COMMITMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DOCTORAL STUDENT AND THE THESIS SUPERVISOR(S)

Doctoral studies are academic and professional activities designed to provide students with advanced scientific skills and a variety of transferrable skills that will be valuable to them in assuming positions of responsibility in all socioeconomic sectors. The doctoral studies period comprises the completion of an original and innovative research project, a personal programme of continuing education to support the research project, and a professional project.

This agreement defines the rights and duties and the reciprocal commitment of the signatories. It ensures that the aims described above are met during the doctoral thesis period. It must be signed by:

- The doctoral student
- The tutor
- The thesis supervisor(s) responsible for overseeing the research plan
- The coordinator of the doctoral programme

The agreement must be signed by all parties at the time of enrolment for the research period of the doctoral programme.

1. Collaboration
The doctoral student, the tutor and the supervisor(s) undertake to collaborate in the preparation and submission of the research plan, monitoring and annual assessment, and the preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis, in accordance with the procedures and periods established in the applicable regulations.

2. Obligations and dedication of the tutor
The tutor shall be familiar with all applicable legislation on doctoral studies, and in particular with the specific regulations that apply to doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona and to the specific doctoral programme.

The tutor undertakes to regularly monitor the research plan, to review the individual research log, to facilitate contact between the doctoral student and the Academic Committee, and to carry out all of those functions stipulated in the Provisional Internal Regulations Governing the Activities of the Doctoral School of the University of Barcelona and in the general Regulations on Doctoral Studies governed by Royal Decree 99/2011.

To all effects, the dedication of the tutor is recognized according to current UB regulations.

3. Obligations and dedication of the thesis supervisor(s)
The thesis supervisor(s) shall be familiar with all applicable legislation on doctoral studies, and in particular with the specific regulations that apply to doctoral studies at the University of Barcelona and to the specific doctoral programme.

The thesis supervisor(s) shall ensure that the doctoral student has access to sufficient funding to prepare the doctoral thesis in a manner consistent with research quality criteria.

The thesis supervisor(s) undertakes to regularly monitor the development of the thesis (in specific cases, exact periods and intervals can be set), and to oversee the student’s work and guide the
research plan during the thesis preparation period. The supervisor(s) shall encourage the student to take initiative for his/her work and develop greater independence as the project progresses.

The supervisor(s) shall ensure that the research plan is of the highest possible scientific quality in the field; is original, instructive and innovative; can be completed in the time-frame envisaged, and is compatible with the research area to which it is assigned.

The supervisor undertakes to regularly monitor the individual research log, and to carry out all the functions stipulated in the Provisional Internal Regulations Governing the Activities of the Doctoral School of the University of Barcelona and in the general Regulations on doctoral Studies governed by Royal Decree 99/2011.

To all effects, the dedication of the thesis supervisor(s) is recognized according to current UB regulations.

4. Obligations and dedication of the doctoral student

The doctoral student undertakes to enrol each academic year during the period established in the academic calendar; to submit a research plan by the stipulated deadline, and to carry out his/her studies within the applicable legal framework, submitting to monitoring and annual assessment and completing all training activities indicated by the thesis supervisor, in accordance with the commitments made in this document. The doctoral student must regularly inform the thesis supervisor(s) of his/her progress, of the results obtained and of any problems that arise. He/she must pay due heed to comments made by the supervisor(s).

To all effects, the dedication of the doctoral student is ___________________ (full-time/part-time), as authorized by the Academic Committee for the doctoral programme.

5. Obligations and dedication of the Academic Committee

The Academic Committee shall carry out those functions assigned to it by the Provisional Internal Regulations Governing the Activities of the Doctoral School of the University of Barcelona and by the general Regulations on Doctoral Studies governed by Royal Decree 99/2011. The Committee is therefore responsible for the overall progress of the research period.

The Academic Committee’s tasks include ruling on access and admission to the programme, assigning tutors and thesis supervisors, and approving research plans, conducting an annual appraisal of doctoral students’ training activities, and evaluating progress on research plans.

The Academic Committee approves the calendar and requirements on supporting documentation for the submission of research plans and for the monitoring and annual appraisals of research plans. The calendar and the list of supporting documentation required will be posted on the web page for the doctoral programme.

6. Confidentiality

Doctoral students must maintain the confidentiality of all data and information, whether verbal, written, graphic or in any other form, provided by the thesis supervisor(s), tutor or any other member of the research team. They must not reveal, communicate or otherwise disclose confidential information to a third party and must use the information for the sole purpose of producing the doctoral thesis.

Doctoral students must not reveal any confidential information pertaining to the research group without the prior express written consent of the thesis supervisor(s) and/or the tutor. Notwithstanding, where necessary, students may follow the special procedure established for the defence of doctoral theses that are subject to confidentiality and technology transfer agreements.
In such cases, students must sign any additional confidentiality agreements required by the thesis supervisors, the research groups or the tutor.

This confidentiality agreement shall remain in force and continue to be binding even after the termination of any administrative and/or employment agreements between the doctoral student and the University of Barcelona.

7. Intellectual and industrial property rights
Prevailing legislation formally recognizes doctoral students’ intellectual and industrial property rights. Doctoral students have the right to be cited as co-authors of all work, articles and communications that disseminate research to which they have made a substantial contribution and to be cited as first author if the topic is specifically the topic of the doctoral thesis.

Doctoral students are entitled to exercise the intellectual property rights that arise from their research training according to their degree of involvement, in accordance with the applicable regulations. These rights are independent of, compatible with and cumulative with other rights derived from the research, without prejudice to restrictions derived from collective work if the student participates in or is linked to a group research project.

With respect to possible industrial property rights resulting from the research, doctoral students will be subject to prevailing legislation on university patents and applicable UB regulations. Sums to which the student may be entitled for the use and assignment of the abovementioned rights shall not be considered a salary.

8. Disputes
Should the provisions of this agreement not be observed, the parties undertake to seek a resolution through mediation, overseen by the coordinator of the doctoral programme. If a resolution cannot be reached, the dispute will be transferred to Doctoral School’s Conflict Resolution Committee, which will issue a ruling. If the student wishes to appeal the decision reached by the Conflict Resolution Committee, the claim must be lodged with the rector, in accordance with the provisions made in Law 30/1992, 26 November, on the legal system of public administrations and common administrative procedure.

If the doctoral studies are carried out in the framework of a cooperation agreement with another institution, the parties will be subject to the particular provisions of that agreement, with which all signatories to this document must be familiar.

9. Commitment to ethical practice
The undersigned are committed to observing standard ethical practices and the ethical principles advocated by the University of Barcelona, as well as those ethical standards upheld by Spanish, sector-specific and institutional ethical and behavioural codes.

10. Validity
This agreement shall be valid from the date of signature to the date of the doctoral thesis defence. Notwithstanding, the agreement shall be rendered null and void in the event of failure to comply with any of the clauses stated herein or with applicable clauses stated in the UB’s Regulations on Doctoral Studies, governed by Royal Decree 99/2011 (approved by the Governing Council of 16 March and amended by the Council on 9 May and 19 July).

Barcelona,  (day)  (month),  (year).
Chair of the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme,

(signed)

Name and surname(s):

DNI, passport or national identity document (EU):

The doctoral student,

(signed)

Name and surname(s):

DNI, passport or national identity document (EU):

The tutor,

(signed)

Name and surname(s):

DNI, passport or national identity document (EU):

The thesis supervisor(s),

(signed)

Name and surname(s):

DNI, passport or national identity document (EU):

The thesis supervisor(s),

(signed)

Name and surname(s):

DNI, passport or national identity document (EU):