

**LEPL Ilia State University**  
**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**  
**Bylaws of the Dissertation Board and Doctoral Studies**

**Chapter I. General Provisions**

**Article 1. Scope and Goals**

- 1.1. These Bylaws define the procedure for the composition and activity of the Dissertation Board of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Ilia State University (hereinafter referred to as “the Faculty”), the procedure for electing the chairperson of the Dissertation Board, the criteria for awarding the qualification/academic degree of the Doctor, the procedure for admission to Doctoral Studies, the primary functions and duties of the supervisor/co-supervisor(s), the objectives of the PhD Program, dissertation defense procedures, as well as guidelines for resolving disputes that may arise over any of these issues and for appealing the decision rendered;
- 1.2. In conformity with the mission of the University, the main objective of the Doctoral Studies is to promote the development of the educational and research potential of the University;
- 1.3. A graduate of a PhD program is awarded a doctorate qualification/academic degree if they:
  - a) have conducted, in compliance with the requirements outlined in Article 11 of the present Bylaws, original research that expands the boundaries of knowledge and whose results have been published as part of scholarly publications in scientific periodicals;
  - b) have successfully fulfilled all the other requirements specified by the program.
- 1.4. Doctoral educational programs are implemented at the university on the bases of scientific research units of the University;
- 1.5. The Faculty can also implement a doctoral educational program based on the University's partner scientific research institutions or other organizations centered around a specific field and undertaking relevant research under the terms of the agreement/memorandum signed with the University.
- 1.6. The Faculty may also implement doctoral educational programs within the framework of international cooperation, which promotes student exchange or allows for awarding combined (joint, double) qualifications/degrees.

**Article 2. Dissertation Board of the Faculty**

- 2.1. The Dissertation Committee of the Faculty (hereinafter referred to as “the Dissertation Board”) is the body awarding the qualification/academic degree of the Doctor;
- 2.2. The Dissertation Board is formed to examine each specific dissertation and award the academic degree/qualification of the Doctor;
- 2.3. Dissertation Boards of the Faculty are composed of all the professors and associate professors of the relevant field/specialization of the Faculty, as well as senior and chief researchers of the

relevant field/specialization of independent scientific research units of the Faculty (if any), who have a doctorate or an equivalent academic degree/qualification. A scientific supervisor, co-supervisor(s), and reviewer(s) are not allowed to be members of the Dissertation Board unless other conditions are established and agreed upon by an international treaty and/or another partnership agreement;

- 2.4. The Dissertation Board may include member(s) invited from a local or international educational or research institution, if needed. The invited member must be a researcher/academic staff/scientific employee in the relevant field with a doctorate or equivalent academic degree who, depending on the field specifics, has actively participated in scientific research and has published scientific paper(s) that correspond to the general topic/direction of the doctoral student's dissertation. The rules for inviting the member(s) are as follows: the sectoral commission undertakes a search for a potential member of the Dissertation Board and, having obtained their written consent, submits their candidacy, along with other membership candidacies, to the Faculty Board for approval; The number of invited members in the Dissertation Board should not exceed the number of members representing the University;
- 2.5. The list of reviewers and the candidates for membership of the Dissertation Board is submitted to the Faculty Board for approval by the relevant sectoral commission. Also, the sectoral commission submits candidates for the chairperson and, in the absence of one, the acting chairperson of the Dissertation Board to be selected by the Faculty Board. During the selection of the members and reviewers of the Dissertation Board the participation of at least one external (unaffiliated with the university) person in the evaluation process of the dissertation paper should be ensured;
- 2.6. The Dissertation Board members must have appropriate English language competence if the dissertation is completed and defended in English. The sectoral commission is responsible for determining the members' competence.
- 2.7. If there is a relevant basis, the doctoral student has the right to request the dismissal of the member(s) of the Dissertation Board, in which case the candidate addresses the Dean of the Faculty with a reasoned statement. The claim is considered by the sectoral commission with the participation of the Dean, and the decision is communicated to the doctoral candidate. The member/members of the Dissertation Board may be replaced according to the same principle that the Dissertation Board is constituted by;
- 2.8. The Dissertation Board has decision-making power only if more than half of the members are present;
- 2.9. The Dissertation Board, approved by the Faculty Board, elects the Secretary of the Board from among its members by open vote, which appears as an approved decision in the Minutes of the Dissertation Board;

- 2.10. The Dissertation Board meeting proceedings are documented in the Minutes, signed by the chairperson and secretary of the Board. The Minutes are accompanied by the signatures of all the Dissertation Board members present at the meeting.

### **Article 3. Sectoral Commission**

- 3.1. Sectoral commissions, which the Faculty Board establishes in line with the rules defined by the Faculty Bylaws specific for individual fields and directions, are composed of professors with the academic degree of Doctor of the University, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors; Members of the sectoral commission must hold a foreign language competence (English or German). The head and secretary shall be elected by open vote from among the members of the commission;
- 3.2. The sectoral commission participates in the processes related to research, students' admission and involvement in Doctoral Studies, which may include:
- a) reviewing and evaluating doctoral candidates' research applications and conducting an oral examination;
  - b) providing doctoral students with feedback regarding their reports and presentations during colloquiums;
  - c) approving the dissertation prospectus;
  - d) submitting the list of members of the Dissertation Board and the candidacy of the chairperson to the Faculty Board;
  - e) selecting reviewers for the defense of the paper and submitting them to the Faculty Board;
  - f) determining the relevance of the doctoral candidate's publication to their dissertation topic and submitting the corresponding conclusion to the Dean for further submission to the Quality Assurance Office of the University;
  - g) reviewing the doctoral student's request for the dismissal/substitution of the assigned supervisor or the appointment of the second/co-supervisor(s), as well as the supervisor's withdrawal from supervising a specific dissertation, and making decisions regarding any of these cases.
  - h) examining and deciding on the doctoral student's request to change the title of the research topic or the research topic and direction;
  - i) evaluating the relevance of the doctoral candidate's research topic, based on the recommendation of the doctoral student's supervisor, research application, the partner organization's consent on the use of material/intellectual resources (if necessary), a defended prospectus and/or scholarly publications; this procedure applies to those doctoral students who have had their status restored, after being suspended for longer than the period of 4 academic semesters;

- j) deciding on the execution and defense of the dissertation in English for students of Georgian-language doctoral programs.

3.3. Under a relevant international and/or partnership agreement, conditions different from those specified in Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2. of this Article may also apply.

#### **Article 4. Administrative Support**

Administrative support of the Dissertation Board and sectoral commissions, as well as all kinds of proceedings, are provided by the Faculty's Administration.

## **Chapter II. Admission to Doctoral Studies**

#### **Article 5. The right to pursue Doctoral Studies.**

Any person with a master's or an equivalent academic degree is eligible to pursue Doctoral Studies.

#### **Article 6. Admission to Doctoral Studies**

6.1 The Rector announces admission to Doctoral Studies based on the recommendation of the Faculty Board or the Dean. Admission can be declared for both the fall and spring semesters. Applicants for Doctoral Studies must submit the following documents:

- a) Completed application form;
- b) Personal identification document;
- c) A copy of the document attesting to the owner holding a master's or an equivalent academic degree (the compatibility of the latter to a 5-year higher education diploma or a diploma testifying the education received abroad must be confirmed and validated by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement);
- d) Autobiography (CV);
- e) 3X4 electronic version of the photo;
- f) A research application completed by the applicant, signed by a potential supervisor, and approved for admission to the relevant doctoral program. (Application forms should be posted on the University's website immediately after admission to the program is announced).
- g) Documented proof of military registration (applicable to males only);
- h) Other documents/conditions that may be required by the individual program.

6.2. Doctoral candidates take an exam in English (minimum B2 level). As the minimum benchmarks of the exam may vary, they are set individually for each specific program and are indicated in the conditions of admission to the program, as well as in the statement of the Faculty on the announcement of admission;

- 6.3. In case German is requested as the main language by a doctoral program, the candidate takes German language exam (B2 level); In the case of choosing German as a main foreign language, the applicant shall be required to prove English language proficiency at B1 level. The minimum test benchmark is set for each program individually and it is indicated in the program admission terms as well as in the Faculty announcement of admission; Applicants who present a valid international language proficiency certificate in the relevant foreign language, or a corresponding valid certificate issued by the National Assessment and Examinations Center attesting to the candidate's language competence at the minimum of B2 level are exempted from the English language test. Applicants who present a diploma confirming the completion of an English-language bachelor's or master's program outside Georgia are also granted exemption from the test (a document issued by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement on the acknowledgment of the education received abroad must be submitted together with the diploma). The English language test is also waived for applicants who present a diploma confirming the completion of an English-language bachelor's or master's program in Georgia and an appendix or certificate about the language of the program implementation;
- 6.4. The levels and scores of corresponding valid certificates of English language competence are spelled out in the regulatory documents of individual programs;
- 6.5. Upon successfully completing the English language test or providing any relevant documented proof of language competence, the research application and other documents/forms submitted by program candidates are forwarded to members of the appropriate sectoral commission for review and evaluation. A potential supervisor has no right to take part in the evaluation process. Application requirements, evaluation criteria, and rubrics are established for each program individually and are posted on the University's website upon announcement of each admission. Having received a satisfactory assessment, the applicant appears for an oral examination before the sectoral commission;
- 6.6. The sectoral commission evaluates the oral exam according to predetermined requirements, criteria, and rubrics. The requirements, criteria, and rubrics for the oral exam are determined individually for each specific program and are posted on the University's website immediately after each admission is announced;
- 6.7. The unified rating score of the Ph.D. program applicant is calculated according to the rules defined by the doctoral program admission document, and the evaluation results are posted on the University's website;
- 6.8. In partnership agreements or local and international collaboration, it is possible to set requirements different from those defined in this Article.

## **Article 7. Mobility in Doctoral Studies**

- 7.1. A person can be enrolled in a doctoral program through mobility, following the prerequisites of the program, as it is defined by the University regulations and current legislation of Georgia;

- 7.2. The Faculty decides on enrollment and credit recognition and submits the decision to the Rector;
- 7.3. If the student is engaged in international mobility within the framework of an educational component, a respective learning agreement is signed with them. The credits obtained therein are validated by the components of the doctoral program after they have been recognized by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. If the doctoral student is carrying out international mobility within the framework of the research component, they must submit a research agenda signed by their supervisor and co-supervisor to the Faculty;
- 7.4. In the case of partnership, local, or international cooperation, it is possible to establish conditions different from those specified in this Article.

## **Chapter III. Studying at the Doctoral Level**

### **Article 8. Duration and Scope of the Doctoral Program**

- 8.1. The duration of Doctoral Studies is at least three (3) and no more than five (5) years unless otherwise provided by the individual plan. If the student fails to fulfill the requirements of the program after the completion of five (5) years, they may be offered an additional, maximum one-year paid contract, based on the petition of the sectoral commission and following all the relevant conditions;
- 8.2. The educational/study and research components of the doctoral educational program, their sequence, and volume in credits (where relevant) are determined individually for each doctoral program;
- 8.3. The study component of the doctoral program should not exceed 60 credits;
- 8.4. The University may have integrated/combined degree (e.g.) joint degree, double degree) doctoral programs, whose conditions are determined by respective documents (agreements, memoranda, curricula, etc.).

### **Article 9. Scientific Supervisor**

- 9.1. The scientific supervisor should be a University Professor, Associate professor, Assistant Professor, or Professor Emeritus who has a doctor's academic degree, scientific-research experience relevant to the doctoral candidate's research direction, and is equipped with the latest subject-related knowledge and expertise; depending on the specifics of the field has actively participated in scientific research and published a scientific paper that corresponds to the general topic/direction of the doctoral dissertation;
- 9.2. If the paper is produced, presented, and defended in English, the scientific supervisor should also have a corresponding English language competence;

- 9.3. Based on the research application completed by the applicant and the consent form filled out by the potential supervisor, the sectoral commission examines and approves the supervisor, taking into account the requirements specified in Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2.
- 9.4. The supervisor confirms their consent to supervise a specific doctoral candidate by signing the corresponding form of the doctoral application. If the candidate is admitted to the doctoral program, the supervisor is involved in the study and research processes of the doctoral student.
- 9.5. Should the need arise, the doctoral candidate may have more than one scientific supervisor;
- 9.6. Under the terms of the international cooperation agreement or by the sectoral commission's decision, the second supervisor/co-supervisor of the doctoral student may be invited from another academic institution, including a foreign country. The second supervisor/co-supervisor must meet all qualification requirements defined for the supervisor.
- 9.7. If the scientific supervisor/co-supervisor refuses to supervise/co-supervise the doctoral student, they should submit a reasoned written statement to the Dean of the Faculty, which the Dean presents to the sectoral commission for consideration. If the sectoral commission approves the supervisor/co-supervisor's request for withdrawal, the doctoral candidate is appointed a new supervisor/co-supervisor. The supervisor/co-supervisor is notified about the decision of the sectoral commission;
- 9.8. If the doctoral candidate considers substituting their scientific supervisor/co-supervisor, they must apply in writing to the Dean of the Faculty with a reasoned request, which the Dean presents to the sectoral commission for consideration. If the sectoral commission approves the doctoral student's request, the doctoral student is appointed a new supervisor/co-supervisor. The doctoral student is notified about the decision of the sectoral commission;
- 9.9. The following are the main functions and duties of the scientific supervisor:  
The scientific supervisor has regular consultations with the doctoral student. The frequency of consultations corresponds to the program's specifics and research topic. The counseling includes periodic feedback on the progress of the doctoral student, giving general scientific advice, selecting research methodology and design, support in research project management and in the process of writing a thesis/scientific research paper/dissertation; assistance with integrating into local and international scientific networks, participating in local and international scientific events (including in doctoral colloquiums) and presenting research findings and results; also providing advice on publishing a scientific article in a refereed journal. The scientific supervisor presents a conclusion/summative report and feedback on the dissertation paper.
- 9.10. The co-supervisor (if any) provides support to the doctoral student in the process of implementing the scientific research component based on an agreement with the supervisor and the doctoral student;
- 9.11. In the case specified in Paragraph 9.6, it is possible to arrange an alternative agreement (e.g., cotutelle, joint supervision agreement) to formulate management terms and conditions different from those specified in the present Article.

## **Chapter IV. Submission of Dissertation, Defense, and Awarding an Academic Degree**

### **Article 10. Dissertation Submission Procedure**

- 10.1. The doctoral student is required to submit to the Faculty Administration two hard copies (if required) and an electronic copy of a dissertation paper that adheres to the standards of scientific publications, is executed in compliance with the academic style of Ilia State University, or in a manner that is relevant to the precise field and the dissertation paper concept defined by the specific program.
- 10.2. The dissertation paper must be written in Georgian or English. The issue of completing the thesis in English (except in the case of an English-language doctoral program) is decided by the sectoral commission.
- 10.3. The dissertation paper must include a summary abstract in English, which presents the main scientific results covered in the dissertation and substantiates their scientific novelty, value, and relevance in the respective scientific discipline. If the work is written in English, the dissertation paper's abstract must be in English and Georgian.
- 10.4. The Administration of the Faculty ensures that the dissertation is accompanied by:
  - a) The transcript of accumulated credits;
  - b) A signed statement that the dissertation is the product of the doctoral student's independent research and does not contain plagiarism;
  - c) The conclusion of the doctoral student's scientific supervisor, as well as the co-supervisor approving the dissertation readiness for defense;
  - d) The conclusions of the Quality Assurance Office of Ilia State University and the relevant sectoral commission on the compliance of the doctoral student's international publication(s) with the requirements defined by these Bylaws;
- 10.5. The deadlines related to the submission and defense of the dissertation paper are reflected in the calendar/matrix developed within the scope of individual doctoral programs;
- 10.6. In the case of international and/or other partnership agreements, it is possible to establish conditions different from those specified in this Article.

### **Article 11. Obligation for International Publication**

- 11.1. Before the dissertation is submitted for defense, the doctoral student must have at least one scientific article published (or accepted for publication by the journal editors) in an international (foreign) peer-reviewed thematic journal/journals that appear on internationally recognized lists (Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) Master Journal List, Scopus, Ulrich's Index, ERIH PLUS, EBSCOHost, Latindex Catalogue). The name of Ilia State University must be indicated in the scholarly publication;



11.2. The obligation of publishing in an international peer-reviewed journal referred to in Article 11, section 11.1 shall be deemed fulfilled if a doctoral student has published the article in a foreign peer-reviewed journal or in the Ilia State University International peer-reviewed journal(s) included in the list specified in Section 11. 1 of the present Article.

- 11.3 The doctoral student must be the first or second author of a published scientific article. The Sectoral Commission will submit a report to the Faculty on the relevance of the publication to the dissertation paper. In case compliance is confirmed, the publication shall be sent to the quality assurance office, which shall prepare a report on the compliance of the publication with the requirements set forth in the present bylaws. In case of receiving negative conclusion from the Sectoral Commission or the Quality Assurance Office of the University, the obligation of international publication will not be considered fulfilled.
- 11.4. In the case of partnership, local or international cooperation, terms other than stipulated in the present article can be determined.
- 11.5. In case the doctoral student fails to defend a thesis or happens not to be the subject of different terms related to international publication as defined in 11.4, then paragraphs 11.1-11.3 shall apply to him/her.

## **Article 12. Appointment of Reviewers and Evaluation of the Dissertation**

- 12.1. Within a reasonable period following the release of a positive statement by the sectoral commission and the Quality Assurance Office of the University, the sectoral commission applies to the Faculty Board with the request to form a dissertation board and appoint reviewers (at least 2);
- 12.2. When nominating reviewers, the sectoral commission is guided by the following requirements:
- a) Reviewers can be University Professors/ Associate Professors/ Assistant Professors/ Professors Emeriti/research fellows or invited persons from Ilia State University (or international educational/research institutions/research institutes) who have the academic degree of a doctor, scientific research experience relevant to the doctoral student's research topic, and depending on the specificity as well the progress levels of the field, are equipped with the latest knowledge, have actively participated in scientific research and/or have published a scientific paper that corresponds to the topic/direction of the doctoral dissertation. If the dissertation paper is written in English, the reviewers must have English language competence. The responsibility for determining the language competence of a reviewer rests with the sectoral commission;
  - b) There should be no conflict of interest between reviewers and the doctoral student, which the reviewer candidate must confirm with their signature;

- 12.3. In the case of an international and/or other partnership agreement, conditions different from those in this Article may be defined in relation to the reviewer;
- 12.4. The dissertation defense procedure is attended by a representative of the Faculty Administration, who prepares appropriate documentation;
- 12.5. The dissertation paper is evaluated in terms of compliance with the Ilia State University regulatory documents on student/vocational student evaluation, credit assignment, rating, and payment status for additional/repeated courses/components.
- 12.6. The dissertation paper is evaluated using the relevant standards and criteria defined in the documents of individual doctoral programs;
- 12.7. The dissertation is assessed according to the following system:
- a) Excellent (*summa cum laude*) – excellent work;
  - b) Very good (*magna cum laude*) – a result that exceeds the set requirements in every way;
  - c) Good (*cum laude*) – a result that exceeds the requirements;
  - d) Average (*bene*) – an average-level paper that meets the basic requirements;
  - e) Satisfactory (*rite*) - the result, which, despite the shortcomings, still meets the requirements;
  - f) Unsatisfactory (*insufficient*) – work of an unsatisfactory level, which cannot meet the set requirements due to significant gaps in it;
  - g) Completely unsatisfactory (*sub omni canone*) – a result that falls short of meeting minimum requirements.
- 12.8. Members of the Dissertation Board evaluate the dissertation work through deliberation and consensus of the members;
- 12.9. If the doctoral student received a negative assessment - "insufficient" - a work of an unsatisfactory level, which cannot meet the requirements due to significant gaps in it, they must submit a revised work within one calendar year, regardless of their student status. After the expiration of the mentioned term without the doctoral student having presented a revised thesis, they will be expelled from the University on the grounds of academic underachievement. And if the doctoral candidate receives an evaluation - "completely unsatisfactory" (*sub omni canone*) - a result that does not in the least meet the requirements, the candidate must submit a new paper within the deadlines set by the Dissertation Board. If the doctoral candidate does not submit a new paper within the specified time frame, they will be expelled from the University for academic underachievement.

### **Article 13. Dissertation Defense**

- 13.1. The dissertation defense is public and takes place before the Dissertation Board. Information about the defense of the dissertation paper (place, time, date) is published on the official website of the University one week before the defense day;

- 13.2. The language of defense is Georgian unless otherwise established by the decision of the sectoral commission, international agreement, and/or other partnership agreement.
- 13.3. The duration and regulations of the defense process are established by the Dissertation Board;
- 13.4. The doctorate student presents their work during the defense procedure, which also involves hearing reviews, a scientific discussion, and a Dissertation Board judgment;
- 13.5. Although not participating in the defense procedure, the supervisor is entitled to attend the defense. The supervisor can express their opinion about the thesis and the doctoral student if they are inquired by the Dissertation Board;
- 13.6. In the case of partnership, local, or international cooperation, the issue of organizing the defense of the thesis is regulated by an international, local, or partnership agreement.

#### **Article 14. Awarding Academic Degree and Obligation to Publish the Thesis**

- 14.1. An academic degree/qualification is awarded to a doctoral student by the Dissertation Board;
- 14.2. The decision of the Dissertation Board is final;
- 14.3. After the doctoral student has exercised the right provided for in Paragraph 12.9, followed by another negative resolution issued by the Dissertation Board, their student status is terminated due to their failure to achieve study results;
- 14.4. The Administration of the Faculty is obliged to upload the dissertation paper to the website of the University within one month after the defense of the paper;
- 14.5. A diploma confirming the academic degree/qualification of a PhD is issued after the thesis is uploaded to the University website.

### **Chapter V. Disputes, Termination of Doctoral Student Status and Withdrawal of the Academic Degree of Doctor**

#### **Article 15. Appeal Procedure**

The sectoral commission considers any problem arising in the doctoral studies process based on a written statement submitted to the Dean.

#### **Article 16. Termination/suspension of Doctoral Student Status**

- 16.1. Termination or suspension of the status of a doctoral candidate is governed by the student/vocational student status regulations of Ilia State University and the present Bylaws;
- 16.2. The student status of a doctoral candidate is also terminated if:
  - a) a doctoral student has failed to defend a prospectus or dissertation twice in a row, which is considered an academic failure;

- b) a doctoral student has violated the Code of Ethics and other university rules operating at the University;
- c) a case of plagiarism or data falsification has been confirmed.

## **Article 17. Revocation of the Academic Degree of a Doctor**

- 17.1. The sectoral commission reviews cases in which a doctorate graduate violates norms of academic and research ethics;
- 17.2. Should it be required, the sectoral commission addresses the Faculty Board to assemble a Dissertation Board to deliberate the revocation of the academic degree/qualification of the Ph.D.

## **Article 18. Tuition fees for Doctoral Studies**

- 18.1. If the doctoral program requirements are met by the deadlines specified in Paragraph 18.3 of this Article, the studies in the doctoral program are free for five (5) years. Foreign citizens have to pay tuition unless there are exceptional circumstances. Additionally, it is possible to apply for paid slots in the Doctoral Studies;
- 18.2. If starting from the first semester of study in the Doctoral Studies, the doctoral student fails to fulfill any of the doctoral program requirements within specified time, they must pay the tuition fee for that period, as defined by Paragraph 18.3 of this Article or from the sixth year of doctoral studies.
- 18.3. If the doctoral student does not have a prospectus approved, or fails to defend the prospectus before the commission (even after repeated attempts) after one(1) year from the enrollment and start of studies, they have to pay the tuition fees for each subsequent semester in the amount and manner prescribed by the University. If, after five (5) years, the student signs an additional one-year contract to fulfill the program requirements, they are charged a tuition fee at a rate determined when the contract is signed. If the student fails to satisfy the program's requirements after the completion of the additional contract, their student's status is terminated.

## **Chapter VI. Transitional provisions**

### **Article 19.**

- 19.1 In the case of restoration of student status and upon endorsing the significance of the dissertation paper, the period specified in subparagraph (i) of paragraph 3.2 of Article 3 of

the present Bylaws shall apply to students whose status has been suspended immediately upon the enactment of the present Bylaws.

19.2. The requirements specified in Article 11 of these Bylaws also apply to doctoral students enrolled in previous years.

19.3. The following students may be exempted from the requirements specified in Paragraph 11.3 of these Bylaws (first or second authorship of a scientific publication, compliance with a dissertation):

a) doctoral students of all disciplines enrolled from March 20, 2008, to 2015, who have 2 (two) scientific articles published in the journals specified in Paragraph 11.1;

b) doctoral students of all disciplines enrolled before March 20, 2008, with one (1) scientific article published in the journals specified in Paragraph 11.1.

19.4. When the period of study, as the program defines it, expires, the requirements outlined in Article 11 of the present Bylaws are applied upon implementing a new agreement with doctoral students who registered before 2015.

19.5. The present Bylaws on the Dissertation Board and Doctoral Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of LEPL Ilia State University shall enter into force from the spring semester of 2023-2024 academic year.