

-Approved by the EPD committee on 19 December 2017-

The Postgraduate and Doctoral School (EPD) of Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) was created on 26 April 2012 to bring the old Doctoral School in line with the law RD 99/2011. The EPD organizes activities related to doctoral programmes in close collaboration with the URV's departments, schools, faculties and administrative units.

The EPD implements the doctoral policies defined in the 2nd Innovation and Research Strategy Plan of the URV (<http://www.urv.cat/media/upload/arxiu/gabinet-comunicacio/plans-estrategics/ii-pla-estrategic-recerca-innovacio-urv.pdf>) and collaborates in all the URV's initiatives with the R+D+I institutions of the Campus of International Excellence Southern Catalonia and with any other public or private, national or international institutions and organisations with whom the URV has signed agreements.

The EPD shares the URV's **MISSION** to ensure that doctoral students (or trainee researchers) receive training of the highest international standards, both in the transversal training as well as in the research training area. The EPD also aims to be a driver of knowledge and innovation both locally and internationally. With this goal in mind, the EPD has developed an Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS), which is described in great detail in the EPD Quality Manual.

The EPD's **VISION** is to become a leading international centre that provides doctoral students with the skills needed to conduct high quality research and transfer knowledge to society and which will enable them to achieve their professional and personal goals in all knowledge areas, and wishing to contribute to the international R+D+I leadership. Furthermore, through the external accreditation and recognition, the EPD will seek to ensure that all EPD Master's and Doctoral programmes meet the requirements of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

The EPD's fundamental **OBJECTIVE** is to manage all aspects of the URV's doctoral programmes, in particular talent recruitment, learning areas, research excellence and internationalization. In addition, the EPD aims to:

- Provide doctoral students with the best possible environment for high quality research training by developing and implementing activities in line with the research and innovation strategies of URV.
- Foster and guarantee the quality of URV doctoral programmes.
- Recruit international talent, participate in international structures and obtain external funds.
- Encourage interinstitutional and international alliances and collaborations with industrial partners.
- Promote synergies among EPD members, encourage interdisciplinarity in order to meet the requirements of research training, and act as a driver of innovation and continuous improvement.
- Foster a reputation for excellence regarding both the EPD and the URV's doctoral programmes.
- Encourage doctoral students and EPD staff to participate in the development and improvement of the IQAS.
- Provide EPD staff with the training they need for their work and future professional career development.

The management committee of the EPD makes this Quality Policy available to all URV students and administrative and teaching staff. The EPD is committed to implementing the EPD Quality Manual and any successive updates of the Manual and all the documentation that may derive from it.