

Under the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 67/1993 with amendments) and the Statute of the University of Ljubljana (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/2017 with amendments), the Senate of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, in its 44<sup>th</sup> session on 30 September 2021, adopted the following

## **REGULATIONS ON DOCTORAL STUDY AT UL FME**

### **I. General provisions**

#### **Article 1**

The Regulations on doctoral studies at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana (hereinafter: Regulations) define the participants in doctoral studies, the procedure for application and confirmation of the doctoral thesis, the procedure for assessment and defence of a doctoral thesis, the international double doctorate and the procedure for withdrawal of the doctoral degree.

#### **Article 2**

The Regulations are a supplement to the Rules on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana, the Study Order of the University of Ljubljana and the Statute of the University of Ljubljana.

#### **Article 3**

The terms used in this Rules referring to persons and written in the masculine grammatical form are used as neutral for both the female and male gender.

#### **Article 4**

The doctoral candidate must supervise all formal procedures related to the doctoral studies and to ensure the regular and timely completion of the procedures and studies. In doing so, he will work with the mentor, the head of the laboratory where the doctoral studies are conducted, and the Student Affairs Office (hereinafter: SAO).

### **II. Study programme providers**

#### **Holders and providers of doctoral subjects**

#### **Article 5**

Holders and providers of doctoral subjects are higher education lecturers employed at the FME. In the subject area, they must have at least eight papers in journals with an impact factor SCI, two of which are in the top quarter of the subject area. If they do not fulfil this condition, it is sufficient that they have published four papers in the subject area in journals with an impact factor SCI in the last five years. Besides the holder, the subject may also have one or more lecturers equal to each other.

#### **Article 6**

The proposer of a new subject in the doctoral study programme must submit to the Committee for Doctoral Studies (hereinafter: CDS) on the prescribed form, in addition to the basic data, the exact content of the subject, the relevant literature and their references in the field covered by the subject, and then submit it to the CDS with the signature of the Head of the department.

## **Mentor and co-mentor**

### **Article 7**

External higher education lecturers and research assistants can only be co-mentors for doctoral students at the FME. The only exceptions are interdisciplinary study programmes run by the FME together with other UL members and international double doctoral students.

### **Article 8**

Retired higher education lecturers and researchers will not be appointed as mentors or co-mentors for candidates in the doctoral study programme. If the mentor was appointed for the candidate in the doctoral study programme before retirement, the mentorship will continue until candidate's graduation.

### **Article 9**

The candidate applying for doctoral studies, alone or helped by the vice-dean for pedagogical activity of levels II and III, proposes a mentor and a potential co-mentor.

### **Article 10**

The mentor in the doctoral study programme at FME must demonstrate research activity in the field of the dissertation topic and meet these requirements:

- He is elected and has a valid title of higher education lecturer or equivalent researcher.
- He has the same prerequisites as the holder of the course in the doctoral study programme. If the proposed mentor is not the holder of the course in the doctoral programme, he must fulfil the conditions from the area of the proposed topic of the dissertation instead of the conditions from the area of the course, under Article 5.
- He proves that he supervises or co-supervises at least three university graduates or one Master of Science according to the old study programme or three Masters of Engineering according to the Bologna study programme.
- With basic research in the last five years, the bibliography has achieved at least 200 Z-points according to SICRISS and at the same time achieves over 0 points in the indicator for significant achievement A<sup>1/2</sup>.
- A mentor or co-mentor can also be an emeritus professor who fulfils the same criteria as an employed mentor (except for employment).

### **Article 11**

A co-mentor, if proposed, must meet the same conditions as a mentor, except for the pedagogical criteria (mentoring and co-mentoring of graduates). A co-mentor can also be an academic staff member with an appropriate academic title equivalent to that of a university lecturer.

If a co-mentor is also proposed, the proposed mentor must provide CDS with a written justification for the necessity of the co-mentor's participation. The co-mentor is proposed if the topic of the doctoral thesis is interdisciplinary and the mentor's content is not fully covered by the published publications.

## **Members of the Committee for Doctoral Studies**

### **Article 12**

The members of the committees from the FME and the external members who supervise and evaluate the candidate's education in the doctoral programme must meet the same requirements as the holder or coordinator of the subject of the FME doctoral programme.

An external member of the Committee is a member who is not employed by the FME and who has not been elected to an FME scientific or pedagogical title.

### III. Implementation of a doctoral study programme

#### Article 13

The candidate, helped by the proposed mentor, prepares a proposal for the research hypotheses on the form *Proposal for registration of the framework topic, mentor, co-mentor, examinations and Committee for the defence of the seminar for Level III of Doctoral studies in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 1) and explains the aim and purpose of the planned research programme, proposes a mentor, a possible co-mentor, examinations and a Committee for the defence of the doctoral seminar. The proposed mentor then submits the completed registration application, signed by the head of the laboratory where the doctoral thesis will be conducted, to the CDS for approval.

After confirmation by the CDS, the type of study, the registration of the framework topic, the mentor, a possible co-mentor, the examinations and the Committee for the defence of the seminar must be examined and approved by the FME Senate.

With the classic implementation of a doctoral study, the candidate has to complete only the registration application at this stage; with project implementation, he also has to complete the *Application for fulfilment of the obligations of a senior year* (Appendix 2).

#### Article 14

The holders and providers of subjects approved by the CDS and approved by the FME Senate agree with the candidate and mentor on the method of study and knowledge assessment.

Prescribed seminars and examinations relate to the content directly required for completing the doctoral thesis. The dissemination and generalisation of content outside the direct aims of the doctoral thesis is not subject to the examination and seminar requirements. The doctoral candidate is expected to demonstrate his knowledge in the area of examinations and seminars, especially orally.

#### Article 15

Proof of completed doctoral studies is provided for both types of implementation with these documents:

- With the completed and signed registration forms for all examinations and Seminar 1.
- With the completed and signed *Minutes on the presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition in the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* and an *Assessment of the disposition of the dissertation* prepared and signed by the Committee for monitoring the doctoral student (hereinafter: CMDS),
- With the completed and signed *Minutes on the presentation of the results of research work at the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering*, and
- With the assessment of the doctoral dissertation written by the members of the CMDS.

#### Article 16

During the doctoral studies, the candidate must participate at least five times in the public defence of seminars or public presentations of dissertations or in the public defence of dissertations of other candidates in the doctoral studies programme at FME. The candidate must record his attendance at public presentations of other doctoral candidates of the doctoral programme on a special form (Appendix 8). The form is valid if there is a corresponding signature in the table for each presence of the candidate. The candidate must submit the completed form with the corresponding signatures to the Student Affairs Office (hereinafter: SAO) before submitting the dissertation for review.

## Project implementation of doctoral studies

### Article 17

It is expected that in the sixth to ninth month of study a closed defence of exams will be held, and a presentation of the draft seminar and the doctoral dissertation disposition. The mentor coordinates the date of the closed defence with the members of the seminar Committee and the course holders or tutors and reports it to SAO. The doctoral candidate submits a draft seminar and a draft of the doctoral dissertation disposition to SAO. The SAO then forwards both documents to the course holders and the members of the seminar defence Committee, and to the mentor and a possible co-mentor. The closed defence is conducted in front of the exam conveners and the Seminar defence Committee. In this defence, the doctoral candidate presents the knowledge acquired from selected subject areas and presents the draft seminar and the doctoral dissertation disposition. After the defence, the *Minutes on the presentation of the draft seminar and the doctoral topic within the framework of Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering and the framework examination questions* (Annex 3) are completed and signed. An integral part of these Minutes are also the comments of the course holders on the completed and possibly missing knowledge in the individual subjects, and the comments on the drafts of the seminar and the doctoral dissertation. The signed Minutes are submitted to the SAO within 8 days after the defence.

The closed defence of the exams is followed by a public presentation of the seminar and the doctoral dissertation disposition, presumably in the ninth to twelfth month of study. Meanwhile, the doctoral candidate must complete the missing knowledge from selected subject areas and prepare a seminar and the doctoral dissertation disposition. As part of the procedure, the doctoral candidate submits to SAO an *Application for Approval of the Doctoral Dissertation Disposition at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana for the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 4) and the supervisor submits the *Proposal of the Committee for Supervision of the Doctoral Candidate* (Appendix 5). CDS appoints the members of CMDS, who are confirmed by the FME Senate. The mentor coordinates the date of the seminar presentation and the doctoral dissertation disposition with the lecturers, the members of the seminar Committee and the members of the CMDS. Notification of the seminar presentation and defence is sent by the mentor to SAO at least 8 days before the deadline. The public defence takes place in two parts: In the first part, the doctoral candidate presents a seminar and answers open questions from individual subjects; the passed examinations and the seminar are confirmed by the course instructors and the seminar defence Committee by completing the application form for Seminar 1 and entering the subject grades in the VIS. In the second part, the doctoral candidate publicly presents the doctoral dissertation disposition to the members of the CMDS. CMDS confirms the successful defence of the doctoral dissertation disposition with the *Minutes on the presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition in the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 6) and also writes an *Assessment of the doctoral dissertation disposition* (Appendix 7) on the presented doctoral dissertation disposition.

## IV. Application Of The Doctoral Dissertation Disposition

### Article 18

At the latest in the second year, at the beginning of the fourth semester, the candidate must submit a proposal for a doctoral dissertation disposition in the SAO, written in consultation, cooperation and agreement with the mentor and possible co-mentors.

### Article 19

The application for the doctoral dissertation disposition is a written document that must contain:

1. Completed and signed *Application for Approval of the Doctoral Dissertation Disposition at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana for the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 4);
  2. Biography (CV) of the candidate with emphasis on research activities;
  3. Bibliography; it is a list of the candidate's published scientific, professional, project-related and other works;
  4. Doctoral dissertation disposition under the Rules on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.
- A candidate wishing to write a doctoral dissertation in English must justify this and indicate it in the application.

#### Article 20

Based on the candidate's application, the mentor must propose the composition of the CMDS on the prescribed form *Proposal of Committee for Monitoring the Doctoral Student* (Appendix 5). Retired professors are not nominated for the Committee. The Committee must include at least one external member from outside the UL.

#### Article 21

The composition of the CMDS shall be considered by the CDS and submitted to the FME Senate for approval. If the mentor's proposal differs from the opinion of the CDS members:

- Invites the mentor to the current CDS meeting for additional explanation or
- Authorises the Chairman of the CDS to coordinate an appropriate solution,
- If the comments of the CDS members are excessive, the mentor is invited to discuss this issue at the next regular meeting of the CDS.

#### Article 22

If CMDS is accepted on CMD and confirmed by the FME Senate, the responsible person of SAO must inform the mentor, the members of the Committee and the candidate with a decision. The documents submitted by the candidate (i.e. the application for the doctoral dissertation disposition proposal) are also sent to the Committee members with the decision.

#### Article 23

The doctoral candidate, the mentor and the members of the CMDS agree on the date for the public presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition, which must normally be within one month of the appointment of the CMDS. The mentor must inform the authorised person of the date at SAO and agree with him or her to publish a notice of the defence. At least eight days before the public presentation of the dissertation defence, the responsible person of SAO must publish the notice on the website and on the notice board and also send the notice to the members of the Committee and the candidate.

#### Article 24

At the public presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition, the *Minutes on the presentation of the disposition of the doctoral dissertation in the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 6). A public presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition succeeds if all the members of the Committee agree that all the comments of the members of the Committee on the presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition entered in the Minutes are correct and are listed as minor in the section "General comments". Comments need to be considered by the candidate and the mentor in the further preparation of the dissertation. The Minutes of the presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition are signed by all members of the Committee and the candidate.

#### Article 25

After the presentation, CMDS members write a joint opinion with an explicit comment on the relevance of the proposed topic, the feasibility of proving the proposed hypotheses, and the potential contribution to science if the proposed hypotheses are proven.

#### Article 26

After the public presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition, the Chairman of the CMDS must submit the following to SAO within one month:

- *Minutes on the presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition in the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering (Appendix 6),*
- *Assessment of the doctoral dissertation disposition (Appendix 7).*

The *Assessment of the doctoral dissertation disposition* is considered by CMD within two months at the latest and submitted to the FS Senate for consideration.

#### Article 27

After the discussion and acceptance of the assessment of the doctoral dissertation disposition at the FS Senate, the proposal for confirmation of the doctoral dissertation topic together with the material is submitted to the Doctoral Studies Committee of the University of Ljubljana for assessment and acceptance.

#### Article 28

After receiving the decision of the Senate of the University of Ljubljana that the doctoral dissertation disposition has been accepted and that the mentor and a possible co-mentor have been confirmed, the candidate receives a decision on approving the doctoral dissertation disposition by the SAO, which the candidate later links to his doctoral dissertation. A copy of the decision must also be sent to the mentor and possible co-mentor by the person responsible at SAO.

#### Article 29

After the successful presentation of the doctoral dissertation disposition, regular meetings between the doctoral candidate and the CMDS follow each year, usually towards the end of the academic year. At each meeting, the *Report on the work done during the doctoral studies for the academic year* (Appendix 9) is completed and signed by the mentor and the doctoral candidate. At the end of the third year of doctoral studies, this meeting coincides with the presentation of the results of the doctoral candidate's research work.

### V. Publication of scientific papers

#### Article 30

During study, before submitting the doctoral dissertation for assessment, the candidate must publish at least two scientific papers from the content of the doctoral thesis in internationally recognised journals with an impact factor (JCR - Journal Citation Report) in SCI (Science Citation Index). At least one of these two papers must appear in the journal from the upper half of the journals in the field (JCR - Journal Citation Report) and at most one in the journal *Strojniški vestnik*.

Only scientific contributions with six or fewer authors will be recognised. For at least one paper, the candidate must be the first author. The contributions must have been published or accepted for

publication before the submission of doctoral dissertation. A single paper with several authors can be considered only for one doctoral candidate.

#### Article 31

If first authorship is impossible (e.g. in international research or for other justified reasons), the co-authors must ensure, with an appropriate statement that the original scientific publication has not been a compulsory contribution in the doctoral studies of another doctoral candidate.

## VI. Preparation of a doctoral dissertation

#### Article 32

The doctoral dissertation must be written and designed under the *Guidelines for writing and designing doctoral dissertations at FME*, which are published at the FME website.

#### Article 33

The doctoral dissertation is written in Slovene, but the candidate may write it in English under the Rules on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.

A doctoral dissertation written in English must contain: an abstract, an introduction, a detailed summary (about ten percent of the text of the doctoral dissertation) using the appropriate scientific terminology, and a conclusion in Slovene. The introduction, the detailed summary and the conclusion in Slovene are placed at the end of the dissertation, after the appendix or immediately before the papers if the dissertation consists of papers.

#### Article 34

In the case that a university lecturer from abroad is appointed to the CMDS and the candidate has submitted his dissertation in Slovene, the candidate must prepare a separate comprehensive summary of the dissertation in English and send it to SAO. This summary should be about twenty pages long, written in Times New Roman font, size 12 and with a line spacing of 1.5.

#### Article 35

The doctoral dissertation may consist of at least three or more papers (published, accepted for publication, unpublished, or conference) that comprehensively address all topics in the confirmed doctoral dissertation disposition, provide answers to all hypotheses, and represent all scholarly contributions.

Of all the papers, at least three papers in which the doctoral candidate is the first author must be published in journals with an impact factor of SCI. At least two of these three papers in which the doctoral student is the first author must be published in the first quarter (Q1) of journals with SCI impact factor. The journal's rank in the quarters is considered with the date of publication of the paper (if the paper receives the DOI code) or with the SCI rank of the journal for the current year; the higher rank value is considered.

Most of the essential answers to the hypotheses posed must be given in papers published in SCI journals.



Even if the papers have not been published in peer-reviewed journals or are conference papers, they must contain all parts of a scientific paper: Abstract, Introduction, Experimental Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Literature, and Acknowledgements.

The first part of the thesis contains an abstract in Slovenian and English, acknowledgements, introduction (background of the problem), overview of the state of development, hypotheses and objectives, experimental methods with methodological design, description of results as a comprehensive answer to questions, conclusions and literature sources. With the references, the length of this content is between 30 and 50 pages. In addition, it may contain other parts, e.g. a list of pictures, tables, appendices, etc. At the end of the dissertation, the papers discussed are added.

#### Article 36

With successful publications, the doctoral candidate may decide, in consultation with the mentor, to write a doctoral dissertation with papers at any time before submitting the doctoral dissertation for review.

If the doctoral candidate does not yet have UL's approval to write a doctoral dissertation in English, he must submit a request to write a dissertation in English to the SAO. The application will be reviewed by CMD and the FME Senate. Afterwards, the decision is submitted to the UL Doctoral Study Committee for approval.

### **VII. Presentation of the results of the research work before completion of the doctoral dissertation**

#### Article 37

The doctoral candidate, the mentor and the members of the CMDS agree on a date for the presentation of the results of the research work. The mentor must inform the authorised person at SAO of the date and agree with him on the publication of the presentation. At least eight days before the public presentation of the results of the research work, the responsible person of SAO must publish the announcement on the website and on the notice board and also send the announcement to the members of the Committee and the candidate.

*Minutes on the presentation of the results of research work at the Doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 10) shall be recorded on the presentation.

### **VIII. Submission Of A Doctoral Dissertation For Assessment**

#### Article 38

Before submitting the doctoral dissertation to the SAO, the candidate must submit a copy of at least two papers from the journals in which the papers were published, and written proof of the ranking of the journals on the scale in the SCI system. With accepted papers not yet published, the candidate must prove this by submitting a written confirmation from the editorial staff of the journal. The evidence will be considered only if the papers are accepted for publication (under Articles 30 and 31 of the Rules).

When the candidate has fulfilled all the prescribed obligations and completed the writing of the doctoral dissertation, he must submit the written dissertation (spiral bound), a *Statement of submission of the doctoral dissertation* (Appendix 11) and the *Table of attendance at presentations by other candidates at Level III* (Appendix 8) to the SAO.

The candidate submits the electronic form of the dissertation and a physical copy of the doctoral dissertation (spiral bound) to the SAO for review and assessment. If the members of the CMDS wish to

have a physical copy, the candidate will be asked to submit additional physical copies of the doctoral dissertation.

After acceptance of the doctoral dissertation and confirmation by the CMDS, the responsible person in SAO writes a decision that is sent to the CMDS members for evaluation and information to the mentor, co-mentor and candidate, together with the dissertation, the protocol of the presentation of the research results and a statement on the submission of the dissertation.

## **IX. Evaluation Of The Dissertation And Relevance Of The Original Scientific Paper**

### **Article 39**

According to the Rules on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana, each member of the CMDS must submit a signed evaluation within two months after receiving the doctoral dissertation and papers.

### **Article 40**

If the results of the dissertation are filed for a patent with the office that fully examines the patent application, the Chairman of the CMDS also states this at the end of the evaluation.

### **Article 41**

After submission of the dissertation to SAO by the candidate and after the submitted separate assessments of all CMDS members (excluding associate members), the responsible person of SAO must display a copy of the dissertation and all separate assessments of the dissertation in the Dean's Room for fourteen days for inspection by other FME staff and the interested public. In addition, the responsible person of SAO must inform the public by posting on the notice board.

### **Article 42**

FME staff and interested members of the public can view doctoral dissertations and doctoral dissertation assessments and to comment on doctoral dissertations or doctoral dissertation assessments. Comments on the content of the doctoral dissertation must be written and sent to the FME Dean's Office. The deadline for submitting comments to the SAO is fourteen days from the submission of the doctoral dissertation and doctoral dissertation assessments to the FME Dean's Room. After the specified deadline, SAO will inform the candidate and the mentor and CMD of any comments. All further procedures are coordinated by CMD under Article 53 of the Rules on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.

## **X. Doctoral Dissertation Defence Committee**

### **Article 43**

The CMD confirms the evaluations of the dissertation and proposes the composition of the Dissertation Defence Committee and forwards everything to the FME Senate for consideration.

### **Article 44**

The chairman of the Dissertation Defence Committee is the Dean or a person appointed by the Dean.

## **XI. Submission Of The Dissertation For Defence And Verification Of Plagiarism**

### **Article 45**

After the positive completion of the doctoral dissertation evaluation process and the appointment of the defence Committee at the FME Senate, the candidate must submit the doctoral dissertation in its final form (bound), one copy for each member of the Committee and two copies for the archive. An electronic form of the thesis must be submitted to the student information system VIS, which must be identical to the printed form of the thesis, where the process of checking the similarity of content is carried out. Based on the analysis of the content similarity check within ten working days, the mentor decides whether the doctoral dissertation is suitable for defence.

### **Article 46**

If the mentor considers that the candidate has inappropriately marked similar parts of the text and that the proportion of similar content is too high, the mentor will request content corrections, which the candidate must correct within (10) ten working days at the latest. The Rules on content similarity detection of the electronic form of the written final work of studies and on provisions regarding temporary inaccessibility of the content of the written final work of studies and the *Instructions for submitting electronic forms of the written final work of study and content similarity detection at the UL* shall apply mutatis mutandis. The percentage of content similarity of the final works of study is determined by a decision of the FME Senate.

### **Article 47**

The obligatory printed copy of the doctoral dissertation is publicly available in the FME Library, two printed copies in the National University Library (NUK) and the electronic version via the UL Repository (RUL). If the dissertation contains proprietary or confidential data, the Dean may, at the written request of the data owner, authorise non-availability for as short a period as possible or for a maximum of one year from the date of completion of the study. If, at the end of this period, there are still justified reasons for further unavailability of the content of the written doctoral dissertation, the period of unavailability of the content of the written doctoral dissertation may be extended for a further period of up to one year at the proposal of the mentor and the doctoral candidate. If approval of the unavailability of the doctoral dissertation occurs, a written notice shall be issued.

### **Article 48**

If the candidate prematurely fulfils all the conditions for completion of the doctoral studies, he must submit an *Application for early completion of the doctoral studies* to SAO (Appendix 12). The tuition fees are charged in full for four academic years.

## **XII. Defence of the Doctoral Dissertation**

### **Article 49**

The responsible person of SAO must publish a notice with all information on the dissertation defence on the FME notice board and on the FME website at least eight calendar days before the dissertation defence. The announcement of the defence shall be sent to the University of Ljubljana for publication in the calendar of events of the University of Ljubljana.

### **Article 50**

The chairman of the dissertation defence Committee shall keep the Minutes of the defence. At the introductory meeting before the defence, the chairman of the Committee shall inform the members of the Committee of the record of the defence. All members of the Committee must agree before the start of the defence that the necessary marginal and initial conditions for the public presentation have been met.

#### Article 51

The candidate shall prepare a public defence using audio-visual techniques on a single proposal (sample) established by the FS and published and available on the FME website. In the defence of the thesis, the candidate must present his work in a time span of 25 to 30 Minutes. The members of the Committee ask questions of the candidate at their own discretion. At the invitation of the Chair of the Dissertation Defence Committee, others present may ask the candidate questions or comment.

#### Article 52

Following the candidate's presentation of the dissertation, each member of the Committee must independently evaluate the candidate's defence. The candidate has successfully defended his dissertation if the dissertation defence Committee is unanimous in its decision on the success of the defence and all members of the Committee sign the *Minutes of the dissertation defence* (Appendix 13). An integral part of the Minutes are also sheets with questions of the members of the Committee and comments on the success of answering the questions put to the candidate.

#### Article 53

For a doctoral student who publishes as first author three papers in the first quarter (Q1) of journals according to the influencing factor SCI, the CMDS may propose, according to Article 58 of the Rules of Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana, to evaluate his doctoral dissertation with distinction (*cum laude*). The final decision on the proposed assessment of the dissertation with distinction is made by the CMDS. The FME Senate decides on this based on the CMDS' reasoned assessment that the doctoral candidate's work represents a top achievement and a breakthrough in the scientific field.

### **XIII. International double doctorate**

#### Article 54

A doctoral candidate may pursue a double doctorate in cooperation with a foreign higher education institution based on a contract and must be enrolled at both universities. The doctoral candidate must fulfil study obligations at UL FME or research work for at least one year, which can also be achieved with several shorter stays. Here, CMD will consider each proposal separately under the signed contract. The contract must be drawn up under the UL instructions on the preparation and conclusion of contracts for the joint performance of research work and mentoring to prepare the doctoral dissertation of UL students in cooperation with a foreign university or research institution. Besides joint mentoring, the contract also regulates the time frame, content, scope and nature of the cooperation. The national laws of both countries and the Rules of the partner universities for obtaining the academic title of Doctor of Science are observed. The appendix attached to the contract must contain all study obligations that the doctoral student will fulfil abroad and at UL FME.

### **XIV. Doctorate revocation**

#### Article 55

A doctorate is revoked from a person who is found not to have produced a dissertation that results from his own efforts and creativity, or if the results are falsified. The procedure of revocation may be initiated by anyone with reasonable doubts about the authenticity of the achievements or results of the dissertation. A written request and justification for revoking the doctoral degree must be addressed to the Dean of the FME. The FME Senate selects a three-member Committee from among its members to evaluate the proposal, which is submitted within three months after the appointment. The assessment may be made jointly or separately if no common opinion is reached. Members of the Committee involved in the procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree may not be members of the Committee in the procedure of revocation of a doctorate of science.

Based on the Committee's assessment, the FME Senate shall determine whether there are valid reasons for initiating the procedure for revoking the doctorate of science. The proposal is forwarded to the Senate of the University of Ljubljana, which decides under the UL Statute whether or not to revoke the doctoral title. If a proposal of revocation of the doctoral degree has been submitted before the candidate has been awarded the doctorate, the Rector postpones the doctorate until the end of the procedure in which the eligibility for revocation is determined.

## **XV. Transitional and final provisions**

### Article 56

Those involved in doctoral studies should contact the UL FME doctoral studies Committee with any open questions. The final interpretation of these Rules is the responsibility of the UL FME Senate, which also adopts these Rules.

### Article 57

Procedures related to doctoral studies that were started before the entry into force of these Rules shall continue and be completed under the Rules previously in force.

### Article 58

These Rules shall come into force on 1 October 2021. On the date of entry into force of these Rules, the *Regulations on Doctoral Studies at UL FME* of 27 August 2020 shall cease to apply.

Ljubljana, 30 September 2021

Prof. Mihael Sekavčnik, PhD  
Dean