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**This version is an English translation of the Regulations published in Hebrew on TAU's website. In the event of a contradiction between this English version of the Regulations and the Hebrew version, the latter will prevail.**

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## **Chapter 1: Definitions and Introduction**

### **1. Definitions:**

In these regulations:  
(17.6.2010)

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.1 | <b>“The University”</b>                         | Tel Aviv University.  |
| 1.2 | <b>“Stage A Student”</b>                        | A student who has been admitted to the studies toward “Doctor of Philosophy” degree and whose research proposal has yet to be approved.       |
| 1.3 | <b>“Stage B Student”</b>                        | A student whose research proposal for the “Doctor of Philosophy” degree has been approved.  |
| 1.4 | <b>“Departmental Committee”</b>                 | Departmental Committee for Research Students.   |
| 1.5 | <b>“University Committee”</b>                   | University Committee for Research Students.   |
| 1.6 | <b>“Natural Sciences”</b>                       | Faculties of Engineering, Life Sciences, Exact Sciences and Medical and Health Sciences.  |
| 1.7 | <b>“Humanities”</b>                             | Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Management.   |
| 1.8 | <b>“Member of Senate Plenum”</b><br>(17.6.2010) | Member of Senate Plenum qualified to supervise research students.   |
| 1.9 | <b>“Tenure”</b>                                 | Including tenure in a medical institution of a member of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences that belongs to an affiliated department. |

### **2. Introduction:** (17.6.2010)

The degree “Doctor of Philosophy” (PhD) is the highest academic degree awarded by Tel Aviv University. It is conferred by the University, rather than by any individual department within it.

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3. In order to obtain a degree, the student must:
  - 3.1 Successfully complete the designated study program.
  - 3.2 Conduct an original and independent research study that makes a unique contribution to advancing knowledge and understanding in the research field, and submit it as a “doctoral thesis”.
  - 3.3 Prove proficiency in the background material and professional literature in the research field.

## **Chapter 2: The System**

### **Part A – The Departmental Committees**

#### **4. Establishment:**

Each Faculty shall establish at least one Departmental Committee in accordance with the university-wide regulations.

#### **5. Structure:**

- 5.1 The composition of the Departmental Committees in each Faculty is specified in Appendix A, which is attached to and forms an integral part of these regulations.
- 5.2 Any change in the composition detailed in Appendix A requires approval by the Senate.

#### **6. Eligibility:**

Faculty members with Tenure at the University, who are eligible to supervise research students, may be appointed to the Departmental Committee.

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**7. Number of members:**

- 7.1 The number of members and composition of the Departmental Committee shall be either:
- 7.1.1. Seven members, including at least three Full Professors and two alternate members: or,
  - 7.1.2 Five members, including at least two Full Professors and two alternate members.
- 7.2 The Faculty Council will determine whether a seven- or five-member Departmental Committee shall be established.

**8. Selection:**

- 8.1 Members of a Departmental Committee, including two alternate members, shall be selected by the Faculty Council.
- 8.2 The Dean will submit the composition of the Departmental Committee, including alternate members, to the University Committee for approval.

**9. Chairperson:**

The members of the Departmental Committee shall elect a chairperson from among themselves.

**10. Term of office:**

The term of office for a member of the Departmental Committee will be two years, with eligibility for reappointment for one additional term. Members who have served two consecutive terms may be reappointed for this role only after a break of at least two years. Deviation from this rule requires the Rector's approval.



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**11. Quorum:**

The quorum for a meeting of the Departmental Committee shall be:

- 11.1 In a seven-member committee – four members.
- 11.2 In a five-member committee – three members.

**12. Meetings:**

A Departmental Committee will hold a meeting at least six times a year.

**13. Prohibition of attendance at meetings:**

A member of a Departmental Committee shall not attend its meetings when discussions and decisions are made regarding a student under their supervision, unless summoned to appear before the Committee in their capacity as a supervisor.

**14. Transfer of documents:**

The minutes of the Departmental Committee, along with its recommendations and decisions, shall be transferred to the University Committee via the Academic Secretariat.

**15. Roles:**

The Departmental Committee shall:

- 15.1 Approve acceptance of students.
- 15.2 Review and approve the research proposal of each Stage A Student, after receiving at least one opinion from a reviewer who is not a Committee member.
- 15.3 Decide whether to promote a student from Stage A to Stage B.

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- 15.4 Determine and approve the study program of each student, as well as the prerequisite study program of each Stage A Student in the Direct Track.
- 15.5 Determine the details of the “Qualifying exam”: the date of the test, its extent, content and form, and the composition of the panel of examiners.
- 15.6 Approve a supervisor or supervisors for each student.
- 15.7 Review and approve the student’s progress reports.
- 15.8 Select the thesis reviewers.
- 15.9 Review and approve the thesis evaluations submitted by the supervisor and the reviewers.
- 15.10 Decide whether a “thesis defense” is required, define the format of the defense and convene those participating in it.
- 15.11 Submit to the University Committee its final, detailed and justified recommendation to award or not to award the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy”.
- 15.12 Provide a response to the University Committee if an appeal to its decision is submitted.
- 15.13 (21.9.2014)  
Decide on the establishment of an Advisory Committee and, following approval from the University Committee for Research Students regarding its proposed format, define the Advisory Committee's authority and operations in the Departmental Regulations or their Appendix.

**16. Authority:**

A Departmental Committee shall discuss and make decisions on matters relating to:

- 16.1 Postponing the submission date of the doctoral thesis.
- 16.2 Changing the topic of the thesis.

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- 16.3 Replacing a supervisor or reviewer of the thesis.
- 16.4 Leave of absence during studies.
- 16.5 Postponing the transfer of progress reports or review summaries.
- 16.6 Cancelling the enrolment of a student.
- 16.7 Appeals by the supervisor or student regarding decisions, including those of the said Departmental Committee.
- 16.8 Outstanding matters relating to the progress of study, research and thesis submission, as presented to it by the student, supervisor or reviewers.

**17. Rules:**

In accordance with these regulations, the Departmental Committee may establish rules for any subject pertaining to its roles and authority, provided that such rules are stricter than the provisions stated in these regulations, but not more lenient. The rules determined by the Departmental Committee will specify, among others:

- 17.1 Prerequisites for acceptance to the Regular Track and the Direct Track.
- 17.2 Requirements related to the study program and supplementary studies, including foreign languages.
- 17.3 The format of the “Qualifying exam”.
- 17.4 Submission and review process of the research proposal.
- 17.5 Obligations of the supervisor and student.
- 17.6 Conditions for exception to writing the doctoral thesis in Hebrew.
- 17.7 Conditions for partial publication of the research results while the research is being conducted.

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17.8 The format of the doctoral thesis.

17.9 Guidelines for submitting reviewers' evaluations.

17.10 (21.9.2014)  
Guidelines for the Advisory Committee.

**18. Ratification:**

The rules outlined in Section 17 require approval by the University Committee and will be published upon ratification.

**Part B – The University Committee**

**19. Establishment:**

A University Committee for Research Students will be established; its composition, roles, and authority are as outlined in this section.

**20. Eligibility:**

Faculty members with Tenure at the University who hold the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor and are authorized to supervise research students will be selected for the University Committee.

**21. Limitation:**

A Faculty member will not serve simultaneously in a Departmental Committee and in the University Committee.

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**22. Composition and chairperson:**  
(13.9.2016)

The University Committee will number eleven members as follows:

22.1 Vice Rector, who will serve on the Committee by virtue of his/her role and will act as Committee Chairperson.

22.2 (13.9.2016)  
Ten members will be selected by the Senate: five from Natural Sciences and five from Humanities.

**23. Alternate members:**

The Senate will select four alternate members, two from Natural Sciences and two from Humanities.

**24. Term of office:**

24.1 The term of office for a member of the University Committee, including alternate members, will be two years.

24.2 A member selected for the University Committee will not serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. Those who have served two consecutive terms of office can only be reselected for the role after a break of at least two years.

**25. Quorum:**  
(13.9.2016)

The quorum for a meeting of the University Committee is ten Committee members, provided that at least two of those present are from Natural Sciences and two of them are from Humanities.

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**25a. Meetings:**

The University Committee will meet at least six times a year.

**26. Prohibition of attendance at meetings:**

A member of the University Committee shall not attend its meetings when discussions and decisions are made regarding a student under their supervision, unless summoned to appear before the Committee in their capacity as a supervisor.

**27. Participant and secretary:**

The Academic Secretary will participate in the meetings of the Committee by virtue of his/her role, and the Head of Research Students Office, or his/her representative, will act by virtue of his/her role as the Committee secretary.

**28. Roles:**

The University Committee will address all issues of University-wide significance related to studies leading to the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy", and will bring these issues to the Steering Committee and/or the Senate for discussion, if deemed necessary.

**29. Authority:**

Without detracting from the above-mentioned in Section 28, the University Committee shall:

- 29.1 Approve the composition of the Departmental Committees.
- 29.2 Ratify the rules established by the Departmental Committees according to Section 17 of these regulations.
- 29.3 Settle differences of opinion between Departmental Committees regarding the affiliation of a student enrolled in multidisciplinary studies.

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- 29.4 Supervise the work of the Departmental Committees.
- 29.5 Inspect the work of the Departmental Committees.
- 29.6 Consider the decisions of the Departmental Committees.
- 29.7 Adjudicate appeals of supervisors against the decisions of Departmental Committees.
- 29.8 Hear students' appeals regarding recommendations by Departmental Committees to reject their theses, before reaching a decision on the matter.
- 29.9 Discuss and decide on the recommendations of the Departmental Committees regarding the awarding or non-awarding of the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy".
- 29.10 (17.6.2010)  
Give final approval to a Departmental Committee recommendation to award a "distinction" to a doctoral thesis submitted for review by 1.2.2010.
- 29.11 (17.6.2010)  
Adjudicate appeals of Senate Plenum members against the decision to confer the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy".
- 29.12 Discuss petitions received on any other issue for which a suitable solution was not reached by the Departmental Committee.

**30. Decisions:**

- 30.1 The decisions of the University Committee shall be made by simple majority vote of those present at the meeting.
- 30.2 **Decisions of the University Committee:**
  - 30.2.1 Approval of a recommendation by the Departmental Committee to award or not to award the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" shall be made by simple majority vote of those present at the meeting.

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30.2.2 Rejection of a recommendation by the Departmental Committee to award or not to award the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy” shall be made by two-thirds majority vote of those present at the meeting.

30.2.3 In cases where a decision is not reached to approve or reject a recommendation by the Departmental Committee, the issue will be returned to this Committee for further discussion. The decision reached by the Departmental Committee during the additional discussion will be brought back for further review by the University Committee, provided that the discussion takes place in the presence of at least nine Committee members.

If a ruling is not reached in the follow-up discussion, the recommendation by the Departmental Committee will be considered approved.

**31. Transfer of documents:**

The University Committee will accept, via the Academic Secretariat, the minutes of the Departmental Committees meetings, the reviewers' evaluations and any other material required, in its opinion, to fulfill its role.

**32. Invitation to appear before the Committee:**

The University Committee will be authorized to invite the chairperson of the Departmental Committee, the Supervisor, the Student, or any other individual it deems appropriate, to provide clarification or explanations on any issue it considers necessary.



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**Part C – The Senate Plenum  
(17.6.2010)**

**33. Notification of approval to award a degree:**

33.1 (17.6.2010)

Notification of the decision of the University Committee to award the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy” will be sent to the members of the Senate Plenum via the Academic Secretariat.

33.2 The abovementioned notification will indicate the names of reviewers who consented to their names being disclosed; if not all reviewers recommended awarding the degree, the number of positive and negative recommendations will be indicated.

**34. Acquisition of details and documents:  
(17.6.2010)**

Every member of the Senate Plenum will be authorized to examine one or more of the following documents:

34.1. Curriculum vitae and list of publications of the student;

34.2 Synopsis of the doctoral thesis;

34.3 The doctoral thesis itself.

**35. Appeal:**

35.1 **The right to submit:**  
(17.6.2010)

A member of the Senate Plenum can appeal the decision of the University Committee to approve awarding the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy”.

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**35.2 How to submit:**

(16.10.2002)

(17.6.2010)

(18.1.2023)

The appeal will be submitted in writing to the Academic Secretariat within ten working days (excluding days when the University offices are closed) of the notification (see Section 33.1) being sent to the members of the Senate Plenum.

**35.3 Ruling:**

The Academic Secretariat will obtain the Departmental Committee's response and forward the appeal, along with this response, to the University Committee for a final decision.

### **Chapter 3: Conditions of Acceptance to Studies**

#### **Part A – Introduction**

**36. Study tracks:**

Students will be admitted to studies toward the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy” in two tracks: the Regular Track and the Direct Track.

**37. Assignment to a Departmental Committee:**

37.1 A student in either of the tracks will be assigned to a single Departmental Committee.

37.2 For a student in multidisciplinary studies, the relevant Departmental Committees will determine which of them has authority over matters relating to this student.

37.3 If the Departmental Committees are unable to reach an agreement, the University Committee will make a ruling on the matter.

**Part B – The Regular Track**

**38. Criteria for acceptance as a Stage A Student:**  
(21.9.2014)

38.1 The following may apply to the Departmental Committee for acceptance as a Stage A Student to this track:  
(18.1.2023)

38.1.1 Those who have earned a Master's degree with a weighted average of at least 80, a thesis graded at least 85, and obtained the consent of a faculty member authorized to supervise research students to serve as their supervisor.

38.1.2 In the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, those who have earned a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree with a weighted average of at least 80, completed a thesis, and obtained the consent of a faculty member authorized to supervise research students to serve as their supervisor.

38.2 In the case of outstanding academic, research or professional achievements, a Departmental Committee can approve a deviation from the minimal grades mentioned in Section 38.1, with the approval of the University Committee.

38.3 (26.3.2025) An administrative or technical employee of the University may not study in the unit in which they are employed. Exceptional cases will be submitted to the Faculty Dean for approval.

38.4 (26.3.2025) If a student (who is not an employee of the University) requests to conduct research at their workplace, or if the intended research might overlap with their employment, the University Committee for Research Students will review the request.

38.5 (17.5.2020)  
A student pursuing a PhD at Tel Aviv University who wishes to study for an additional degree (Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD) concurrently - whether at Tel Aviv University or another academic institution - must submit a request for approval to the University Committee for Research Students. The Committee will review the request in all its aspects and decide whether to approve it.

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**39. Criteria for acceptance of holders of a Master's degree without a thesis  
(13.9.2016)**

A holder of a Master's degree from Tel Aviv University or another recognized university, in Israel or abroad, who graduated with a weighted average of at least 80, but without a thesis, may be accepted as a Stage A Student only after meeting the conditions set by the Departmental Committee, including the following two conditions:

- 39.1 Submission of a research project equivalent in scope and level to a Master's thesis at Tel Aviv University.
- 39.2 The grade assigned by each reviewer of this project must be no less than 85.

**40. Obligations of a Stage A Student:**

A Stage A Student will be required to complete the following within the first year, or within two years under exceptional circumstances:

- 40.1 Fulfill the study and supplementary study requirements, as determined by the Departmental Committee.
- 40.2 Submit, upon fulfillment of the required studies and supplementary studies, a research proposal signed by the designated supervisor.

**41. Criteria for acceptance as a Stage B Student:**

A Stage A Student who has fulfilled all study and supplementary study program requirements, and whose submitted research proposal has been approved by the Departmental Committee, will qualify as a Stage B Student.

The period of time allocated to a student to correct the research proposal will not exceed one year from the end of the two years specified in Section 40.

If a Stage A Student does not fulfill these requirements and/or meet the time frame specified above, their studies will be terminated.

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**42. Criteria for rejecting a research proposal:**

A Departmental Committee will not reject a research proposal without allowing the designated supervisor to express their opinion regarding the reasons presented against it.

**43. Prohibition of confidential research:**

Approval will not be granted for a research proposal that envisions a confidential doctoral thesis.

**Part C – The Direct Track**

**44. Criteria for conditional acceptance as a Stage A Student:  
(21.9.2014)**

The following may apply to the Departmental Committee for acceptance as a Stage A Student to this track:

- 44.1 Outstanding students who have earned a Bachelor's degree with a weighted average of at least 90 in a three-year program or at least 85 in a four-year program, and who have obtained the consent of a faculty member authorized to supervise research students to serve as their supervisor.
- 44.2 A Departmental Committee is authorized to establish additional criteria for acceptance to the Direct Track through its rules. These criteria may also take into account the academic and research achievements of a Master's student during their studies towards the degree.

**45. Discretion:**

A Departmental Committee will be authorized to approve or reject a request to be accepted to the Direct Track, at its discretion.

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**46. Supplementary studies:**

A Stage A Student on conditional acceptance, who was admitted to this track pursuant to Sections 44.1 or 44.2, will be required to complete supplementary studies as part of their Master's degree, as determined by the Departmental Committee.

**47. Qualifying exam:**

A Stage A Student on conditional acceptance, who has completed their supplementary studies to the satisfaction of the Departmental Committee, will be required to pass a "Qualifying exam" to assess their knowledge in their field of expertise and their competency for independent research.

The date, scope, content and format of the exam, as well as the composition of the examination panel, will be determined by the Departmental Committee.

**48. Criteria for acceptance as a Stage A Student:**

A Stage A Student on conditional acceptance who passed the "Qualifying exam" will be fully accepted as a Stage A Student. If a Stage A Student on conditional acceptance fails the "Qualifying exam", their studies in the Direct Track will be considered part of their Master's degree studies.

**49. Obligations of a Stage A Student:**

A Stage A Student will be required to:

- 49.1 Obtain consent from a faculty member authorized to supervise research students to serve as their supervisor.
- 49.2 Submit, within 6 months from the date of the "Qualifying exam", and with special approval of the Departmental Committee within a year of this date, a research proposal signed by the designated supervisor.

## **Chapter 4: Supervisory Arrangements**

### **Part A – Approval and Replacement of Supervisors**

#### **50. Number of supervisors:**

One or more supervisors may be approved for a student.

#### **51. Eligibility:** (16.10.2002) (21.9.2014)

Faculty members with the rank of senior lecturer or higher in the regular track are eligible to serve as supervisors.

In cases where a faculty member with the rank of senior lecturer serves as a supervisor but does not attain Tenure from the university, the Departmental Committee will be required to appoint an alternative supervisor for the student.

#### **52. Exceptions:** (16.10.2002) (19.10.2004)

In exceptional cases, the Departmental Committee may approve a supervisor who does not meet the criteria detailed in Section 51, including retired faculty members. When reviewing such requests, the Departmental Committee will take into consideration factors such as limitations to the resources required for the research, including laboratory space. If deemed appropriate, the Departmental Committee will refer the decision to the University Committee.

#### **53. Limitations:**

53.1 A relative of the student will not be approved as a supervisor.

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53.2 (21.9.2014)

A faculty member of another academic institution will not be approved as a sole supervisor, but the Departmental Committee is authorized, in special cases and with the agreement of the supervisor from the University, to appoint a faculty member from another research university or research institute to serve as an additional supervisor.

**54. Continued supervision:**

A faculty member who has retired will continue supervising the students they commenced supervising prior to retirement.

**55. Supervision of a number of students:**  
(4.1.2006)

A supervisor may not supervise more than 10 Master's and/or PhD students simultaneously, unless in exceptional cases and with the approval of the relevant University Committee (University Committee for Research Students or University Committee for Master's Studies, or both – as applicable).

**56. Supervisor appointment procedure:**

56.1 A student will approach a faculty member eligible to supervise research students and request their consent to serve as supervisor.

56.2 The signature of a faculty member on the research program submitted for approval by the Departmental Committee will signify their consent to serve as the PhD thesis supervisor.

56.3 A faculty member will be approved as a supervisor by the Departmental Committee.

56.4 Approval of more than one supervisor requires the written agreement of each designated supervisor to supervise the student simultaneously.



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**57. Appointment of an additional supervisor:**

- 57.1 At any stage of the research work it is possible to add an additional supervisor or supervisors.
- 57.2 Pursuant to Section 56.4, a Departmental Committee is authorized to mandate the appointment of an additional supervisor during the course of the research study.

**58. Release of a supervisor at their request:**

If a supervisor concludes that they are unable to continue to supervising a student due to academic or personal reasons, they may submit a detailed request to the Departmental Committee to be released from this responsibility.

A request submitted more than two years after the supervisor's approval will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

**59. Replacement of a supervisor at the student's request:**  
(16.10.2002)

- 59.1 A student may petition a Departmental Committee to replace their supervisor.
- 59.2 Before making a decision regarding the above request, the Departmental Committee will obtain a detailed written response from both the current supervisor and the designated supervisor.
- 59.3 If the Departmental Committee approves the student's request to replace their supervisor, the student will be required to change their research topic, unless both the outgoing supervisor and the student agree that the student may continue with the same topic under supervision of the new supervisor.

If the student requests to continue with the same topic under the new supervisor, and the outgoing supervisor opposes this, detailed requests from both parties will be submitted to the Departmental Committee for discussion. The Committee's recommendation, along

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with its reasoning, will then be submitted to the University Committee for Research Students for approval.

**60. Temporary substitution of a supervisor:**

In the case of a supervisor's absence for a period of up to two semesters, a Departmental Committee will consider appointing a substitute supervisor. For absences exceeding two semesters, the Committee will appoint a substitute supervisor.

**61. Permanent substitution of a supervisor:**

If a supervisor was released from their role, or if a position becomes vacant due to death, resignation from the University or any other reason, the Departmental Committee will review the supervisory arrangement and may appoint a new or additional supervisor for the student.

**62. Cancellation of enrolment:**

If a Unit Committee is requested to release or replace a supervisor for the third time due to academic or interpersonal issues, it will have the authority to decide to cancel the student's enrolment.

## **Part B – Roles of the Supervisor**

**63. Definition of roles:**

The supervisor will advise the student on the planning and execution of the research, guide them through any supplementary studies required for the research, continuously monitor the student's progress, provide guidance, when necessary, in analyzing and presenting research results, and participate in the final evaluation of the thesis.

In order to fulfill these roles, the supervisor will:

63.1 Outline the supervisory arrangements.

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- 63.2 Meet with the student at least once every three months, or maintain, pursuant to Section 60, regular written contact if they or the student is not in Israel.
- 63.3 Notify the Departmental Committee if the student fails to maintain contact for a period of more than six months; they are also authorized to report to the Departmental Committee if the student disrupts the continuity of supervision, as determined by them.
- 63.4 Approve the student's annual progress reports and submit them, with their signature, to the Departmental Committee.
- 63.5 Notify the Departmental Committee in writing that they approve the submission of the doctoral thesis for evaluation.
- 63.6 (13.9.2016)  
Serve as one of the PhD thesis examiners and submit their full and final opinion to the Departmental Committee, approving the thesis, as a condition for initiating the evaluation process.

## **Chapter 5: Course of Study and Research**

### **64. Study program:**

A Departmental Committee will determine a study program for each student, taking into account the supervisor's recommendations.

### **65. Foreign languages:**

A research student must demonstrate, within the time period determined by the Departmental Committee, proficiency in a language or languages at a level that allows them to sufficiently understand the relevant scientific literature. A Departmental Committee may require the student to undertake additional language studies, to the extent and skill level determined by the Committee.

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**66. Supervisory arrangements:**

A student will be obligated to follow the supervisory arrangements outlined by the supervisor.

**67. Location for conducting research:**

The student's research will be conducted at the University or at one of the research institutes affiliated with it.

In special cases, the Departmental Committee may permit the research to be conducted at another academic institution or recognized research institute, provided the student spends at least one year at the University.

**68. Annual progress reports:**

Once a year, the student will submit a progress report to the supervisor. The supervisor will approve the report with their signature and submit it to the Departmental Committee.

**69. Cancellation of enrolment:**

If the student does not make satisfactory progress in their studies or research, the Unit Committee is authorized, in consultation with the supervisor, to make the decision to cancel the student's enrolment.

**70. Partial publication:**

A student may, with the written approval of the supervisor, publish part of their research while conducting the research work. The student must indicate that the publication is part of a research study work carried out at the University.

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**70a. Intellectual property:**  
(10.12.2008)

Inventions and patents made by research students are regulated by the **Inventions, Patents and Their Commercialization Regulations [Directive 01-003 (B)]**.

**71. Period of studies and research:**

The student must submit the doctoral thesis within five years of the date of acceptance as a Stage A Student.

Any deviation from the abovementioned period of time requires the approval of the Departmental Committee.

**72.** The minimum period of time for submitting the doctoral thesis is one year from the date of approval of the research proposal, unless the Departmental Committee recommends otherwise and the University Committee approves the recommendation.

**73. Extension:**

If the research topic or composition of supervisors changes, the Departmental Committee will extend the period for conducting the research work for an additional length of time, taking the abovementioned change into consideration.

**74. A break during studies:**

In special cases, the Departmental Committee is authorized, following a detailed request by the student and the recommendation of the supervisor, to grant the student a break in studies for a period of up to one year.

## **Chapter 6: Submission and Review Processes**

### **Part A – Submission of Doctoral Thesis**

#### **75. How to submit:**

At the completion of the student's their studies and research, they will submit the following to the Departmental Committee, in accordance with the rules established by the Committee:

75.1 A doctoral thesis.

75.2 (13.9.2016)

The supervisor(s)' confirmation that the doctoral thesis is complete and ready for evaluation, along with the supervisor(s)' full and detailed review.

75.3 (13.9.2016)

Abstract of the doctoral thesis, curriculum vitae and a list of publications.

#### **76. Language of submission of the research proposal and doctoral thesis:**

(16.10.2002)

(15.3.2017)

76.1 The research proposal and doctoral thesis will be submitted in Hebrew or English (the language will be determined in consultation with the supervisor(s)). The doctoral thesis will include abstracts in Hebrew and English, each comprising **no more** than five percent of the thesis length.

76.2 In research fields in which the number of Hebrew-speaking thesis reviewers is limited, the Departmental Committee will require the research proposal and the doctoral thesis to be submitted in English.

76.3 If a student wishes to write the research proposal and doctoral thesis in a language other than Hebrew or English, due to the research focusing on that language, or its related literature or culture, they will submit a request to the Departmental Committee. The

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Committee will make a decision based on the availability of potential reviewers for the research proposal and doctoral thesis in the chosen language.

**Part B – Thesis Review**

**77. Number of reviewers:**  
(6.12.2006)

Once a doctoral thesis that meets all the relevant criteria has been submitted to the Departmental Committee, the Committee will appoint at least two experts in the research field to serve as reviewers of the thesis, alongside the supervisor.

At least one of the experts appointed by the Committee will be from a different university in Israel recognized as an institution of higher education under the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or from another research university abroad.

**78. Eligibility:**

Faculty members with the rank of senior lecturer and above in the regular track, from the University or from another institution of higher education, who have expressed their agreement to do so, are eligible to serve as reviewers.

**79. Exceptions:**

Under exceptional circumstances, a Departmental Committee will be authorized to approve a reviewer who does not meet the criteria detailed in Section 78.

**80. Limitations:**  
(25.4.2018)  
(12.6.2019)  
(8.12.2021)

80.1 A relative of the student or the supervisor shall not be appointed as a reviewer.

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- 80.2 A researcher who has engaged in academic collaboration with the supervisor within the past five years, or with the student at any time, shall not be appointed as a reviewer.
- 80.3 A researcher who supervised the supervisor during their doctoral studies or the student during their master's studies within the past eight years shall not be appointed as a reviewer.
- 80.4 A researcher who was supervised by the supervisor during their doctoral studies within the past eight years shall not be appointed as a reviewer.
- 80.5 In fields where an Advisory-Review Committee is customary, a researcher who has engaged in academic collaboration with the supervisor or any member of the Advisory-Review Committee within the past five years, or with the student at any time, shall not be appointed as a reviewer.

**81. Change in composition of reviewers:**  
(13.9.2016)

- 81.1 A Departmental Committee is authorized to change or expand the composition of the reviewers as the need arises.
- 81.2 If the need arises, the Departmental Committee is authorized to recommend that the University Committee appoint a **special arbitrating reviewer** to provide an opinion after reviewing all material related to the evaluation process: the research thesis, the opinions of the supervisor and reviewers, the response letters of the student and the supervisor, and the recommendation of the Departmental Committee.
- 81.3 The detailed recommendation of the Departmental Committee to appoint the aforementioned special arbitrating reviewer, along with all the materials related to the evaluation process, will be submitted for approval to the University Committee for Research Students.
- 81.4 The University Committee will decide if the petition to the special arbitrating reviewer will be made by the University Committee or the Departmental Committee.



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**82. Review period:**

(13.9.2016)

The Departmental Committee must ensure the evaluation process is completed within three months.

**83. Letters of appointment:**

After the Departmental Committee determines that a designated reviewer can meet the time requirements specified in Section 82, it will send them a letter of appointment.

**84. Communication with reviewers:**

A student and supervisor will contact the reviewers only through the Departmental Committee.

**85. Evaluations:**

Each reviewer will submit a written evaluation to the Departmental Committee, prepared according to the Committee's guidelines, in which they will recommend to:

85.1 Approve the thesis; or

85.2 Approve the thesis following corrections and changes; or

85.3 Require the student to make corrections and changes and return the thesis to the reviewer for reexamination; or

85.4 Reject the thesis.

**86. Recommendation of the Departmental Committee:**

(26.3.2025)

The Departmental Committee will consider the reviewer's evaluation and decide to:

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- 86.1 Recommend to the University Committee that the thesis be approved or rejected.
- 86.2 Require the student to make corrections and changes to the thesis, as it deems necessary. The Departmental Committee will ensure that the student submits the revised thesis within no more than one year from the date of the request for corrections. The Departmental Committee is authorized to discontinue the student's studies should they fail to submit the revised thesis on time.

**87. Assessment of corrections and changes:**

If the Departmental Committee required the student to make corrections or changes to the doctoral thesis, it will evaluate the corrected thesis in one of the following ways:

- 87.1 If corrections or changes were required according to Section 85.2, or at the initiative of the Committee, the Committee will be authorized to assess the corrections itself.
- 87.2 If corrections or changes were required according to Section 85.3, the Committee will return the thesis for reexamination by the reviewer(s).
- 87.3 After assessing the corrections and changes, or after receiving the reviewer(s)' evaluation(s) following reexamination, the Departmental Committee will formulate its final recommendation regarding the approval of the thesis.

**88. Grades:**

(17.6.2010)

**88.1 Granting a “distinction” grade to a doctoral thesis submitted by 1.2.2010:**

(16.10.2002)

(17.6.2010)

A doctoral thesis is generally not awarded a grade. However, in cases of exceptional distinction, and with the unanimous recommendation of all reviewers, the Departmental Committee may recommend granting a “distinction” grade to the doctoral thesis. This recommendation requires approval from the University Committee.

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If the supervisor(s) granted a “distinction” grade to a thesis, the Departmental Committee will send the thesis to be evaluated by at least three additional reviewers (beyond the supervisor(s)), at least two of whom must be from other recognized institutions of higher education.

If a reviewer did not recommend granting a “distinction” grade to a doctoral thesis in their evaluation, the Departmental Committee will not petition them in this case, even if all other reviewers recommend awarding such a grade.

**88.2 Cancellation of the granting of a “distinction” grade to a doctoral thesis:**  
(17.6.2010)

From 1.2.2010, a “distinction” grade shall not be granted to a doctoral thesis that was not submitted for evaluation by this date.

**89. Decision of the University Committee:**

After receiving the recommendation of the Departmental Committee, along with all the reviewers’ evaluations, the University Committee will decide to:

- 89.1 Approve the recommendation of the Departmental Committee to award or not award the degree.
- 89.2 Reject the recommendation of the Departmental Committee to award or not award the degree.

**Part C – Appeals**

**90. Appeal of decision to approve awarding of the degree:**  
(17.6.2010)

An appeal by a member of the Senate Plenum against the decision of the University Committee to approve the award of the degree “Doctor of Philosophy” will be done on the date, in the format and in the manner outlined in Section 35 above.

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**91. Discussion of a recommendation to reject a doctoral thesis:**

If the Departmental Committee recommends the rejection of a doctoral thesis, the University Committee will hear the student's counterarguments and decide whether to adopt the recommendation for rejection or to reject it and approve the doctoral thesis.

The decision by the University Committee to approve the recommendation of the Departmental Committee to reject a doctoral thesis will be final.

**92. Appeal of rejection of recommendation to approve a doctoral thesis:**

If the University Committee decides to reject the recommendation of the Departmental Committee to award or not award the degree:

92.1 The student, the supervisor or the chairperson of the Departmental Committee will be authorized to appeal the decision.

92.2 (13.9.2016)  
The appeal will be discussed by the University Committee.

92.3 The legal quorum required to discuss the appeal will be ten participating members.

92.4 (13.9.2016)  
The Committee's decision will be made by a majority of those present at the meeting.

92.5 (13.9.2016)  
The decision by the Committee to approve the decision to not award the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" will be final.

## **Chapter 7: Confidentiality**

### **93. Confidentiality of Committee discussions and documents:**

93.1 The discussions of the Departmental Committees and the University Committee, along with the documents detailed below, are confidential. It is prohibited to provide information about them or share them with any entity not authorized to receive them according to the guidelines of this Chapter:

93.1.1 Minutes of the meetings.

93.1.2 Reviewers' evaluations and reports, including progress reports.

93.1.3 Correspondence among Committees.

93.2 The Academic Secretary, in coordination with the chairperson of the University Committee, will implement administrative measures to ensure protection of the confidentiality of the aforementioned material.

### **94. Limitations:**

94.1 Confidentiality, however, will not apply to the recommendations and operative decisions made by the different Committees.

94.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 93, the Departmental Committee is authorized to transfer portions of the reviewers' evaluations to the student and supervisor, without disclosing the identity of the reviewer.

### **95. Names of the reviewers:**

At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the names of the reviewers who have granted their consent to do so will be published.

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**96. Transfer of information:**

The University Committee is authorized to request and receive any materials presented to the Departmental Committee.

**97. Freedom of access to the Rector and his/her representatives**

The Rector has the right to examine, at any time, any material related to the processes taking place in the Committee. Under exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the chairperson of the University Committee, the Rector is authorized to decide to transfer information or confidential documents to those who, in his/her opinion, require it to fulfill their role.

## **Chapter 8: Degree Conferment**

**98. Deposition of doctoral thesis and notification of degree conferment:**

(16.10.2002)  
(2.3.2011)  
(21.9.2014)  
(18.1.2023)

- 98.1 After completion of the doctoral thesis approval process, the student will deposit a digital copy of their thesis in the Research Students Office.
- 98.2 The digital copy of the thesis will be transferred by the Research Students Office to the library corresponding to the thesis' research field. It will be uploaded immediately to the digital thesis repository and made available for viewing. A student/supervisor who wish to place the thesis under embargo will complete and sign the "Doctoral Thesis Deposit Form (Digital Repository)," attached as Appendix B to these regulations.
- 98.3 After the doctoral thesis has been deposited as stated in Section 98.1 above, the chairperson of the University Committee will notify the student in writing of the conferment of the degree. Copies of this notification will be sent to the supervisor,

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chairperson of the Departmental Committee, Dean, Department Head, and Academic Secretary.

**99. Validity of the notification:**

A student will have the right to hold the degree from the date of receiving the notification specified in Section 98. This notification will serve as temporary approval of that right.

**100. Declaration of degree conferment:**

After issuing the notification specified in Section 98, the chairperson of the Departmental Committee or one of its members will announce the conferment of the degree within the faculty, preferably at a public ceremony. If the declaration is made at a public ceremony, the student will present their thesis as part of the event.

**101. Ceremony:**

The degree of “Doctor of Philosophy” will be conferred at a public, university-wide ceremony, on a date determined by the University Administration.

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**Appendix A: Structure of Departmental Committees**

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	Name of the Faculty/School	Number of Committee members	Structure of Departmental Committees
1.	Exact Sciences	5	1. School of Chemistry 2. School of Mathematical Sciences 3. School of Physics and Astronomy 4. School of Computer Science 5. (18.1.23) School of the Environment and Earth Sciences
2.	Life Sciences	7	One committee
3.	Engineering	5	One committee
4.	Medical and Health Sciences (26.3.2025)	7 5 5	1. School of Medicine 2. School of Public Health 3. School of Health Professions
5.	Law	5	One committee
6.*	Social Sciences	5	One committee
7.	Management	5	One committee
8.	Arts	5	One committee
9.	Humanities	7	1. School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology 2. School of Historical Studies 3. School of Education 4. School of Cultural Studies 5. (18.1.23) School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies
10.	School of Neuroscience	7	One committee

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\* For all the Departments of the Faculty and for the School of Social Work.



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**Appendix B: Doctoral Thesis Deposit Form (Digital Repository)**

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Author name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis title: \_\_\_\_\_

The Library of \_\_\_\_\_ at Tel Aviv University (hereafter: **“The Library”**) serves as the Depository Library for doctoral theses completed at the Faculty of \_\_\_\_\_.

Deposition of the doctoral thesis (hereafter: **“The Thesis”**) will be done pursuant to Section 98 of the University Regulations for Research Students.

Typically, a doctoral thesis will be uploaded to the digital repository immediately after its approval by the University Senate.

Notwithstanding the above, I would like to embargo the upload of my thesis to the digital repository, as indicated in the table below:

**Please mark an X where appropriate \***

	<b>Eligible to view</b>
	All users of libraries in Israel and abroad after one/two/three years
	Users of libraries in Israel only after one/two/three years
	Users of Tel Aviv University only after one/two/three years
	Users of the library only after one/two/three years

**Remarks:**

**In any case, the abstract and contents page will be uploaded immediately to the digital repository and made available to all users.**

**\*Anyone who does not mark an X where appropriate will be considered to approve viewing by all internet users.**

I hereby deposit a **complete** digital copy of the thesis in the library for use in the University libraries, and authorize the library to produce copies and use them for the purposes and under the conditions outlined in this document.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor's approval to deposit the thesis in the digital repository**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_