

REGULATIONS ON THE CONTENTS OF A DOCTORAL THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE PHD PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICINE

The PhD Program in Biomedicine is currently bound to the Spanish Royal Decree (RD) 99/2011 that follows the guidelines for doctoral studies of the European Higher Education Area; see <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2011-2541>. To implement the requirements of the RD99/2011, the Board of Governors of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) released on June 20th, 2012, the Academic Regulations for Doctorate Courses that doctoral programmes at UPF must follow; see http://www.upf.edu/organitzacio/en/normativa/upf/normativa/doctorate/academ_rd_99_2011.html. These regulations establish in their Article 11 of Section 5 the following requirements:

- The doctoral thesis must consist of an original piece of research in one of the research lines of the doctoral programme.
- The doctoral thesis may consist of a series of articles obtained from the doctoral student's own research. In this case, the thesis must include a report presenting the thesis defended, with an introductory chapter and some final conclusions.

To fulfil these requirements and meet the standards and specificities of this doctoral programme, the Academic Committee of the PhD Programme in Biomedicine requires that the submitted doctoral thesis meets the following **additional** requirements.

A doctoral thesis may be submitted in one of the following two formats:

1. A classical thesis book, consisting of chapters written in a cohesive way. Next to the original research described in the thesis, the rest of the contents cannot be made out of copying & pasting from other sources, and especially not from other PhD theses.
2. A set of articles preceded by an introductory chapter and followed by a discussion and conclusions chapter or chapters. We discourage the submission of a set of articles where all of them are manuscripts in preparation because, as unfinished work, they often contain errors and lack coherence. If they are not published at the time of submission, we encourage depositing them in a preprint server such as arXiv (<http://arxiv.org>) or bioRxiv (<http://biorxiv.org>) and including the preprint citation reference in the thesis. With respect to the set of articles included:
 - a) There cannot be two doctoral theses from two different doctoral students including the same set of articles.

- b) An article with two or more joint first authors can be used in more than one thesis as long as each PhD student has made a major research contribution on this article. This specific major contribution of each PhD student in the article must be described in the manuscript of the doctoral thesis.

- c) A doctoral thesis must include one or more original research contributions. While review articles are a valuable exercise of synthesis of a research field or problem, and can be included in the thesis as additional thesis material, they do not qualify as original research contributions.