

BIOMED

Regulation for obtaining the title of “Doctor medicinae” (Dr. med.)

From the 17.02.2017 (status 05.06.2025)

The Faculty of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Lugano (USI), regarding the *Statute of the University of Lugano* and the *Statute of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences*, issues the following provisions for obtaining the title “Doctor medicinae” (Dr. med.):

Chapter I – General dispositions

Art. 1 Application	This Regulation defines the criteria and procedures for obtaining the title “Doctor medicinae” (Dr. med.) at the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences (Faculty) of USI.
Art. 2 Structure of the Doctorate of Medicine	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The doctorate in medicine consists of a dissertation (doctoral thesis) attesting to the ability to conduct and write independent scientific research.2. The dissertation may consist of an original in-depth study related to the topic of the Master Thesis written during the study of medicine.
Art. 3 Scope	The doctorate in medicine certifies the candidate's ability to conduct personal and original research in the fields of medicine, humanities or natural sciences, producing new knowledge.
Art. 4 Title	The Faculty confers the title “Doctor medicinae” (Dr. med.).

Chapter II – Organs and competencies

Art. 5 Dissertation Committee: composition and tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Dissertation Committee (DC) is a standing committee of the Faculty, composed of at least three members appointed by the Faculty from among its full professors, adjunct professors and private lecturers.2. The duties of the DC are the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Decides on the admission of candidates to the doctoral program in medicine.b. Requests the second evaluation of the dissertation in accordance with art. 13.
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- c. Decides on the outcome of the dissertation and the awarding of the degree.
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**Art. 6
Dissertation Director**

3. The Dissertation Director must be a full professor, adjunct professor, emeritus professor, aggregate professor, private lecturer of the Faculty, or a Group leader of a Faculty-affiliated institute.
4. By assuming the direction of the dissertation, the Dissertation Director also assumes the final responsibility for the dissertation.
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**Art. 7
Co-Director and
supervision of the
dissertation**

1. The Dissertation Director may be assisted by a Co-Director appointed by him/her or identified in consultation with the doctoral student in the context of the Doctoral dissertation agreement (see art. 8). The Co-Director may be a member of another USI Faculty. In case of disagreement, the opinion of the Dissertation Director prevails.
2. The Dissertation Director may delegate the supervision of the dissertation to one person or exceptionally to several persons without a qualifying title, but who have profound experience in independent research and who report regularly to the Dissertation Director on the quality and progress of the research.
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**Art. 8
Doctoral Dissertation
Agreement**

A Doctoral Dissertation Agreement is established between the doctoral student and the Dissertation Director that defines the topic, the estimated duration, and the deadlines for completion of the dissertation, as well as the figure of the Co-Director, if applicable.

Chapter III – Procedures

**Art. 9
Admission and
enrollment criterias**

1. Admission to the doctoral program in medicine requires the following documents, which are to be submitted to the Admissions and Diploma Service of the Faculty:
- Curriculum vitae
 - Federal medical degree, or the confirmation of recognition of the medical degree conferred by the Medical Professions Commission (MEBEKO).
 - Doctoral dissertation agreement (see art. 8).
2. Registration entails payment of the one-time fee of CHF 500. The fee is issued at the time of enrolment.
3. The candidate admitted to and enrolled in the doctoral program in medicine is subject to applicable university regulations, including the Code of Ethics and its Implementing Regulations.
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**Art. 10
Content of the
dissertation**

1. The dissertation is conducted and edited personally by the doctoral student and consists of one of the following works:
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- a. an original scientific paper (original report),
 - b. a systematic review
 - c. a meta-analysis,
 - d. a short communication,
 - e. a preliminary communication,
 - f. a research letter, respectively a scientific letter.
2. The dissertation is a document certifying the candidate's ability to conduct and write original research and develop new knowledge, taking into account the current scientific literature.
 3. In publications with multiple authors, the candidate must appear as first or last author. Work by two persons considered "first author" or "last author" is accepted only if explicitly stated in the publication. In this case, the candidate must document his or her research contribution in an appendix. The Dissertation Director must also evaluate this annex.
 4. The Director or Co-Director of the dissertation must have contributed and be on the list of co-authors of the publication.
 5. The dissertation is preferably written in English. Dissertations in Italian, German, and French are also accepted.
 6. The Dissertation Director may agree to assign a particularly challenging topic to two candidates. The contribution of the two candidates must be carefully specified by the Dissertation Director in the document "Evaluation of the Dissertation Director."
 7. The dissertation may be drafted with a teaching aid (audiovisual self-study program, a learning program by simulation model). In this case, the Dissertation Director must be supported by a specialist in the field.

**Art. 11
Evaluation by the
Dissertation Director**

Upon completion of the writing of the dissertation, the Dissertation Director drafts and signs a document called "Dissertation Director's Evaluation." This document, together with the dissertation, is submitted to the DC, according to the procedure in art. 13.

**Art. 12
Submission**

1. In order to submit the dissertation for the evaluation of the DC, the following documents must be delivered to the Studies Administration Service of the Faculty:
 - a. The dissertation
 - b. The evaluation drafted by the Dissertation Director
 - c. The Anti-plagiarism statement
2. The Studies Administration Service of the Faculty verifies the adequacy of the submitted documents.

**Art. 13
Second evaluation**

1. The DC requests a second evaluation from a faculty member of the Faculty, from another USI faculty, or from a faculty of another university who is an expert in the subject matter, and who completes the evaluation within three months of receipt of the request.
 2. The second expert may not be a member of the same clinical institution or institute as the Dissertation Director.
 3. If a dissertation is published in a journal with Peer Review as an original article, systematic review, meta-analysis, short communication,
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preliminary communication or research letter respectively scientific letter, the DC may consider such publication as a second evaluation.

**Art. 14
Unlawful acts**

1. A student who turns in his/her written work that has not been drafted, even if only in part, by his or her own hand or in which he or she passes off as his or her own the results of work or the results or research by third-party. Any part of a text taken from another source must be accompanied with the precise citation of said source.
 2. The Studies Administration Service of the Faculty shall submit the dissertation to the electronic plagiarism prevention tool.
 3. The DC in case of plagiarism will reject the dissertation.
 4. In case of plagiarism, the disciplinary procedures and measures listed in art. 15 are applicable.
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**Art. 15
Disciplinary measures**

1. The Faculty may punish the following student behaviors with the disciplinary measures stipulated in the next paragraphs:
 - a. Indiscipline and violation of internal university order. The USI Executive Board (see Article 4 of the Implementing Regulation of the Code of Ethics) is competent for the adoption of disciplinary measures and actions in case of violation of the Code of Ethics, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Implementing Regulation of the Code of Ethics
 - b. Plagiarism as defined in art. 14.
 2. In the cases mentioned in paragraph 1, the Dean, having carried out the investigation by himself, while respecting the student's right to be heard, may pronounce (even cumulatively) the following disciplinary measures, taking into account the student's responsibility and the seriousness of the wrongful act:
 - a. A warning
 - b. The cancellation of the written work in which the unlawful act was noted; in this case the written work will be recorded with a grade of 1 and considered as failed.
 3. The competence of other university bodies to pronounce the exclusion or expulsion of the student or to report the facts to other authorities remains reserved.
 4. A complaint against the Dean's decision shall be made to the Faculty, on whose behalf the Complaint Committee decides.
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**Art. 16
Decision**

1. The DC approves, accepts with invitation to rework, or rejects the dissertation based on the evaluation of the Dissertation Director and the second evaluation.
 2. In the case of acceptance with invitation for reworking, the DC shall inform the Dissertation Director to whom it specifies the conditions of reworking.
 3. The candidate whose dissertation is rejected has the opportunity to draft a new dissertation only once, which must be on a different topic than the first drafted work.
 4. In controversial cases, the DC shall refer the decision to the Board of Professors of the Faculty.
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**Art. 17
Litigation**

1. Against decisions made under these Regulations, the candidate may appeal in writing and provoke a decision of the Faculty, on whose behalf the Complaint Committee decides.
2. Against decisions of the Faculty, the student may appeal to the Cantonal Administrative Court.
3. Complaints and appeals must be filed within 30 days after notification of the appealable decision and substantiated in writing. The Legge sulla procedura amministrativa del Cantone Ticino (LPAm) applies by analogy. For internal complaints to the Faculty Complaint Committee, the interruptions for judicial vacations under the LPAm do not apply.
4. No fee is due for complaints under para. 1.

**Art. 18
Effective date**

This Regulation, approved by the Senate on 5 June 2025, take effect for students enrolled on or after 1 September 2025, and supersede the previous Regulation from the 15 October 2020.
