

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Council of Ministers

DECREE
No 864 of 5 December 2007

**ON THE OPENING OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMMES IN PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CONDITIONS TO BE FULFILLED FROM STUDENTS TO BE ADMITTED TO THE
'DOCTOR' DEGREE**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and Articles 26 and 42 of the Law No. 9741 of 21 May 2007 on 'Higher Education in the Republic of Albania', amended, upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, The Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. The public institution of higher education applying for opening programmes of doctoral studies must be a university, academy or even a University School, which proves to fulfil the academic and infrastructural standards to open the third cycle study programs and to organize doctoral studies.
2. In order to open the doctoral programmes, public institutions of higher education which fulfil the conditions set in paragraph 1, must file the request to the Ministry of Education and Science, accompanied by the following documentation:
 - a) the scientific field and the proposed doctoral programme, which should relate to a disciplinary or interdisciplinary sector with the relevant explanatory report;
 - b) the study programme approved by the academic senate of the institution, which must be presented in accordance with the rules foreseen in the statute and must contain as well the didactic-scientific planning, the teaching plan concerning the phase of theoretical formation, as well as planned study visits at international research institutions;
 - c) the time frame length of the study programme;
 - d) the study fee for each student, justified as well as other financial resources for doctoral studies, if there are any;
 - e) an estimation on the maximal number of students that may be enrolled each year in the doctoral programmes, no lower than three;
 - f) the academic staff that will cover the theoretical teaching at doctoral studies as well as the thesis direction after the scientific degree or academic title and the respective number of students for each thesis director. In case it is foreseen the possibility of involvement of visiting professors, it must be approved by the Council of Professors of the faculty;
 - g) the regulation for doctoral studies;
 - h) the data on the organisational structure and the conduct of study programmes, the basic unit that is responsible for the administration of the doctoral programme, when it is interdisciplinary, etc.;
 - i) the document proving previous experiences of the structures in postgraduate qualification, if there are;
 - j) scientific collaborations for the realization of the whole study programme, or part of it with other research institutions, or public or private entities;

- k) the basic unit proposing the programme of doctoral studies which guarantee the existence of the necessary infrastructure, facilities and laboratory equipment. for the conduction of the doctoral programme;
- l) the diploma format.

3. The Minister of Education and Science may present to the Council of Ministers the proposal to open the programme of doctoral studies, only after having received positive evaluation from the Council of Accreditation of Higher Education for the study programme which is given within two months from the date of filing of documentation from the Ministry of Education and Science.

The proposal filed in the Council of Ministers must be accompanied with all documentation listed in paragraph 2 of this decree, the evaluation of the Council of Accreditation of Higher Education as well as the relevant report of the Ministry of Education and Science on this proposal.

4. The thesis director of the student in a doctoral programme must have at least the degree 'Doctor' obtained in western universities. The number of students supervised at the same time is set by the regulations of the institutions in accordance with the proposal of the council of professors of the relevant main units.

5. During the period of doctoral studies, prior to admission to doctoral degree, the student must have fulfilled the following criteria:

- a) Have held at least three speeches or scientific representations (posters), one of which must have been held in an international scientific activity (symposium, conference, congress), accepted on the basis of previous scientific assessment and published in 'Proceedings' indexed with and ISBN code.
- b). Have published, as main author at least three scientific articles in scientific reviews. At least one of the articles must have been published or accepted for publication in an international scientific review, with editorial board;
- c). Have prepared and exposed to the Council of Professors of the faculty the dissertation, together with a summary, approved by the thesis director.

6. Public institutions of higher education which offer programmes of doctoral studies shall organize them within the standards approved by the Ministry of Education and Science and in accordance with the regulation of the relevant institutions.

7. Students who attend doctoral studies shall have fulfilled the requirements provided for by the Decree No 786 of 17 December 1998 of the Council of Ministers 'On post-graduate scientific qualification, and the levels of the teaching and research staff', amended, and that before the entry into force of this decree have filed the application with the required documentation, including the doctoral dissertation in accordance with the abovementioned decree, shall defend the dissertation in the regular cycle, in accordance with the procedures foreseen in that decree.

The other students in the course of doctoral studies, who have not submitted the doctoral dissertation until the date of the entry into force of this decree, shall attend them in the regular cycle, in accordance with Decree No 786 of 12 December 1998 of the Council of Ministers 'On post-graduate scientific qualification, and the levels of the teaching and research staff', amended, but shall fulfil the criteria of paragraph 5 of this decree for defending the doctorate.

8. All public institutions of higher education which offer doctoral study programmes, in accordance with Law No 8461 of 25 February 1999 'On higher education in the Republic of Albania' must reorganize the structuring of these programmes, in accordance with the

requirements and standards foreseen in the Law No 9741 of 21 May 2007 'On higher education in the Republic of Albania', amended, and in this decree, and must present for re-evaluation and approval, in accordance with this decree, these study programmes, and if they fail to obtain approval, they shall not receive new study quotes.

Public institutions of higher education, pursuant to the provisions in paragraph 9 of this decree, may not accept new students in the doctorate studies, until their approval, in accordance with the criteria and procedures set in this Decree and in Law No 9741 of 21 May 2007 'For higher education in the Republic of Albania', amended.

9. The Ministry of Education and Science and public institutions of higher education which offer doctoral study programmes, as well as those institutions which shall offer doctorate study programmes, shall be in charge for the implementation of this decree. Public institutions of higher education must foresee, in their statutes, the organisation of doctorate studies in accordance with the provisions set in this decree.

10. All previous sublegal acts contrary to the provisions of this decree, are revoked.

This decree shall enter into force following its publication in the Official Journal.

PRIME MINISTER
SALI BERISHA

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
GENC POLLO
In absence and on behalf
DEPUTY MINISTER
ADRIANA GJONAJ

DECREE
No 877 of 18 June 2008

ON SOME AMENDMENTS TO DECISION NO 864 OF 5 DECEMBER 2007 OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS 'ON OPENING DOCTORATE STUDY PROGRAMMES IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CRITERIA THAT STUDENTS SHOULD FULFILL TO OBTAIN THE DIPLOMA, FOR THE SCIENTIFIC DEGREE 'DOCTOR'

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and Articles 26 and 42 of Law No 9741 of 21 June 2007 'On higher education in the Republic of Albania', amended, upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, the Council of Ministers,

DECIDED:

With decree No 864 of 5 December 2007 of the Council of Ministers, to introduce the following amendments:

1. Letter 'c', of paragraph 5, is modified as follows:

'c) Have presented to the council of professors of the central unit the complete application, containing the completed dissertation as well, with a summary, approved by the thesis director. Following the review of the application, the council of professors presents to the governing authority of the main unit, the decision whether to proceed to the defence of the doctorate. When the council of professors takes a positive decision, it proposes to the directing authority of the central unit the jury for the defence of the doctorate'.

2. Paragraph 7 is modified as follows:

'7. Students enrolled in doctoral studies:

a) before 31 December 2005, and have fulfilled the requirements of Decree No 786 of 17 December 1998 of the Council of Ministers 'On post-graduate scientific qualification, and the levels of the teaching and research staff', amended, and have filed at the Dean Office the completed application with the completed dissertation thesis until 31 December 2008, shall proceed as provided for in letter 'c' of paragraph 5 of decree No 5 December 2007 of the Council of Ministers.

b) From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007 students referred to in letter 'a' of paragraph 7, but do not manage to file the application within the deadline established above, shall proceed with the studies in the regular cycle, in accordance with decree No 786 of 12 December 1998 of the Council of Ministers 'On post-graduate scientific qualification, and the levels of the teaching and research staff', amended, but shall fulfil the criteria of paragraph 5 of Decree No 864 of 5 December 2007 of the Council of Ministers on the defence of the doctorate.

c) From 1 January 2008 onward, shall do the doctoral studies as provided for in the Law No 9741 of 21 May 2007 'On higher education in the Republic of Albania', amended, and with decree No 864 of 5 December 2007 of the Council of Ministers'.

This decree shall enter into force following the publication in the Official Journal.

PRIME MINISTER
SALI BERISHA