

# MAIN NEW FEATURES OF THE REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES

## End date of stay in the doctoral programme

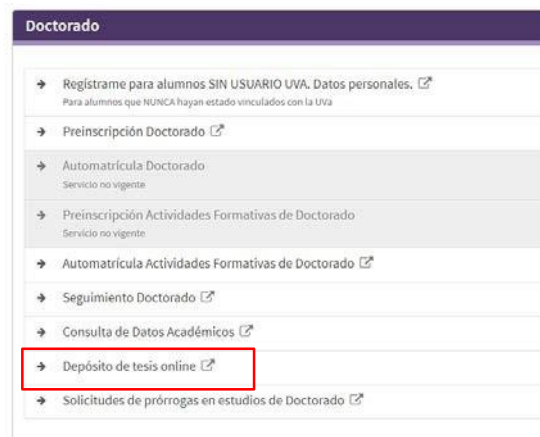
Article 5 establishes that **the end date of the stay will be the moment of "Application for the deposit of the thesis to the Academic Committee" by the doctoral student** (with a report from the supervisor and tutor) and not the date of deposit at the Doctoral School.

Until now, the student was obliged to complete the thesis at least three months before the end of the maximum period of stay, allowing the Academic Committee to obtain the external reports. With this change, the student has the maximum period to apply to the Academic Committee for the deposit.

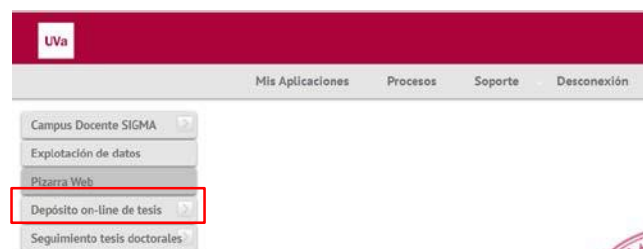
## Management of the deposit of the doctoral thesis

The application for depositing the thesis by the doctoral student and the assessment process by the Academic Committee and the Doctoral Thesis Committee will be carried out electronically.

For this purpose, the online thesis deposit procedure has been enabled in Sigma. Doctoral students will access it through Academic Management Students - Doctorate:



Supervisors and Tutors will access through *Gestión Académica Docentes*:



All information about the online deposit is available on the new EsDUVa website ([esduva.uva.es](https://esduva.uva.es)):

<https://esduva.uva.es/tesis/admision-y-defensa-de-la-tesis/deposito-online-de-la-tesis/>

## Deadlines for the Academic Committee and the Doctoral Thesis Committee to evaluate the thesis once it has been deposited.

Once the doctoral student has applied for the thesis to be deposited with the Academic Committee, with the supervisor and tutor's report, the Academic Committee has three months to decide (given the external experts' reports) whether or not to authorise the deposit. If the doctoral student is required to make modifications, they will have another three months to do so.

When the Academic Committee authorises the deposit, the Doctoral Thesis Committee has another three months to decide whether to allow the thesis's defence.

The thesis deposit process is shown in the following diagram:

<https://esduvadoc.uva.es/tesis/Permanencia%20doctorado%20y%20dep%C3%B3sito%20de%20tesis.pdf>

## Temporary leave of absence

**Sick leave due to supervening causes has been eliminated** because it is not covered by Article 3.2 of RD 99/2011. It only covers sick leave and temporary (voluntary) leave:

*Article 3.2 of RD 99/2011. To calculate the above period, leaves of absence due to illness, pregnancy or any other cause provided for in the regulations in force will not be considered. Doctoral students may also apply to leave the programme temporarily for one year, extendable for up to one more year. This request must be addressed and justified to the academic committee responsible for the programme, which will decide whether the student's request can be granted.*

However, **the voluntary leave of absence application has been made more flexible: it can be requested at any time and for a minimum period of three months.** Until now, voluntary leave was asked for an entire year (which may or may not coincide with an academic year) and could not be requested during the extension period. According to the new regulation (Article 10), these leaves can be requested for periods of three months (the maximum accumulated period is still two years, as indicated in the RD).

## Permanent withdrawal due to abandonment (or non-renewal of enrolment).

**In the case of definitive withdrawal, due to abandonment or because the student does not renew enrolment, the Standing Committee of the EsDUVa may authorise re-entry into the doctoral programme, on a one-off basis, in competitive concurrence with other candidates.** Re-entry does not imply starting from scratch. The previous period of stay in the programme will be considered for calculating the length of stay in the doctoral programme.

## Thesis direction

**Requirements for supervising a doctoral thesis.** All thesis supervisors must be Doctorate holders with a recognised period of research activity. In the case of doctors who are not eligible for six-year periods (international researchers or researchers at non-university institutions), they must be able to prove to the Academic Committee that they have merits equivalent to a six-year period and have the approval of the Doctoral Thesis Committee.

**Number of supervisors for a thesis.** With the prior authorisation of the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme, the thesis may be supervised by two doctors. Exceptionally, in the case of programmes developed in national or international collaboration on a joint supervision or industrial doctorate basis, or when there are reasons of an academic or interdisciplinary nature, three supervisors may be appointed.

**Maximum number of theses supervised by a researcher.** A supervisor may not supervise more than five theses simultaneously, regardless of whether the doctoral studies are full-time or part-time. To calculate the maximum number of theses managed simultaneously, a factor of 0.5 will be applied to each co-supervised thesis.

Within two years of the entry into force of these Regulations, the Academic Committees of the Doctoral Programmes shall adjust the maximum number of supervisors of a thesis and the maximum number of theses that may be supervised simultaneously by one supervisor.

## Defence of the thesis by videoconference

Article 33 establishes that the defence will preferably take place in person. Still, if it is not possible for any of the members of the panel to attend, they may participate by videoconference.

On the other hand, the defence ceremony may be virtual, with videoconference attendance by all the participants at the request of the examining board or the doctoral student. It must be authorised by the president of the Doctoral Thesis Committee by a delegation of the latter.