



# **REGULATIONS ON THE SUBMISSION OF ARTICLE- BASED THESES**

**Doctoral programme: Network Engineering**

- **Document approved by the Standing Committee of the Doctoral School on 12/01/2017.**

## Preamble

Article 10.2 of the UPC's Academic Regulations for Doctoral Studies, which were approved by the Governing Council on 19 July 2016, establishes that the academic committee of each doctoral programme must draw up specific regulations that include specific criteria for the submission of article-based theses. It corresponds to the Standing Committee of the Doctoral School to approve these regulations.

Thus, the academic committee of the UPC's doctoral programme in Network Engineering, at a meeting held on 18 November 2016, drew up these regulations, which were approved by the Standing Committee of the Doctoral School on 12 January 2017.

### 1. Object

These regulations establish the criteria for approving applications to submit an article-based doctoral thesis, which essentially consists of a collection of reputable articles in which the doctoral candidate's participation has been significant.

### 2. Introduction

The doctoral programme in Network Engineering states that the submission of an article-based thesis must be an exceptional occurrence and that theses for the programme should generally be submitted in the standard form. In any case, it is understood that the thesis may be submitted as a collection of articles when the content of the collection is broad enough, original, innovative and consistent, and when its quality has been demonstrated. The requirements included in this document must serve as a guide for assessing whether the thesis can be submitted in this form. In any case, the final decision will be taken by the academic committee of the UPC's doctoral programme in Network Engineering.

### 3. Conditions for submitting an article-based thesis

Doctoral candidates wishing to submit an article-based thesis must satisfy the following requirements:

- a. Publications submitted as part of the thesis may not be submitted again as an integral part of other doctoral theses.
- b. The publications must be the direct result of the work carried out by the doctoral candidate on the doctoral programme. Any publications stemming from work carried out on the master's degree or from the doctoral candidate's professional activities before enrolling will not be accepted, regardless of the date of publication.
- c. When the submission of an article-based thesis is applied for, the articles must have been published or definitively accepted for publication.

With regard to the number and type of publications the academic committee recommends the following:

- d. The candidate must have published at least four articles in JCR-indexed journals in the first or second quartile in the field of network engineering, authored by the doctoral candidate (as the first author) and the thesis supervisor(s).
- e. The publications must have a common theme within the doctoral programme's area of knowledge and may be multidisciplinary.
- f. Other JCR-indexed journals in Q3 or Q4 or with more co-authors. As a complement, articles presented orally at conferences, books and book chapters and listed in the appendix may be considered.

Because they are legal and not scientific documents, patents, which may be written by persons other than the inventors, may not be included in the collection.

#### **4. Application**

The doctoral candidate must submit a reasoned application, the entry of which will be registered, to the academic committee of the doctoral programme, and provide the following information:

- a. A list of the articles, including the authors, title, publication details (journal, pages, year), area, quartile, impact factor and, if they have been published, number of citations.
- b. Authorisation of the thesis supervisor for the submission of an article-based thesis.
- c. Written authorisation of the co-authors of the articles for their submission as part of an article-based thesis if there are co-authors other than the doctoral candidate and the thesis supervisor(s).
- d. If there are co-authors other than the doctoral candidate and the thesis supervisor(s), a waiver by the co-authors who are not doctorate holders of the right to submit them as part of another doctoral thesis.

#### **5. Review and resolution**

The academic committee of the doctoral programme shall meet to assess the appropriateness of submitting the thesis as a collection of articles. A favourable resolution may apply to all of the articles submitted or only some of them, if necessary. In this case, the works that may be included in the collection will be indicated. If the ruling is unfavourable, the academic committee of the doctoral programme will issue a resolution justifying its decision.

The academic committee of the doctoral programme may, if necessary, delegate checking the facts and authorising the application to the programme coordinator and indicate which articles may be included in the collection. If the academic committee of the doctoral programme deems it necessary, it may appoint two members of the committee or two external reviewers who are experts on the subject to judge whether it is appropriate.

The resolution shall be communicated to the doctoral candidate in writing within 30 working days from the date of submission.

## 6. Content of the thesis

The thesis must include the following:

- a. Cover featuring the title, author, supervisors and, in a clearly visible place, the phrase "Article-based thesis".
- b. Abstract in English and Spanish or Catalan.
- c. Table of contents.
- d. An introduction discussing the state of the art, the thematic unity of the thesis and the objectives.
- e. A description of the problem, the methods used, an overall discussion of the results and the conclusions.
- f. Full text of the postprints of the articles in the collection or of the versions accepted for publication, if any of the articles have not been published when the thesis is submitted.
- g. Optionally, copies of articles that are not part of the collection or that have been submitted for publication but have not yet been accepted may be added as an appendix if they make the thesis easier to understand. Under no circumstances shall these articles be considered an integral part of the collection whose appropriateness must be assessed by the academic committee of the doctoral programme.

## 7. Thesis submission

The thesis must be submitted in accordance with the standard procedure outlined in the Academic Regulations for Doctoral Studies. The administrative unit will add the resolution of the academic committee that is authorising the submission of the article-based thesis to the academic record and inform the Doctoral School.

## 8. First additional provision: interpretation and regulations

It corresponds to the academic committee of the doctoral programme to apply these regulations and to update this agreement in view of the Academic Regulations for Doctoral Studies and/or on the proposal of the Standing Committee of the Doctoral School.

Procedures not described in these specific regulations are governed by the internal regulations of the doctoral programme in Network Engineering, the UPC's Academic Regulations for Doctoral Studies (Governing Council Agreement no. 130/2016) and Royal Decree 99/2011.

## 9. Second additional provision: composition of the committee

Under no circumstances shall the co-authors be part of the examination committee.

## 10. Final provision: entry into force

These regulations shall enter into force the day after their approval by the Standing Committee of the Doctoral School.