

Regulations

These Regulations apply without prejudice to other EDLE related agreements made with the Partner Universities.

Doctoral programme

1. The EDLE is a full-time doctoral programme with a duration of three consecutive years. Students spend their full-time to the programme. To undertake activities which are not ensuing from the programme, prior and written approval from the Local Director is required after consultation with the supervisors. The approval is to be considered as an act of tolerance and can be withdrawn at any time.
2. The EDLE is a doctoral programme with mandatory mobility periods at the Partner Universities of Bologna, Hamburg and Rotterdam. A mobility period at one of the partner institutions/associated members is optional. After the mobility periods, students stay at their home university for the remaining time of the programme.
3. The home university as well as the supervisors are assigned to the students by the EDLE Coordination Board.
4. EDLE is a structured doctoral programme with mandatory attendance. Any absence must be properly notified to the Local Director. The programme consists of PhD studies (including research presentations, seminars and courses), writing a doctoral thesis and a public defence of the dissertation. The Coordination Board decides on the content of the designated programme. Students participate actively in the dedicated programme as well as in any other activity about which the (Associate) Partner Universities inform students that participation is required.
5. The programme takes place at the (Associate) Partner Universities. Students do their research at the (Associate) Partner Universities. Staying outside the (Associate) Partner Universities is exceptional and for a maximum duration of six months. To stay outside the (Associate) Partner Universities, prior and written approval from the Local Director of the home university is required after consultation with the supervisors. The approval is to be considered as an act of tolerance and can be withdrawn at any time. It is minimally required that the research stay is necessary and useful for the completion of the dissertation, that students are in contact with a local sponsor and that they have access to appropriate research facilities.
6. EDLE students are not allowed to carry out field work or research visits in countries regarded as "highly dangerous" by European Foreign Offices (the Foreign Office of the country where the student is registered is of special relevance). Whenever a student visits a non-European country, he/she should have full support from the supervisor (in writing) and he/she should provide evidence of having full travel insurance (including health and repatriation) to the EDLE Coordination Board.

7. Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may be reported to the EDLE Coordination Board. The EDLE Coordination Board may decide that the student cannot continue with the programme in case of non-compliance with the EDLE Programme Regulations.

Progress report and progress evaluation

8. Students make adequate doctoral dissertation progress. The progress is made in accordance with the research question, the research objectives, the research approach and the research planning as approved by the supervisors. Every month, students update their supervisors on their situation. The research scheme is adapted according to the instructions of the supervisors whenever needed for the timely completion of the dissertation.
9. Every six months, students send a progress report to the supervisors and the Academic Coordinator. In case students stay outside their home university for more than one month, a monthly progress report is sent to the supervisors.
10. Individual progress is evaluated by the EDLE Coordination Board at least once a year. In case doctoral dissertation progress is poor, the EDLE Coordination Board may issue a warning. In case no improvement is made within the time limit set in the warning, the EDLE Coordination Board may decide that the student cannot continue with the EDLE programme.

Plagiarism

11. Any form or attempt of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another as one's own. All written pieces may be controlled for plagiarism by the (Associate) Partner Universities at any time and thereby included in the worldwide reference check database. Instances of plagiarism may be reported to the EDLE Coordination Board. The EDLE Coordination Board may decide that the student cannot continue with the EDLE programme in case of plagiarism.

Doctoral thesis

12. The doctoral thesis is a scientific dissertation which furthers the state of the discussion in law – and – economics. The thesis satisfies all the academic requirements stipulated and can serve as an adequate demonstration of the candidate's competence for independent scientific study. This will be judged by the supervisors and the members of the assessment committee.
13. Students may write a monograph dissertation or a compilation dissertation. A compilation dissertation constitutes of a number of scientific articles and a combining storyline (the doctoral dissertation). The coherence of the whole is explained in an introductory chapter and a summarizing concluding chapter.
14. The thesis should contain at least one single-authored chapter/paper (not being the introductory or the concluding chapter).
15. Published or unpublished articles only qualify if the following conditions are met: (a) the publications must form a coherent whole; (b) a written declaration of any other

author must be submitted by the candidate to the supervisors, stating that the publications may be used for the thesis; (c) a written declaration must be submitted by the Rotterdam supervisor to Hora Finita, stating that the contribution of the candidate forms an essential part of the research concerned. The candidate shall indicate her or his contributions in detail upon submission of the thesis to the supervisors.

Privacy

- 16.1. The Doctorate Candidate authorizes the EDLE Coordination Board and the (Associate) Partner Universities to publicly display personally identifiable information which includes educational information/records that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of a candidate's privacy. This information includes:
- Name and last name of the Doctorate Candidate
 - Title of the doctoral thesis
 - The date of the defence
 - Affiliation during the programme
 - Announcement of the Doctorate defence
- 16.2. The Doctorate Candidate agrees in addition that the following information will be publicly displayed unless he/she provides a written objection:
- Candidate's picture
 - Link to personal webpage
17. By submitting the doctoral thesis for the defence, the Doctorate Candidate agrees that the manuscript will be included in the repositories of the (Associate) Partner Universities and available via open access. If allowed by the Regulations of the (Associate) Partner University, a (temporary) embargo can be applied for by the Doctorate Candidate.

General

- 18.1. These Regulations were updated on 17 March 2026.
- 18.2. The EDLE Coordination Board can decide to adjust the Regulations during the PhD trajectory, in that case the previous version of the EDLE Regulations shall cease to apply. All PhD candidates will timely be informed. The latest version of the Regulations is published on the EDLE website.
- 18.3. The EDLE Coordination Board may deviate from the Regulations in exceptional cases. Requests to deviate from the Regulations must be substantiated and submitted in writing to the EDLE Coordination Board.
- 18.4. In cases not provided for by these Regulations and in the event of a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation of the provisions of these Regulations, the EDLE Coordination Board shall decide.