



FULL TEXT OF DIRECTIVE No. 110

elaborated on 12 May 2025

Study Regulations for the Third Degree of the University Study at the University of Žilina

Pursuant to Section 15 (1) (c) of the Act No. 131/2002 on Higher Education and on the Change and Supplement to Some Acts as amended, the Study Regulations for the Third Degree of University Study at the University of Žilina in Žilina is an internal regulation of the University of Žilina in Žilina and contains the rules for the study of doctoral degree study programmes conducted at the University of Žilina in Žilina. It is binding for all doctoral students, university teachers, and other employees who study or manage and provide study at the University of Žilina.

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Introductory Provisions

- (1) A doctoral study programme in the field of study is a third-degree study programme¹⁾. The doctoral study programme in the field of study focuses on the acquisition of knowledge based on the current state of scientific and artistic knowledge and especially on the student's own contribution to it, which is the result of scientific research and independent creative activity in the field of science or technology or independent theoretical and creative activity in the field of art. Graduates of the doctoral study programme receive a third-degree university education²⁾.
- (2) The University of Žilina in Žilina (hereinafter referred to as "UNIZA") provides through its faculties/university-wide workplaces a doctoral study programme in the system of fields of study according to the accredited study programmes ³⁾, which are listed in the register of study programmes.
- (3) The doctoral study programme in the field of study is carried out in full-time or part-time form.
- (4) Standard length of study for the doctoral study programme
 - a) in the full-time form of study is three or four academic years; the number of credits, the achievement of which is a condition for the proper completion of study, for a full-time doctoral programme with a standard length of study is
 1. 180 credits for three academic years,
 2. 240 credits for four academic years,
 - b) in the part-time form of study is four or five academic years; the number of credits, the achievement of which is a condition for the proper completion of the study, for a doctoral programme with a standard length of study is
 1. 180 credits for four academic years,
 2. 240 credits for five academic years.

¹⁾ Section 2 (5) of the Act No. 131/2002 on Higher Education and on the Change and Supplement to Some Acts as amended, (hereinafter referred to as "Higher Education Act")

²⁾ Section 54 (1) of the Higher Education Act

³⁾ Section 50 (3), Section 51 (1)

- (5) Students in full-time form of doctoral study are provided with a scholarship⁴⁾. The provision of the scholarship to a full-time doctoral student shall end no later than the month of the end of the study.
- (6) The study, according to the doctoral study programme (hereinafter referred to as "doctoral study"), is carried out according to an individual study plan under the guidance of a supervisor.
- (7) Doctoral study takes place at the faculty/university-wide workplace, which is a training workplace. The head of the training workplace is the dean of the faculty or the rector in the case of university-wide study programmes. Doctoral study may also be carried out in a non-university institution that has obtained the right to participate in the implementation of the programme in the field of study (hereinafter referred to as "external educational institution"). The participation of an external educational institution in a doctoral study takes place on the basis of an agreement on a doctoral study between the faculty/university-wide workplace and the external educational institution. For each doctoral student (hereinafter referred to as "doctoral student"), an individual agreement on the doctoral study of the doctoral student is concluded. It regulates the activity of the doctoral student in an external educational institution, including the payment of its costs.
- (8) Doctoral study consists of a study part and a scientific part.
- (9) A condition for the proper completion of doctoral study is the completion of the dissertation examination, which is one of the state exams, and the defence of the dissertation thesis. The dissertation thesis is the final thesis.
- (10) Doctoral study in a given field of study is monitored and evaluated by the field committee or a working group established for one or more study programmes ^{4c)} (Part V) or a joint field committee (hereinafter referred to as "SOK") in the event of its establishment.
- (11) The doctoral study programme in the field of study may be provided in cooperation with other universities, including universities based outside the territory of the Slovak Republic ("joint study programme"), while the conditions of cooperation will be determined by an agreement between the universities.

PART II

STUDY PART OF DOCTORAL STUDY

Article 2

Admission to Doctoral Study

- (1) The basic condition for admission to doctoral study is a second-degree university education.
- (2) The faculty/university-wide workplace may determine additional conditions for admission to study individual study programmes in order to ensure that applicants with the necessary skills and prerequisites are admitted to the study.

⁴⁾ Section 54 (18) of the Higher Education Act

^{4a)} Section 57 of the Higher Education Act

The specified conditions and the method of verifying their fulfilment must allow the selection of applicants who demonstrate the highest level of study skills^{4a)}.

- (3) An applicant who does not demonstrate fulfilment of the basic conditions for admission to study at the time of verification of fulfilment of the conditions for admission may be admitted to study conditionally with the fact that he/she is obliged to demonstrate fulfilment of the basic conditions for admission to study no later than the date set for enrolment in the study^{4b)}.
- (4) The dean of the relevant faculty or the rector in the case of university-wide study programmes will list the topics of dissertation theses that may be applied for in the admission procedure no later than two months before the last day for the submission of applications for doctoral study. The topics of dissertation theses are approved by the dean/in the case of university-wide study programmes by the rector on the proposal of the supervisors, with the prior approval of the chairman of the field committee or the chairman of the working group or the SOK (joint field committee). If it is a topic listed by an external educational institution, the name of the institution shall also be indicated. For each listed topic, the name of the study programme, the name of the supervisor, the form of study (full-time or part-time), and the annotation of the dissertation thesis are indicated. It is also recommended to indicate the name and number of the project within which the dissertation thesis will be solved. The training workplace shall also publish the deadline for the submission of applications and the date of the admission procedure. The topics of the dissertation theses, together with the above-specified requirements, shall be published on the official notice board and in a mass manner in accordance with a special regulation⁵⁾.
- (5) In the application for doctoral study, which can be submitted in writing or electronically according to the instructions of the training institution, the applicant shall state:
 - a) name and surname, maiden name, titles, birth identification number, date and place of birth, place of permanent residence, gender, photo, nationality, electronic mail address; telephone number if provided by the student; in the case of a foreigner, the place of residence in the Slovak Republic; birth identification number, if assigned by the Ministry of the Interior,
 - b) selected study programme in the field of study and dissertation thesis topic,
 - c) chosen form of doctoral study,
 - d) details on education achieved, including grades and results in activities of interest related to the study programme for which the applicant is applying.
- (6) The following documents must be attached to the application by the applicant:
 - a) curriculum vitae,
 - b) certified copies of evidence of the highest level of education completed; for applicants who have completed the second degree of university study abroad, a document confirming the recognition of their education by the relevant higher education institution in the Slovak Republic or by the Centre

^{4b)} Section 58 (1) of the Higher Education Act

^{4c)} Methodological guideline No. 7/2020 Operation of Field Committees of Doctoral Degree Study at UNIZA

⁵⁾ Section 57(5) of the Higher Education Act and Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts (Freedom of Information Act)

for Recognition of Diplomas of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic (does not apply to the Czech Republic),

- c) list of professional and scientific works published so far,
 - d) additional evidence of professional and scientific activities.
- (7) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector will invite the applicant to the entrance exam at least 14 days before the date of the exam, announcing the place and time of the exam and the content of the exam.
 - (8) The entrance exam shall be held before an admission committee consisting of at least four members. The admission committee shall consist of its chairman and at least two members appointed by the dean or the rector in the case of university-wide study programmes. Another member of the committee is the supervisor for the listed topic. At least one member of the committee must have the scientific-pedagogical title of professor or the scientific rank of Doctor of Sciences or must be a researcher with a recognized scientific qualification level I. Other members may be associate professors or researchers with recognized scientific qualification level IIa.
 - (9) In the case of an applicant's admission procedure on the topic of a dissertation thesis listed by an external educational institution, a representative of the external educational institution appointed by the statutory representative of the external educational institution shall also be a member of the admission committee. Upon agreement between the faculty/university-wide workplace and an external educational institution, the entrance exam can be held on the premises of the external educational institution with the participation of appointed members of the admission committee.
 - (10) In justified cases, with the approval of the dean/in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, the entrance examination may be conducted by videoconference or other means of information and communication technology without the physical presence of the applicant and/or a member of the admissions committee.
 - (11) The admission committee shall evaluate the result of the entrance exam in a closed session with the conclusion "passed" or "failed". If several applicants apply for one topic, they will be ranked according to the success of the entrance exam. In determining the ranking, the committee also takes into account the extent and quality of the applicant's previous professional publication activity and the results of his/her other professional activities (e.g., results in competitions of student scientific, professional, or artistic works; professional practice, etc.). At the same time, it will determine the ranking of all successful applicants.
 - (12) A record of the entrance exam results must be made. The admission committee shall submit a proposal for admission of the successful applicant to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, to the rector. In the case of a topic of the dissertation thesis listed by an external educational institution, it must give written consent to the admission of the applicant.
 - (13) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector will decide on the admission of the applicant based on the results of the entrance exam within 30 days from the date of the entrance exam. If he/she decides to admit the applicant, he/she shall also state the name of the supervisor and the

topic of the dissertation thesis in his/her decision. In addition to the above, the written decision shall contain a statement, justification, and instructions on the possibility of submitting a request for a review of the decision and shall be delivered to the applicant by hand delivery. An applicant who has received a decision not to be admitted to doctoral studies can submit a request for a review of this decision to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector. If the dean does not change his/her decision, he/she shall forward the request for review of the decision to the rector⁶⁾. The rector shall change the decision if it was issued in violation of the legislation, otherwise, he/she shall reject the request and confirm the original decision. In the case of university-wide study programmes, if the rector issued the decision on non-admission to study, he/she may grant the request if he/she finds that the decision was issued in violation of the legislation; otherwise, he/she shall forward the request to the UNIZA Academic Senate. The UNIZA Academic Senate shall change the decision if it was issued in violation of the legislation; otherwise, it shall reject the request and confirm the original decision.

- (14) Upon notification of the decision on admission to the study, the applicant shall be entitled to enrol in the study^{6a)}.
- (15) In accordance with Section 59 par. 4 to 6 of the Higher Education Act, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, may authorize the enrolment of a doctoral student who has been admitted to study a third-degree study programme in the same field of study at another university, if he/she requests it in writing, usually before the beginning of the semester. Before doing so, he/she will request a written opinion from the guarantor of the study programme for which the doctoral student is applying, who will assess the current course of study and capacity options.

Article 3

Schedule of Study

- (1) The individual study plan consists of a study and a scientific part. It is compiled by the supervisor and submitted for approval to the chairman of the field committee or the chairman of the working group, or the joint field committee (SOK)⁷⁾ within one month of enrolment. The individual study plan must be compiled in such a way that by completing it, the doctoral student fulfils the conditions for the proper completion of the study within the standard length of study of the given study programme.
- (2) Doctoral study in the full-time form of study includes the performance of pedagogical activity or other professional activity related to pedagogical activity in the scope of no more than four hours per week on average per academic year in which the teaching takes place⁸⁾.
- (3) If a doctoral student has applied for a topic of the dissertation thesis listed by an external educational institution, he/she can perform the scientific part of the

⁶⁾ Section 58 (8) of the Higher Education Act

^{6a)} Section 59 of the Higher Education Act

⁷⁾ Section 54 (8) of the Higher Education Act

⁸⁾ Section 54 (11) of the Higher Education Act

doctoral study and the duties of the study part of the doctoral study agreed with the faculty/university-wide workplace in this external educational institution.

- (4) The length of doctoral study is determined by the accredited study programme in the field of study.
- (5) Doctoral study usually starts on 1 September and ends according to the accredited study programme in the field of study.
- (6) The date, place and method of enrolment shall be determined and announced to the admitted applicant by the faculty^{6a)}/ university-wide workplace.
- (7) The dean of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector shall determine in the schedule of the academic year the holidays for a total length of 30 working days per academic year for full-time doctoral students, which may be divided into several parts. Holidays may not be carried over to the next academic year.
- (8) The doctoral student in the full-time form of doctoral study follows the decisions and regulations of the head of the unit/relevant vice-rector in cooperation with the supervisor and the head of the workplace where he/she works and respects the established rules at his/her place of work.
- (9) The doctoral student in the full-time form of doctoral study participates in activities at his/her place of work in accordance with his/her individual study plan (both in the study and scientific part).
- (10) Doctoral students regularly participate in surveys to monitor the quality of doctoral study in the form of questionnaires compiled by training workplaces. The survey is oriented towards the evaluation of access to study literature, obtaining information on the satisfaction of doctoral students, material and technical aspects of the educational process, scientific research activities or the identification of potential problems. The relevant results of questionnaire surveys are the subject of an annual evaluation of the level of doctoral study by the scientific board of the faculty or the Scientific Board of UNIZA.

Article 4

Attendance of Doctoral Students and Its Recording

- (1) The doctoral student is obliged to be at the place of work according to the requirements and instructions of his/her supervisor and the head of the department of the relevant faculty/head of the UNIZA unit. The minimum basic time of stay is from 8:00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.
- (2) The department/workplace of UNIZA keeps a record of the doctoral student's stay outside his/her place of work, while his/her full-day or multi-day absence must be approved by the supervisor of the doctoral student and the head of the department/head of the UNIZA unit.
- (3) The presence or absence (with the reason given) of the doctoral student at the place of work, which results from the individual study plan of the doctoral student, is recorded and archived by the department/unit of UNIZA.
- (4) The doctoral student's attendance records are kept electronically by means of a chip card. The control of the doctoral student's attendance is carried out by the

^{6a)} Section 59 of the Higher Education Act

head of the training workplace or the head of the department/head of the UNIZA unit, or an employee authorised by them.

- (5) Absence of the doctoral student at the place of work without the prior consent of the supervisor and the head of the department/head of the UNIZA unit, or without a document proving an excusable reason for absence (illness, etc.), is considered to be a violation of these study regulations and will be treated as a disciplinary offense, which may be grounds for expulsion from study^{8b)}.

Article 5

Credit System of Doctoral Study and Evaluation of Study Results

- (1) The credit system is applied in both forms of doctoral study in accordance with the approved credit system of the faculty/university-wide workplace.
- (2) Credits are numerical values assigned to subjects, expressing the amount of work required to acquire the prescribed learning outcomes. The standard workload of a student for the entire academic year in the full-time form of study is expressed by the number of 60 credits, 30 credits per semester and 20 credits per trimester. The standard workload of a student for the entire academic year in the part-time form of study is expressed by the number of no more than 48 credits, depending on the standard length of study of the relevant study programme and the number of credits required for its proper completion.
- (3) During his/her study, the doctoral student generally obtains credits for the following activities:
 - a) completion of specialised doctoral lectures and seminars in accordance with the doctoral student's study plan,
 - b) completion of the dissertation examination successfully,
 - c) pedagogical activity in the full-time form of study in the scope of no more than four hours per week on average per academic year in which the teaching takes place; in the part-time form of study, the obligation to conduct elective lectures and to perform other professional activities,
 - d) independent activity in the scientific research field and pedagogical field (publishing with an emphasis on outputs in high-impact journals included in international indexed databases, active co-solving of scientific tasks, etc.; supervision of the ŠVOČ (Student Scientific Activity) works, final theses of bachelor's degree study, etc.),
 - e) acceptance of the dissertation thesis for defence ^{8a)}.
- (4) The activities referred to in paragraph 3 are mutually irreplaceable.
- (5) The credit system and the number of credits for individual activities according to paragraph 3 shall be approved by the scientific board of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programs, the Scientific Board of UNIZA.
- (6) The credit system of the faculty/university-wide workplace determines the number of credits that the doctoral student must obtain for:
 - a) promotion to the next year of study,

^{8b)} Section 72 of the Higher Education Act

^{8a)} Decree no. 614/2002 Coll. on the Credit System of Study, as amended

- b) registration for the dissertation examination,
 - c) submission of an application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis,
 - d) recognition of other activities according to the doctoral student's individual study plan.
- (7) If the doctoral student completed a part of his/her studies at a different training workplace than that designated (e.g., abroad), the credits obtained at this workplace are counted in full, if he/she was sent to this workplace in the framework of the fulfilment of his/her study plan, and if the credit systems of the sending and receiving workplace are compatible, or if they were determined in advance (transfer of credits).
 - (8) If there is a change of study programme in the field of study, the doctoral student may be credited with the credits previously earned if this is in accordance with his/her new study plan.
 - (9) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programs, the rector decides on the transfer or the granting of credits (according to paragraph 7).
 - (10) The supervisor shall enter the acquired credits in the study report and in the electronic information system of UNIZA no later than the end of the relevant academic year and shall also include them in the annual evaluation of the doctoral student.

Article 6

Supervisor

- (1) The function of a supervisor for a given field of study at the faculty/university-wide workplace at which doctoral studies are carried out may be performed by a teacher of a university (in the functional position of professor or the functional position of associate professor) and by another expert from a workplace outside the university after approval by the Scientific Board of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the UNIZA Scientific Board. The supervisor of the dissertation thesis may also be a university researcher who has obtained a scientific qualification level I or IIa⁹⁾.
- (2) The function of the supervisor for the topics of dissertation theses listed by an external educational institution may be performed by the supervisors approved by this institution. The external educational institution shall provide the scientific and pedagogical characteristics of these supervisors⁹⁾ to the faculty's scientific board or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the Scientific Board of UNIZA.
- (3) Supervisors for a given field of study at the faculty are appointed and dismissed by the dean of the faculty; at the university-wide workplace, by the rector.
- (4) Supervisor:
 - a) supervises the doctoral student during the doctoral study,

⁹⁾ Section 54 (4) of the Higher Education Act, criterion SP 6.5.2 of the SAAHE Methodology for the Evaluation of Standards, as amended

- b) in cooperation with the doctoral student, compiles his/her individual study plan and submits it for approval to the field committee, or working group or joint field committee (SOK),
 - c) manages and professionally guarantees the doctoral student's study and scientific programme, and monitors the fulfilment of the scope of his/her pedagogical activities,
 - d) determines the focus of the dissertation project and specifies its content together with the doctoral student,
 - e) awards the doctoral student the number of credits in accordance with the credit system of study,
 - f) submits the annual evaluation of the doctoral student to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, to the rector, after the statement of the study programme guarantor,
 - g) as part of the annual evaluation, submits to the dean/in the case of university-wide study programmes the rector a proposal for the exclusion of the doctoral student from doctoral study, a proposal for a change of the study programme in the field of study, comments on the doctoral student's request to interrupt study,
 - h) proposes to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, a doctoral student's study stay in other domestic or foreign institutions of science, education, research, technology, or art,
 - i) draws up a review on the dissertation thesis and the working characteristics of the entrusted doctoral student,
 - j) proposes to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector to entrust a supervisor-specialist to supervise specific parts of the doctoral student's scientific programme of study,
 - k) provides consultations with other experts as needed,
 - l) is a member of the committee for the doctoral student's dissertation examination and participates in the defence of the doctoral dissertation thesis without the right to vote.
- (5) The number of doctoral students (full-time and part-time together) supervised by a supervisor at the same time is usually no more than five. More doctoral students are admissible if they are doctoral students finishing beyond the standard length of their study.

Article 7

Study Plan of the Doctoral Student

- (1) The doctoral student's study plan is drawn up as an individual study plan.
- (2) The doctoral student's study plan consists of a study part that ends with the dissertation examination, a scientific part, and a defence of the dissertation thesis. In the case of a doctoral student who is registered for a dissertation topic listed by an external educational institution, part of the agreement of the faculty/university-wide workplace with this institution is also where and in what way the study part of the plan, pedagogical and other professional activities of the doctoral student will be carried out.

- (3) The study part of the doctoral student's study plan consists mainly of participation in lectures, seminars, and individual study of professional literature in the individual years of study according to the focus of the dissertation thesis, for which the supervisor allocates credits in accordance with the credit system of the study.
- (4) The doctoral student's individual study plan contains a list of subjects, including a professional foreign language within the scope of two semesters, which the doctoral student must complete, a list of dissertation examination subjects selected from the list approved by the field committee, or the working group, or the joint field committee (SOK); and a list of mandatory and recommended literature that the doctoral student should study as part of his/her individual preparation for the dissertation examination. The doctoral student's individual study plan also contains the dates on which the doctoral student must complete individual subjects and the dissertation examination.
- (5) The scientific part of the doctoral student's study plan consists of individual or team scientific work of the doctoral student that is related to the topic of the dissertation thesis. The scientific part of the doctoral student's study plan is professionally guaranteed by the supervisor.
- (6) An integral part of the doctoral student's activities, as prescribed in the study plan, is the active participation of the doctoral student in international conferences, especially those indexed in international databases (WOS, SCOPUS), and publishing in scientific journals. The doctoral student's study plan shall include the obligation to publish in at least one impacted journal that has an assigned quartile of at least Q3 in WoS or at least Q2 in SCOPUS, with at least 25% of the doctoral student's share in the relevant publication.
- (7) As a rule, an integral part of the doctoral student's activities in the full-time form of study, prescribed in the study plan, is the active participation of the doctoral student in a stay abroad at the partner workplace of the doctoral student's training workplace. It is recommended to include in the doctoral student's study plan the completion of a stay abroad lasting at least one month.
- (8) If a doctoral student in the full-time or part-time form of doctoral study grossly neglects the obligations arising from the individual study plan during the academic year, the dean of the faculty or, in the case of a university-wide workplace, the rector, based on the supervisor's proposal, after the approval of the field committee, or the working group or the joint field committee (SOK), may exclude the doctoral student from doctoral study (Section 66 (1)(c) of the Higher Education Act), while the decision on exclusion from study takes effect on the day of delivery, or on the day of return of the mail by post (Section 66 (2) of the Higher Education Act).

Article 8

Annual Evaluation of the Doctoral Student

The supervisor submits to the dean, in the case of university-wide study programmes to the rector, an annual evaluation of the doctoral student's fulfilment of his/her study plan with a statement as to whether or not he/she recommends the doctoral student's continuation of his/her studies, no later than 31 August of the relevant academic year, after the statement of the study programme supervisor. In doing so, the

supervisor assesses the status and level of fulfilment of the doctoral student's study plan, compliance with deadlines, awards credits and, if necessary, submits a proposal for modification of the doctoral student's individual study plan. Based on the doctoral student's annual evaluation, the dean (or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector) shall decide whether the doctoral student may continue his/her studies, as well as on any changes to the doctoral student's study plan.

Article 9

Dissertation Examination

- (1) A doctoral student in the full-time form of doctoral degree studies registers for the dissertation examination generally within 12 months but no later than 18 months from the date of enrolment in doctoral degree studies; a doctoral student in the part-time form generally within 18 months but no later than 24 months from the date of enrolment in doctoral degree studies. The doctoral student is obliged to submit, together with the application form for the dissertation examination, a written thesis prepared for the dissertation examination. Failure of the doctoral student to meet the conditions for registering for the dissertation examination, or not submitting a written thesis for the dissertation examination within the set deadline without the prior consent of the head of the training workplace, is a reason for his/her exclusion from study.
- (2) The written thesis for the dissertation examination consists of a dissertation project, containing an overview of the current state of knowledge on the given topic; an outline of the theoretical foundations of its future solution; and an analysis of the methodological approach to solving the given issue. One opponent shall prepare a review of the written thesis for the dissertation examination.
- (3) The opponent of the written thesis for the dissertation examination is appointed by the dean of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the rector upon the proposal of the supervisor. The opponent may only be a specialist with the academic degree of PhD (or its older equivalent), or the scientific rank of DrSc., who does not work at the same faculty/university-wide workplace or the same external educational institution as the doctoral student and does not have any shared publications with the doctoral student. The opponent of the written thesis for the dissertation examination must meet the same qualification requirements as the opponent of the dissertation thesis pursuant to Article 14(2).
- (4) The dissertation examination consists of two parts: a discussion on the written thesis for the dissertation examination and a demonstration of theoretical knowledge in the dissertation examination's specified subjects by the doctoral student. The doctoral student may also take exams from individual subjects during the study part of the doctoral study before the discussion on the written thesis for the dissertation examination at the proposal of the supervisor with the consent of the chairman of the field committee, or the chairman of the working group or the joint field committee (SOK). In such a case, the examination shall be held before the committee with the participation of the teacher of the subject, the supervisor (in justified cases, a person authorized by him/her) and two other members without the presence of the opponent. The completion of individual

subjects shall be evaluated with a grade, while the evaluation is carried out according to a classification scale consisting of six classification grades ^{8a)}. The examiner will enter the grade without undue delay in the examination protocol, in the study report, and in the UNIZA electronic information system. In the event that a student does not successfully pass an exam in a subject, he/she has the right to a correction in the form of one correction period.

- (5) The dissertation examination is held before the examination committee, the chairman and members of which are appointed by the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, based on the proposal of the chairman of the field committee, or chairman of the working group or the joint field committee (SOK). The committee shall have at least four members, at least one of whom shall not be from the training workplace where the doctoral student works. At least one member of the committee must hold the functional position of professor and have the academic title of professor, or must hold the functional position of professor and have the academic title of associate professor, or must hold the position of visiting professor, or have the academic title of doctor of sciences, or must be a researcher with a recognised scientific qualification level I. The other members of the committee must have an academic degree, a PhD, or its older equivalent. All members of the committee must meet the legal requirements to sit for the state examinations. The supervisor of the doctoral student is a member of the committee and participates in the dissertation examination without the right to vote on the outcome of the examination. If the opponent submitted a negative review, his/her participation is a condition for holding the dissertation examination. If the topic was listed by an external educational institution, one member of the committee must be from that external educational institution, who must meet the legal requirements to examine in state examinations.
- (6) A valid decision on the result of the dissertation examination requires the presence of an absolute majority of the members of the examination committee, while the examiners of the subjects that were not taken during the course of study must be present. If any of the examiners cannot participate in the exam for serious reasons, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, will decide on his or her substitution. The examination committee decides on the result of the exam in a closed session. In order to successfully complete the dissertation examination, the doctoral student must obtain an absolute majority of the positive votes of the members of the examination committee present.
- (7) The overall result of the dissertation examination is evaluated comprehensively by the examination committee with the expression "passed" or "failed".
- (8) The dissertation examination shall be reported in minutes, where in the conclusion the committee shall state its recommendation, or a proposal for modification of the topics, and the title of the dissertation thesis. The minutes shall also include the opponent's review of the written thesis. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman and the members of the examination committee present.

^{8a)} Decree of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic No. 614/2002 Coll. on the credit system of study

- (9) The dissertation examination is one of the state exams and is public. The faculty/university-wide workplace will prepare a state examination certificate for the doctoral student, which will then be issued by UNIZA.
- (10) If the doctoral student is unable to participate in the dissertation examination on the appointed date for serious reasons and apologises in writing in advance to the chairman of the examination committee, the chairman of the examination committee may appoint an alternative date. Withdrawal from the examination or unexcused absence of the doctoral student from the examination shall be evaluated with the expression "failed".
- (11) The doctoral student who failed the examination may repeat the examination only once, at the earliest three months after the date of the failed dissertation examination, on the date determined by the chairman of the examination committee. Repeated failure in the dissertation examination shall be grounds for expulsion from doctoral study.
- (12) The public part of the dissertation examination shall also be considered public even if the faculty/university-wide workplace ensures its public live transmission, or in times of crisis situation, it will make its audio recording available to the public for listening in the premises of the faculty/university-wide workplace for three months from the end of the crisis situation.
- (13) In justified cases, with the approval of the dean/in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, the dissertation examination may be conducted via video conference or other means of information and communication technology without physical presence.

PART III

DISSERTATION THESIS

Article 10

Application for Permission to Defend the Dissertation Thesis

- (1) The doctoral student submits to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, an application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis in accordance with the study schedule, if he/she has obtained the prescribed number of credits. In an exceptional case, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, shall determine in writing an alternative date for the doctoral student to submit an application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis so that the study does not exceed its standard length determined by the accredited study programme in the field of study by more than 2 years.
- (2) The doctoral student shall attach to the application:
 - a) the dissertation thesis in written form in four copies,
 - b) an autoreport of the dissertation thesis in written and electronic form (Article 11),
 - c) the supervisor's review of the dissertation thesis, which includes an evaluation of the doctoral student's contribution to the acquisition of new

- knowledge in science, the possibilities of their use, and the working characteristics of the doctoral student entrusted to him/her,
- d) the opinion of the department/university-wide workplace or external educational institution, formed on the basis of the internal defence of the dissertation thesis,
 - e) a list of published works with complete bibliographic data, as well as unpublished scientific works or public and non-public exhibitions of the doctoral student's works of art and performances, as well as their responses,
 - f) justification of the differences between the original and submitted dissertation thesis, if the doctoral student submits a new dissertation thesis in the same doctoral study programme after an unsuccessful defence,
 - g) confirmation that the dissertation thesis has been electronically uploaded to the Record of Final Thesis (EZP),
 - h) protocol from the control of originality,
 - i) completed and signed "License Agreement"^{9b)9c)}.

Article 11

Dissertation Thesis Requirements

- (1) The doctoral student submits the dissertation thesis for defence in the Slovak language. With the written consent of the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, he/she may submit the dissertation thesis in a language other than Slovak.
- (2) The doctoral student may also submit as a dissertation thesis a self-published work or a set of self-published works, which in their content elaborate on the topic of the dissertation thesis and correspond to the themes (project) of the dissertation thesis. If the doctoral student submits a set of his/her own publications, he/she shall supplement it with a detailed introduction, in which he/she explains the current state of the issue, the objectives of the dissertation thesis, and the conclusions that have emerged from solving the topic of the dissertation thesis. If the enclosed publications are the work of several authors, the doctoral student shall also enclose a declaration of the co-authors of his/her authorship share.
- (3) The dissertation thesis contains an introduction, a description of the objectives, an analysis of the current state of the issue at home and abroad, the theoretical background, a detailed description of the procedures used (work methods, materials), achieved results, their evaluation, discussions and conclusions indicating what new knowledge is needed for the further development of science, technology and practice. The thesis also includes a list of the literature used and appendices^{9c)}. The training workplace may issue its own methodology for the content of the dissertation thesis.

^{9b)} Section 63 (7) to (13) of the Higher Education Act

^{9c)} UNIZA Directive No. 215 – On Final, Rigorous and Habilitation Theses under the Conditions of the University of Žilina

- (4) If the dissertation thesis is part of a collective work, the doctoral student will state his/her own results and put them in context with the results of other members of the collective in the discussion.
- (5) If a doctoral student submits a dissertation thesis that, due to his/her own fault, is not at least in part the result of his or her own and independent activity, he/she commits academic fraud. This does not affect the doctoral student's right to use information, materials and other objects whose origin or source he/she indicates in the dissertation thesis. In case of suspicion of academic fraud, it is recommended to proceed according to the provisions of Article 4 of Directive No. 226 – On Copyright Ethics and the Elimination of Plagiarism under the Conditions of the University of Žilina.
- (6) An electronic or printed copy of the dissertation thesis is archived in the University Library of UNIZA, including the abstract and the license agreement, in which the permitted level of publication is established.

Article 12

Autoreport

- (1) The doctoral student prepares an autoreport of the dissertation thesis (hereinafter referred to as "autoreport"), which is a brief summary of the results, contributions of the dissertation thesis and data on its response. If the dissertation thesis is a set of works, an exact list of them shall be given in the autoreport.
- (2) The autoreport is in A5 format, while its scope is usually 20-30 pages and is submitted in the Slovak language.
- (3) Part of the autoreport is a list of all published works by the doctoral student that are related to the researched issue and responses to them with precise bibliographic data, a list of used literature, and an annotation in one of the following foreign languages: English, French, Spanish, German, or Russian.
- (4) The autoreport, reproduced in the required number of copies, shall be sent out by the faculty/ university-wide workplace, according to the instructions of the field committee, or of the working group or the joint field committee (SOK), at least three weeks before the date of the defence, to institutions and persons according to the customs of the faculty/university-wide workplace, in particular to:
 - a) the opponents of the dissertation thesis,
 - b) the members of the field committee, or of the working group or the joint field committee (SOK) for the given field of doctoral study.
- (5) With the approval of the chairman of the field committee, or the chairman of the working group, or the joint field committee (SOK), the report may be submitted in electronic form.

Article 13

Preparation of the Dissertation Thesis Defence

- (1) Before submitting an application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis, the doctoral student will conduct an internal defence at his/her workplace, usually two weeks before the date of submitting the application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis.
- (2) The faculty/university-wide workplace shall establish the time schedule for the preparation of the dissertation thesis defence from the submission of the application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis to its completion.
- (3) At the time of submitting the application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis, the doctoral student must submit a published article or a confirmation of its acceptance, and at the same time, the journal must have a current quartile of at least Q3 in WoS or at least Q2 in SCOPUS.
- (4) After receiving the application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, submits the doctoral student's application together with the dissertation thesis to the chairman of the field committee or the chairman of the working group or the SOK and asks him/her for a proposal for the composition of the defence committee and a proposal of the opponents. In the case of a topic listed by an external educational institution, a member from this external educational institution is also included in the proposal for the composition of the committee for the defence of the dissertation thesis.
- (5) If the submitted dissertation thesis is of an interdisciplinary nature, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, shall submit the materials referred to in paragraph 3 for approval by the chairman of the field committee, or the chairman of the working group or the SOK in the field in which the results of the submitted dissertation thesis are to make a major contribution and in which the doctoral student will be awarded an academic degree. The proposal of the committee, including the opponents, must also include representatives of another field of study or fields in which the dissertation thesis has a significant impact.
- (6) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, on the proposal of the chairman of the field committee or the chairman of the working group or the SOK, appoints the committee for the defence of the dissertation thesis and at least two opponents. The committee for the defence of the dissertation thesis consists of the chairman, who must hold the functional position of professor and have the scientific-pedagogical title of professor, and at least three members. The chairman and at least two members shall be appointed from among the members of the field committee, or the working group or the SOK. At least one member of the committee for the defence of the dissertation thesis, who does not have to be a member of the field committee or of the working group or of the SOK, is not from UNIZA. A member of the committee who is not a member of the field committee or working group or SOK must be approved by the faculty's scientific board or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the Scientific Board of UNIZA for testing at the state examinations. The supervisor of the doctoral student is also a member of the committee without the right to vote. The dean or, in the case of university-wide

study programmes, the rector, will send the dissertation thesis together with a request for a review to the appointed opponents.

- (7) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, after receiving all reviews from the opponents, forwards the doctoral student's application for permission to defend the dissertation thesis together with all the necessary information, including the reviews of the opponents, to the chairman of the defence committee.
- (8) After receiving the materials according to the previous paragraph, the chairman of the defence committee shall propose to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, the time and place of the dissertation thesis defence. The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector will determine the time and place of the defence.
- (9) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, shall invite the participants in writing to the defence - members of the defence committee, opponents, supervisor and doctoral student - and shall publish a notice of the defence, as well as information on where and in what way interested parties can familiarize themselves with the dissertation thesis, on the official notice board and in a mass manner according to a special regulation⁵⁾ before the defence takes place.
- (10) Anyone who is interested in the examined issues and in the defence of the dissertation thesis may submit their review or statement to the chairman of the defence committee before the defence, or may present their comments orally during the defence, if the defence has not been declared non-public (see Article 15, paragraph 4). During the defence of the dissertation thesis, the doctoral student should take a position on such reviews or comments.
- (11) The defence of the dissertation thesis may be held even in the case of one negative review, but with the participation of the opponent who gave it. If there are more negative reviews, the defence may be conducted only after the deficiencies mentioned in the reviews have been eliminated and the dissertation thesis has been re-assessed.

Article 14

Opponents of the Dissertation Thesis and Their Reviews

- (1) Opponents of the dissertation thesis are appointed by the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, on the proposal of the chairman of the field committee, or chairman of the working group or the SOK. The opponents are selected from among experts on the issue being addressed. Each of the opponents must be from a different organization. There may be one opponent from the faculty/university-wide workplace where the doctoral student is studying.
- (2) The dissertation thesis is assessed by at least two opponents. At least one opponent must hold the functional position of professor and have the scientific-pedagogical title of professor, or he/she must hold the functional position of professor and have the scientific-pedagogical title of associate professor, or

⁵⁾ Section 57(5) of the Higher Education Act and Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts (Freedom of Information Act)

must have the scientific title of Doctor of Sciences or must be a researcher with a recognised scientific qualification level I. Other opponents must hold the functional position of associate professor and have the scientific-pedagogical title of associate professor or have an academic title corresponding to the completed 2nd level of higher education and hold the functional position of associate professor. They may be prominent experts holding the functional position of visiting professor, employees with the academic title of PhD (or its older equivalent), employees-researchers with a recognised scientific qualification level IIa, or significant experts from practice with the academic title of PhD (or its older equivalent). Opponents may be members of the commission, but they must meet the legal conditions for examining in state examinations.

- (3) The provisions of Article 13(4) shall apply to the nomination of opponents for the defence of the dissertation thesis of an interdisciplinary nature.
- (4) The opponent cannot be a family member of the doctoral student, his/her immediate superior or subordinate in an employment relationship or a similar employment relationship, or a supervisor.
- (5) In accordance with the established time schedule for the preparation of the defence of the dissertation thesis, the opponent shall submit his/her written review to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, and return the dissertation thesis. If the opponent cannot prepare the review, he/she will notify the dean of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector within one week of receiving the appointment as an opponent.
- (6) If the opponent does not submit his/her review within the set deadline and fails to do so even after receiving a reminder, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, will invite him/her to return the dissertation thesis and appoint a new opponent.
- (7) The opponent's review contains an objective and critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted dissertation thesis. It is brief and does not repeat the content. In the review, the opponent mainly comments:
 - a) on the topicality of the chosen topic,
 - b) on the fulfilment of the set objectives of the dissertation thesis,
 - c) on the processing methods chosen,
 - d) on the achieved results, indicating what new knowledge the dissertation thesis brings and where it has been published,
 - e) on the contribution to the further development of science, technology, or art, as well as for practice.

In the conclusion, he/she shall clearly state whether or not, on the basis of the submitted dissertation thesis, he/she proposes the award of the academic degree of PhD/ArtD. in the relevant study programme in the field of study.

Article 15

Defence of the Dissertation Thesis

- (1) The dissertation thesis, together with its defence, forms one subject. The defence of the dissertation thesis is a state examination, and in the standard length of study, the doctoral student must complete it no later than in the last month of the last academic year of his/her standard length of study. The dissertation thesis defence in the length of study that exceeds the standard length of study must take place no later than two years after the end of the standard length of study^{9d)}. During this period, the doctoral student in the full-time form of doctoral study is not entitled to a scholarship; he/she continues to fulfil his/her duties at his/her place of work and pays tuition fees for the extra-standard length of study.
- (2) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, ensures that the defence of the dissertation thesis takes place on the set date.
- (3) The chairman of the defence committee will send the opponent's reviews to the opponents, the members of the committee, including the supervisor, the doctoral student, and the department or external educational institution that listed the topic.
- (4) The defence of the dissertation thesis is public; in exceptional cases, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, may declare it to be non-public if its public defence would jeopardize the confidentiality protected by a special law.
- (5) The defence of the dissertation thesis takes place in the form of a scientific debate. The doctoral student shall present the content of his/her dissertation thesis, results, and benefits. The opponents shall present their reviews, on which the doctoral student shall take a position. The debate verifies the correctness, justification, and scientific originality of the knowledge contained in the dissertation thesis.
- (6) The defence can only be held in the presence of at least two thirds of the number of members of the defence committee entitled to vote, including at least two opponents, while at least one member of the committee must be from a workplace outside UNIZA. A committee member from an external educational institution must be present if the topic was listed by an external educational institution.
- (7) If the doctoral student is unable to attend the defence on the appointed date for serious reasons, he/she shall apologise in writing in advance to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, to the rector and also to the chairman of the defence committee. The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, in agreement with the chairman of the defence committee, will determine an alternative date for the defence in such a case and will notify its participants.
- (8) After the defence, a closed session of the committee is held, attended by its members, including the opponents and the supervisor. At the closed session, the course and result of the defence and the possibility of using the results of the dissertation thesis in practice will be evaluated. The committee shall decide by secret ballot whether to propose the award of an academic degree to a doctoral candidate. The committee shall then grade the defence of the dissertation thesis with a grade while the grading is carried out according to a grading scale, which consists of six grading levels:

^{9d)} Section 65 (2) of the Higher Education Act

| Grade (classification level) | Word classification and its definition | Extent of knowledge (%) | Numeric value |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| A | Excellent (outstanding results) | 93 – 100 | 1 |
| B | Very good (above average results) | 85 – 92 | 1.5 |
| C | Good (average results) | 77 – 84 | 2 |
| D | Satisfactory (acceptable results) | 69 – 76 | 2.5 |
| E | Sufficient (results only meet minimum criteria) | 61 – 68 | 3 |
| FX | Insufficient (results do not meet even the minimum criteria) | less than 61 | 4 |

In the event that the committee decides not to award an academic degree, the defence grade is FX.

- (9) The presence of at least two thirds of the members of the defence committee, including at least two opponents, is required for a valid decision on the outcome of the dissertation thesis defence. In order to successfully complete the dissertation thesis defence, the doctoral student must obtain a supermajority of positive votes from the members of the committee for the defence of the dissertation thesis and opponents.
- (10) A record of the defence shall be made and signed by the chairman of the defence committee, the members of the defence committee present and the opponents.
- (11) The chairman of the defence committee will announce the result of the vote with justification to the doctoral student and other participants present at its public meeting.
- (12) The proposal to award or not to award an academic degree to the doctoral student, together with the record and the doctoral student's file material, shall be submitted by the chairman of the defence committee to the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector.
- (13) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, will determine in writing an alternative date for the defence of the dissertation thesis in the same study programme to the doctoral student who, based on the result of the dissertation defence or due to his/her unexcused non-participation in the defence, has been proposed not to be awarded an academic degree by the defence committee.
- (14) The defence of the dissertation thesis may be repeated only once, no later than two years after the end of the standard length of study.
- (15) The public part of the dissertation thesis defence shall also be considered public even if the faculty/university-wide workplace ensures its public live transmission, or in times of crisis situation, it will make its audio recording available to the public for listening in the premises of the faculty/university-wide workplace for three months from the end of the crisis situation.
- (16) In justified cases, with the consent of the dean/in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, the dissertation thesis defence may be conducted via video conference or other means of information and communication technology without physical presence.

Article 16

Deciding on the Award of an Academic Degree

- (1) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the chairman of the field committee or the joint field committee (SOK), after a positive assessment of the proposal of the dissertation defence committee to award or not award the academic degree "Doctor" or "Doctor of Arts" to a graduate of doctoral study, submits the documents of completion of study to the rector.
- (2) The academic degree "doctor" ("philosophiae doctor," abbreviated "PhD") or "artis doctor" ("artis doctor," abbreviated "ArtD") is awarded by UNIZA with effect from the date of the successful defence of the dissertation thesis¹⁰⁾.
- (3) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, sends the doctoral student a written notification of the award or non-award of the academic degree.

Article 17

Document on Completion of Study

- (1) A university diploma, a certificate of state examination, and a diploma supplement are documents of completion of the doctoral study programme in the field of study¹¹⁾.
- (2) The dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, will hand over the documents on the completion of the study to the doctoral student at the graduation ceremony, organised according to the traditions and customs of UNIZA. In times of crisis, documents can be handed over in an alternative way.

PART IV

CHANGES DURING DOCTORAL STUDY

Article 18

Change of Study Programme in the Field of Study, Change of Supervisor

- (1) A change of the study programme in the field of study, supervisor, or training workplace within UNIZA can be made during the doctoral study in justified cases, especially if this creates more favourable conditions for the study of the doctoral student's study programme.
- (2) The dean of the faculty or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, decides on the change of the study programme in the field of study on the basis of a written request from the doctoral student and after the statement of the supervisor. If an external educational institution has listed the topic, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector will do so

¹⁰⁾ Section 54 (15) of the Higher Education Act

¹¹⁾ Section 68 of the Higher Education Act

after hearing from the supervisor and the statutory representative of that external educational institution.

- (3) The duration of doctoral study shall include a proportional part of the duration of the completed study programme in the field of study prior to the change of study programme in the field of study.
- (4) When changing the study programme in the field of study, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, will decide on the recognition of the doctoral student's dissertation examination and the subjects of the study part that he/she completed before this change.

Article 19

Interruption and Termination of Doctoral Study

- (1) The doctoral student may request to interrupt his or her doctoral study (even repeatedly) in both the standard and extra-standard lengths of study for maternity leave, health reasons, study abroad that is not part of his or her individual study plan, or other serious reasons. During the interruption of study, the doctoral student loses the rights and obligations of a student. The supervisor shall comment on the doctoral student's request for an interruption of study.
- (2) Interruption of study is permitted by the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector. For a doctoral student who has applied for a dissertation topic listed by an external educational institution, he/she shall do so only after a positive statement from the statutory representative of the external educational institution.
- (3) The cumulative period of interruption of doctoral study does not normally exceed 18 months. In special, justified cases, e.g., during the next maternity leave, the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, the rector, may decide to interrupt doctoral study for a longer period of time, up to a maximum of 36 months.
- (4) Doctoral study ends with the defence of the dissertation thesis¹²⁾, or by abandoning study, failure to complete study within the set deadline, expulsion from studies, entry into force of a decision on the invalidity of a state examination or its part within a lower degree of study, renunciation of the academic title awarded after completing a lower degree study programme, cancellation of a study programme in a field of study, or death of the student ¹³⁾.

PART V

FIELD COMMITTEE, WORKING GROUP OR JOINT FIELD COMMITTEE

Article 20

Field Committee or Working Group

¹²⁾ Section 54 (3) of the Higher Education Act

¹³⁾ Section 66 of the Higher Education Act

- (1) The field committee monitors and evaluates doctoral study in a given field of study.
- (2) The faculty/university-wide workplace will establish a field committee for each field of study or a working group for one or more study programmes.
- (3) Members of the field committee or working group are appointed and dismissed by the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the rector, after approval by the faculty's scientific board, or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the Scientific Board of UNIZA, or on the proposal of an external educational institution with which the faculty/university-wide workplace has an agreement according to Article 1(7). The field committee, or the working group, shall consist of a chairman and at least four other members. At least one of the members of the committee must hold the functional position of professor and have the scientific-pedagogical title of professor or the scientific title of doctor of sciences, or be a researcher with the scientific qualification level I or IIa. Other members may be university teachers holding the functional position of associate professor with the academic title of associate professor, university teachers holding the functional position of visiting professor, staff members holding the academic title of PhD (or its older equivalent), or qualified professionals from practice who have been awarded this academic title (or its older equivalent). At least one member of the field committee or the working group is from an institution other than the faculty/university-wide workplace where it is established. If the doctoral study is provided in cooperation with an external educational institution, this institution shall have adequate representation in the field committee or working group¹⁴⁾.

Article 21

Joint Field Committee

- (1) Based on an agreement with another university or external educational institution, UNIZA may establish a joint field committee, which takes over the tasks and competences of the field committee.
- (2) For the relevant faculty/university-wide workplace, the members of the joint field committee (SOK) are nominated by the dean or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the rector, on the proposal of the faculty scientific board or, in the case of university-wide study programmes, by the UNIZA Scientific Board, so that at least one of the members in this proposal holds the functional position of professor and has the scientific-pedagogical title of professor or the scientific title of doctor of science or must be a researcher with a recognised scientific qualification level I or IIa. Other members may be university teachers holding the functional position of associate professor with the academic title of associate professor, university teachers holding the functional position of visiting professor, staff members with the academic title of PhD (or its senior equivalent), or qualified professionals from practice who have been awarded this academic title (or its senior equivalent). If the doctoral study is provided in cooperation with an external educational institution, that institution shall be adequately represented in the field committee¹⁴⁾.

¹⁴⁾ Section 54 (17) of the Higher Education Act

PART VI TUITION AND FEES

Article 22 Tuition and Fees

The provisions of the Higher Education Act ¹⁵⁾ and the internal regulations of UNIZA apply to tuition fees and fees associated with doctoral study and the issuance of documents on completion of study.

PART VII FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 23 Final Provisions

- (1) Directive No. 77 Study Regulations for the Third Degree of University Study at the University of Žilina, in force as amended on 18 March 2013, is repealed.
- (2) These Study Regulations for the Third Degree of University Study at the University of Žilina in Žilina enter into force and effect on the date of approval by the Academic Senate of the University of Žilina in Žilina, i.e., on 18 March 2013.
- (3) Amendment No. 1 was approved by the Academic Senate of the University of Žilina in Žilina on 31 March 2014 and enters into force and effect on the date of its approval.
- (4) Amendment No. 2 was approved by the Academic Senate of UNIZA on February 29, 2016, when it enters into force. It takes effect on the date of its publication.
- (5) Amendment No. 3 was approved by the Academic Senate of UNIZA on 30 November 2020, and it enters into force. It takes effect on the date of its publication.
- (6) Amendment No. 4 was approved by the Academic Senate of UNIZA on 25 April 2022, when it enters into force. It takes effect on the date of its publication.
- (7) Amendment No. 5 was approved by the Academic Senate of UNIZA on 12 May 2025, when it enters into force. It takes effect on the date of its publication.

Prof. Ing. Branislav Hadzima, PhD.
Chairman of the Academic Senate

Prof. Ing. Ján Čelko, CSc.
Rector

¹⁵⁾ Section 92 of the Higher Education Act