



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN
LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO
FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN · BOLZANO

Rektorat

Rettorato

Rectorate

**CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING AND EVALUATING PHD PROGRAMS
AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN- BOLZANO**

Approved by the University Council with resolution no. 123 of 11.05.2011
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General considerations

South Tyrol is developing an internationally recognized research community, with the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (FUB) as the leading academic institution.

The FUB will support and build up high quality PhD programs, to establish itself as an international scientific centre of excellence.

The FUB will fulfil this role both by its own research and as a partner of other leading international research institutions, supporting financially exclusively those joint PhD programs that confer a degree of the FUB.

The FUB conceives its PhD studies in such a way that they foster interdisciplinary work and that students obtain qualifications and skills which give them an advantage both on the academic and on the non-academic job market.

PhD programs of the FUB crown the continuous education process that begins at the Bachelor degree level and continues then at the level of Master (Laurea Magistrale) programs.

Criteria

1. Duration of a PhD program: A PhD cycle lasts 3 years (or "minimum period") plus 1 year completion max. (This is not compulsory but can be used for the write-up stage).
2. "Collegio docenti": to the "collegio docenti" belong academics (permanent professors and researchers) who are considered "active" in their specific scientific sector according to the criteria defined by MIUR. Until these criteria are defined by MIUR, a professor or a researcher is considered active if she/he has published a minimum of 4 peer reviewed papers in the last 5 years.
3. Number of places: The number of places offered by a cycle of a PhD program should not exceed the number of full and associate professors present in the "collegio docenti". Exceptions to this rule should be justified by a decision of the University Council.
4. Admission requirements: PhD candidate requires a Master degree (Laurea Magistrale) or equivalent with excellent grades (minimum entry requirements must be specified by each program) from accredited institutions. Applicants are evaluated by the individual faculties in which they intend to register on the basis of their prior performance and professional promise, as evidenced by their academic records, letters of evaluation, and any other pertinent data they submit.
5. Grants: The number of grants allocated by FUB should not exceed 50% of the number of places in the corresponding program. Alternatively, according to the preference of the corresponding faculties, PhD students may be financially supported through "Assegni di ricerca". PhD students' applications should be ranked on the basis of specific criteria (e.g. entry requirements and quality of the proposal in theoretical and methodological terms).
6. Supervision: PhD students must be supervised by professors and researchers who are members of the "collegio docenti"; the first supervisor must be a full or associate professor and should have a PhD in the subject area. The second supervisor may not be a member of "Collegio docenti" but be a well established professor or researcher of the FUB and may be affiliated to another Groups/Faculties or Research Center.



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7. Research topics: A list of possible topics for the PhD projects and the corresponding supervisors should be present in the advertisement of every new cycle.
8. Transparency: For every new cycle, a PhD program presents a summary proposal characterizing its competitiveness, efficiency, degree of internationalization, etc.
9. Degree of internationalization: Each PhD program should identify international partner institutions. Each new cycle should be advertised internationally. Every PhD program provides mechanisms for supporting a periods of stay abroad (for joint research, participating in conferences and workshops, etc.).
10. Quality control: Every PhD program should provide a progress assessment scheme for the students considering at least:
 - a. Submission of a first proposal and assessment in the first year.
 - b. Meeting with the 1st Supervisor on a continuous basis (timing to be specified, for example: one a month for full-time students and once a term for working students).
 - c. The final examination will be open to the public.
 - d. The degree should be conferred only to students who have produced original contributions either in terms of theoretical, experimental or empirical contributions to their area as evidenced by typical research products in their academic discipline, such as international journal publications and conference presentations, software products, patents, books, etc.
11. Communication: the PhD students and their dissertations will be published in a dedicated website that contains the list of all the students who have concluded the PhD programmes successfully, their supervisors, brief biodata and career and their academic progress.