



# GUIDELINES ON DOCTORAL THESIS EXTERNAL REVIEWERS AND THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

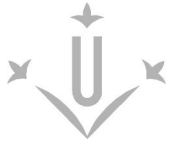
Approved by the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Programme on March 6, 2026  
And by the Steering Committee of the Doctoral School on May 19, 2026

## 1. External reviewers for thesis submission.

- 1.1. The two external reviewers must belong to different institutions and must be external to UdL.
- 1.2. External reviewers may not belong to the same institution as the thesis supervisors, in cases where the latter are external to UdL.
- 1.3. Requirements for external reviewers:
  - Must hold a doctoral degree.
  - Must have at least one currently active research evaluation period (“sexenio”) or equivalent research merits obtained within de last six years.
  - Must demonstrate a proven research track record in the scientific field of the thesis.
  - Must not be co-authors of any of the articles included in the thesis.
  - Must not have co-authored publications with the doctoral candidate, the supervisors, or the thesis tutor since the year the thesis began.
  - Must not have any conflict of interest with the doctoral candidate, supervisors, or tutor.

## 2. Thesis examining committee.

- 2.1. The committee must consist of three full members (chair, secretary, and member) and two alternates
- 2.2. The majority of full members must be external to UdL. At most, only one active UdL faculty member may serve on the committee.
- 2.3. External members may not belong to the same institution as the thesis supervisors, in cases where the latter are external to UdL.
- 2.4. None of the full members may belong to the same institution. The same applies to alternate members.



- 2.5. It is recommended that one UdL member serve as secretary of the committee and be responsible for all procedural aspects related to the thesis defense and for the issuance and safekeeping of the official records. Among the two alternates, it is also recommended that one be a UdL faculty member.
- 2.6. Thesis supervisors and tutors may not serve on the committee.
- 2.7. External reviewers may serve on the committee.
- 2.8. The committee must include at least one representative of each gender among its full members. If this is not possible, it must be justified before the academic committee.
- 2.9. Requirements for committee members:
  - Must hold a doctoral degree.
  - Must have at least one currently active research evaluation period (“sexenio”) or equivalent research merits obtained within de last six years.
  - Must demonstrate a proven research track record in the scientific field of the thesis.
  - Must not be co-authors of any of the articles included in the thesis.
  - Must not have co-authored publications with the doctoral candidate, the supervisors, or the thesis tutor since the year the thesis began.
  - Must not have any conflict of interest with the doctoral candidate, supervisors, or tutor.

### **3. Additional requirements for the international doctorate distinction.**

- 3.1. General requirements also apply to theses with an international doctorate distinction.
- 3.2. External reviewers must belong to foreign institutions different from the one where the doctoral stay was carried out and different from those of the supervisors where applicable.
- 3.3. At least one full member of the committee must belong to a foreign university or research center different from the one where the doctoral research stay was carried out.

### **4. Additional requirements for international joint supervision (cotutelle).**

General requirements also apply to theses under joint supervision, unless otherwise specified in the agreement

### **5. Additional requirements for the industrial doctorate distinction.**

- 5.1. General requirements also apply to theses with an industrial doctorate distinction.
- 5.2. The person designated by the company may not serve on the thesis examination committee nor act as an external reviewer of the thesis.