

Ph.D. in “Human rights: evolution, protection and limits”

Directives for doctoral students

I. Teaching activities

PhD teaching activities consist of: (1) PhD courses; (2) Winter School and Summer School; (3) PhD Workshops; and (4) seminars.

All educational activity is strictly compulsory as outlined in these regulations. Absences may be excused only for serious and certified reasons. Under no circumstances may an excessive number of absences be excused. Attendance is in person. Online attendance may be authorized only for doctoral students engaged in the period abroad, or for cases of certified infirmity or inability.

In addition to attending courses and seminars, Ph.D. students may be assigned additional duties, which are also mandatory: discussants, organizing workshops, supporting the organization of courses, reporting on texts, etc.

Serious violations of teaching obligations justify non-admission to the following year. The same didactic obligations apply to all doctoral students regardless of their place of residence, with the sole exception of doctoral students from foreign universities under agreement, to whom the Board of Professors may decide to apply different didactic obligations.

1. Mandatory teaching activities.

The following compulsory teaching activities are planned to be carried out.

For first-year doctoral students only:

a. Introductory course. Days: 5. Hours: 20. Period: first semester.

For all doctoral students:

b. Course in Human Rights Theory and Practice I. Days: 5. Hours: 25. Period: first semester.

c. Course in Human Rights Theory and Practice I. II. Days: 5. Number of hours: 25. Period: second semester.

d. Winter School. Days: 5. Hours: 25. Period: first semester.

e. Summer School. Days: 5. Number of hours: 25. Period: second semester.

At the initiative of the doctoral students, it may be planned to carry out:

f. a PhD Workshop, bringing together papers by PhD and PhD students from both the Human Rights PhD and other doctoral programs. Attendance at the PhD Workshop is mandatory for all PhD students.

2. Optional teaching activities

Additional seminars may be organized during the year. Attendance, in this case, is optional.

II. Research activities

In carrying out the research activity, it is the responsibility of doctoral students to keep in touch with their supervisor, updating him or her on progress and difficulties.

Admission to the following year is subject to the submission of a report on the teaching and research activity carried out, and a favorable judgment of the Board, after hearing the opinion of the supervisor.

The report must contain at least:

- for first-year doctoral students, an annotated table of contents of the dissertation and/or a chapter.
- for second-year Ph.D. students, in addition to the updated table of contents, two chapters (or equivalent part of the dissertation).

Second- and third-year Ph.D. students are also required to conduct a public report on the progress of their research, lasting up to 20 min. The reports will be held according to a schedule defined at the beginning of the new doctoral cycle.

The Board will authorize the participation of doctoral students in all scientific events relevant to the educational objectives of the course, and compatible with teaching and research activities.

The Board, through supervisors, encourages doctoral students to publicly present the results of their research at conferences and other scientific events.

The Board will also authorize the participation of doctoral students in research projects relevant to the educational objectives of the course, and compatible with teaching and research activities.

III. Training credits

In compliance with the University regulations (https://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/.content/documenti/dottorato/ciclo_XXXIII/regolamento/2022_3900_Regolamento-Dottorato-Ricerca.pdf), the activity of doctoral students is expressed in ECTS, amounting to 60 ECTS per year.

ECTS are distributed as follows:

- for the first year, 6 ECTS for the Course in Human Rights Theory and Practice I, 6 ECTS for the Course in Human Rights Theory and Practice II, 6 ECTS for the Summer School, 6 ECTS for the Winter School, 3 ECTS for the Introductory Course, 25 ECTS for research activities;
- for the second and third years, 6 ECTS for the Rights Theory and Practice I course, 6 ECTS for the Rights Theory and Practice II course, 6 ECTS for the Summer School, 6 ECTS for the Winter School, 28 ECTS for research activities.

Ph.D. students authorized not to participate in didactic activities due to time zone reasons by virtue of the performance outside Europe of the mobility period may acquire ECTS

through the performance of alternative educational activities approved by the Board (participation in conferences and seminars, etc.).

ECTS related to research activity are understood to be acquired, for first- and second-year Ph.D. students, with the Board's approval of the report referred to in Sec. II. For third-year doctoral students, ECTS related to research activity are understood to be acquired through the submission of the final thesis to be sent to the evaluators.

IV. Period abroad

The period abroad is defined by the doctoral student together with their supervisor, and will consist of at least three months at a research institution. During the period abroad, the doctoral student is required to make at least one public presentation of his/her research at the host institution.

Teaching activities are also mandatory for doctoral students doing their research period abroad, but they may be allowed to attend online. The attendance requirement may be suspended only for time zone reasons.

V. Supplementary teaching activities

Ph.D. students may be required to engage in supplementary teaching activities (seminars as part of undergraduate courses, test preparation, etc.) up to a maximum of 40 h per year. An account of the supplementary teaching activity should be attached to the report for year passage.