate as part of their doctorate and of the manuscript sent to the reviewers and to the members of the defense committee. The director of the doctoral school is responsible for ensuring that the conditions regarding the defense specific to the school are met and that the composition of the defense committee complies with the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016 and Article 18 of this Charter. Authorisation for the defense is granted by the president of the university based on the pre-reports prepared by reviewers who are not involved in the doctoral candidate's work, and after validation by the director of the doctoral school.

The defense is public, unless an exemption is granted by the university president if the thesis work carried out by the doctoral candidate is of a proven confidential nature and/or the results are subject to a procedure required to preserves intellectual and industrial property.

In accordance with the article 19 of the amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016 regarding the use of video-conferencing, the university president may, exceptionally, on the proposal of the thesis supervisor and after consulting the director of the doctoral school, authorize the doctoral candidate and the members of the defense committee, in whole or in part, to participate in the thesis defense by any means of telecommunication that allows them to be identified and guarantees their effective, continuous and simultaneous participation in the debates as well as the confidentiality of the committee's deliberations.

At the end of the defense and in case of admission, the doctor takes an oath, individually, in accordance with the provisions of article 19 bis of the aforementioned amended Order of May 25, 2016.

The text of this oath, called the doctors' oath on scientific integrity, is as follows:

« In the presence of my peers. With the completion of my doctorate in [research field], in my quest for knowledge, I have carried out demanding research, demonstrated intellectual rigour, ethical reflection, and respect for the principles of research integrity. As I pursue my professional career, whatever my chosen field, I pledge, to the greatest of my ability, to continue to maintain integrity in my relationship to knowledge, in my methods and in my results. »

Admission or adjournment is pronounced after deliberation by the committee. The defense report, drawn up by the President of the committee, must be sent to the candidate within one month after the defense.

#### TITLE V – The professional future of doctoral graduates

**Article 20** – AMU's doctoral degree holders formally commit themselves to communicating the information relative to their professional situation for at least 5 years. During this period, they agree to respond to any request from the doctoral college or the doctoral school regarding the review of their postdoctoral situation.

On behalf of the doctoral college, the Student Life Observatory monitors the career development of AMU's doctoral graduates yearly, 1 year, 3 years and 5 years following the defense of their doctorate. The results of these surveys are made available to doctoral candidates on the websites of the doctoral

college and of the doctoral schools in order to help them prepare for the continuation of their careers. They will allow, as indicated in Article 7 of the Doctoral Charter, any candidate, even before enrolling in a doctoral training, to be informed of the possibilities offered for the continuation of a career to which they can reasonably aspire at the end of their doctoral training.

**Article 21** – The thesis supervisor, as well as, if applicable, the co-supervisor and the director of the research unit support the doctoral graduate in any qualification, research, postdoctoral position and recruitment procedures whenever they consider it appropriate.

Article 22 – Any information related to the work carried out by the doctoral candidate as part of their doctorate and, more generally, to the activity of the research unit may be confidential. The doctoral graduate commits not to disclose any information related to the research projects of the research unit and its scientific environment for a period of at least 5 years, and shall keep the results and other knowledge acquired during the doctorate strictly confidential, for the protection of intellectual property.

#### TITLE VI – Electronic registration and dissemination of theses

Article 23 – In compliance with the provisions of Article 24 of the above-mentioned amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, registering the thesis manuscript is mandatory. Only registration in digital form is acknowledged as official registration. Registration must be completed one month prior to the doctorate defense. Moreover, If the defense committee members wish to have printed copies, the institution will print the thesis manuscript from the digital medium. This printing is done under the conditions set by the doctoral school in its internal regulations.

**Article 24** – The author agrees to respect the rights of third parties, in particular intellectual property rights. In the event that the thesis manuscript includes elements protected by any right whatsoever, the author must request the necessary authorisation for their use, reproduction and representation from the holder(s) of these rights. In no case can AMU be held responsible for the infringing upon the rights of a third party.

Article 25 – The PDF version of the thesis manuscript is submitted by the author to the AMU's electronic thesis depository in the dedicated space provided by the application procedure. The introductory pages – title page, affidavit, and abstracts- must comply with AMU's recommendations. A presentation template is available on the website of the doctoral school or the doctoral college. The author is exclusively responsible for the legibility and conformity of the registered documents, which may be controlled by the University. In case modifications are requested by the defense committee, and mentioned on the report at the end of the defense, the author, within 3 months, shall submit a second document according to the same procedures. The person designated by the president of the defense committee among its members is then responsible for verifying and validating the modifications made and the adherence to the format of the introductory pages. The award of the doctoral degree is conditional upon the submission of the amended version of the thesis manuscript.

Article 26 – In compliance with the provisions of the above-mentioned amended Ministerial Order of May 25, 2016, the theses defended at AMU are published on the intranet, except when they contain proven confidential material. Internet online publication of the defended thesis is subject to the author's authorisation and, provided there is no clause of confidentiality, agreed upon under the conditions defined in Article 24 of this Charter. The author may refuse this online publication, authorise it unconditionally or postpone it, notably in order to preserve the valorisation of the research results.

Article 27 – Depending on the authorisation provided by the author, the University publishes defended theses in digital form and, for that purpose, puts them online on the internet (1) or on the intranet (2) exclusively.

- (1) <u>Internet</u>: the global electronic network publicly accessible without prior identification.
- (2) <u>Intranet</u>: the computer network accessible to Aix-Marseille University students and staff after secure identification.

The theses will thus be made available to the public defined above, who will be able to consult them free of charge, reproduce them on any medium and reproduce them free of charge for exclusively personal and educational purposes and in compliance with the provisions of the intellectual property code in force.

If the thesis is a collaborative work, the authorisation of all co-authors is required. The authorisation may be granted at any time by the doctoral candidate who may choose the date of publication of the thesis on the internet. If the author wishes to put their thesis online, even though this was not their prior intention, it is their responsibility to contact the University in order to implement the procedure.

**Article 28** – The author may withdraw the permission for publication on the internet at any time without justification. The thesis will then be available only on the intranet. In that case, they must notify the University of their decision in a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, according to the procedure indicated by the doctoral registration office. The University agrees to change the internet publication to the benefit of the exclusive intranet publication at the latest within a period of 3 months from the reception date of the registered letter.

Article 29 – The University is not bound by the author's consent to put the thesis online; the dissemination of the thesis, even restricted to the intranet, remains subject to the defense committee's agreement. The University may refuse to put the thesis online or withdraw it at any time in case of infringement of any right of a third party. The confidential thesis will neither be reproduced nor communicated for the duration of the confidentiality.

#### **TITLE VII – Mediation procedures**

**Article 30** – In case of conflict, either of the signatory parties of this doctoral Charter appeals to the head of the doctoral school, which, in all impartiality, sets up a mediation procedure. Should this mediation fail, the director of the doctoral school calls upon the director of the doctoral college who, after discussion with the parties concerned, sets up a conflict resolution procedure involving at least one person from outside the doctoral school. As a last resort, AMU's Ombudsman is called upon.

This Charter, signed by the doctoral candidate, is submitted for digital validation by the thesis supervisor, the director of the host research unit and the director of the doctoral school.

#### The doctoral candidate,

Last name, first name:

Date:

Signature