



REGULATIONS ON THE PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING THE EQUIVALENCE OF FOREIGN DOCTORAL DEGREES

Foreword

Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November, modifies the procedure for approving foreign degrees, establishes a procedure for declaring the equivalence of foreign degrees to Spanish degrees and academic levels and repeals Royal Decree 285/2004, of 20 February, modified by Royal Decree 309/2005, of 18 March, which until then had established the regulations regarding the homologation and validation of foreign higher education qualifications and courses. The Fifth Additional Provision of Royal Decree 967/2014 gives universities the powers to declare the equivalence of foreign doctoral degrees and to determine the procedure for doing so. In order to adapt the University of Lleida's own regulations to the provisions of this royal decree, the following regulations on the procedure for declaring the equivalence of foreign doctoral degrees are hereby approved.

Article 1. Object

The object of these regulations is to establish the procedure for declaring the equivalence of foreign doctoral degrees that are presented at the University of Lleida, in accordance with the Fifth Additional Provision of Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November.

Article 2. Exclusions

The following foreign degrees or studies are not subject to a declaration of equivalence:

- a) Those that do not have official academic validity in the country of origin.
- b) Those that have already been declared equivalent to a doctoral degree at another university in Spain.

Article 3. Procedure

1. The body in charge of carrying out the procedure is the Doctoral School of the University of Lleida.
2. The competent authority for ruling on the declaration of equivalence is the rector of the University of Lleida.
3. The procedure will be published on the Doctoral School website.



Article 4. Application

1. The procedure is initiated by an application by the interested party addressed to the rector of the University of Lleida.
2. The application should preferably be submitted through the electronic register of the University of Lleida. The specific application form and instructions for submitting documents to the electronic register will be made available to applicants on the Doctoral School website.
3. Applications for equivalence related to the thematic areas of the Doctoral School will be accepted for processing.

Article 5. Mandatory documents

The application must be accompanied by the following documents, which must be submitted in digital format:

- a) A document proving the identity and nationality of the applicant.
- b) A curriculum vitae of the applicant in Catalan, Spanish or English.
- c) An authentic copy of the qualification for which the equivalence is requested or of a certificate proving its issuance.
- d) An academic certification of the courses taken by the applicant for obtaining the doctoral degree, including at least the official duration in academic years, the curriculum followed, the qualification required to gain access to the doctoral degree, the date of the thesis defence and the mark obtained.
- e) A report of at least ten pages explaining the thesis in Catalan, Spanish or English.
- f) The address of the public repository or website where the doctoral thesis is published. If the thesis is not available online, a copy of the thesis in digital format.
- g) A list of the scientific publications stemming from the doctoral thesis.
- h) A declaration by the applicant that equivalence of the foreign doctoral degree has not been obtained at another university of the Spanish State.
- i) Receipt of payment of the official fee for processing the declaration of equivalence of the doctoral degree.

Article 6. Document requirements

Documents issued abroad must comply with the following requirements:

1. They must be official documents issued by the competent authorities in accordance with the legal system of the country that issued the qualification.
2. They must be legalized through diplomatic channels or, where appropriate, through the apostille of the Hague Convention. This legalization is not required for documents issued by the authorities of the member states of the European Union or signatory states of the Agreements on the European Economic Area.
3. All documents must be accompanied by an official translation into Spanish or Catalan. It is not necessary to include an official translation of the copy of the doctoral thesis.



Article 7. Verification of documents

In cases of doubt regarding the authenticity, validity or content of the documents submitted, the investigating body may take the necessary steps to verify them, as well as to contact the issuing authority to clarify the doubts.

Article 8. Time period

The period for issuing a resolution on the procedure and notifying the result will be six months from the date on which the application and all the required documents are entered in the Electronic Register of the UdL.

The absence of a resolution within this period will indicate that the application for equivalence has been rejected.

Article 9. Fees

1. The applicant must pay the official fee for initiation of the equivalence procedure. The amount to be paid will be that laid down in the [Decree on prices of the Generalitat of Catalonia](#) for the provision of this service. Proof of payment of this amount is a necessary requirement for the initiation of the equivalence procedure.
2. When the resolution on the equivalence is positive, the applicant must pay the official fee for issuance of the declaration of equivalence of the doctoral degree.
3. The amount to be paid will be that laid down in the [Decree on prices of the Generalitat of Catalonia](#) for the provision of this service. The official fees and the method of payment will be published on the Doctoral School website.
4. In no cases will the amount paid be refunded to the applicant.

Article 10. Criteria for determining the equivalence of the doctoral degree

Resolutions on the equivalence of foreign doctoral degrees must be adopted by examining the education acquired by the person, taking into account the following:

- a) The correspondence between the academic levels required for admission to the foreign degree course and to the Spanish degree course.
- b) The correspondence between the academic levels of the foreign qualification and the Spanish qualification for which the declaration of equivalence is requested.
- c) The course content for obtaining the foreign qualification, which must include an original research work that enables the applicant to carry out independent research.



Article 11. Resolution on the equivalence

1. The director of the school will issue a report assigning the application for equivalence to the Academic Committee of the doctoral programme closest to the area indicated by the applicant on the application form.
2. The Academic Committee will evaluate the documents provided by the applicant, taking into account the criteria established in Article 10 of these regulations. If it deems it necessary, it may request technical reports from experts and other complementary documents in order to issue a justified report recommending acceptance or rejection of the application for equivalence, which it will submit to the Executive Committee.
3. In view of the reports presented by the Academic Committee, the Executive Committee of the Doctoral School will submit a proposed resolution to the rector.
4. In view of the proposed resolution, the rector will issue a justified resolution of acceptance or rejection of the application for equivalence, which will be communicated to the applicant.

Article 12. Certificate

1. Resolutions declaring acceptance of equivalence will be accredited through a certificate issued by the rector in Catalan and Spanish.
2. The applicant must pay the fee established by the Decree on Prices of the Generalitat of Catalonia for issuance of the certificate of equivalence of the doctoral degree.
3. The certificate of equivalence will state the foreign degree held by the applicant and the university of origin.
4. Prior to issuing this certificate, the University will communicate the resolution to the Sub-Directorate General for Degrees and Recognition of Qualifications of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport so that it can be entered in the special section of the National Register of Official University Graduates referred to in Article 15.4 of Royal Decree 967/2014, of 21 November.
5. From the date on which it is granted and the certificate is issued, the declaration of equivalence provides the foreign degree with the same effect as the Spanish doctoral degree for which the equivalence is granted.
6. In no cases does the declaration of equivalence of a doctoral degree imply the homologation, declaration of equivalence or recognition of any other of the applicant's foreign qualifications or the recognition in Spain of an academic level other than that of the doctoral degree.

Single Repealing Provision

The procedure of the University of Lleida for homologation of foreign qualifications to the current doctoral degree, approved by Decision no. 97/2006 of the Governing Council, of 21 June 2006, is hereby repealed.

First Final Provision

These regulations will enter into force on the day of their approval by the University's Governing Council.