

New regulation for doctoral studies in Spain

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FORUM 2011. Workshop on Doctoral Education
9th November, Tarragona (Spain).



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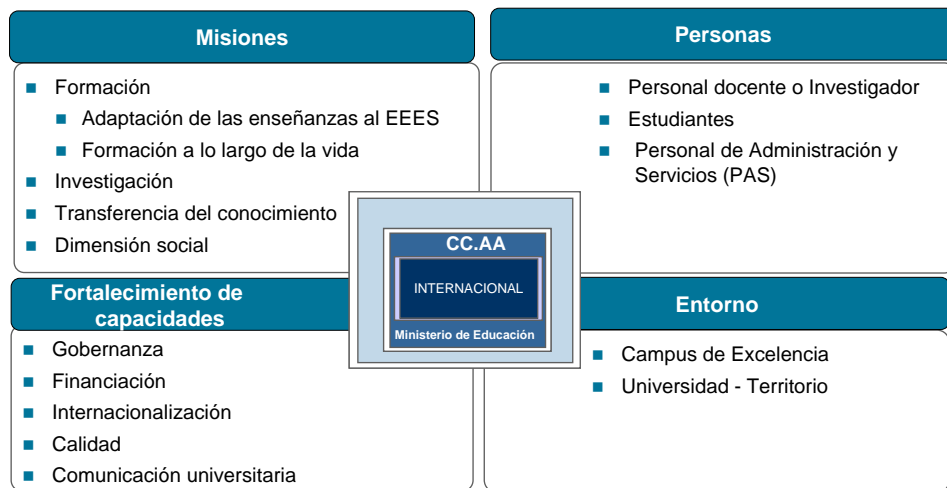
OUTLINE

1. Introduction. Framework and context
2. Objectives
3. Structure
 - PhD Schools
 - PhD Programs
4. PhD Thesis: Admission, Training & Follow up
5. Competences and skills
6. Conclusions



EU 2015

- Modernization of Spanish Universities linked to the European Agenda (2006, 2011)
- 4 key elements: **social dimension, excellence, internationalization, employability**
- 4 strategic axes: **Missions, People, Institutional capacities & Environment**



- Bologna Reform: 3 cycles, ECTS, Curricula modernization, Quality Assurance
- **Doctoral Reform**
- Social Responsibility Agenda
- PDI Charter
- Spanish Qualifications Framework for Education (MECES)
- Integral Information System
- Normative Development of the LOMLOU
- Observatory of Scholarships and Grants
- Master Plan of Mentoring and Guidance to the student
- Master Plan of Employability
- New Funding Model: Analytical Accounting System
- Internationalization Strategy

Framework

- **Development of the LOMLOU:**

“Doctoral studies will be organized and implemented in the way determined by the university statutes, following the criteria approved by the Government in order to obtain the title of Doctor based on a previous report by the Council of Universities”



**European principles:
Salzburg, Nice, Helsinki**

- Diversity, Transparency, Effectiveness
- Doctoral candidates are researchers on training
- Importance of the supervision, direction of the thesis
- Institutional vision. Critical mass
- Duration of 3 – 4 full time years
- International networks
- Multidisciplinarity and innovation
- Career perspective. Professional insertion
- Quality assessment
- Adequate funding

References

- Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society”, *European University Association* (EUA)
- Bergen Communiqué EHEA Ministerial Conference (2005)
- Seminar of Salburg (2005). 10 recommendations for the future development of doctoral programs.
- Glasgow Declaration “Strong Universities for a strong Europe”, EUA, 2005.
- "Doctoral Programmes in Europe" Nice, 2006
- "Third Cycle Degrees: Competences and Researcher Careers” Helsinki, 2008
- “Doctoral Programmes in Europe’s universities achievements and Challenges”, 2007
- European Charter and Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers. March 2005
- 2009 EUA DOC-CARERS Project “Collaborative Doctoral Education: University-Industry Partnerships for Enhancing Knowledge Exchange”
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Objectives

- To define competences and skills of future doctors as main actors on the generation, transfer and application of knowledge to address the societal needs
- Doctorate linked to the university' missions of research and knowledge transfer in relation with teaching improvement and contribution to the socioeconomic development
- In relation with international strategies and alliances.

- Binding the Bologna process, doctoral training and research career
- At the core of the Knowledge Triangle : education, research and innovation.
- Development of Doctoral, Postgrade and Research Schools fostering the joint participation of universities and other knowledge-related agents
- Internationalization and mobility.
- Evaluation and quality assurance, international recognition and attractiveness.

Definitions

PhD

- Third cycle of official university studies leading to the acquisition of competences and skills related to quality scientific research

PhD Program

- Set of activities leading to the acquisition of competences and skills needed to obtain the title of Doctor. The aim is the development of the different training aspects of the PhD candidate, setting the procedures and research lines for the development of the PhD thesis

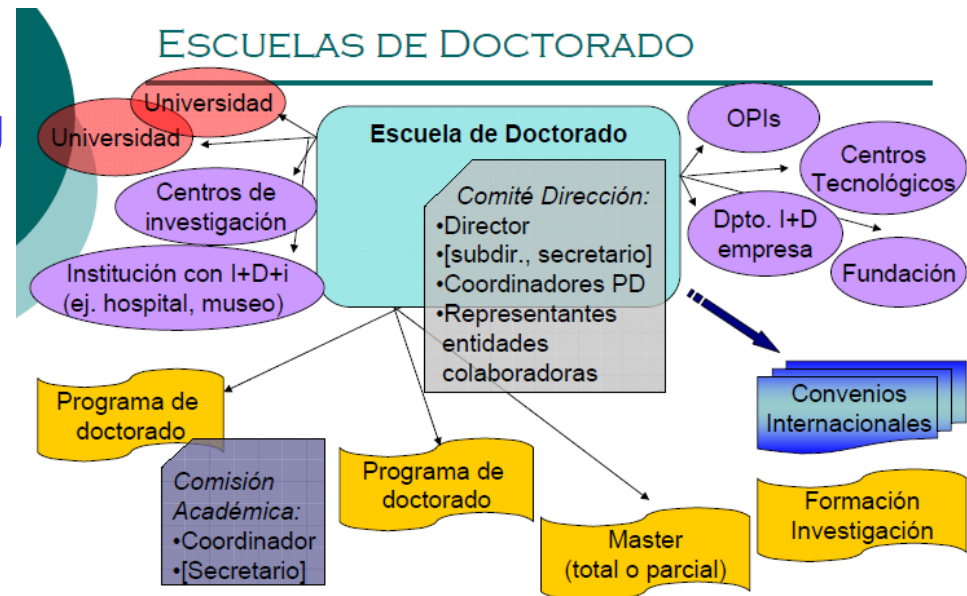
PhD School

Unit created by one or several universities in possible collaboration with other national or international R+D+I bodies, centres, institutions or entities, with the objective of the organization of the PhD in one or several knowledge domains or with interdisciplinary character.



PhD Schools

- Created by one or more universities with possible collaboration with other knowledge agents. **Collaborative doctorate.**
- Inscription in the **RUCT** (MEDU)
- Planning & implementation of doctoral training
- Management of PhD, scientific master and open research training
- **PhD School Board:** Director, Coordinators of PhD programs and representatives of the partner entities
- **Internal Rules** stating the rights and duties of the PhD candidates, PhD supervisors as well as the composition of the Academic Commission
- **Code of good practices**



PhD Schools

- Creation of scientific community
 - Learning spaces allowing interaction
 - Organization of academic and social activities
 - Creativity
 - Links with master and postdoc levels sharing courses and activities
 - Facilitating multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary communication
 - Identity within the university.
- Valorization and visibility of the PhD programs
- Linked to the institutional research strategy

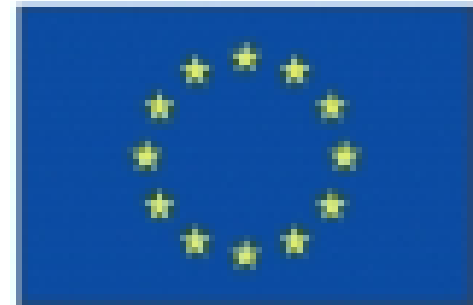
ESCUELAS DE DOCTORADO: ORGANIZACIÓN

	Escuela de Doctorado
Univ	Estrategia: Comité de Dirección: Director, Coordinadores de Programa, representantes entidades colaboradoras
Univ	Gestión: Subdirector, secretario, apoyo administrativo eficaz (idiomas, viajes, ...)
OPI Cent. Inv. Empr. Fund.	Actividades: Cursos, reuniones, conferencias, profesores visitantes, mecanismos de calidad

PhD Schools

Internationalization

- Promotion of international cooperation through cooperation among researchers
- Direct participation of foreign institutions
- Agreements to attract talent (professors and students)
- Agreements for joint / multiple programs and degrees
- Automatic verification of Erasmus Mundus programs
- Incentives through the International Campus of Excellence Program



European Commission
**ERASMUS
MUNDUS**

PhD Schools in the International Campus of Excellence Program

CEI 2011: Subprogramas, modalidades, áreas prioritarias

Subprograma de Excelencia

Subprograma de Fortalecimiento

A - Modalidad Consolidación

1 - Internacionalización

2 - Excelencia académica

3 - Coordinación en el ámbito de la Educación Superior

4 - Gobernanza y gestión de los CEI

5 - Emprendimiento y desarrollo tecnológico

7 - Excelencia dirigida al entorno

B - Modalidad Colaboración Público – Privada

2 - Excelencia académica

4 - Gobernanza y gestión de los CEI

5 - Emprendimiento y desarrollo tecnológico

6 - Creatividad

7 - Excelencia dirigida al entorno

2ª Fase del programa: convenios con las CCAA

- Two subprograms:
 - Excellence
 - Strengthening
 - 28 funding lines

- Active participation and leadership in international projects, associations and networks in education, research and innovation, especially in that conducting to joint or multiple degrees at:
 - **doctoral level with joint research programs,**
 - master level including professional traineeships and apprenticeships in international companies
 - **Setting up Postgrade or Doctoral Schools** in collaboration with foreign universities, research centres and firms



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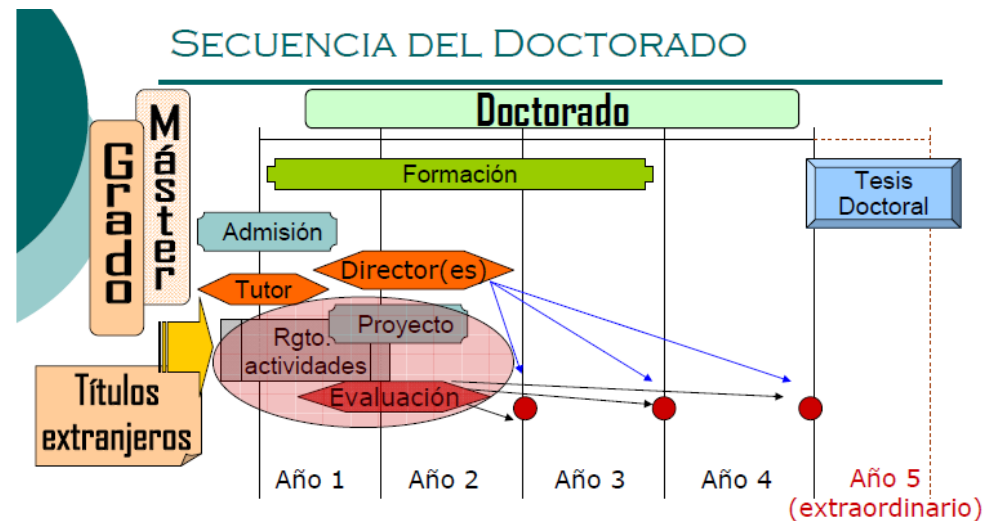
PhD Programs

- Defined by universities according with their research and doctoral training strategies,
- Carried out within **PhD Schools** or other R&D units,
- Possibility of collaboration with external bodies for a **joint implementation** involving several universities and other national and international knowledge-related agents
- Designed, organized and coordinated by an **Academic Commission** responsible of the training and research activities.
- **Verified** by the Council of Universities and **authorized** by the Autonomous Community
- Evaluated every six years



PhD Thesis

- Original research work made by the PhD, training the PhD for autonomous research work
- Procedure for the presentation the thesis and quality control under the responsibility of the PhD School
- Admission by the Academic Commission
- Assignment of Tutor and PhD Director
- Document recording the all the PhD candidate activities
- PhD Thesis project within the 1st year, reviewed and updated on an annual basis:
- Annual evaluation by the AC of the Record of Activities and of the thesis project
- 4 years (+1 given by the AC), full time
- 6 years +2 partial time.



Alumnos a tiempo parcial: 6 años, 2 de prórroga

Paso de dedicación completa a parcial restringido bajo aceptación de la CA

Follow up of the PhD candidate

- PhD School **Coordinator**: A relevant researcher supervisor of at least 2 PhD and 2 periods of research activity or equiparable merits.
- **Professors** with a PhD , possible collaboration of other relevant professionals in the specific field.
- Assignment to each PhD candidate of a **Tutor**, member of the PhD School
- **Director** of the PhD thesis either coincident or not with the tutor, not necessarily member of the PhD School
- **Research plan**: objectives, methodology, resources, calendar,..supported by the tutor and the director
- Annual **evaluation** of the Research Plan by the Academic Commission

Evaluation criteria

- % of researchers
- Competitive projects
- Recent publications
 - Available funding
- Internationalization:
 - networks, mobility,..

PhD admission & training

Admission

- Official degree (Bachelor and Master) with at least 300 ECTS of which at least 60 are of Master level
- Some exceptions in the Health Area.
- Foreign degree:
 - No homologation needed
 - Training level equivalent to the Spanish master allowing access to PhD in the foreign country
 - Possibility to add training complements
- The admission does not imply recognition and is just to follow the PhD training. The PhD will be valid in Spain

Training

- Not necessarily measured in credits
- No regulations but on the acquired capabilities and skills
- Recognition of the mentoring and supervision tasks
- Equivalence in credits of the PhD associated tasks: PhD School management, mentoring, direction of thesis, etc, ...
- Transversal training: Team work, oral and written communication, ethics and integrity of research, scientific project management, I&IPR, risk prevention.
- Specific R&D training: participation in seminars, courses, symposiums,...



Competences & Skills

Competences

- Systemic understanding and mastering of the methods and skills of the study field
- Capacity to conceive, design, set up and implement a substantial research process with academic standards
- Original research work moving forward the knowledge frontiers, developing a research corpus partly with indexed publications at national or international level
- Capacity to carry out critical analysis, assessments and synthesis of new and complex ideas
- Communication to the scientific community and society at large
- Promotion of knowledge

Personal skill

- High professional capability in different areas, creativity and innovation
- Capacity to advance in contexts with little specific information
- Capacity to find the key questions to solve complex problems
- Capacity to design and develop innovative projects
- Team work as well as autonomy to work in a international or multidisciplinary context
- Capacity to integrate knowledge, facing complexity and formulation of statements with limited information
- Capacity of criticism and intellectual defense of scientific options

Conclusions

- Doctoral reform in the frame of the Spanish Agenda for the modernization and internationalization of the Spanish University System: **Strategy University 2015**
- Importance of the 3rd cycle to establish close links between the EHEA and the ERA, especially in research universities
- Creation of Doctoral Schools as the instrument to promote **collaborative doctoral training and research** involving universities, research and technological centres and firms
- New model in line with the European trends, breaking the bipersonal Director – PhD Student relationship
- PhD candidates are **researchers on training** not students
- PhD programs in the frame of the university's research strategy
- Quality assurance and follow up of the advance of the thesis and of the PhD candidate
- Importance of the **competences ad skills** acquired during the PhD training and research activities
- The **framework** is ready...now is the turn of the universities to react

¡Thank you very much for your attention!

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