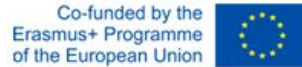




LINK EDU-RES project

Joint Programmes at doctorate level  
*linking education and research*

MARCH 2022  
**Staff week**

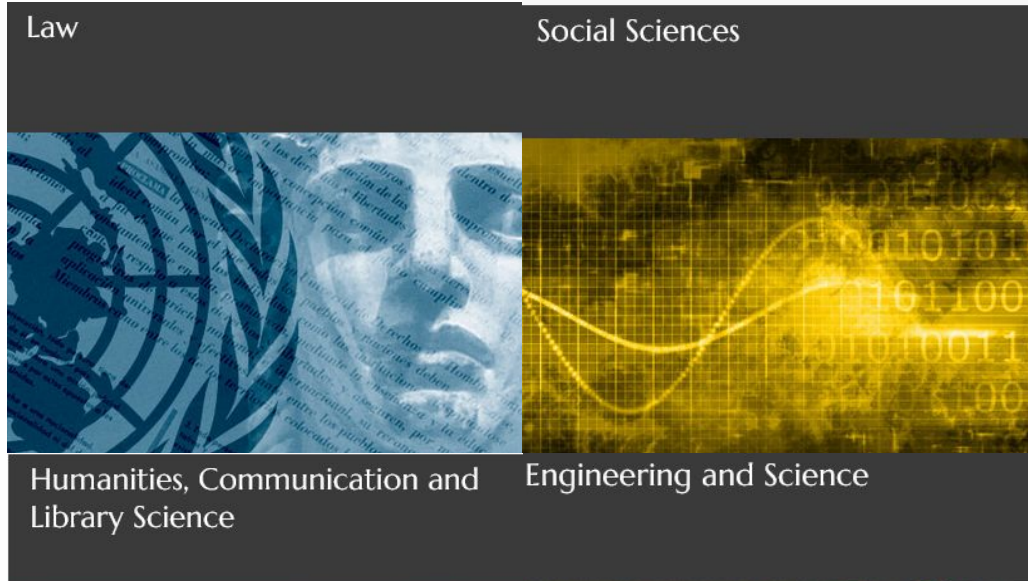


# Doctoral Studies at UC3M: ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



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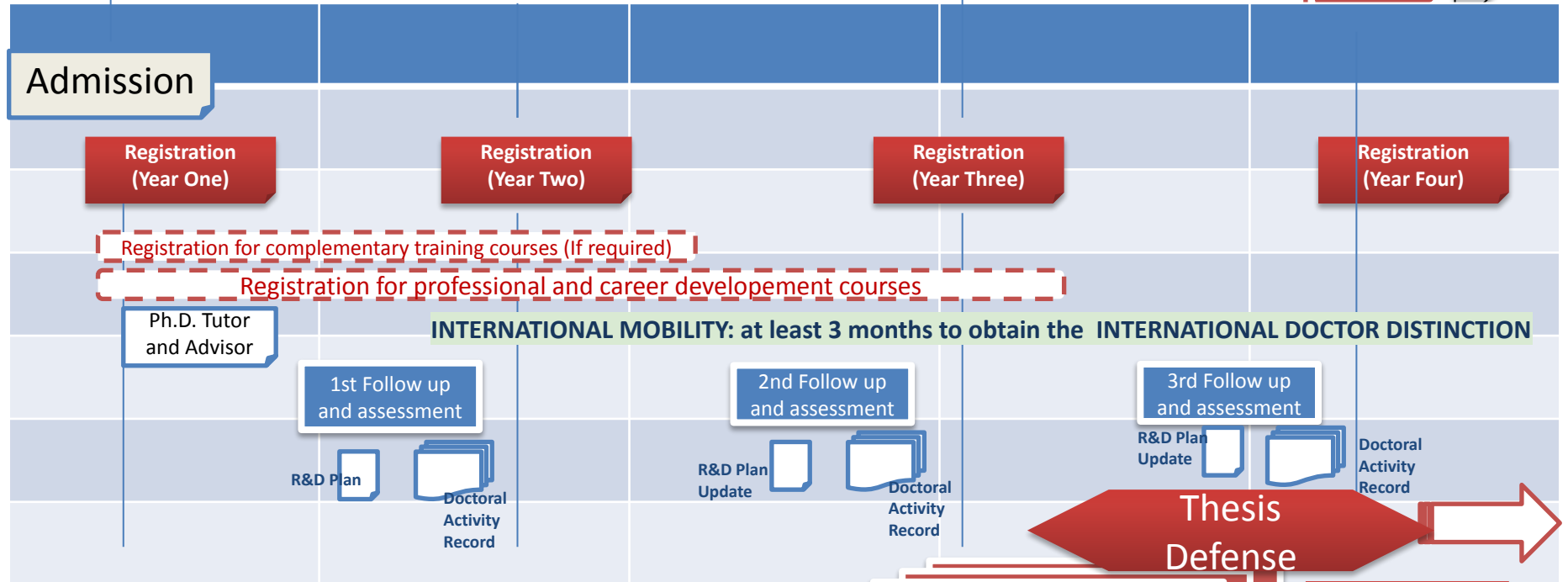
# DOCTORAL STUDIES at uc3m



- 20 PhD Programs
- 1.300 Doctoral students (academic year 20/21)
  - 45% non spanish
  - 39% women
  - 25% granted
- 140-150 PhD degrees awarded per year
  - 40-50 % received the International Doctor Mention
  - 2% received a double PhD title under a cotutelle-agreement

# ORGANIZATION

- **Doctoral training:** organized in PhD programs concerning one or multiple fields of knowledge.
- **PhD program:** Organized set of activities conducive to acquisition of the skills and abilities necessary to develop doctoral thesis and earn doctoral degree
- **Thesis:** an original research work elaborated by the candidate in any field of knowledge qualifying the candidate to work autonomously in the field of research & development
- **Doctoral School:** coordinates the PhD Programs, establishing a common framework to develop doctoral training and research activities and identifying possible synergies and tasks of mutual interest between PhD Programs
- **Regulations**
  - **National level:** Royal Decree 99/2011
  - Doctoral School level
    - Regulations
    - Codes of practice



# MILESTONES

- Doctoral studies:
  - Training (complementary, specific, career skills);
  - Preparation, presentation and approval of an original research project;
  - Defense
- Important players
  - Thesis advisor: Has ultimate responsibility for research
  - Tutor: Oversees doctoral training
  - Academic Commission: Oversees progress of research and authorizes defense
- Duration of doctoral studies: A maximum of three-five years on a full-time basis.
- Candidates: keep track of their training activities and R&D project progress in a report to be reviewed by the thesis advisor and tutor and evaluated by academic commission.
- Doctoral thesis:
  - Evaluated by a committee of researchers (PhD's) majority from outside university.
  - Public defence, committee issues a report with grade

# INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION

- National regulation considers the possibility of awarding an **international distinction** to the doctoral degree:
  - Doctoral candidate has completed a **research stay of at least three months at a foreign institution**;
  - Summary/conclusions in a language other than official languages of Spain
  - At least two foreign experts review the thesis;
  - At least one foreign expert (excluding the supervisor of the research stay abroad) as a member of the defense committee.
- Defense takes place at the Spanish university where the doctoral candidate is enrolled

# International Cooperation: Exchange and mobility

- R&D networks where the research group is involved
- Doctoral training networks developed through
  - Formal and funded schemes (MSC actions)
  - Common research interest
- Joint PhD programs or PhD Programs agreements: organizing common training and research activities and developing schemes for Cotutelle agreements



# Final remark 1: Things that work well at UC3M doctoral school and that we would be delighted to share

- Questionnaires for graduates
  - Based on LimeSurvey
- Plagiarism check
  - Not simply Turnitin
- Assessment of PhD program proposals
  - External anonymous referees
  - At the doctoral school
    - We do not and do not want decision making ability
    - We want our opinions and our voice

## Final remark 2: A result from Link-Edu-Res survey

- Evidence suggests that more informal international experiences work better than more formal ones
  - Two possible reasons why this may occur:
    - An international experience not part of a formal scheme or agreement is tailored to research needs of the doctoral students as perceived by doctoral students and their advisors
    - Typically a student has access to
      - A limited set of opportunities that are part of a formal agreement and
      - Virtually unlimited set of opportunities that are not part of a formal scheme-agreement
  - What does this mean/imply?