



## GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE PhD PROGRAM IN LAW

### 1. The research project

**1.1.** By the end of the first course and in order to pass the annual evaluation, doctoral students shall submit a research project that proves the ability to develop a doctoral dissertation. The project shall contain a description of the chosen topic and its relevance, the working hypothesis, the description and goals of the main parts of the thesis, the methodology, the planning for the development of the thesis, as well as an indicative table of contents and bibliography.

As guidance, the research project could follow the structure below: *a)* title, *b)* presentation of the research scope, *c)* justification of the research importance and innovation, *d)* theoretical framework, *e)* research questions, *f)* hypothesis, *g)* methodology, *h)* contents (provisional), *i)* working plan and timeline, *j)* bibliography.

**1.2.** The project must not be less than 65.000 characters with spaces, that is, about twenty-five pages, and not exceed 95.000 characters with spaces, i.e., about thirty-five A4 pages, in Times New Roman 12, spacing 1.5 (including footnotes, bibliography and any other material).

**1.3.** The project may be written in Catalan, Spanish or English. Other languages may be used if authorized by the doctoral program coordinator.

### 2. The Director of the research project

**2.1.** The research project is carried out under the supervision of the thesis supervisor.

**2.2.** The thesis supervisor agrees to hold at least three tutoring sessions (in person or online) with the student throughout the drafting of the research project. The supervisor shall, in its case, authorize the defense of the project.

### 3. Evaluation of the research project

**3.1.** Students must submit two printed copies of the research project, as well a copy in PDF format by e-mail ([doctorat.dret@upf.edu](mailto:doctorat.dret@upf.edu)), together with the supervisor's consent for the project to be defended to the Department's secretariat (40.141), within the set deadline. Students must as well upload the project in the computer application for monitoring the doctoral thesis.

**3.2.** The research project will be assessed by a committee composed of three professors from the UPF Law Department. The committee members shall be appointed by the coordinator of the doctoral program.

**3.3.** The defense will develop as follows: the students will have a maximum of fifteen minutes to briefly present the project and make the necessary clarifications. Next, the committee members will make comments and raise questions in order to better assess the project and provide guidance. Students will then answer the questions.

**3.4.** Once the session is over, the committee shall notify the qualification of pass/fail to the students, and such qualification will be reflected in the session minutes.

**3.5.** The act of the defense is open to the public.

#### **4. Schedule**

**4.1.** The research project must be submitted by May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Later submissions will not be accepted.

**4.2.** The oral presentation of the research project will take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of June of the current academic year.

**4.3.** The oral presentation of the research project will take place in person, and only in exceptional cases, the student may present it online.

**4.4.** In order to defend the research project online, the student will have to request permission to do so at least one month before the deadline of delivery (14<sup>th</sup> of May, 2026).

**4.3.** The evaluation will be “not satisfactory” when you fail to present the research project or you do not pass it. Doctoral students will then be allowed to defend their research project again within a period of six months. Students who fail the second assessment will be dismissed from the PhD Program.