

# DOCTORAL PROGRAM GUIDELINE

## Program Overview

Centro Henry Hazlitt's PhD program at Universidad Francisco Marroquín, is the pathway offered to students to obtain the doctoral degree, the last and preeminent academic degree that the university can confer.

The program merges all the doctoral studies at UFM without distinction of disciplines, although each doctorate will have the support of the department related to the investigation that will be developed.

The degree which is offered recognizes a doctoral investigation founded upon the defense of a thesis based on primary research, equivalent to the PhD or Philosophiae Doctor in the Anglo-Saxon world.

In no case, the doctorate at UFM is a professional degree that offers determined competences for the practice of a career that demands specific university training. Again, it is a research doctorate that validates the candidate who obtains it as a qualified scientific researcher.

The doctorate is considered as an intellectual enrichment of the aspiring PhD student who freely decides to engage, develop, and submit the topic to evaluative research, scientific parameters, and the critique of other doctors. Therefore, the concluding statements should provide an objective, general, systematic, and verifiable result.

The doctorate may offer the doctoral student an improvement in the professional field, access to certain employment opportunities or grant social recognition. But for Universidad Francisco Marroquín it is the best way for our most valuable researchers to make a broad and deep reflection from their knowledge, experiences and skills based on the ability of individuals to act in a free and responsible manner.

The doctorate can be the beginning of a career as a researcher, another stage in that career or its colophon. But overall, it is a moment for self-evaluation and self-awareness of the real capacity an individual has to construct and improve the knowledge of liberty.

The PhD program at UFM offers the academic-administrative-legal framework to qualify for a doctoral

degree. To obtain this degree, the doctoral student may have to overcome a series of academic requirements, different in each case. Additionally, every student will have to defend the doctoral thesis before a 5-member jury who will then decide whether to approve it or not.

For this, the doctoral program, besides offering the resources to master the academic requirements that may come forward, will guarantee that the doctoral student has a tutor who keeps a constant follow-up of the dissertation. Furthermore, the tutor will put the doctoral student in contact with an assessment team and specialists who will serve as advisors to the investigation. In the traditional model, the doctoral student must carry out several years of doctoral study undertaking several courses regarding the thesis topic. This PhD program considers that it is more important to introduce the doctoral student to a group of specialists who are clearly related to the investigation that is being developed.

Additionally, the PhD program at UFM will inform of all upcoming events that the university carries out and that may be related to the research work, as well as any bibliographical, technological or relevant supplementary resources that can be useful to the doctoral student. In this sense, the PhD program guarantees the doctoral students a personalized and close follow-up while writing the thesis.

The PhD program is formed by:

1. The program Director and the program Coordinator as part of Centro Henry Hazlitt, in charge of the doctoral student's individualized monitoring (from the academic and administrative point of view), with the support and mentorship of the assigned tutor.
2. The Doctoral Commission, in advisory mode, formed by the program Director (or the person to whom he/she delegates), and the dean or director (or the person to whom he/she delegates) of the department to which the dissertation theme belongs to. This commission will give its opinion on the proposed subject, advise on the possible tutor that will accompany the investigation, ensure the quality of any alternative thesis formats, and guarantee the validity of the thesis defense process.



Both the director and members of the Doctoral Commission are doctors.

## Doctoral Thesis

The drafting, defense and approval of the thesis project is essential and a mandatory requirement to obtain the Doctoral degree at UFM.

The doctoral thesis is the result of an original scientific investigation developed by the doctoral student regarding all academic disciplines within the university, except engineering.

In general, the doctoral thesis will adopt a one hundred to five-hundred-page text form. However, it can be presented in other formats such as a collection of articles.

The work done in the thesis project can be the result of an intellectual reflection, an experimental investigation, or the findings of a professional or clinical experience. Furthermore, Universidad Francisco Marroquín hopes that this reflection improves the knowledge, teaching and diffusion of the ethical, legal and economic principles of a society of free and responsible people.

The thesis builds knowledge, a knowledge that must aspire to strengthen the freedom of human beings.

The thesis can be written in Spanish or English (except in the case of a thesis in philology or translation requiring a particular language).

In any case, the doctoral student's authorship must be proved as well as the originality of the investigation and the follow up of the scientific method to obtain the result.

The doctoral thesis will be elaborated, ideally during a three-year period. Before enrollment, the PhD student must have already established the thesis project.

For more complete information on what is expected of the doctoral thesis, the program recommends the book by Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis* (MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2015).

Despite the years that have passed, this book is still the

most enjoyable text the doctoral student can read before writing the doctoral thesis. The book highlights how to start the investigation, the different formats that are available (monographic, panoramic, theoretical, historical, experimental...) and above all, the aspired result.

## Thesis Models

Along with the traditional model of a doctoral thesis, consisting of a homogenous one hundred to five-hundred-page essay, with at least an introduction, an explanation of the methodology that will be applied, a bibliographical revision of the subject, the development of the investigation and conclusions, the thesis can be presented in additional formats.

### 1. Compendium of Articles

In this modality, the doctoral student compiles three theme-related articles. These articles must have been published or have been accepted for publication during the three-year program period. That is, none of the three articles may have been published or accepted for publication before the doctoral student has registered in the PhD program. All three articles must have been published or accepted for publication before the end of the third year.

The doctoral student must be the sole or main author of the three articles that will be accepted. To be recognized as the leading author, the rest of the authors must attest to this in writing. These articles must have been published or accepted for publication in a journal that UFM considers valid.

At the beginning of the doctoral process, the PhD student presents the research that has been developed or will be developed to the tutor and explains the intention of writing the thesis as a compendium of articles. The tutor verifies the coherence between the three papers (the common thread between them) and if validated, the doctoral student proceeds to write these three articles.

When presenting the doctoral thesis, the PhD student must write an introductory text that explains the

relation between the three articles. Next, the articles will be inserted and finally the concluding points will recap the progress made in each of these three articles.

From there, the defense process will be similar to that of a traditional thesis.

## Double Doctorate

Those doctoral students who are interested in doing a double doctorate with Universidad Francisco Marroquín and with any other university in the world, may request the creation of a co-tutorship agreement, as long as the research topic falls within the disciplines of UFM.

The agreement will be personalized and unique for each doctoral student:

The agreement must specify:

- The name of the doctoral student.
- The thesis proposal.
- The name of the tutors at UFM and the second university that will co-tutor the project.
- The discipline within the doctoral program at UFM to which the doctoral student will be assigned.
- The doctoral program of the second university to which the doctoral student will be assigned.

The PhD student must meet all the academic requirements of the two universities and formalize the enrollment. To do this, the doctoral candidate must pay the entire doctoral program at the original university and may have to pay administrative fees at the second university.

In case the doctoral program includes academic requirements beyond those related to writing and defense of the thesis, like the philosophy of freedom courses at UFM, these courses will have an additional cost.

Each university will assign a tutor to the doctoral student. Both tutors will carry out their functions jointly, although the tutor from UFM must always guarantee the creation of a network of advisors who support the development of the investigation.

While writing the thesis, originally three years, the doctoral student is not obliged to be physically present at UFM. However, the doctoral student must establish the most convenient type of follow-up sessions with the tutor (in person, email, chat, or videoconference...). On the other hand, the second university could require the physical presence of the doctoral student, without undermining the monitoring previously established from UFM.

The thesis will be written out in the language agreed to in each case, either English or Spanish.

If the doctoral student conducts a physical stay at UFM, he/she must personally carry out all the procedures necessary to remain in Guatemala, as well as subscribe personal medical and casualty insurance and other civil liabilities.

The evaluation of the thesis will be unique and take place in the student's original university. In case the original university is UFM, the defense will be carried out in Guatemala, following the given process of the doctoral program. In any case, all doctoral students must submit to the usual internal revision procedures in UFM prior to the final defense before the jury.

The members of the jury for the defense will be formed by mutual agreement between the two universities.

Once the thesis has been approved, each university will commit to deliver the corresponding doctoral degree, preceding the payment of the established rates.

These arrangements can be modified or canceled by mutual agreement of the parties, or in case of breach of any of the points. If conflicts were to arise, the parties will submit to the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, with an arbitrator chosen in accordance to those rules.

## Admission Requirements

To qualify for the doctoral program, the doctoral student must have a master's degree.

From there, the doctoral candidate must present the research topic, generic or specific, that will be developed, as well as an academic and professional

curriculum.

The presentation of the research topic does not require the preparation of a preliminary draft of the thesis. Simply, the doctoral candidate must explain in one or two paragraphs what the project is, clearly specifying the topic to be analyzed and its spatial and temporal limits.

If the research topic fits within the disciplines of Universidad Francisco Marroquín, the candidate may be considered for the doctoral program. Based on the doctoral student's academic curriculum, the study syllabus is established.

- All doctoral students must take the philosophy of freedom courses inherent of UFM. UFM graduates can make equivalences of these courses. Likewise, OMMA graduates.
- All doctoral students must have research proficiency that may have been acquired through the completion of a master's degree project or through their work, accredited through a series of publications, patents or software developments, as an investigator. If this research competence is not available, research methodology courses must be taken.
- Once the thesis topic is known, the program will evaluate the need to take other specific courses. If the investigation is consistent with the academic or professional career of the doctoral student, those specific courses will not be necessary.

In very particular cases, accumulated professional and academic experience may be an alternative to the master's degree. However, these cases will have to be very well accredited and will be subject to detailed analysis on behalf of the Doctoral Commission. The acceptance to the program through professional and academic validation does not exclude the doctoral student from having to take the philosophy of freedom courses and from having to prove research aptitude.

entire academic year so the doctoral candidate can enroll at any moment.

When the enrollment has been formalized, the three-year deadline will begin for the completion and defense of the thesis. This precise date marks the starting point of the three-year limit; therefore, calendar years are not considered. A doctoral student who enrolls on April 15, 2026 will have until April 14, 2029 to present the thesis.

Thus, candidates interested in the doctoral program at UFM can refer to the administration at any time during the academic year.

An initial interview will be held in which the future doctoral student will present his/her academic and professional trajectory as well as a possible thesis topic. The administration, in return, will present the conditions of the program.

From then on, the doctoral candidate must finalize the thesis topic before enrolling. Meanwhile, the program will seek the appropriate tutor for that topic.

There is no time limit to define the thesis topic and to choose the tutor.

The tutor can be proposed by the doctoral student and validated by the PhD program; proposed by the PhD program and accepted by the doctoral student; or through a consensus between the PhD program and the doctoral student.

Once the registration is formalized, an email must be sent and signed by the doctoral student and the tutor specifying the research topic that the doctoral student is going to develop and the tutor's commitment to follow up on this research during the following three years, follow-up according to the guidelines described in the UFM tutor's pedagogical guide.

## Admission Process

The doctoral program remains open throughout the

## Prices and Payment

The doctoral program has a fixed price for writing the thesis and for its defense. The price includes the doctoral student's enrollment all the way to the issuance of the PhD diploma, once the thesis has been validated by the final jury within the three-year deadline.

In case the doctoral student requires more than three years to complete the thesis, the yearly extensions will have an added price.

The fixed price of the doctoral program includes:

- The enrollment and registration of the doctoral student.
- The assessment and support of the program's administration.
- The regular services of UFM students: student service, use of general facilities, library, internet... parking is excluded. This service has an additional cost.
- Any academic activity organized by UFM to which the students from the university have free access. The doctoral program will promptly inform the doctoral students of those talks, round tables, conferences and similar that are related to the doctoral student's research. In case these activities have an extra cost, the doctoral program will inform the doctoral student of the price.
- The tutor's fees.
- The internal revision of the thesis.
- The final presentation of the thesis before the jury.
- The issuance of the PhD degree, once the thesis has been approved by the jury.

This fixed price does not include:

- The cost of readmission to the PhD program when the doctoral student requests a break in the program due to various kinds of situations. The cost of the readmission process is the same as the cost of the admission process established in the general tariff of the UFM.

- The graduation ceremony, which is voluntary.
- Any compulsory course the doctoral student should take beyond the dissertation and defense of the thesis (the philosophy of freedom courses, research methodology and other specific courses).
- Any other activity offered by the UFM, not included in the description above, which has an additional cost.

The cost of the PhD program is established in the general tariff of the UFM with a validity of 3 years from the moment of enrollment.

The payment can be done in the following way: 20% in tuition (non-refundable). The rest in 3 annuities or 36 monthly payments. The exchange rate applied in case payment is done in currency other than dollars, will correspond to the day on which the payment is made.

In case the doctoral student exceeds the three-year deadline, the fourth year (which begins on day 1096 after enrollment), will have a 20% increase. This increase represents 20% more than one third of the total amount foreseen for the three years.

For the Philosophy of Freedom courses, Centro Henry Hazlitt's annual fees apply.

For those interested in taking the Philosophy of Freedom courses before starting the Doctoral program or are doing their doctorate through OMMA, the charges include: the cost of the admission process established in the UFM general tariff for the Doctoral program, student ID card, administrative services, and the current annual fee for Centro Henry Hazlitt's Philosophy of Freedom courses.

The four Philosophy of Freedom courses have a value of 1.5 UMAs per course.

For any specific courses, the fees of each school should be consulted.

For other costs (parking, graduation ceremony...) UFM's general fees should be consulted.

These prices may vary without prior notice.

## Open Curriculum

The doctoral program at Universidad Francisco Marroquín is organized in a personalized way for each doctoral student, therefore each student will have an individualized curriculum.

The curriculum will be established on account of the academic overview of each doctoral student and the thesis topic he/she plans to pursue.

### The Philosophy of Freedom

As future doctors from Universidad Francisco Marroquín, all doctoral students must take the Philosophy of Freedom courses that are distinctive of the university (6 UMAs). Each *Unidad de Mérito Académico* (UMA) is equivalent to 18 class periods, 50 minutes each.

Let's recall, that the mission of UFM is to study and disseminate the ethical, legal, and economic principles of the free society. The Philosophy of Freedom courses guarantees that all doctors at UFM conclude their doctorate knowing these principles of freedom which the university seeks to promote through its mission and application in the doctoral investigation.

For UFM graduates, course equivalences will be done, as the Philosophy of Freedom courses are compulsory for obtaining a degree or a master's degree at the university.

In the same way, course equivalences will be done for OMMA graduates, who have also studied these subjects as a requirement for completing a master's degree.

Therefore, the Philosophy of Freedom courses are compulsory for all those students who have not graduated from UFM or OMMA.

### Research Capacity

Secondly, the doctoral student must show research capacity. This competence has been obtained when writing the master's thesis or if the doctoral student has

a proven investigative trajectory, for example, a long series of articles published in scientific magazines.

In case there is no research capacity, the program recommends the doctoral student to take research methodology courses.

### Specific Courses

At this point, the doctoral student's level of knowledge on the proposed subject will be evaluated. This evaluation done by the program, will consider the student's academic record, research work and professional trajectory.

If case the doctoral student lacks certain competences, a series of specific courses on the topic of investigation must be taken. These courses will be conducted by the department or faculty associated to the topic of investigation.

However, the academic load, more than the specific courses, will be established through the network of advisors that the tutor will create with the doctoral student.

Traditionally, doctoral programs include a series of core years in which the doctoral student has to pass a series of subjects on a specific topic. These subjects are shared with other doctoral students.

These courses, which tend to be of high academic quality, usually present two drawbacks:

- The doctoral student writes a thesis based on the path opened by these courses rather than by his/her interests.
- These courses, although tangentially related with the topic of investigation, may imply an intellectual cost that will have negative repercussions on the thesis.

For that reason, the program, can propose, in a few cases, to complete the doctoral training with some specific courses, but, above all, the dissertation should be based on the interaction between the doctoral student and the best specialists, from anywhere in the world, on the subject that is being investigated.



## The doctoral thesis

Each doctoral student's curriculum is completed (and articulated) with the preparation and defense of the doctoral thesis.

## Thesis Chronogram

The doctorate is to be carried out over a period of three years.

During this time, the doctoral student must complete the necessary doctoral courses (as explained in the Open Curriculum section) and write and defend the doctoral thesis.

### The process prior to enrollment

Before starting the three-year program, the doctoral candidate must hold an interview with the program Director and Coordinator at UFM.

In those first meetings, the tentative curriculum will be established, and the thesis topic will be defined. Once the generic topic is approved, the search for the most suitable tutor will begin.

The doctoral student and the proposed tutor will meet to finalize the research topic. Subsequently, the doctoral student can be enrolled. From this point on, the three-year deadline to write the thesis will begin.

The doctoral student can enroll in the program at any time. Registration is not linked to the academic year where enrollments are done each semester or trimester. The three-year doctoral calendar is personalized and will follow a different chronological agenda. For example, a doctoral student that has enrolled on April 1, 2026 would have to complete his/her thesis process before March 31, 2029.

### Compulsory courses

If the doctoral student requires research methodology courses, the program recommends that these be taken during the first year of the thesis.

If the doctoral student requires the Philosophy of

Freedom courses, the program recommends that these be taken before the end of the first year or before enrollment.

In this way, the third year of the program will be used exclusively to write the final draft of the thesis.

What happens if the doctoral student has not completed the dissertation in three years?

From day 1 the doctoral student must follow an organized calendar to conclude the dissertation within a 1095 days period.

In this sense, the doctoral student must be aware of the magnitude of the workload the dissertation represents. It is a risk to want to carry out an overly ambitious investigation that exceeds those three years.

Personal vicissitudes may also arise that do not allow the doctoral student to dedicate enough time for the dissertation and writing may be prolonged.

Also, unforeseen avatars can disrupt the schedule, reviewers may not validate the thesis or, simply the doctoral student may run out of time.

A doctoral thesis of excellent quality can be completed in three years. But if any of the previous circumstances occur, the program can evaluate the possibility of extending the delivery time by a fourth, fifth and even a sixth year.

In any case, when the time comes to request this extension, the following points must be considered:

- That the extension must be requested by the doctoral student.
- That the tutor will be required to give an opinion on the need for this extension.
- That the extension will be approved by the PhD program.
- That, in any case, the payment to be made for a fourth, fifth or sixth year of doctorate, will be much higher than that made for the first three years.

### Thesis revision

After a maximum period of two and a half years after enrollment, the doctoral student must deliver the thesis



to the revisors committee.

This revisors committee will be made up of three doctors, who will be anonymous to the doctoral student and the tutor.

Each revisor will evaluate the thesis, within a period of 30 business days from the moment the document is received and will prepare an individual report. The report will specify if the thesis is apt to be presented before the jury, apt with corrections to be made before the presentation to the jury, or unfit. For the thesis to be considered apt, the three revisors must agree unanimously.

The program will notify the doctoral student and the tutor of the revisors' resolution. If the thesis was considered apt by the revisors and there was no correction to be made, the jury is summoned.

If the thesis has been considered apt with corrections, the doctoral student will have a period of 10 business days to resolve any corrections that may have been made and present a new document that will be sent to the jury.

If the revisors have not validated the thesis, at the time of that invalidation, the PhD student, his tutor and the program would have to establish new deadlines to change, improve or correct the thesis, after which the review process would restart.

## Thesis Defense

As soon as the thesis has been approved by the three revisors, the thesis defense process begins.

For this, the doctoral student must send the final document, in PDF format, to [academicdoctorado@ufm.edu](mailto:academicdoctorado@ufm.edu), using their UFM email address.

This document will be sent to the members of the jury who will have a maximum of 30 business days to read it. The date of the defense will be established after this period.

In addition, the program will deliver the thesis in digital form to the UFM library. The library will display the

thesis on its website so that it can be freely and openly consulted.

Once this deposit has been made to the Library, all UFM professors will be notified through an email that the thesis has been deposited and can be consulted, as well as the date on which the defense will take place.

The jury will be made up of five doctors, selected by the PhD program. The members of the jury may have been the revisors.

On the day of the defense, the oldest doctor will act as president of the jury and will oversee and clarify any questions during the presentation. The most recent doctor will act as secretary of the jury. This person will write the jury's verdict, as well as any observation that the jurors want to record.

In this final defense, in addition to the participation of the five members of the jury, the doctoral student and the tutor, a representative of the PhD program must be present, who will only intervene if the jury needs administrative support.

In case any of the members of the jury, the doctoral student or the tutor cannot be physically in the room, they will be able to connect through videoconference.

The defense is also open to the public, so that, along with the people mentioned before, all those interested can attend.

Before starting the final presentation, the doctoral student can submit an addendum to the thesis considering new and latest research. This addendum will be submitted in written form to each member of the jury.

From there, the doctoral student will have a maximum of 45 minutes to defend the thesis and may rely on a PowerPoint-type presentation or similar.

At the end of the presentation, the members of the jury will ask questions and refer their comments. Once this intervention has concluded, the doctoral student will be able to reply.

After the debate between the doctoral student and the

jury, the president of the jury may invite any other doctor present in the room to participate.

Finally, if desired, the doctoral student's tutor may speak.

At the end of the discussion, all those present in the room, except for the five members of the jury, will withdraw so that the jurors can establish the verdict. The verdict will be reached by simple majority. The secretary will record the final decision that may include any comments considered necessary.

All members of the jury must sign the act. In case one of the members is not present, an email must be sent to [academicdoctorado@ufm.edu](mailto:academicdoctorado@ufm.edu) confirming the verdict.

The grades that can be given are:

- Approved, which will mean that the doctoral student has fulfilled all the necessary requirements to obtain the title of Doctor from Universidad Francisco Marroquín.
- Outstanding, when the majority of the panel considers that the thesis meets the necessary merits for the doctoral student to obtain the title of Doctor from Universidad Francisco Marroquín.
- Outstanding with honors, when all the members of the jury consider that the thesis not only meets the necessary requirements to obtain the title of Doctor but is also of exceptional academic quality.
- Not Approved, which will mean that the doctoral student cannot receive the title of Doctor and that, if he continues to aspire to it, he will have to start a new thesis.

The decision of the jury is final.

The doctoral students who have passed may immediately request the issuance of the diploma through the program. This administrative process may take up to fourteen weeks.

If, on the other hand, the new doctor wishes to receive the diploma during the graduation ceremony, the next graduation day must be considered.

## Presence

The doctoral program at Universidad Francisco Marroquín is designed so that it can take place from anywhere in the world, without the physical presence of the doctoral student at the UFM campus.

Thus, the initial interview, tutoring, assessments, the review and the final defense can be done through the use of email, chats, or videoconferences (in the case of the defense, the only alternative to the physical presence is videoconferencing).

In addition, the philosophy of freedom or research methodology courses can be taken virtually, without physically attending the classroom and at different timetables.

However, it is important to understand that much of the doctoral experience, is acquired by sharing the physical space with those involved in the investigation.

Although the program guarantees the possibility of remote connections for the program's own activities (tutoring, assessments, thesis defense, required courses...) it cannot guarantee that same connection for many other complementary activities (conferences, talks, seminars).

Therefore, the program does not demand the physical presence of the doctoral student at the UFM campus. The doctoral student can develop the essential activities linked to the thesis from any place in the world. However, all doctoral students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the multiple resources, and above all, the academics, and professionals at the UFM campus.

## Conflict Resolution

Throughout the dissertation process, academic inconveniences may arise. For example: a disagreement between the tutor and the doctoral student, or the doctoral student's rejection to the decision of the revisers.

Those disagreements that do not violate the guidelines of Universidad Francisco Marroquín will be resolved through the following procedure:

- In case a problem arises before the defense of the thesis, the program administration will be called upon first. If the conflict is not resolved, the program will appeal to the authority of the dean.
- In case the problem is derived from the revision of the thesis, the program administration will be called upon first. In case the conflict is not resolved, the program will appeal to the authority of the dean.
- Remember that the decision of the jury is not subject to appeal.

## How to Choose a Tutor?

The tutor is the person that will guide the thesis during its development. This follow-up work involves not only methodological support for the doctoral student, but also the creation of a network of advisers specialized in the subject of investigation.

The tutor, therefore, must master as much as possible the topic of investigation and have the capacity to counsel.

Hence, the selection of the tutor is key to the success of the thesis.

The doctoral student must agree to work with the tutor and vice versa.

For the selection of the tutor, the following three possibilities are considered:

- The doctoral student proposes the name of the tutor, the program validates this proposal and requests the commitment of the tutor.
- The PhD program proposes the tutor, the doctoral student validates this proposal and the program requests the commitment of the tutor.
- The tutor commits to advising the doctoral student. The doctoral student accepts, and the program validates both the acceptances.

This is not an automatic process. Most of the time, regardless of where the proposal comes from, it will be

necessary first, for the tutor and the doctoral student to establish a long conversation where academic interests are exposed and second, the tutor's qualifications are verified.

Once again, there are no deadlines for the selection of the tutor. However, this selection must have concluded before the doctoral student's enrollment to the program.

At the time of registration, an email must be submitted presenting the subject of investigation and the tutor's confirmation to follow up on the thesis for the next three years.

It may occur, that during this time lapse, the academic relationship between the tutor and the doctoral student terminates.

This breakup will have to be analyzed by the doctoral program to evaluate if any violation of the regulations of the University may have been incurred.

If none have been incurred, the program will consider another tutor that matches the academic interests of the doctoral student.

## Joint Tutoring

It is possible for the doctoral student to have more than one tutor for the thesis.

This situation can arise in two cases:

- Regarding, double doctorates, when an agreement has been signed by the UFM and a second university. In this case, each university will provide its own tutor.
- The second, is when the complexity of the thesis requires more than one tutor. More than two tutors can be considered, one being the head tutor and the other, co-tutors. At the beginning of the thesis, the attributions of each one should be defined. The head tutor will guarantee the continuous follow up of the thesis. The co-tutors will focus more on content issues.

The doctoral program in agreement with the doctoral

student will evaluate the need for joint tutoring.

The selection of tutors will follow the established process. It is possible that the co-tutor joins the team once the investigation has begun. If that were the case, the selection procedure will not change, only the starting time of the co-tutor.

In any case, before raising the possibility of joint tutoring, it is important to consider the advising team, specialists who support the doctoral student in specific and particular subjects, without the need for a continuous relationship similar to the one between the tutor and doctoral student.

In most cases, a longer investigation with an external advisor can substitute the need for a co-tutor.

Let us recall, that one of the fundamental tasks of the tutor is to establish a network of external advisors for the doctoral student.





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