

REGULATIONS FOR GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS TO DEPOSIT THE DOCTORAL THESIS TO THE PHD PROGRAMME IN BIOMEDICINE

The PhD Programme 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 RD 99/2011, 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 https://www.upf.edu/organitzacio/en/normativa/upf/normativa/doctorate/academ_rd_99_2011.html. These regulations establish that doctoral theses must be submitted to the doctoral programme, also referred to as *deposited*, before the end of the third year that the student is enrolled in the doctoral programme.

These regulations also allow the student to apply for an extension of one first year that may, under **exceptional circumstances**, be extended for one additional second year, according to the regulations established by the doctoral programme itself. This document describes these own regulations, which do not apply to the case that the doctoral student is in a situation of temporary disability, risk during pregnancy, maternity, adoption or foster care, risk during breastfeeding or paternity. In such situations, the deadline for depositing the thesis will be extended for the period of time during which any of those circumstances take place, and as long as the student informs the programme secretariat about it, without the need to apply for a time extension.

Note that a failure to submit the thesis within the first year extension, given that the second year extension has not been granted, or within the second year extension when it has been granted, will cause the permanent withdrawal from the doctoral programme, according to the requirements of the RD 99/2011.

First year extension

During the third doctoral year, students may apply for a first time extension to deposit their PhD thesis, by filling up the corresponding application form available at the doctoral programme website. The application must enclose a report by the thesis supervisor giving explicit support to the application and explaining the reasons for this first year extension.

The Academic Committee of the PhD Programme in Biomedicine will grant this first year extension to all applications whose report by the thesis supervisor explicitly supports and justifies the time extension.

Second year extension

During the fourth doctoral year, corresponding to the first extended year, and under ***exceptional circumstances***, students may apply for a second time extension to deposit their PhD thesis. The students must fill up a corresponding application form available at the doctoral programme website. The application must enclose a report by the thesis supervisor giving explicit support to the application, explaining the reasons for this second year extension and including a specific work plan with an estimated date by which the student will submit the thesis during the following doctoral year.

The Academic Committee of the PhD Programme in Biomedicine will study each application individually and will consider granting this second year extension only under exceptional circumstances such as:

- Supervened causes unrelated to the scientific project, such as death or severe illness of the thesis supervisor or of a direct relative of the student.
- Supervened causes related to the scientific project but beyond control of the student and thesis supervisor, affecting the scientific project in which the doctoral thesis is developed, such as accidents affecting resources and laboratory equipment, delays in receiving granted research budgets, delays in receiving government permits for animal experimentation.
- A simultaneous change of research group, thesis supervisor and thesis project during the first two years of the doctoral thesis period. The student must have informed the doctoral programme when this change occurred, and this change must have been approved at that time by the Academic Committee of the PhD Programme in Biomedicine.