

Based on the provisions of the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 67/1993, as amended) and the Statute of the University of Ljubljana (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/2017, as amended), the Senate of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, at its 44th meeting on 30 September 2021, and amended at its 10th meeting, held on 25 August 2022, adopted the following

RULES ON DOCTORAL STUDIES AT UL FME

I. General provisions

Article 1

The Rules on Doctoral Studies of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana (hereinafter: Rules) define the actors of doctoral studies, the procedure for applying for and approving the draft dissertation, the procedure for evaluating and defending the dissertation, the international double doctorate and the procedure for withdrawing the doctoral degree.

Article 2

The Rules supplement the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana, the UL Study Order and the UL Statutes.

Article 3

In these Rules, terms written in the masculine grammatical form are used in a gender-neutral way.

Article 4

It is the responsibility of the doctoral student to follow all formal procedures related to his doctoral studies and to ensure that the procedures and studies are carried out regularly and in a timely manner. In doing so, he works with the mentor, the head of the laboratory where the doctoral work is carried out and the Student Affairs Office (hereinafter: SAO).

11. Study programme providers

Convenors and providers of doctoral programmes

Article 5

Convenors and providers of doctoral programmes are FME staff members. They must have at least four papers with an SCI impact factor published in the first quarter of Q1 in their subject area.

A subject may have one or more providers who are equivalent to each other, in addition to the lecturer(s).

Article 6

The applicant for a new subject in a doctoral programme must submit a proposal to the Doctoral Studies Committee (hereinafter: DSC) on the prescribed form, including basic information as well as the exact content of the course, the relevant literature and its references to the subject area, and then forward it to the DSC with the signature of the Head of Department.

Mentor and co-mentor

Article 7

External university lecturers and research assistants can only act as co-mentors for doctoral students at the FME. Exceptions are interdisciplinary degree programmes conducted by the FME together with other members of the UL and international double doctorates.

Article 8

Retired lecturers and researchers may not act as tutors or mentors for doctoral students. If a candidate has been appointed a mentor in a doctoral programme before retirement, the mentoring shall continue until the completion of the degree.

Article 9

When applying for a doctoral programme, the candidate shall propose a mentor and a possible co-mentor, either alone or with the support of the Associate Dean for Level II and Level III Teaching.

Article 10

A mentor in a doctoral programme at FME must have a proven record of research activity in the field of the dissertation topic and meet the following requirements:

- He is elected and has a valid title of university lecturer or equivalent academic title.
- Has 4 Q1 papers published.
- He has mentored at least three (3) Master of Engineering students in the Bologna study programme. Each mentorship to Master of Engineering students in the Bologna study programme may be replaced by two Level I mentorships, or by one Q1 paper with first authorship (in addition to the requirements of indent 2). For each Master mentoring replaced, a maximum of two Master mentors can be replaced by two co-mentors at any level of study.
- At least 200 SICRISS Z-scores in the last five years and a score of more than zero (0) on the significant achievement indicator A'.
- 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

If a co-mentor is proposed, he must fulfil the same conditions as the mentor.

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

Members of doctoral study committees

Article 12

The doctoral student's supervisory Committee shall consist of three (3) members. At least two members must be from outside the FME, one of whom may be from another UL member. The members of the FME committees and the external members who supervise and evaluate the candidate's training under the doctoral programme must meet the same requirements as the convenor or the provider of the subject under the FME doctoral programme, except in the case of double doctorates, where the criteria for participants are set by a contractually recognised foreign partner organisation.

An external member of a Committee is a member who is not an employee of the FME and who has not been elected to an academic or teaching title at the FME.

The Seminar Defence Committee (hereinafter: SDC) is usually composed of the same members as the future Doctoral Student Supervisory Committee (hereinafter: DSSC).

11.1. Implementation of the doctoral study programme

Article 13

With the help of the proposed mentor, the candidate develops a proposal for research hypotheses and explains the aim and purpose of the intended research programme, proposes a mentor, a possible co-mentor, examinations and the SDC for the doctoral study on the *Proposal for Registration of Framework Topic, Mentor, Co-Mentor, Examinations and Seminar Defence Committee form* (Appendix 1). The proposed mentor then submits the completed application for registration, signed by the head of the laboratory in which the doctoral study is to be conducted, to the DSC for approval. Once approved by the DSC, the type of study, registration of the framework topic, mentor, possible co-mentor, examinations and SDC must be discussed and approved by the FME Senate.

In the case of a traditional doctoral programme, only the registration application needs to be completed at this stage, while in the case of a project-based programme, the candidate also needs to complete the application to fulfil the requirements for the higher year (Appendix 2).

Article 14

The lecturers and tutors of the courses, approved by DSC and confirmed by the FME Senate, agree with the candidate and the mentor on the method of study and assessment of knowledge.

The required seminars and examinations relate to the content directly required for the dissertation. Broadening and generalisation of content beyond the immediate objectives of the doctoral thesis is not subject to the examination and seminar requirements. Doctoral students are expected to present their knowledge primarily orally in examinations and seminars.

Article 15

Proof of fulfilment of the requirements for the doctoral programme in both types is provided by the following documents:

- with completed and signed application forms for all exams and Seminar 1,
- with completed and signed *Minutes of the Presentation of the Draft Dissertation within the Framework of Level III Doctoral Programme in Mechanical Engineering* and the *Evaluation of the Draft Dissertation* prepared and signed by DSSC,
- with completed and signed *Minutes of the Presentation of the Results of Research Work within the Framework of Level III Doctoral Programme in Mechanical Engineering* and
- with the grades of the doctoral dissertation, written by members of the DSSC.

Article 16

During the doctoral studies, the candidate must be present at no less than five public defences of seminars or public presentations of dissertations or public defences of dissertations of other candidates of the doctoral programme at the FME. The candidate must record his own presence at public presentations given by other doctoral candidates of the doctoral programme on a separate form (Appendix 8). The form is valid if the appropriate signatures are included in the table for the respective candidate's attendance. The fully completed form must be submitted with the relevant signatures to SAO before the candidate submits his dissertation for assessment. These conditions do not apply to students who spend most of their studies at another institution or company.

16.1 Project implementation of doctoral studies

Article 17

During the first semester of doctoral studies, a doctoral student may apply to SAO to fulfil the requirements of the higher year. In the first year, the doctoral student whose application is approved must complete knowledge in the chosen subject areas, a seminar, and a dissertation outline. The presentation of the seminar and the dissertation is scheduled for the sixth to twelfth month of the programme. In the process, the doctoral candidate submits an *Application of the Disposition of the Doctoral Dissertation at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana for the Doctoral Programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 4), and the mentor submits a *Proposal from the Doctoral Student Supervisory Committee* (Appendix 5). The DSC determines members of the DSSC, who are approved by the FME Senate. The mentor coordinates a date for the presentation of the seminar and the draft of the dissertation with convenors, members of DSC and members of DSSC. The mentor sends the notification of the presentation of the dissertation topic and the defence of the seminar to SAO at least 8 days before the deadline. The public defence consists of two parts: In the first part, the doctoral candidate presents his seminar publicly to the members of SDC and convenors. In the second part, the doctoral candidate presents his dissertation publicly before the members of the DSSC. After completion, the doctoral candidate answers open questions from the seminar, disposition, and the subject content of the dissertation. Convenors and SDC confirm the passing of the examinations and the seminar by completing the registration form for Seminar 1 and entering the course grades in the VIS. The successful defence of the doctoral dissertation disposition is confirmed by the DSSC by means of the *Minutes of the presentation of the dissertation layout at the Doctoral Programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 6) and the *Doctoral Dissertation Disposition Assessment* (Appendix 7) is also written on the presented doctoral dissertation disposition.

IV. Registration of the disposition of the doctoral dissertation

Article 18

No latest that the second year, at the beginning of the fourth semester, the candidate must submit a proposal for the disposition of the doctoral dissertation to the SAO, written in consultation, cooperation, and agreement with the mentor and any co-mentors.

Article 19

The dissertation proposal is a written document that must contain the following:

1. The completed and signed *Application of the Disposition of the Doctoral Dissertation at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana for the Doctoral Programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 4);
2. The biography (resume) of the candidate with an emphasis on research activities;
3. The bibliography; this is a list of the candidate's published scientific, professional, project, and other works;
4. The disposition of the dissertation in accordance with the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.

If the candidate wishes to write his dissertation in English, he must justify this in his application.

Article 20

Based on the candidate's application, the mentor must propose the composition of the DSSC on the prescribed form *Proposal from the Doctoral Student Supervisory Committee* (Appendix 5). Retired professors shall not be nominated for the Committee. Prior to the DSC meeting for the approval of the DSSC, the mentor must obtain the written consents of all potential DSSC members (confirmation by email is sufficient).

Article 21

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

- The DSC invites the mentor to the current meeting for additional clarification or
- authorises the president of DSC to coordinate an appropriate solution,
- if the comments of the DSC members are too extensive, the mentor will be asked to discuss the item at the next regular DSC meeting.

Article 22

Once the DSSC has been adopted by the DSC and approved by the FME Senate, the responsible person at SAO must inform the mentor, the members of the Committee and the candidate by a resolution. The decision will be sent to the members of the Committee together with the material submitted by the candidate (i.e., the application of the proposal for disposition of doctoral dissertation).

Article 23

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

Article 24

Minutes of the presentation of the dissertation layout at the Doctoral Programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering (Appendix 6) shall be taken at the public presentation of the disposition of doctoral dissertation. The public presentation of the dissertation is successful if all members of the Committee agree that all remarks made by them during the presentation of the dissertation, which are recorded in the Minutes, are correct and that the remarks made in the 'General Remarks' section of the Minutes are only minor remarks to be considered by the candidate and the mentor in the further preparation of the dissertation. The Minutes of the presentation of disposition of the doctoral dissertation layout shall be signed by all members of the Committee and the candidate.

The candidate must enter all corrections in the final version of the disposition of the doctoral dissertation. The members of the Committee sign an evaluation for the final, revised version of the dissertation, which is submitted to the University of Ljubljana.

Article 25

After the presentation, the DSSC members write a joint statement 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 dissertation, the president of the DSSC must submit the following to the SAO within one month:

- *Minutes of the presentation of the dissertation layout at the Doctoral Programme of Level III in Mechanical*

Engineering (Appendix 6),

- *Assessment of the disposition of the dissertation* (Appendix 7).

The assessment of the disposition of the dissertation is examined by the DSC within two months at the latest and submitted to the FME Senate for deliberation.

Article 27

After the Senate of the FME has discussed and approved the evaluation of the dissertation disposition, the application for approval of the dissertation topic together with the documents is forwarded to the Doctoral study Committee of the University of Ljubljana for examination and approval.

Article 28

After receiving the decision of the Senate of the University of Ljubljana that the draft dissertation has been approved and that the mentor and any co-mentors have also been approved, a notice of approval of the dissertation disposition is issued to the candidate by the SAO, which is later included in the candidate's dissertation. A copy of the decision must also be sent by the responsible person at SAO to the mentor and a potential co-mentor.

Article 29

After the successful submission of the disposition of the dissertation, regular meetings between the doctoral candidate and the DSSC take place every year, usually towards the end of the academic year. A *Report on the Doctoral Student's Work for the Academic Year* (Appendix 9) is completed for each meeting and signed by the mentor and the doctoral student. At the end of the third year of doctoral studies, this meeting may coincide with the presentation of the doctoral student's research results.

V. Publication of scientific papers

Article 30

During the studies and before submitting the dissertation for review, the candidate must have published as first author at least two original scientific papers on the topic of the dissertation in internationally recognised journals with a Journal Citation Report (JCR) impact factor in the SCI (Science Citation Index) system. Of these two papers, at least one must be in the journal Q1. The second paper may be ranked as Q3 the lowest. Additional publications in the magazine *Strojniški vestnik* are desirable. Alternatively, the candidate may publish two papers in Q2 journals.

Papers that the candidate claims in his dissertation must have been published or accepted for publication before the submission of the dissertation.

VI. Preparation of a doctoral dissertation

Article 31

The dissertation must be written and formatted according to the *Guidelines for the preparation and design of dissertations at FME*, which are published on the FME website.

Article 32

The dissertation is usually written in Slovenian but can also be written in English according to the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.

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

Article 33

In the case of a foreign university lecturer appointed to the DSC and the candidate who has submitted a dissertation in Slovene language, the candidate must prepare a separate comprehensive summary of the dissertation in English and submit it to the SAO. This summary should be approximately twenty pages long, written in Time New Roman font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing.

Article 34

The dissertation may also consist of at least three or more papers (published, accepted for publication, unpublished) and other publications (e.g., conference papers, book chapters) that comprehensively address all topics of the approved dissertation, provide answers to all hypotheses and represent all scientific contributions.

At least three of the papers must be original scientific papers published in journals with an SCI impact factor. The candidate must be the first author in at least two of the three papers. At least two papers must be published in the first quarter (Q1) of journals according to the SCI impact factor. The third SCI paper may be the lowest ranked in the third quarter (Q3). The ranking of the journal in quarters is based on the date of publication of the paper (when the paper has been assigned a DOI code) or the journal's SCI rank for the current year, whichever is higher.

Most substantive answers to the hypotheses should be given in published papers in SCI journals.

Even if papers are not published in peer-reviewed journals or are conference papers, they must contain all the elements of a scientific paper: abstract, introduction, experimental methods, results, discussion, conclusions, references, and must be published as such.

The first part of the dissertation contains an abstract in Slovene and English languages, an acknowledgement, an introduction (background of the problem), an overview of the state of development, hypotheses and objectives, experimental methods with methodological design, a description of the results as a comprehensive, coherent answer to the questions posed, conclusions, a list of the candidate's publications and references. Together with the references, the volume of these contents is from 30 to 50 pages. In addition to these, it may contain other parts, such as a list of figures, tables, appendices. The discussed papers are added at the end of the dissertation.

Article 35

In the case of successful publications, the doctoral candidate may decide, in agreement with the mentor, to write a dissertation with papers at any time before the dissertation is submitted for review.

VII. Presentation of the research results before completion of the dissertation

Article 36

The doctoral candidate, his mentor and DSC members arrange an appointment for the presentation of the research results. The mentor must inform the responsible person at SAO of the appointment and agree with him on the publication of the presentation. At least eight days before the public presentation of the research results, the responsible person at SAO must publish the announcement on the website and on the notice board and send it to the Committee members and the applicant.

The presentation shall be recorded in the *Minutes of the Presentation of the Results of Research Work within the Framework of Level III Doctoral Programme in Mechanical Engineering* (Appendix 10).

The mentor and co-mentor do not actively participate in the discussion during the presentation of the research results. In case of rejection of the candidate, the mentor and the co-mentor participate as associate members in the second presentation of the research results.

VIII. Submission of doctoral dissertation for assessment

Article 37

Before submitting the dissertation to SAO, the candidate must provide a copy of the papers from the journals in which the papers were published and a written proof of the journals' classification in the SCI system. For accepted papers that have not yet been published, the applicant must provide written confirmation from the journal's editorial office. Evidence shall only be considered if the papers are accepted for publication (in accordance with articles 30 and 31 of the Rules).

When the candidate has fulfilled all the prescribed requirements and completed the dissertation, he must submit the dissertation in written form (spiral bound), the *Declaration of Submission of the Dissertation* (Appendix 11) and the *Table of Participation in Presentations by Other Candidates at Level III* (Appendix 8) to the SAO.

The candidate submits an electronic form of the dissertation and a physical copy of the dissertation (spiral bound) to the SAO for review and assessment. If a members of the DSC wish to have a physical copy, the candidate is requested to submit additional physical copies of the dissertation.

After the dissertation has been accepted and approved by the DSC, the responsible person at SAO writes a decision, which is sent to the members of the DSC for evaluation and for the attention to the mentor, the co-mentor, and the candidate together with the dissertation, minutes of the presentation of the research results and the statement on the submission of the dissertation.

IX. Evaluation of doctoral dissertation and relevance of the original scientific paper

Article 38

According to the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana, each member of the DSC must submit a signed evaluation to SAO no later than two months after receiving the dissertation and papers. Each evaluation must be written separately and independently and must contain the following components in addition to the compulsory ones specified in the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana:

- whether the dissertation answers the hypotheses;
- whether the candidate's independence of work is evident;
- whether the corrections needed are minor, major or non-existent.

In the case of major corrections, the defence may be postponed for a period of 1, 3, 6 or 12 months, depending on the extent of the corrections to be proposed by the examiner and determined by the DSC.

Article 39

If the results of the doctoral dissertation have been applied for a patent by an office that conducts a full examination of the patent application, the Chair of the DSSC shall also indicate this at the end of the assessment.

Article 40

After the candidate has submitted his dissertation to the SAO and all members of the DSSC (except for associate members) have submitted their separate assessments, the responsible person at SAO must display a copy of the dissertation and all separate assessments of the dissertation for a period of fourteen days in the Dean's office hall for viewing by other FME staff and other interested members of the public. In addition, the responsible person at SAO must inform the public by posting on the bulletin board.

Article 41

The FME staff and the interested public can view the dissertation and dissertation assessments and to comment on the dissertation or dissertation assessments. Comments on the content of the dissertation must be submitted in writing to the FME Dean's Office. The deadline for submitting comments to SAO is 14 days from the submission of the dissertation and assessments to the FME Dean's Office. After this deadline, SAO informs the candidate, the mentor, and the DSC of any comments. All further procedures are coordinated by the DSC in accordance with Article 53 of the Regulations on Doctoral Studies of the University of Ljubljana.

X. Dissertation Defence Committee

Article 42

DSC approves the dissertation assessments and proposes the composition of the Dissertation Defence Committee, which are submitted to the FME Senate for decision.

Article 43

The Chair of the Dissertation Defence Committee is the Dean, or a person authorised by the Dean.

XI. Submission of a dissertation for defence and plagiarism check

Article 44

After the positive completion of the assessment procedure of the dissertation and the appointment of the Defence Committee by the FME Senate, the candidate must submit the dissertation in final form (hard bound) to the SAO, one copy for each member of the Committee and two copies for the archive. The electronic form of the dissertation, which must be identical to the printed form of the dissertation, must be submitted to the student information system VIS, where a procedure for checking the similarity of content is carried out. The mentor decides within ten (10) working days based on an analysis of the similarity test whether the dissertation is suitable for defence.

Article 45

If the mentor concludes that the doctoral candidate has marked similar parts of the text inappropriately and that the proportion of similar content is excessive, the mentor shall request corrections to the content, which the doctoral candidate shall correct within ten working days at the latest. The *Regulations for checking the similarity of the content of the electronic form of the written thesis and the conditions for the temporary unavailability of the content of the written thesis as well as the Guidelines for the submission of electronic forms of the written thesis and the checking of the similarity of the content at the UL* shall apply accordingly in this respect. The proportion of similarity in the content of the final theses is determined by a decision of the FME Senate.

Article 46

A printed deposit copy of the dissertation is publicly available in the FME Library, two printed copies in the National University Library (NUK) and an electronic version via the UL Repository (RUL). If the dissertation contains protected or confidential data, the Dean may grant inaccessibility for as short a period as possible, but for no longer than one year from the date of completion of the studies, at the written request of the data owner. If, after the expiry of this period, there are still valid reasons for the unavailability of the content of the written doctoral thesis, the period for the unavailability of the content of the written doctoral thesis may be extended by a further period of up to one year at the proposal of the mentor and the doctoral candidate. In case of approval of the unavailability of the doctoral dissertation, a written decision is issued.

Article 47

If the candidate fulfils all conditions for early completion of the doctoral studies, he must submit an *Application for early completion of the doctoral studies* (Appendix 12) to SAO. Tuition is charged in full for four years of study.

XII. Doctoral dissertation defence

Article 48

At least eight calendar days before the defence, the responsible person at SAO must publish a notice on the FME notice board and on the FME website with all details concerning the defence of the doctoral thesis. The notification of the defence is sent to the UL for publication on the events calendar of the University of Ljubljana.

Article 49

The Dissertation Defence Committee is composed of the members of the DSSC and the Dean as the Chair. The Chair of the Dissertation Defence Committee shall keep the minutes of the defence. At the introductory meeting before the defence, the Chair of the Committee informs the members of the Committee about the protocol of the defence. All members of the Committee must agree before the start of the defence that the necessary boundary and initial conditions for the public presentation have been met.

Article 50

The candidate prepares a public defence using audio-visual techniques on the basis of a single template (model) established by the FME, which is published and accessible on the FME website. At the dissertation defence, the candidate must present his work in 25 to 30 minutes. The members of the Committee ask the candidate questions at their discretion. At the invitation of the Chair of the Dissertation Defence Committee, others present may also ask questions or make comments.

Article 51

After the candidate's presentation of dissertation, each member of the Committee must independently assess the candidate's defence. The candidate has successfully defended his dissertation if the Dissertation Defence Committee unanimously decides on the success of the defence and all members of the Committee sign the *Minutes of the Dissertation Defence* (Appendix 13). The Minutes also contain the sheets with the questions that the members of the Committee asked the candidate, as well as comments on how well the candidate answered the questions they were asked.

Article 52

For a doctoral student who has published three papers as first author in the first quarter (Q1) of journals according to the SCI impact factor and who has submitted his dissertation during his full-time studies (4 years), DSSC may, according to Article 58 of the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Ljubljana, propose that the dissertation be assessed with distinction (*cum laude*) and

note this in the Minutes of the Dissertation Defence. The final decision on the proposed assessment of the doctoral dissertation with honours is made by the FME Senate.

XIII. International double doctorate

Article 53

In the case of joint international doctoral studies and double doctorates, these Rules shall be applied in an adapted form in accordance with the signed agreement. The DSC considers each proposal on its own merits in accordance with the following principles:

1. For each joint international doctoral programme or double doctorate, the entire study programme must be prepared in the form of a 'Co-tutelle' agreement or other appropriate agreement drawn up in accordance with the UL Guidelines on the Preparation and Conclusion of Agreements on Joint Research and Supervision Arrangements for the Preparation of Dissertations by UL Students in cooperation with a foreign university or research institution.
2. The agreement to be signed in a timely manner or another suitable arrangement shall specify the supervision, the time frame, the content, the scope, the type of participation and all academic achievements to be taken by the doctoral student abroad and at UL FME as well as their recognition.
3. The joint study programme or the double doctorate must fully comply with the Higher Education Act, the UL Doctoral Regulations and the accredited doctoral study programme of Level III in Mechanical Engineering. The national legislation and rules of the partner university for the awarding of the doctoral degree are also considered.
4. The doctoral student must be enrolled at both universities.
5. The doctoral student must spend at least one year at UL FME to carry out his studies or research, which can be achieved through several short stays.

XIV. Withdrawal of the doctoral title

Article 54

The doctoral title is withdrawn from a person if it is determined that the doctoral dissertation is not the result of his own performance and creativity, or if the results are falsified. Anyone who has reasonable doubts about the authenticity of the achievements or results of the dissertation may initiate the withdrawal procedure. The written application and the reasons for the withdrawal of the doctoral title shall be addressed to the Dean of FME. The FME Senate selects a three-member panel from among its members to evaluate the proposal, which must be submitted no later than three months after the appointment. The assessment can be joint or separate if no consensus is reached. Members of the Committee who have participated in the procedure for the award of the doctoral degree cannot be members of the Committee in the procedure for the withdrawal of the doctoral title. Members of the Committee who participated in the procedure for the award of the doctoral degree may not be members of the Committee in the procedure for the withdrawal of the doctoral title. The proposal shall be submitted to the Senate of the University of Ljubljana, which shall decide whether to withdraw the doctoral title in accordance with the Statute of the University of Ljubljana. If the proposal for withdrawal of the doctoral title is submitted before the candidate has been awarded the doctoral title, the Rector shall suspend the doctoral title award until the conclusion of the procedure for determining the eligibility for withdrawal.

XV. Transitional and final provisions

Article 55

Participants in the doctoral programme should contact the UL FME Doctoral Committee in case of any questions. The UL FME Senate is responsible for the final interpretation of these Rules and also approves these Rules.

Article 56

Students enrolled in doctoral studies up to and including the academic year 2021/22 and making regular progress may continue and complete their studies according to the rules in force up to and including the academic year 2021/22.

Article 57

These Rules shall enter into force on 1 October 2022. On the date of entry into force of these Rules, the *Rules on Doctoral Studies at UL FME* of 30 September 2021 shall cease to apply.

Ljubljana, 25 August 2022

[Stamp: University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Mechanical
Engineering
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Ljubljana]

Prof. Mihael Sekavčnik, PhD
Dean
[handwritten signature]