Periodical Review – PhD programs Template

Program Name:

University: Università Bocconi - Milano

Consortium: None

First year of activation:

Please indicate the names of the subjects involved in the Review process (Review Team components and their functions) and organization (work distribution, meetings, approval).

Review Team

Components

Prof. (name) – *Program Director or Her/His Delegate*

(name) – *PhD student*

….

Other components *(please specify names and role in the Review Team):*

The following university administrative units were consulted for the review:

➢ Academic Planning & Monitoring
➢ Planning, Control & Valuation

Review Team met, for the discussion of the topics reported in this document, in the following dates *(please report dates and sections / topics examined)*:

Illustrated, discussed and approved by Phd Faculty Board in: *(please report date of approval by Phd Faculty Board).*

Synthesis of PhD Faculty Board discussion

Please indicate (succinctly):

➢ *Date*
➢ *If PhD Faculty Board approved the Review,*
➢ *Any disagreement / suggestion from Faculty members.*

You may also attach / add a link to PhD Faculty Board meeting minutes.

1 – PhD design

1- a   SYNTHESIS OF THE MAIN CHANGES FROM LAST REVIEW

Please report the main changes in the PhD program over the last 5 years (or from last Review, if the program already had a Review).

Description

1-b   ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION (ACCORDING TO DATA)

Please include: the main problems detected, the challenges, strengths and weaknesses emerging from current situation and from future perspectives.

> **FILLING-IN INSTRUCTIONS**
> Please report a synthetic analysis of current PhD situation, supporting your argumentation with evidence (available data and/or documents – see main document sources listed below).
> **The analysis should answer the recommended questions** (with the exceptions of the ones concerning general aspects already commented by Quality Assurance Committee). In particular, for each point you should refer, when possible, to the corresponding information reported in the section "Main elements under observation".
> Please quote your sources and indicate only strictly essential data.
> You should also report strengths and weaknesses, current challenges and areas of improvement while answering the questions; the latter should be also summarized in the last box.

Main elements under observation:
- *Annual accreditation form ("Scheda CINECA") – sections 1-2*
- *PhD website*
- *Placement data*
- *PhD yearly official Call*
- *PhD teaching path*
- *Course syllabi*
- *PhD Faculty*
- *Graduates evaluations*
- *Suggestions from PhD Faculty and external stakeholders*

Recommended points of reflection:

PhD program definition and review
1. *Did the PhD program formally define its objectives[1], with reference to cultural and scientific evolution in its target disciplines? Are they consistent with placement data?*
2. *Did the PhD program formally define a clear and public vision of its own learning path, consistent with objectives[1], resources and University Strategic Plan?*
3. *Did you identify and consult the main stakeholders?*
4. *Did you take stakeholders consultation outcomes into consideration for changes in the program (PhD review / redesign)?*
5. *Is there a PhD Alumni association?*

Perspective students
6. *Is the PhD program adequately advertised, in and outside Italy, in dedicated webpages?*
7. *Are there any counselling activities for prospective PhD students (specific initiatives, Higher Level Courses, summer schools, etc.)?*
8. *Are selection modes adequate to identify the best and most suitable candidates (in accordance with PhD objectives[1])?*

Courses
9. *Are there teaching activities (course, seminars, events, etc.) in the PhD program? Are they different from MSc courses?*
10. *Are teaching activities and methodologies adequate to prepare students for research?*

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[1] Reported in the website and/or in Annual accreditation form, "*Descrizione del progetto formativo e obiettivi del corso*" -> "*Obiettivi del corso*".

11. *Are teaching activities balanced between topic-specific and generalist aspects?*
12. *Are there clear assessment methods on students' learning and maturity (course exams, general exams, advisors reports, ...)?*
13. *Do some program courses include elements of:*
    i. *Multidisciplinarity (presence of different disciplines in the same study program)*
    ii. *Interdisciplinarity (integration of different disciplines in the same course, e.g. a course taught by two or more professors from different disciplines) – if present, please indicate at least one course with such characterization*
    iii. *Transdisciplinarity (the same topic is faced with different approaches) – if present, please indicate at least one course with such characterization*

    Internationalization
14. *Which initiatives does the PhD program undertake to guarantee PhD internationalization and adequate student visibility in the international academic environment:*
    a. *Non-Italian Faculty (or Faculty with non-Italian experience, e.g. PhD in a non-Italian university)*
    b. *Professors from non-Italian universities teaching in PhD courses and/or acting as advisor/ co-advisor for PhD students*
    c. *External reviewers from non-Italian universities*
    d. *Participation to international research projects*
    e. *International mobility of students for study or research*
    f. *Participation of PhD students to international seminars / conferences (as speakers or auditors)?*
    g. *Placement outside Italy*
    h. *Other (please specify)*

Description (please do not exceed 12,000 characters, including spaces)

Problems to be resolved/Areas to improve
Please list problems to be resolved or areas to improve emerged from the above description and that can bring to the definition of possible improvement actions (to be detailed in the following Section C).

1-c   OBJECTIVES AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

Please include the actions you think necessary / appropriate according to: changes in context conditions, critical elements indicated and challenges. Objectives should have a multiannual effect and should refer to substantial aspects of education and student experience

Please specify which actions will be implemented to reach the objectives.

FILLING-IN INSTRUCTIONS

In this section you are asked to report the specific actions to undertake to improve course performance and/or seize the opportunities offered by changes in the academic environment, by filling in the table below for each objective.

Actions should be always associated to measurable objectives, possibly with multiannual effects and be consistent with identified problems and challenges. Please do not indicate:

- Actions without connections with reported problems / areas to improve;
- Generic initiatives, hardly realizable or depending from resources or situations that are not under not control of PhD Director.

You should define at least one corrective / improvement action for each critical aspect detected in Section B. You may also indicate interventions already undertaken which did not produce any effect or which did not reach their objective yet. In this case, you should indicate the reasons of the failure to achieve the objective and the changes in action plans that produce the desired results.

Objective n.	*Title and description*
Actions	*Describe the action(s) and how you will implement it*
Reference Indicator and target	*Specify:* ➢ *the indicator (quantitative or qualitative) that will measure the degree of achievement of the objective and the way it will be measured* ➢ *(if the indicator is quantitative) the minimum target (amount) that determines action success*
Responsibility	*Determine the person in charge of the action (and any possible other people who may contribute to action success)*
Implementation timing	*Estimate in a realistic way the time necessary to implement the action; if possible, you should also define intermediate deadlines for intermediate objectives*

2 – Planning and organization of teaching and research activities for PhD students

2- a   SYNTHESIS OF THE MAIN CHANGES FROM LAST REVIEW

Please report the main changes in the PhD program over the last 5 years (or from last Review, if the program already had a Review).

Description

2-b   ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION (ACCORDING TO DATA)

Please include: the main problems detected, the challenges, strengths and weaknesses emerging from current situation and from future perspectives.

FILLING-IN INSTRUCTIONS
Please report a synthetic analysis of current PhD situation, supporting your argumentation with evidence (available data and/or documents – see main document sources listed below).
The analysis should answer the recommended questions (with the exceptions of the ones concerning general aspects already commented by Quality Assurance Committee). In particular, for each point you should refer, when possible, to the corresponding information reported in the section "Main elements under observation".
Please <u>quote your sources</u> and indicate only strictly essential data.
You should also report strengths and weaknesses, current challenges and areas of improvement while answering the questions; the latter should be also summarized in the last box.

Main elements under observation:
- *Annual accreditation form – sections 3-4*
- *PhD teaching path*
- *Students participation to conferences and seminars*
- *Student evaluations*
- *Data on graduates' research*

Recommended points of reflection:

<u>Students' Experience</u>
15. *Does PhD learning path include both courses and seminars? Is there participation of both Bocconi and external academics?*
16. *Is academic growth of PhD students stimulated also by means of:*
    i. *Moments in which students may show the results of their research to their fellows?*
    ii. *Participation to conferences and seminars (also as speakers)?*
17. *Does the organization of the PhD program allow students autonomy:*
    i. *In defining their study plan autonomously (personalized tracks, elective courses, seminars)?*
    ii. *In planning, drawing and publishing research papers?*
18. *Do students receive adequate guidance from the teaching body (PhD Director, advisors, etc.) for their research activity (including seminars / conferences to attend and submission of their papers)?*
19. *Do students receive adequate funding for their research activity?*
20. *Are services and facilities (Library, study room, IT facilities, etc.) adequate for student research needs?*
21. *Do students work as teaching assistants, compatibly with their research activities? How does the PhD program help its students to acquire teaching competences?*

<u>PhD internationalization and visibility</u>
22. *How does PhD program contribute to strengthen university international relations? See point 14*
23. *Is graduates research output adequate (in a quantitative and qualitative way) for their discipline?*

Description (please do not exceed 12,000 characters, including spaces)

2- c   OBJECTIVES AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

Please include the actions you think necessary / appropriate according to: changes in context conditions, critical elements indicated and challenges. Objectives should have a multiannual effect and should refer to substantial aspects of education and student experience

Please specify which actions will be implemented to reach the objectives.

Objective n.	*Title and description*
Actions	*Describe the action(s) and how you will implement it*

Reference Indicator and target	*Specify:*
	  ➢ *the indicator (quantitative or qualitative) that will measure the degree of achievement of the objective and the way it will be measured*
	  ➢ *(if the indicator is quantitative) the minimum target (amount) that determines action success*

Responsibility	*Determine the person in charge of the action (and any possible other people who may contribute to action success)*
Implementation timing	*Estimate in a realistic way the time necessary to implement the action; if possible, you should also define intermediate deadlines for intermediate objectives*

3 – Monitoring and activity improvement

3- a   SYNTHESIS OF THE MAIN CHANGES FROM LAST REVIEW

Please report the main changes in the PhD program over the last 5 years (or from last Review, if the program already had a Review).

> Description

3- b   ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION (ACCORDING TO DATA)

Please include: the main problems detected, the challenges, strengths and weaknesses emerging from current situation and from future perspectives.

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Main elements under observation:
- *Annual accreditation form – sections 5-6*
- *Student evaluations*
- *Suggestions from professors and external stakeholders*
- *Resources and services available for PhD programs*
- *PhD Faculty*

Recommended points of reflection:

Faculty and teaching competences

    Monitoring
25. *Does the PhD program have a performance monitoring system, taking into consideration aspects such as teaching and research activities, learning and research advancement of students, their satisfaction and placement?*
26. *Are the outcomes systematically analyzed?*
27. *Does the PhD program monitor the allocation and utilization of funds for student research activities?*

    Review
28. *Does the PhD program periodically examines and updates its curricula, to align them to the academic and professional evolution of the topics, also taking into consideration suggestions from external stakeholders and student opinions?*

> Description (please do not exceed 12.000 characters, including spaces)
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>
> ***Problems to be resolved/Areas to improve***
> *Please list problems to be resolved or areas to improve emerged from the above description and that can bring to the definition of possible improvement actions (to be detailed in the following Section C).*

3- c   OBJECTIVES AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

Please include the actions you think necessary / appropriate according to: changes in context conditions, critical elements indicated and challenges. Objectives should have a multiannual effect and should refer to substantial aspects of education and student experience.
Please specify which actions will be implemented to reach the objectives.

> ### FILLING-IN INSTRUCTIONS
> In this section you are asked to report the specific actions to undertake to improve course performance and/or seize the opportunities offered by changes in the academic environment, by filling in the table below for each objective.
> Actions should be always associated to measurable objectives, possibly with multiannual effects and be consistent with identified problems and challenges. Please do not indicate:
> -   -   Actions without connections with reported problems / areas to improve;
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Objective n.	*Title and description*
Actions	*Describe the action(s) and how you will implement it*
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