# Thesis Regulations

# for

# Dissertation Doctorates

**International Degree-Programme**

**Dr. / PhD**

**By Thesis**

**UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua**

**2022**

**Doctorates by dissertation thesis**

**in the professional study areas of**

**Management and Business Administration**
**Social and Economic Sciences**
**Education**
**Psychology**
**Health Sciences**
**International Relations and International Law**

# Study Plan

| Transfer credits – Elective courses | Test mode | ECTS |
|---|:---:|:---:|
| Transfer from MPhil doctoral programme/ level 8 EQF | Credits Transfer | 60 |
| **Mandatory Science Module** | **Test mode** | **ECTS** |
| Research Project Proposal | Presentation | 18 |
| **Thesis / Rigorosum Examination** | **Test mode** | **ECTS** |
| Thesis in the discipline specialisation | Written thesis presentation and defence | 102 |
| **WORKLOAD** | **Test mode** | **ECTS** |
| ECTS | Defence / Rigorosum | 180 |

**Research project:**

**Dissertation with UCN for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.**
**Doctor of Philosophy Mandatory Units**
- Submission of Research Proposal and Dissertation title
- Approval of Research Proposal by UCN
- Submission of Dissertation to UCN
- Submission of Powerpoint presentation of the Dissertation
- Final online defensio and examination

# Research skills and research proposal

To embark on this stage of the research doctorate, the candidate will be required to complete the thesis proposal. The research proposal must be submitted to the doctoral Research Committee for approval. If the research proposal is not acceptable, it is returned with suitable explanations and the candidate will continue to develop the research proposal until a standard acceptable to the Research Committee is achieved.

CNEA Form 5.1.1., 5.1.2 or 5.1.3.

Once the research proposal is accepted, the candidate will be allocated a supervisor whose expertise lies within the proposed area of research. The supervisor will be a senior academic with specific knowledge of the chosen area of research. He or she may or may not be a member of the university faculty, and will allocate to the candidate approximately 3 hours of contact time per month. Students can propose the nomination of a supervisor requiring the approval of the Research Committee. Communication with the supervisor will be primarily via email. During this stage of the research doctorate programme, candidates work independently under the direction of the allocated supervisor to conduct a literature review to support the research and underpinning methodology, carry out the research and write the thesis. As with the research proposal, each stage of the research must be developed to a level acceptable to the doctoral Research Committee.

After acceptance of the literature review and synthesis, the candidate will work on the thesis (approximate length 40,000 words) under the direction of the supervisor; the thesis is then submitted formally to the university and assessment takes the form of a review followed by a viva voce 'defence' of the thesis. The examination will be conducted in person or by live video link at the university's discretion.

CNEA Form 5.1.5., 5.1.6, 5.1.7. or 5.1.9.

The thesis project is normally of 1-2 years' duration, but this may vary by individual student.

## Examination

Assessment is by formal live voice (a formal face-to face oral defence) examination comprising the student, an internal examiner, an external examiner and the supervisor.

# Rationale

Each programme curriculum of UCN includes a rationale setting out the aims and objectives of the programme. UCN believes that there is a need for this particular postgraduate programme for advanced researchers in the areas of mangement and entrepreneurial, social and economic, education, psychology, health or international relations / law sciences. The programme is designed for researchers in the respective area of science and for professional scholars addressing candidates at the global level, since the current issues and challenges are neither local nor national rather than global.

# Programme aims

The aims for the programme serve the purpose of enabling candidates to become scholars and researchers in the science subject chosen and shall professionially benefit students completing the programme.

The Doctor of Philosophy is offered in English study language internationally with the award Philosophiae Doctor en XXX.
It is available as a general research PhD without any particular emphasis and in a variety of specialisations.
PhD candidates may specialise in areas of mangement and entrepreneurial, social and economic, education, psychology, health or international relations / law sciences or other practical fields for the respective discipline.

The PhD by research provides an excellent opportunity for applicants who have some experience at advanced level in any before-said specialised field offered by UCN to gain a postgraduate doctoral qualification to enhance their career prospects. The PhD is a research doctorate.

# Entry requirements

Master's degree or equivalent degree and admission evaluation (120 SUCA or 240 ECTS credits). The entry requirements are a graduate degree of at least 120 SUCA or 240 ECTS credits in total, plus a Masters degree, or equivalent qualifications of at least 30 SUCA or 60 ECTS credits in total. UCN may also ask for significant experience in a scientific or professional supervisory position involving responsibility for research issues.

**Entry Requirements at MPhil stage to thesis:**
Graduate degree plus MBA, MA, MSc, MPhil or equivalent Master or Postgraduate Degree qualification or first cycle degree entitling the holder in the the country of award to enroll directly in doctoral research programmes at the MPhil level. (150 SUCA or 300 ECTS credits)

**Individual requirements:**
Individual admission evaluation and eligibility assessment is required.

After completion of coursework, examinations and written research the thesis (dissertation or comprehensive project report) is defended by the candidate before the panel of examiners.

The total workload of the PhD in corresponds with equivalence of three years of study or 90 SUCA (180 ECTS) credits.

Students must focus on a specialisation or interdisciplinary research. The study area must be offered by UCN as doctoral programme.

# Programme features

The PhD curriculum consists of 90 SUCA or 180 ECTS credits of postgraduate study, offered as modular fashion. PhD-candidates complete the required modules/courses (30 SUCA or 60 ECTS credits) prior to admission and enter at advanced Mphil level, plus a final Thesis/Dissertation (60 SUCA or 120 ECTS credits) focused on a specific field of science.

**Modular and research PhD programme workload:**
30 SUCA or 60 ECTS in coursework (credits transfer) plus 60 SUCA or 120 ECTS for PhD Thesis
Taught curriculum: 30 SUCA or 60 ECTS in coursework (credits transfer)
Research Thesis for PhD: 60 SUCA or 120 ECTS for PhD Thesis
PhD candidates may write their thesis in areas suitable to their employment contexts, such as mangement and entrepreneurial, social and economic, education, psychology, health or international relations / law sciences, finance, or other practical fields.

**Duration:**
3 full study years – advanced programme possible for candidates entering at thesis stage.

**Content:**
The level and range of skill, knowledge and understanding required to complete the programme requires the period of instruction (one full study year) and the period of research (two full study years). The content of each module is provided in the curriculum section.

**Degree options:**

UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua MSc (intermediate degree) and PhD (terminal degree).

The Master of Science requires the completion of the taught curriculum (MPhil level), the Doctor of Philosophiy requires the completion and successful defence of the thesis.

**Programme modality:**
Online PhD programme

**Level:**
Postgraduate / Doctorate / third cycle higher education level

**Structure:**

The programme requires of a number of mandatory and elective modules, in the extent of one full study year.

The modules can be chosen by the candidate in the extent of 30 SUCA or 60 ECTS credits.

In a programme with a specialisation, there are mandatory units for each degree of choice required to complete the award.

The applied assessment of prior learning and the recognition of transfer credits policy will accept identical or similar courses from a postgraduate programme at the same qualification level and in a given specialisation, including transfer credits from recognised institutions of higher education.

# Objectives of the Programme

The modular Master and Doctor of Philosophy has as a general aim of provision of an academically rigorous education designed to develop skills, expertise, knowledge and vision to enable students, whatever their chosen route, to be critical, analytical and creative. The programme aims to provide opportunity for self-development in relation to career enhancement and as life-long learners. The competencies may be in general executive Management without any specialisation or within a specific field of professional management expertise, the Specialisation.

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop their own capabilities, skills and competencies within a supported environment. The philosophy of the programme can be summarized by the following objectives.

Develop a critical approach to the use of contemporary sources as a means of exploring complex concepts, ideas and issues of relevance and value to the chosen area of study.

Develop the power of critical enquiry, logical thought, creative imagination and independent judgment.

Provide a forum of study that allows each student to build on his or her past academic and vocational experience in a relevant and meaningful fashion.

Expose the student to a range of prospective, which may be applicable to both the interests and work situations as appropriate.

Recognize the variety of sources of learning and an appropriate diversity of means for assessing achievement.

The PhD is a terminal degree. The degree of PhD is a research doctorate in a professional research setting. The PhD requires coursework and research beyond the Masters degree requiring a dissertation or journal publication that contributes to management practice. The portion of the programme, consisting of coursework and examination, is equivalent to that of an internationally comparable PhD. The part of the programme, consisting of independent research and the writing of a thesis, is geared towards more applied research in

management issues, with the research making a direct contribution to science or practice. The PhD requires a significant thesis, dissertation or final comprehensive project including a formal defence and approval by nominated examiners or an officially sanctioned and qualified doctoral review committee. The PhD aims at the creation of new theory, not withstanding aims at applying theory to business problems; thereby, the PhD programme has two purposes: (1) to contribute to both theory and practice in relation to business and management; and (2) to develop professional practice and to contribute to professional knowledge. The degree is conferred when all coursework, testing, and written research are completed and reviewed and approved by the jurors of the examination commission.

The PhD will enable graduates to become independent, self-directed researchers with tools and motivation to continue investigating, developing, and reflecting on practice throughout their careers.

This programme intends to allow the individual student to develop their potential through a carefully selected curriculum of study, which includes elements of a variety of methods of study orientated around both the academic and vocational axis.

The primary objectives of the PhD research programme are to:

- Enable the student to achieve an appropriate level of academic competence.
- Achieve personal development and to develop critical awareness of benefit to themselves and to their organization.
- Develop skills of initiation, implementation and analysis in a range of contexts.
- Develop capability in the analysis and evaluation of complex issues and situations.

# Competencies

Examination Criteria (Dublin Descriptors):
Qualifications that signify completion of the third cycle are awarded to students who:
have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;
can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society.

**Terms**
The word 'professional' is used in the descriptors in its broadest sense, relating to those attributes relevant to undertaking work or a vocation and that involves the application of

some aspects of advanced learning. It is not used with regard to those specific requirements relating to regulated professions. The latter may be identified with the profile / specification. The word 'competence' is used in the descriptors in its broadest sense, allowing for gradation of abilities or skills. It is not used in the narrower sense identified solely on the basis of a 'yes/no' assessment.

The word 'research' is used to cover a wide variety of activities, with the context often related to a field of study; the term is used here to represent a careful study or investigation based on a systematic understanding and critical awareness of knowledge. The word is used in an inclusive way to accommodate the range of activities that support original and innovative work in the whole range of academic, professional and technological fields, including the humanities, and traditional, performing, and other creative arts. It is not used in any limited or restricted sense, or relating solely to a traditional 'scientific method'.

Third Cycle Qualifications

| Cycle | Knowledge and understanding: |
|---|---|
| 3 (Doctorate) | [includes] a systematic understanding of their field of study and mastery of the methods of research* associated with that field.. |
| | Applying knowledge and understanding: |
| 3 (Doctorate) | [is demonstrated by the] ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research* with scholarly integrity .. [is in the context of] a contribution that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work some of which merits national or international refereed publication .. |

| | Making judgements: |
|---|---|
| 3 (Doctorate) | [requires being] capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas.. |
| | Communication |
| 3 (Doctorate) | with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general (dialogue) about their areas of expertise (broad scope).. |
| | Learning skills .. |
| 3 (Doctorate) | expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement .. |

**Core competencies for PhD candidates:**

During their training, PhD candidates are expected to become independent researchers skilled in general or special field of their discipline (financial, project management, etc) policy/decision making and research. These types of skills provide doctoral graduates for an academic career and for the professional job market beyond the university programme.

The PhD aims to provide the following competencies as identified and categorised by Barthélémy Durette, Marina Fournier, and Matthieu Lafon (The core competencies of PhDs,

Barthélémy Durette, Marina Fournier, and Matthieu Lafon, Studies in Higher Education Vol. 41 , Iss. 8,2016):

A- Knowledge and technical skills
B-Transferable competencies that can be formalized
B.1-Knowledge of the professionnal environment
B.2-Professionnal conduct
B.3-Communication skills
B.4-IT skills
B.5-Innovation management
B.6-Project Management
B.7-Languages
B.8-Commercial skills
B.9-Administrative management
C-Transferable competencies that cannot be formalized
C.1-Lateral thinking
C.2-Capacity for innovation
C.3-Cognitive abilities
C.4-Complex problems management
C.5-Ability to collaborate
C.6-Leadership
C.7-Ability to question oneself
D-Dispositions
E-Behaviors
F-Meta-competencies

**Graduates of the PhD programme will be able to:**

- Develop critical self-reflection and self-awareness to enhance personal and professional development at the senior management level.
- Develop research skills for the senior level of management.
- Determine and apply appropriate research methods to business management problems.
- Develop skills, capabilities and understanding in managing and organising research project in line with professional and ethical principles.
- Evaluate and synthesize scholarly literature to general research that will significantly contribute knowledge in the chosen sector.
- Work as an independent researcher to contribute to knowledge through original and independent research.
- Develop and demonstrate: Research skills and knowledge
- Enable and demonstrate: Responsible conduct of science
- Apply and demonstrate: Personal effectiveness
- Enable and justify: Professional development
- Enable, apply and demonstrate: Leadership and management
- Enable and improve: Communication
- Enable and support: General Management
- Enable and investigate: Specialisation field

- Development of knowledge at an advanced level
- Development of skills of analysis, research and policy formulation and implementation
- Unification of theoretical analysis and practice through a variety of contexts appropriate to business administration
- Issues of organization management and the management of people.
- To understand and apply the principles of strategic leadership in a business environment.
- Review and apply the principles of business management within the industry
- To understand and apply the principles of strategic management in a specific environment.
- To improve the employability of learners in the business world.
- Analyse problem-solving techniques specific to business and industry
- Select, collate, review and analyse information from a wide range of sources
- Work independently and as part of a team.
- Manage one's own personal development and growth.
- To enable learners to apply analytical and evaluative techniques to business in the private and public sectors.
- To enhance analytical and evaluative skills relating to business across several industries.
- To develop the learner's ability to recognise and reflect on the process of personal learning and development, which facilitates the enhancement of key personal, sociable and other transferable skills.
- To encourage the student's self-reflection, analytical, intellectual and transferable skills.

The UCN online PhD programme will help to develop research qualities and competencies.

- **Develop Critical Skills**
  A credible, online PhD programme motivates to execute more than just consume knowledge. Crossing the category of passive learning will help achieve greater levels of critical thinking that will hone skills. This will help implement the knowledge gained via new and thrilling ways in organization, career, and field of interest.
- **Justify Providing Expertise**
  Holding an online PhD degree will help develop and upskill new procedures and approaches that will allow to lead people in a global society that is increasing. This will also result in gaining effective skills that are required to excel in career. Apart from this, this degree helps upskill your managerial skills in current role and enables to create an impact by sharing prowess outside the organization.
- **Demonstrate Scholar-Practitioner**
  Whether it is a campus program or an online PhD programme, this degree will give the necessary knowledge and the confidence one will need not just to attend conferences and present. Candidates will be able to write a dissertation. They might also find working with peers on various experiments and publishing articles in leading journals from their field. It will help develop managerial qualities and enable

professional performance and progress. This, in turn, does make a candidate not only a scholar but also a practitioner.

- **Demonstrate Leadership Skills**

  Teaching and mentoring are two major ways a graduate in this particular field can develop leadership and managerial skills. Being a teacher or a mentor, one will have to find a way to motivate someone to attain their goal. Candiates will also gain experience when it comes to evaluating someone's work and delivering critical and constructive remarks.

- **Apply Research Skills**

  Even in the field out of academia, research skills are considered highly valuable. This programme will also help to hone own research skills as a trained researcher and develop own managerial qualities. One will be able to ascertain the best approach, discover relevant information and data, find a way to analyze it and comprehend the massive amount of data, and amalgamate the findings. One will even know how to defend the conclusions with the help of research.

- **Enable Written Communication**

  Becoming a good writer takes practice. With a PhD in management degree, one will have years of experience writing papers, dissertations, abstracts for conferences, journals, etc. The feedback you receive for this will help to upskill communication skills, which are a bonus in managerial skills.

- **Personal and Professional Development**

  Enable graduates to focus on Business and Management research. It focuses on students´ personal and professional development through reflective, supportive and sensitised approaches.

- **Strategic Management and Leadership in Organisations**

  Prepare students for the complexity of strategic decisions and the global business environment. Students will be able to conduct research that will help them define, create, and evaluate further strategic direction for the organisation's effectiveness.

- **Managing Project for Applied Research**

  Prepare candidates for the complexity of strategic decisions and the global business environment.

- **Advanced Research Techniques**

  Prepare students to understand different research philosophies, techniques and methods to prepare them to apply relevant research theories and methodology to their research project.

## Research - Thesis

The research project provides an opportunity for candidates to apply the research skills gained during the curriculum. Candidates can use any philosophical assumption, research design, method and approach to integrating their professional practice to research theories. PhD thesis enables learners to identify issue relating to their professional context in any organisation regardless of sector, consider relevant literature, collect data, apply research techniques and analyse data to implement change to meet research objectives.

Wordcount limit for a PhD thesis is 60,000-100,000. The standard followed for the thesis will be identical to the referencing style of UCN or an accepted standard.

**PhD by Thesis**

The PhD by thesis is a research doctorate, requiring course-work beyond the Master´s level plus research and dissertation contributing to theory or practice in relation to the discipline as well as to development of professional practice by contributing to field-specific knowledge and hence impact practice beyond research.

**PhD by Prior Output**

**Doctorate by Publication**

A doctorate for scientific publications is possible in compliance with the exclusion clause of doctorate by thesis, as far as this procedure is provided in the particular plans and programmes of study and the conditions thereof are regulated by these plans and programmes.

This is not a short cut to a PhD, however offered to recognised busy researchers and full time professionals who have been publishing academic work or the equivalent. The PhD by Publication, Prior Output or Achievement is quite common among British Universities, having introduced this doctorate to academia.

The PhD by Prior Output aims to demonstrate that the work submitted is of high distinction, does constitute an original and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or to the application of knowledge or to both, and does establish that the applicant is a leading authority in the field or fields of study concerned, and that the work put forward is already 'published'.

The objective is not to review all of an applicant's published output, but a selection that presents a substantial coherence and linked original contribution. The PhD by Prior Output should be as original and coherent as a conventional PhD degree. The work presented should be already 'published' work, open to critical academic peer scrutiny, including written publications in peer reviewed refereed journals and/or published under an academic or University Press, academic publisher, monographs from an academic press, official reports for organisations, portfolios of creative works, or alike. The submitted work presents an original contribution to knowledge and will include work that has been published recently. The submission should be conceived of as adding to a current debate. The publications should emphasise a common academic research area, with a reasonable core argument, and must be original, research-based, of doctoral thesis quality and embedded in an academic discourse.

Applicants can submit published work for examination only after a minimum period of six months from enrolment.

The doctoral degree of PhD by Prior Output is awarded by UCN after the successful presentation of prior output and a covering document of 10,000 to 15,000 words, and an examination. The covering document should contextualise the prior output, demonstrate that it constitutes a coherent entity, and underline the independent and original contribution to knowledge achieved.

# Tuitions

Tuition fees vary by the duration of programme (short or regular) and the single or dual degree options.

Tuition fees are due in full with enrolment for the complete programme.

# Refund policy

Course fees are due in full with enrolment. Once the programme has started (tuitions collected) no tuitions will be repaid. Students, who do not pay tuitions after admission are not enrolled.

## Degree Regulations

The applicable degree regulations for Doctorates and postgraduate degree programmes of UCN apply.

# Content

The level and range of skill, knowledge and understanding required to complete the programme requires the period of instruction (one full study year) and the period of research (two full study years). The content of each module is provided in the curriculum section.

## Duration and workload of a course

Successful completion of a course with a workload of 3 SUCA or 6 ECTS credits is estimated to be approximately 150 hours. Students should allocate approximately eight hours a week for reading, personal study, completion of reflection activities and submission of assignments. There is one marked assignment per module. Courses are offered on a part-time basis and are designed to be completed within four months. The asynchronic e-learning mode of the programme allows students to proceed at their own pace. Official study time for the PhD programme is three years with a workload of 90 SUCA credits(180 ECTS).

1 ECTS credit = 0,5 SUCA créditos (credit hours)

60 ECTS credits = 30 SUCA créditos (credit hours)  (1 full study year)

## Study language

The international programme is conducted in English (German upon approval). English or German proficiency is required for the doctoral programme.

## Student Support

The programme is administered and provided by UCN European Programmes. Students are eligible for UCN European Programmes student support regarding tutoring and assistance in the programme.

# Principles of Assessment

- Students' assessment activities must show evidence of assessment by tutors
- Assessment must be rigorous, fair and free from bias
- Candidates may only submit their own work. Copied plagiarised work be disqualified
- Time-constrained assessments should be supervised under examination conditions
- Computer Marked Assignments and/or Tutors Marked Assessment records and internal verification of these will be part of the UCN quality audit process
- The assessments should cover all the learning programme outcomes

**Assessment Criteria**

The assessment criteria should cover all the learning outcomes for the module/programme that have been listed above. They should describe the quality of work the learners must produce.

**The assessment strategy** must clearly indicate the baseline achievement for the learner to pass the programme and the procedures for credits transfer and APL, acceptance of late work and re-sits/re-submissions.

**Grading Criteria**

UCN requires the use of grades in an accredited programme. Minimum grade for passing a course at postgraduate level with UCN is 80%.

**Assessment Methods**

Assessment methods reflect the level of the programme being offered. Assessment activities and assessor's records include Computer Marked Assignments, Tutor Marked Assignments and Commissional Examination.

**Alternative / Special Arrangements for Assessment**

Candidates with special needs may apply for alternative, special arrangements for assessment to UCN. UCN will as far as possible enable such alternative assessments.

# Quality Assurance

UCN is an autonomous university, authorised by the CNU National Council of Universities and established by Act of Parliament and Presidential Decree in Nicaragua. As such UCN takes part and is subject to quality assurance and institutional accreditation by the CNEA National Council of Evaluation and Accreditation, established by law in Nicaragua.

International programme quality assurance is provided by CONIES, the Council on International Higher Education Supervision, a university membership quality certification and programme accreditation council based on the following criteria:

CRITERIA FOR PROGRAMME PROVISION

I       General Criteria
- Rationale
- Structure
- Learning outcomes
- Content
- Assessment
- Internal verification / review and evaluation
- Market needs
- Target group of learners
- Resources (general)
- Tutor details
- Examination materials
- Self evaluation for accreditation
- Internal auditor qualification

II      Provision Criteria
- Provider
- Collaborative Provision
- Cross-border Higher Education
- Trans-national Quality Assurance
- Trans-national Academic Recognition
- Trans-national Professional Recognition
- Collaborative Trans-national Provision
- Recruitment
- Resources
- Support
- Outcomes

III     E-Learning Criteria
- Quality of Education
- Technical Quality
- The catalogisation of multi-media applications
- The quality of visual features

- Learning and cognitive theories
- The functionality of the application

IV  Criteria for Quality of Online Education

- Online learning is appropriate to the institution's mission and purposes
- The institution's plans for developing, sustaining, and, if appropriate, expanding online learning offerings are integrated into its regular planning and evaluation processes
- Online learning is incorporated into the institution's systems of governance and academic oversight
- Curricula for the institution's online learning offerings are coherent, cohesive, and comparable in academic rigor to programs offered in traditional instructional formats
- The institution evaluates the effectiveness of its online learning offerings, including the extent to which the online learning goals are achieved, and uses the results of its evaluations to enhance the attainment of the goals
- Faculty responsible for delivering the online learning curricula and evaluating the students' success in achieving the online learning goals are appropriately qualified and effectively supported
- The institution provides effective student and academic services to support students enrolled in online learning offerings
- The institution assures the integrity of its online offerings

V  Online Education and Open Educational Resources OER Auto-Evaluation

- Extent of actual use of online education and OER in the institution
- Assessing vision of openness and strategy for open educational practices
- Implementing and promoting Open Educational Practices

# Application

The application process is conducted in the following sequences:

1. Prospective student asks for application form for a given programme of study.
2. Prospective student fills out the application form in word format and remits the scan of the application form with handwritten signature by email, including the following attachments (we accept only PDF for scans, and JPG for the photo):
    a. Application form signed as scan (PDF, black/white) and personal data processing agreement
    b. Scans (PDF, b/w, legible!) of all relevant higher education credentials and qualifications (degrees, diplomas, certificates, with all transcripts). If those original credentials are not in English, Spanish or German, pls, provide an English translation.
    c. Curriculum vitae, highlighting the academic and professional background. (doc or PDF)
    d. Scan of the passport (or ID card) page with personal data and photo. (PDF in colour)
    e. Passport style facial photo of applicant (colour, JPG)
3. NOTICE: Only complete applications will be considered for evaluation.
4. The University conducts an evaluation report and reserves the right to charge the applicant for this service.
5. The University issues the evaluation report and in case of possible admission issues an invoice to the student for the tuitions and fees of the given programme.
6. Student accepts evaluation report and pays the full tuition and fees in order to enrol.
7. Payment of tuitions activates the enrolment of the given student. Once a student is enrolled and discontinues a programme, no tuition payment is refunded.

# Examination Criteria

Examination Criteria (Dublin Descriptors):

Qualifications that signify completion of the third cycle are awarded to students who:

have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;

have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;

have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;

are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;

can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;

can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge based society;

**Terms:**

The word 'professional' is used in the descriptors in its broadest sense, relating to those attributes relevant to undertaking work or a vocation and that involves the application of some aspects of advanced learning. It is not used with regard to those specific requirements relating to regulated professions. The latter may be identified with the profile / specification. The word 'competence' is used in the descriptors in its broadest sense, allowing for gradation of abilities or skills. It is not used in the narrower sense identified solely on the basis of a 'yes/no' assessment.

The word 'research' is used to cover a wide variety of activities, with the context often related to a field of study; the term is used here to represent a careful study or investigation based on a systematic understanding and critical awareness of knowledge. The word is used in an inclusive way to accommodate the range of activities that support original and innovative work in the whole range of academic, professional and technological fields, including the humanities, and traditional, performing, and other creative arts. It is not used in any limited or restricted sense, or relating solely to a traditional 'scientific method'.

**Third Cycle Qualifications**

| Cycle | Knowledge and understanding: |
|---|---|
| 3 (Doctorate) | [includes] a systematic understanding of their field of study and mastery of the methods of research* associated with that field.. |
| | Applying knowledge and understanding: |
| 3 (Doctorate) | [is demonstrated by the] ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research* with scholarly integrity .. [is in the context of] a contribution that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work some of which merits national or international refereed publication .. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Making judgements: | |
| 3 (Doctorate) | [requires being] capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas.. | |
| | Communication | |
| 3 (Doctorate) | with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general (dialogue) about their areas of expertise (broad scope).. | |
| | Learning skills .. | |
| 3 (Doctorate) | expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement .. | |

## THESIS GRADING STANDARDS / CRITERIA

| CRITERIA | 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | Fail |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Research:Purpose 30% | Purpose is clear; original ideas | Clear thesis; some independent thought | Recognizable thesis but lacks of original, significant purpose | Contains thesis but purpose is not always clear | No clear purpose; often does not correctly respond to the assignment |
| Development 30% | Thesis is imaginatively, logically and precisely developed; analysis guides development | Examples support the thesis in an orderly and logical fashion; analysis predominates, but some descents into narrative | Adequate development; some evidence of analysis, but narrative guides development | Some development | No development |
| Organization 15% | Well organized; not mechanical or imposed | Clearly, logically organized; transitions are sometimes strained | Organized; predictable, mechanical sequence | Some evidence of organization; not clearly followed | No apparent principle of organization; no apparent rationale for paragraphing |
| Source materials 10% | References to materials are appropriate and significantly related to purpose | Most references to materials are appropriate and related to thesis | References to materials are appropriate but not always related to thesis | Few references to materials; references seldom related to thesis | No references to materials or references are irrelevant |
| Sentence Structure 5% | Sentences are varied in length and structure | Sentences are usually varied | Very few errors in sentence structure; some variation in length and structure | Errors in sentence structure; no variation in length and structure | Frequent sentence structure errors; some indicate a failure to understand the basic grammar of the sentence |
| Diction 5% | Concrete, specific words used correctly; diction is distinctive and mature; no colloquialisms, clichés or trite expressions | Word choice is generally accurate; writer goes beyond automatic word choices to more precise and effective choices | Word choice is generally correct; range of words is limited, and in some cases the wording is abstract and imprecise | Vague, ordinary words; relies on clichés and jargon | Words that should be within the range of college students are misused or confused |
| Grammar/ Mechanics 5% | Virtually free from grammatical/ mechanical errors | Generally correct mechanically; some problems with complex grammar and punctuation traps | Some errors in syntax, agreement, pronoun case and reference, spelling and punctuation | Sentence fragments and run-on sentences, and basic errors in syntax, agreement, reference, spelling and punctuation | Frequent misspellings, syntax errors, and other basic errors make comprehension difficult |

# ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

| Assessment Criteria | 4=Exceptional | 3=Strong | 2=Marginal | 1=Unacceptable | N/A | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PART I: Written Defence Draft** | | | | | | |
| 1. Mastery of fundamental knowledge in the field | Consistently applies fundamental and advanced concepts to topics in subject area. | Frequently applies fundamental and some advanced concepts to topics in subject area. | Somewhat applies fundamental concepts to topics in subject area. | Does not apply fundamental concepts to topics in subject area. | | |
| 2. Ability to access and integrate information into a cohesive overview of current knowledge; ability to critically evaluate the meaning, value, and contribution of published literature in the field | Command and understanding of the current research literature in the field. | Relates and understands the current research literature in the field. | Aware of the research literature in the field. | Knowledge is unrelated to the current research literature in the field. | | |
| 3. Imagination and originality of thought | Problem/purpose of study very creative or original with new and innovative ideas; Explored original topic and discovered new outcomes. | Problem/purpose of study original or creative; Design/approach appropriate or innovative. | Problem/purpose of study moderately original or creative; Design/approach moderately appropriate or innovative. | Problem/purpose of study lacked creativity or not new; Duplication of previous work. | | |
| 4. Ability to design and implement an appropriate collection and analysis of data or ability to articulate a critical response to dramatic or artistic theory, literature, design and performance in one's own work or that of another artist | Data interpretation is appropriate and creatively uses correct methodology; identifies weaknesses in interpretation; Demon-strates a an advanced ability to articulate a critical response to dramatic or artistic theory, literature, design and performance in one's own work or that of another artist | Data interpretation is appropriate and uses many correct methodology; identifies some weaknesses in interpretation Demonstrates a an ability to articulate a critical response to dramatic or artistic theory, literature, design and performance in one's own work or that of another artist | Data interpretation is appropriate and uses limited number of correct methodology; identifies no weaknesses in interpretation Demonstrates a an limited ability to articulate a critical response to dramatic or artistic theory, literature, design and performance in one's own work or that of another artist | Data interpretation is inappropriate and/or uses incorrect methodology; identifies no weaknesses in interpretation Demonstrates a lack of ability to articulate a critical response to dramatic or artistic theory, literature, design and performance in one's own work or that of another artist | | |

| Assessment Criteria | 4=Exceptional | 3=Strong | 2=Marginal | 1=Unacceptable | N/A | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. Ability to draw reasoned conclusions from a body of knowledge | Discussion was superior, accurate, and engaging; Conclusions/summaries and recommendations appropriate and clearly based on outcomes. | Discussion sufficient and with few errors; Greater foundation needed from past work in area; Conclusions/summary based on outcomes and appropriate, included some recommendations. | Major topics or concepts inaccurately described; Considerable relevant discussion missing; Conclusions/summary not entirely supported by findings/outcomes. | Little discussion of project findings/outcomes; Displayed poor grasp of material; Conclusion/ summary not supported by findings/outcomes. | | |
| 6. Impact of research on the field | Thesis or dissertation is very relevant or has significant importance/ authenticity to field and will make an important contribution to field. | Thesis or dissertation has fair relevance or significance/authenticity to field and will make a good contribution to field. | Thesis or dissertation only moderate relevance or significance/authenticity to field and will make a nominal contribution to field. | Thesis or dissertation has little relevance or significance/authenticity to field and will make little contribution to field. | | |
| **PART II: Oral Defence** | | | | | | |
| 7. Oral presentation and defence of thesis/dissertation | Masterfully defends research by providing clear and insightful answers to questions; Uses presentation resources as a guide, gives detailed explanations, is easily understandable, and keeps appropriate eye contact with the audience. | Competently defends research by providing very helpful answers to questions; may occasionally manifest need for further reflection on minor points; Uses presentation resources as a guide, is easily understandable, and keeps eye contact with the audience with the audience. | Adequately defends research; answers questions, but often with little insight; frequently shows a need for deeper reflection on minor points; Relies too much on presentation and has difficulty speaking freely to the audience, and is somewhat comfortable with the topic. | Does not adequately defend research; does not answer key questions; frequently shows a need for deeper reflection on vital points; Reads the material from presentation to make the report and is clearly not comfortable with the topic. | | |

# General Regulations
## Professional Doctorate "Dr."
## PhD Research Doctorate "Philosophiae Doctor"

International University programme of UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua provided as doctoral Degree-Programme

### § 1 Objective – Qualification

1) UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua (Managua, Nicaragua) – called „University" – conducts postgraduate and doctoral programmes for international students in distance learning mode.

2) The examinations and defences of dissertations (theses) before the examining committee are conducted in compliance with the provions of applicable Nicaraguan study laws and with the study and examination regulations of the university.

3) The examination and defence of the thesis are to prove, on the basis of his/her independent study and research in the given field of study, that the Applicant has gained a deeper insight in the wider basis of the discipline and is capable of acquiring latest theoretical and practical knowledge, s/he is also capable of creative and independent application of the gained knowledge and experiences in practice.

4) The examination and thesis defence are conducted in the subject field for which the admission has been approved by the University subject to the degree programme of the University in order to conduct examination and thesis defence.

5) The doctoral study programme is available to graduates of Master and postgraduate studies.

6) The distance learning study programme has asynchronous design aiming at the transfer and acquisition of knowledge at a high level of independent self-study and research. The opportunity of networking collaboration via the e-learning platform of the University provides practical integration for the participants of the programme, resulting in high-end theses.

7) The research findings gained in this programme qualify the alumni as specialists in their given study area.

### § 2 International Accreditation

Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN offers numerous recognised study areas and is reputed for its approach to international co-operations with universities abroad and for its international study offers as one of the most innovative universities in Nicaragua and the only fully recognised and autonomous university in Nicaragua with university status awarded by CNU National Council of Universities approval and chartered by Act of Parliament and Presidential Decree as private autonomous university. Institutional accreditation 2022 by the CNEA National Council of Evaluation and Accreditation. Accredited Member of CONIES-ICHE and CPD. Member of UDUAL and IAU.

Previous institutional accreditation from the United Kingdom government recognised Accreditation Service for International Colleges and Universities ASIC as "Premier University" (2013 – 2017).

### § 3 UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua

Nicaraguan higher education law is embedded in the principle of freedom of instruction, guaranteeing in Article 125 of the Nicaraguan Political Constitution full autonomy being implemented by Law no. 89 about the Autonomy of the Institutions of Higher Education (No. 89 [1]). The law 89 determines in Articles 7 and 9 that the institutions of higher education can award academic degrees. UCN is a fully autonomous accredited university with the unrestricted right to award certificates, diplomas, academic degrees and titles and to issue certificates of recognition and validation of

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[1] Ley de Autonomia de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, 89/1990, Kapitel II, Art. 7-9

studies on equivalent level, completed at other university or centres of higher education, domestic or abroad, entitled to recognise academic degrees, titles and diplomas awarded by foreign university, entitled to award professional rights, except for lawyers and notaries for whom, by law, the Supreme Court is in charge. Furthermore, UCN is entitled to establish relations with academic, scientific and cultural establishments located domestically or abroad. According to Article 82 of the Ley General de Educacion 2006[2] the explicitly mentioned „Doctorates" constitute – literally quoted –the „nationally and internationally fully recognised academic degrees" in Nicaragua.

The new law No. 1088 published on 27 October 2021 on the Recognition of Titles and Academic Degrees of Higher Education and Technical Higher Education regulates the official recognition of degrees by the Nicaraguan State as well as the form of awards of academic titles and degrees awarded by autonomous Universities authorised to award them and the creation of the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees.

The Institutions of Higher Education authorised to award titles and academic degrees in compliance with the corresponding laws are the only institutions empowered to emit and award these titles and academic degrees.

The State only recognises the following as academic degrees:

1 . At the undergraduate and graduate level:
   a) Higher Technician (Associate level)
   b) Licenciado, Physician (Medic), Architect, Engineer

2. At the postgraduate level:
   a) Specialist
   b) Master
   c) Doctor

The National Council of Universities CNU by approving the academic programmes or professional graduate degrees of the public, private and community universities has to determine the title and the level of the academic degree to be awarded.

Applicants must have a corresponding graduate degree in order to enroll in an academic postgraduate programme.

Students are entitled to be awarded the respective degree when meeing all requirements of the degree without requirement to attend a graduation ceremony.

All professionals can apply for the replacement of his degree to the awarding university or in case of dissolution of the university the National Council of Universities is in charge.

A National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees shall be created as a responsibility of the National Council of Universities CNU for the purpose of inscription, consulting, verification and certification of titles and academic degrees, awarded by the universities empowered to award titles and who have been recognised and incoroporated in conformity with this given law.

The CNU is in charge of administration and maintainance of the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees as well as for the approval of the technical norms regulating the management and the administrative, technical procedures and the security thereof.

All Register services are free of charge.

The universities empowered to award titles are obliged to enter in the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees the titles and academic degrees emitted and provide all information related to them, as required for the content.

It is the responsibility of the National Council of Universities CNU as a public entity to issue the certification of the registers of titles and academic degrees awarded by the universities empowered to award them.

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[2] Ley General de Educación, 382/2006, Art. 82

## § 4 Examining Committee

The University establishes an examining committee for the evaluation and examination of doctoral candidates (theses). Detailed provisions are given in §14.

## § 5 Study Areas

The study areas include:

- Administration (Business Administration, Public Administration)
- Economic and Social Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Psychology
- Education
- International Relations and International Law

## § 6 Master degree and Doctorates

The Master degree is the period of study and intermediate degree to the doctoral research programme.

The doctorates are differentiated as

- Professional Doctorates with the academic degree "Doctor en...", abbreviated „Dr."; and
- Research Doctorates with the academic degree „Philosphiae Doctor en …", abbreviated „Dr." or „PhD" in English.

## § 7 Workload and Structure of the Study Programme

1) The volume of the study programme is determined by the workload, given in SUCA créditos (in brackets: ECTS points).

2) The Master degree requires a minimum workload of 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points) with an admission level of 120 créditos (240 ECTS points) for doctorate. The Master level comprises a total of 10 semesters and a workload of 150 SUCA créditos (300 ECTS points).

3) The professional doctorate requires as thesis doctorate a workload of 60 SUCA créditos (120 ECTS points), to be achieved in the event of Applicants with 150 SUCA créditos (300 ECTS) on admission by thesis only; in the event of Applicants with 120 SUCA créditos (240 ECTS) on admission to be achieved by thesis of 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points) and by transfer of credits from positively completed postgraduate courses in the extent of 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points). This corresponds with a duration of 4 semesters. The accumulated minimum requirement for the professional doctorate is 180 SUCA créditos (360 ECTS points).

4) The research doctorate requires a workload of 90 SUCA créditos (180 ECTS points), to be achieved by thesis of 60 SUCA créditos (120 ECTS points) and by transfer of credits from positively completed postgraduate courses in the extent of 3 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points). This corresponds with a duration of 6 semesters. The accumulated minimum requirement for the research doctorate is 240 SUCA créditos (480 ECTS points).

## § 8 Admission

1) Applicants can be admitted to the asynchronic distance education programme throughout the year.

2) Admission Requirements:

a) Persons meeting the following requirements can be admitted to the Professional Doctorate: Completed university or college study programme of at least 8 semesters with no less than 120 SUCA créditos (240 ECTS points) from a diploma programme with a recognised university or college at level 2 (second cycle) and entitling for admission to doctoral programmes in the country of origin of the awarding institution; and a postgraduate master degree of at least 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points). (Master level)

b) Persons meeting the following requirements can be admitted to the Research Doctorate: Completed university or college study programme of at least 10 semesters with no less than 150 SUCA créditos (300 ECTS points) from a diploma programme with a recognised university or college at level 2 (second cycle) and entitling for admission to doctoral programmes in the country of origin of the awarding institution; or a postgraduate master degree of at least 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points). (MPhil level)

3) The admission-commission of the university rules on the grounds of the formal requirements and the application per single case and upon request of the Applicant according to available enrolments and tutoring capacities, as well as of the submitted research proposal for the thesis. The admission-commission can require an admission-test.

4) Application procedure and admission: Applications for admission to the respective doctoral programme must be submitted with the required documents (application form, curriculum vitae, proof of degrees earned and professional experiences gained, passport copy, passport photo). The admission-commission may require the submission of "original transcripts" directly from the awarding tertiary education institutions.

5) Persons who have been admitted to the programme and who have paid the programme tuitions and fees, will be admitted by the study department of the university as international students.


## § 9 Application

1) The Applicant submits his/her application to the admission-commission.

2) The application for the admission has to be submitted in a written form and the Applicant shall state in addition to his/her personal data the following:

a) the subject field in which s/he has obtained a university degree,

b) the subject field chosen for the thesis examination in line with these regulations,

c) the topic of the thesis,

d) the research project of the thesis.

3) The Applicant can choose the subject field in which s/he has completed university study or a related subject field.

4) The Applicant can suggest his/her own topic of the thesis.

5) The application for the thesis examination has to include the following enclosures:

a) the completely filled and signed application form,

b) copy of the Diploma and Diploma Supplement (transcript),

c) the graduate of a foreign university has to include the proof that the awarding institution is a recognised institution of higher education in the country of its origin, this requirement can be waived, however, if this fact is evident,

d) Curriculum Vitae of the Applicant,

e) copy of passport and copy of national identification document of the Applicant,

f) passport photo in colour.

6) The admission commission shall examine the application for the thesis examination and within 30 days from its delivery shall announce the decision to the Applicant in writing.

7) In the event the application complies with the requirements as stated in the Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5, the admission commission shall, according to available enrolments and tutoring capacities, confirm its acceptance in writing. The admission commission shall simultaneously notify the Applicant of the subjects which shall become part of the postgraduate specialisation as the wider basis of the discipline in the chosen subject field. (Admission Evaluation Report)

8) In the event the application does not comply with the requirements as stated in the Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5, the admission commission shall ask the Applicant to complete the missing data before the stated deadline.

## § 10 Transfer Credits

1) The evaluation of degrees and transfer-credits is subject to the provisions of UCN. In the international evaluation of credits UCN applies the full study year transfer-factors on the credits.

2) Total autonomous UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua offers the doctoral programme according to Nicaraguan study law. In evaluating degrees and transfer-credits UCN applies the standards in compliance with Article 9 Paragraph 2 of the Law no. 89 on the Autonomy of the Institutions of Higher Education[3].

3) 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points) earned in postgraduate specialisations or Master programmes must be transferred by Applicants with 120 SUCA créditos (240 ECTS) on admission into the curriculum of the Professional Doctorate, as far as they match the research topic of the chosen specialisation.

4) 30 SUCA créditos (60 ECTS points) earned in postgraduate specialisations or Master programmes must be transferred into the curriculum of the Research Doctorate, as far as they match the research topic of the chosen specialisation.

5) Credits can be accepted from coursework taken with recognised institutions of higher education, recognised degree programmes, or programmes validated by the University, or from course-work taken with the University at the postgraduate level, according to a study plan matching the chosen specialisation.

## § 11 Doctorate by Publication

A doctorate for scientific publications is possible in compliance with the exclusion clause of § 13 Paragraph 4, as far as this procedure is provided in the particular plans and programmes of study and the conditions thereof are regulated by these plans and programmes.

## § 12 Duration of Programme

1) The thesis examination programme starts with the confirmed acceptance of the application form by the admission-commission of the University and is becoming effective upon the payment of the non-refundable study-tuitions by the Applicant with the receipt of the payment by the University.

2) The thesis examination programme ends:

a) by the act of granting and awarding the academic title by the university,

b) by the decision of the examining committee that the Applicant did not meet the requirements including the retake options,

c) by delivering the written request to the examining committee to terminate the thesis examination,

d) by failing to complete thesis examination programme within the allowed retake options in compliance with the Letter b.

## § 13 Dissertation Thesis

1) The range of themes for theses, their extent and particulars, as well as the requirements for theses are announced by the University based on the proposals examining committee for the thesis examination.

2) A doctoral thesis is a monothematic work which brings about new findings, it is not a compilation of literature, as a rule it presents personal original research pursued by the Applicant.

3) In general, the thesis is written in Spanish language. An Applicant of different nationality or a foreign Applicant shall ask the admission commission for a possibility to write the thesis in a foreign language. In case of available language capacity the admission commission shall approve the request. A thesis written in a language other than Spanish or English shall include a summary written in Spanish or English language in extent of up to 10 pages.

According to available enrolments and tutoring capacities particularly the following study languages are approved: Spanish, English, German.

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[3] Ley de Autonomia de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, 89/1990

4) The use of Master-theses or doctoral theses having already been used for the award of an academic degree is not allowed. The Applicant cannot submit as a rigorous thesis his/her diploma thesis or any other qualification thesis, neither the work of a compilation character. The University can accept a prior dissertation and doctorate only for the purpose of revalidation of the degree in order to award the equivalent degree.

5) The Applicant submits to the examining committee the thesis. The thesis has to be written in text editor, printed and bound in hard cover. Upon request of the Applicant or order recommendation of the examination committee the submission of an electronic version is permitted. Two hardcopy editions of the thesis must be sent to the University.

6) To evaluate a thesis the examining committee nominates at least one staff member possessing the "assistant professor" or "professor" title or the academic title PhD, Dr. or an equivalent degree at doctoral level. The evaluator/s are appointed by the examining committee.

7) The evaluator first evaluates the methodological aspect of the thesis. In the event of the positive evaluation, the thesis shall be evaluated from a specialized, subject-specific perspective. Positive evaluations of the thesis are necessary preconditions for the invitation of the Applicant to the thesis defence and examination.

8) The nominated evaluator shall submit to the examining committee within 60 days from the delivery of the thesis to the evaluator the evaluation of the thesis in which s/he shall state if the thesis does or does not meet the requirements determined by the examining committee and this given study plan. In the evaluation the evaluator shall also present comments on the content of the thesis and, in conclusion of the evaluation, state if s/he does or does not recommend the thesis for the oral defence, or if s/he recommends to rewrite the thesis.

9) In the event that the evaluator does not recommend the thesis for the defence, the Applicant can rewrite the thesis and resubmit it for evaluation on the next deadline for theses submission as determined by the examining committee. If s/he fails to submit the thesis on the given deadline s/he shall be excluded from the registration of Applicants for examinations and thesis defences. The Applicant can ask the examining committee in writing for the extension of the thesis submission deadline not more than twice.

10) Within the six months from the thesis submission before the thesis examination the examining committee shall notify the Applicant in writing of the place, date and time of the online-examination and at the same time notify him/her the result of the evaluation of the thesis.

11) Precondition of the invitation to the thesis defence and examination is the positive evaluator evaluation.

**§ 14 Examining Committee**

1) The examination and thesis defence take place in front of the examining committee via video conference.

2) The right to act as examiners is granted only to university teachers occupying the posts of professors or assistant professors or other experts possessing at least the academic title PhD, Dr. or comparable qualification at doctoral level, approved by the University.

3) The committee is appointed by the University, the nominees are selected from the eligible staff members as stated in Paragraph 2.

4) The committee consists of a chairman and a minimum of two other members. An external evaluator is appointed.

5) As a general rule, the committee is appointed for a period until dismissal.

**§ 15 Examination and Defence of Thesis**

1) The examination can take place only when a chairman and a minimum of two other members are present online. The procedure of the examination is delivered by means of electronic tele-communications media (video-conference).

2) The examination is generally conducted in the language of the thesis.

3) The examination consists of two parts. It starts with the thesis presentation and defence and continues immediately by the oral examination by the examining committee. In defence of thesis the Applicant responds to the comments and answers the questions of the committee members.

4) The committee members vote upon the result of the examination in the non public part of the session on the day of the doctoral examination. The examination result is expressed in words as "passed" or "failed".

5) The examination procedure is recorded in writing. All documents including the notation and the evaluation are kept in the Archive in compliance with the valid regulations.

### § 16 Retaking Examinations

1) In the event the Applicant cannot take the online-examination on the given date and gives a written apology for his/her absence within seven days thereafter, the examining committee shall provide on the basis of Applicant's request and consultation with the committee chairman a substitute date for taking the examination.

2) In the event the Applicant fails to appear in the stipulated time for the online-examination without giving a written apology within seven days thereafter, s/he shall be evaluated as if s/he had "failed" in the examination.

3) In the event the Applicant failed in the defence of the thesis or in the oral examination, the examination can be repeated on the next date announced for the examinations; the examining committee shall determine the date of the repeated examination. The examining committee can permit two further repetitions of the examination.

### § 17 Academic Degree

1) In compliance with the provisions of the Ley de Autonomía de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, applicable to UCN in Nicaragua, after passing the examination of the thesis the following academic degrees are conferred:

By UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua:

- Professional Doctorate: Doctor en Administración de Empresas, abbreviated „Dr." (English diploma: DBA Doctorate in Business Administration)
- Research Doctorate: Philosophiae Doctor, abbreviated „Dr." or „PhD."

3) The doctoral degree of the fully autonomous UCN Universidad Central de Nicaragua, validating and offering the programme, is a fully recognised doctoral degree in the sense of Article 82 of the Ley General de Educación (Nicaragua) and Article 4 of the Law 1088 published on 27 October 2021 on the Recognition of Titles and Academic Degrees of Higher Education and Technical Higher Education, and legally awarded in compliance with Articles 7 and 9 of the Law 89 on Autonomy of the Institutions of Higher Education (Nicaragua).

### § 18 Distance Learning Mode

1) Notification: the International Doctoral Programme is a distance education programme only to be completed by means of electronic media of tele-communications and e-learning within the domain of the University in Nicaragua.

### § 19 Quality Assurance

1) Universidad Central de Nicaragua  UCN was founded in 1997 as a private, non-profit and authorized by the National University Council in session CNU No. 10-98 of 18. November 1998 and approved by the Assembly of the Republic Decree No. 2822 according to the Constitution of Nicaragua and the Law No. 89 on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education. Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is a fully autonomous Nicaraguan university participating in the mandatory programme of auto-evaluation and quality assurance of National Council of Evaluation and Accreditation CNEA in Nicaragua. All professional titles and academic degrees are recognised by the professional associations and public services; UCN in 2010 is again among the best university in

Central America and has been awarded by the Central American Coalition USA as „Exemplary Central American University 2010" in the United States of America. UCN wass internationally accredited by ASIC Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ENQA and CHEA listed), a UK government Home Office approved and recognised Accreditation Body: systems accreditation of UCN covers the range of educational establishments and courses as Premier University (2013-2017).

The programmes are accredited by CONIES-ICHE and CPD.

2) Written Assignments will be checked with a plagiarism-analysis-programme for authenticity.

3) Online-examinations are standardised „Computer-Marked-Assignments".

4) Written assignments and course-papers are „Tutor Marked Assignments".

5) Scientific articles and publications are subject to a „peer-review".

## § 20 Degree Recognition

The professional and research doctorates subject to these thesis guidelines are validated and approved as distance-education programmes of postgraduate study by Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN, and, therefore, all academic degrees and titles awarded by UCN are fully recognised in compliance with Articles 7 and 9 of the Nicaraguan Law 89 on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education in the sense of Article 82 of the Nicaraguan General Law of Education in combination with Article 4 of the Law 1088 published on 27 October 2021 on the Recognition of Titles and Academic Degrees of Higher Education and Technical Higher Education.

**Annex:**

**Higher Education System in Nicaragua**

Stages of Study:
Grados (graduate degrees) and Postgrados (Specialist, Master and Doctor)
University level first stage: Licenciatura
The Licenciatura is awarded after four to six years´ study, depending on the subject. A professional qualification is awarded after studies lasting five years in Engineering (Ingeniero) and Architecture (Arquitecto) and six years in Medicine (Doctor).
University level second stage: Maestría, Especialización
A Maestría is conferred after studies lasting for one to two years after the Licenciatura. Students must present a thesis. There are also postgraduate courses in various specialities in Medicine, Health Sciences, Law, Psychology, Education, Economics and Social Sciences.
University level third stage: Doctorado
A Doctorado is conferred after studies lasting for two to three years after the Maestría or graduate degree. Students must present a thesis. There are also doctoral research courses in various specialities including Business Administration, Education, Law, Psychology and Health Sciences.

**Nicaraguan Higher Education Legal Framework /Marco Legal de la Educacion Superior de Nicaragua**

**Quotation from Political Constitution of Nicaragua:**

Article 125

"Universities and Higher Technical Education Centers enjoy academic, financial, organizational and administrative autonomy, in accordance with the law.

They shall be exempt from all taxation and tax contributions, regional and municipal. Their assets and income shall not be subject to intervention, expropriation or seizure, unless the obligation is asserted, has its origin in civil contracts, commercial or labour.

Teachers, students and administrative workers are involved in university management.

Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres which by law must be funded by the state, will receive an annual contribution of 6% of the general budget of the Republic, which will be distributed in accordance with the law. The State may grant additional contributions for extraordinary expenses of such universities and centres of higher technical education.

It guarantees academic freedom. The State promotes and protects the free creation, research and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters, and ensures and protects intellectual property. "

**Quotations from the Law No. 89 on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education[1]**

Article 7. Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres legally constituted have legal personality. Consequently, they enjoy full capacity to acquire, manage, hold and dispose of property and rights of every kind; issuing academic and professional qualifications and incur obligations in connection with its purposes and shall be governed by this Act and its own Regulations and Statutes. The state will finance all Universities and Higher Technical Education, included in this Act.

Article 8. The Universities and Higher Technical Education in the country shall enjoy academic, financial, organizational and administrative autonomy understood as follows: 1. Teaching or academic autonomy: it implies that it alone can appoint and dismiss teachers and academic staff, through the procedures and requirements of the laws themselves, select their students, by evidence and necessary conditions to develop and approve plans and programs of study and research, etc. (...)

Article 9. Autonomy gives also the power to: 1. Enjoy its own assets. 2. Issue certificates of study, graduate letters, certificates, diplomas, academic degrees and titles and equivalency of studies conducted in other universities and higher education institutions, domestic or foreign. State universities have the authority to recognize academic degrees and diplomas and university diplomas issued abroad. 3. Authorize professional practice except advocacy and notary, which by law is the responsibility of the Supreme Court. 4. The inviolability of the university premises and campuses. The police can only enter them with written authorization from the competent university authorities. 5. Approve their statutes and regulations.

Article 10. Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres will maintain and develop relationships with academic, scientific and cultural institutions based inside or outside the country.

Article 11. Academic freedom is a fundamental principle of higher education in Nicaragua.

Article 12. Universities and private Higher Technical Education Centres shall have all such powers and authorities designate, as provided by its own statutes and regulations.

**Quotations from the General Law of Education No. 582[2]**

Higher education subsystem

Article 48: The Higher Education Subsystem is the second stage of the education system that consolidates the integral formation of persons, produces knowledge, develops research and innovation and trains professionals in the highest level of expertise and development in all fields of knowledge, art, culture, science and technology to meet the demands of society, ethnic community and contribute to the development and sustainability of the country.

University institutions are governed by Law 89 on Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education.

Article 82: The Centres or Institute for Studies and Research, will meet the needs of professional, scientific, social and economic interest of the nation, not intended to substitute in any case those colleges or universities, which according to current regulations also have the right to award titles themselves, studies of the Centres or Institutes for Studies and Research will include updating studies, postgraduate, specialization, master's or doctoral degrees, certificates whose diplomas, specialist, master's and doctoral enjoy full legal recognition nationally and internationally.

**Quotations from the Law No. 704 on Quality Assurance in Education[3]**

Section 6 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Act the following definitions: (...)

10. Institution of higher education: Entity legally established in the country, which aims to generate, disseminate and apply knowledge through teaching, research, and extension, authorized to grant academic or professional degrees (...)

13. Academic Programs: Educational offers oriented on granting academic or professional degrees at the levels of higher technical degree, licenciatura or engineer, specialist, doctor and others which qualify for the practice of a profession, (...)

[1] Ley No. 89 Ley de Autonomía de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, published in the Official Journal on April 20, 1990

[2] Ley General de Educación, Ley 582 de 2006

[3] Ley No. 704, LAW ON CREATION OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EDUCATION AND REGULATING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION - Law No. 704

# SUMARIO

Pág.

## EL PRESIDENTE DE LA
## REPÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA

A sus habitantes, hace saber:

Que,

## LA ASAMBLEA NACIONAL
## DE LA REPÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA

Ha ordenado lo siguiente:

## LA ASAMBLEA NACIONAL
## DE LA REPÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA

En uso de sus facultades,

**HA DICTADO**

La siguiente:

**LEY N°. 1088**

## LEY DE RECONOCIMIENTO DE TÍTULOS Y GRADOS ACADÉMICOS DE LA EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR Y TÉCNICO SUPERIOR

### CAPÍTULO I
### OBJETO Y ÁMBITO DE APLICACIÓN

**Artículo 1 Objeto**

La presente Ley tiene por objeto regular la forma de emisión de títulos y grados académicos otorgados por las Universidades, Centros de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitirlos y la creación del Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos, otorgados tanto a nivel nacional como en el extranjero.

**Artículo 2 Ámbito de aplicación**

Están sujetas a la aplicación de la presente Ley, todas las Instituciones de Educación Superior, públicas, privadas y comunitarias, legalmente establecidas y autorizadas por el Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), las de Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos y grados académicos y a todas las personas nacionales o extranjeras que soliciten el reconocimiento e incorporación nacional de títulos y grados académicos otorgados en el extranjero.

The new law no 1088 published on 27 October 2021 on the Recognition of Titles and Academic Degrees of Higher Education and Technical Higher Education regulates the form of awards of academic titles and degrees awarded by Universities authorised to award them and the creation of the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees.

## CAPÍTULO II
## EMISIÓN, CONTENIDO Y MEDIDAS DE
## SEGURIDAD DE TÍTULOS ACADÉMICOS

**Artículo 3 Facultad para emitir títulos y grados académicos**
Las Instituciones de Educación Superior, Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos y grados académicos, de conformidad con las leyes correspondientes, son las únicas facultadas para emitir y otorgar estos títulos y grados académicos.

**Artículo 4 Grados académicos**
Para los efectos legales de esta Ley el Estado solamente reconocerá como grados académicos los siguientes:

1. En el nivel del pregrado y el grado:

a) Técnico superior.
b) Licenciado, médico, arquitecto, ingeniero.

2. En el nivel de posgrado:

a) Especialista.
b) Máster.
c) Doctor.

El Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), al dictaminar los programas académicos o carreras de las Universidades públicas, privadas y comunitarias, deberá fijar el título y nivel de grado académico a otorgarse, según se dispone en este artículo.

Para iniciar un programa académico de posgrado, será requisito que el ciudadano interesado ostente el título de grado correspondiente.

The Institutions of Higher Education authorised to award titles and academic degrees in compliance with the corresponding laws are the only institutions empowered to emit and award these titles and academic degrees.
The State only recognises the following as academic degrees:
1 . At the undergraduate and graduate level:
   a) Higher Technician (Associate level)
   b) Licenciado, Physician (Medic), Architect, Engineer

2. At the postgraduate level:
a) Specialist
b) Master
c) Doctor

The National Coucil of Universities CNU by approving the academic programmes or professional graduate degrees of the public, private and community universities has to determine the title and the level of the academic degree to be awarded.

Applicants must have a corresponding graduate degree in order to enroll in an academic postgradute programme.

**Artículo 9 Derecho de Titulación para el grado académico**

Todo estudiante tiene derecho a que se le informe desde el inicio de sus estudios de grado, el Plan de Estudio y las formas de culminación de estos. Una vez egresado, tiene derecho a que la Universidad, Centro de Educación Técnica Superior e Institución facultada para emitir títulos, donde realizó sus estudios le emita y entregue el correspondiente título que lo acredita como profesional o técnico, cumpliendo con los requisitos académicos establecidos en dicho Plan de Estudio. El estudiante egresado no está obligado a participar en actos de promoción o graduación.

Las Universidades, Instituciones de Educación Superior o Centros de Educación Técnica Superior, podrán establecer un costo para la emisión o reposición de título de grado, el que no podrá exceder de mil quinientos córdobas (C$ 1,500.00), más los cobros o aranceles por derechos de graduación que no podrán exceder de la mitad del valor del título, siempre y cuando el estudiante desee participar en dicha graduación.

**Artículo 10 Reposición de títulos**

Todo profesional puede solicitar la reposición de su título a la Universidad, Centro de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos, de acuerdo a la normativa interna de cada entidad emisora.

En caso de extinción de la entidad emisora del título, su reposición estará a cargo de las Universidades Estatales. Para tal efecto el Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), emitirá la normativa pertinente.

Students are entitled to be awarded the respective degree when meeing all requirements of the degree without requirement to attend a graduation ceremony.

All professionals can apply for the replacement of his degree to the awarding university or in case of dissolution of the university the National Council of Universities is in charge.

## CAPÍTULO IV
## REGISTRO NACIONAL DE TÍTULOS Y GRADOS ACADÉMICOS

### Artículo 14 Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos

Créase el Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos, como una instancia del Consejo Nacional de Universidades y que tiene como fin la inscripción, consulta, verificación y certificación de títulos y grados académicos, emitidos por las Universidades, Centros de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos y los que hayan sido reconocidos e incorporados, de conformidad con la presente Ley.

### Artículo 15 Administración del Registro

Se faculta al Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU) para la administración y resguardo del Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos, así como para la aprobación de la normativa técnica que regule la gestión y los procedimientos administrativos, tecnológicos y de seguridad del mismo.

Todos los servicios que preste este Registro serán gratuitos.

### Artículo 16 Obligatoriedad de las Universidades, Instituciones de Educación Superior o Centros de Educación Técnica superior

Es de obligatorio cumplimiento para las Universidades, Centros de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos, inscribir en el Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos, los títulos y grados académicos que emite y proporcionar toda información relacionada con estos.

### Artículo 17 Contenido del Registro

Para los fines del Registro Nacional de Títulos y Grados Académicos, las Universidades, Centros de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitir títulos, deberán de proporcionar la siguiente información:

a) Nombres y apellidos del graduado.
b) Documento de identidad.
c) Año de Graduación.
d) Título y grado otorgado.
e) Institución emisora.
f) Número del Registro Académico, en el que se indique: libro, tomo, folio o página, según sea el caso, que le asignó la Universidad, Institución de Educación Superior o Centro de Educación Técnica Superior emisora.

g) Fecha de emisión del título o grado.
h) Plan de Estudio de la carrera o programa académico.

**Artículo 18 Certificación de títulos y grados académicos**
Es facultad del Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), como ente del Estado, extender la certificación de los registros de títulos y grados académicos, otorgados por las Universidades, Centros de Educación Técnica Superior e Instituciones facultadas para emitirlos.

A National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees shall be created as a responsibility of the National Council of Universities CNU for the purpose of inscription, consulting, verification and certification of titles and academic degrees, awarded by the universities empowered to award titles and who have been recognised and incoroporated in conformity with this given law.

The CNU is in charge of administration and maintainance of the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees as well as for the approval of the technical norms regulating the management and the administrative, technical procedures and the security thereof.

All Register services are free of charge.

The universities empowered to award titles are obliged to enter in the National Register of Titles and Academic Degrees the titles and academic degrees emitted and provide all information related to them, as required for the content.

It is the responsibility of the National Council of Universities CNU as a public entity to issue the certification of the registers of titles and academic degrees awarded by the universities empowered to award them.

# GUIDELINES AND FORMATS

# FOR

# RESEARCH PROPOSALS

# THESES, DISSERTATIONS, SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

# RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS (DISSERTATIONS)

# IMPACTS AND ASSESSMENTS

# 2022

February 2002

Dear Colleagues and Allies

Greetings

I share the following provisions according to the new updates of the requirements and laws concerning higher education in Nicaragua, such as the CNEA process and Law 1088.

New students from October 27, 2022, must present a legible scanned copy of their identity document (mandatory) from their country of origin, in addition to their current passport.

For students who completed the study plan of specialization, master, and doctorate (Ph.D.) and start the forms of the culmination of study (research or thesis), they must present:
1. Research proposal project
2. Final Report of the Research or Final Thesis

* Area or subarea of knowledge correspond to those in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

For Research proposal:

These Design formats of research proposal projects by area or sub-area of knowledge must be according to the CNEA Forms to the research approach, whether quantitative, qualitative, or Mixed, correspond to 5.1.1., 5.1.2. and 5.1.3 respectively:
1. CNEA Form No. 5.1.1 Design of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge.
2. CNEA Form No. 5.1.2 Design of research projects (qualitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge.
3. CNEA Form No. 5.1.3 Design of research projects (mixed approach) by area or subarea of knowledge.

For the Final Report of the Research or Final Thesis:

These Reports of research projects (thesis) by area or sub-area of knowledge must be according to the CNEA Forms to Report of research projects, whether quantitative, qualitative, or Mixed, correspond to 5.1.5., 5.1.6. and 5.1.7 respectively. Added to all those who want to publish a paper derived from the research project (thesis) as UCN in an indexed journal correspond to 5.1.9. forms:
1. CNEA Form No. 5.1.5 Report of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge.
2. CNEA Form No. 5.1.6 Report of research projects (qualitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge.
3. CNEA Form No. 5.1.7 Report of research projects (mixed approach) by area or subarea of knowledge.
4. CNEA Form No. 5.1.9 Report of research projects (scientific/research papers) by area or sub-area of knowledge

In short, after having fulfilled the academic requirements, the student must have a complete file:

1. Complete Entry Documents: Copy of Identity Card or official Identification; Passport with a minimum validity of 6 months; 2 (two) updated color passport size photographs; Copy of academic documents from previous university studies of an authorized university in order to be considered; Copy of Curriculum Vitae / Life Sheet; Include any information that is considered to be taken into account and can be translated into university credits, whether they are Honours, Major Awards, recognitions, etc.; Attach a letter addressed to the Admissions Office where the applicant sets out the reasons for entering the program. (This applies to master and doctoral programs) and fill out the application for national and international postgraduate and research programs at UCN

2. Study completion documents: Records and Transcripts; Research proposal project design with the approval to proceed with the research; Research project report (final thesis); attach in PDF format CNEA 5.2.1 A and B and 5.2.2 of Relevance of research projects (thesis), the relevance can be adapted to the reality of the locality where the research is carried out if it is outside the Republic of Nicaragua; signed the act of defence of the thesis and CV of members of the jury.

For Processing the issue and awarding the Diplomas, all the entry and completion documents must be completed and for the Diploma Photo please this must be also considered:

Photography feature.
1. Two recent color photos.
2. Degree Title size photo (4.5 cm wide x 6.5 cm high) in color.
3. White Background.
4. Printed on matte or photo paper (not instant or digital), properly trimmed.
5. From the front, serious face, the size of the face should measure (2.5 cm wide x 3 cm high) so that it is in proportion to the size of the photograph.
6. They must not be taken from other photographs.

WOMEN: Formal Attire (plain dark jacket and white blouse with no neckline), discreet makeup, bare forehead and ears, small earrings, no sunglasses or colored contacts.

MEN: Formal Attire (plain dark coat/jacket, white shirt, and plain tie), no long loose hair, bare forehead and ears, trimmed beard and/or mustache (lips must be visible), no sunglasses, no colored contacts.

Photographs that do not fully cover the aforementioned characteristics are not accepted. The photographs must be delivered in a bag or envelope that protects them. Write down with PENCIL your full name on the back of the envelope according to your identity card.

For the international programs, we can accept digital photos according to the feature mentioned, and at UCN the pics shall be printed on matte or photo paper to place on the Diploma.

*For photos and clothing, the cultural characteristics of the graduates will be respected

All this is according to the new requirements and law
Attached are all the CNEA forms to be considered as a guidelines

Any other questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards,

**_Lic. Danilo Avendaño M._**
Director de Relaciones Públicas e Internacionales
_Director of Public and International Affairs_
Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN
_http://www.ucn.edu.ni/_

| | | Form No .: 5.1.1. |
|---|---|---|
| Consejo Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación Nicaragua | Design of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge | Page 1 of 3 |
| Consejo Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación Nicaragua | Design of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge | Form No .: 5.1.1. Page 2 of 3 |

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

| Minimum elements of the research design structure (quantitative approach) presented | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(a)** | **(b)** | | **(c)** |
| **Elements of the research project** | **Fulfill** | | **Justification** |
| | **Yes** | **No** | |
| 1. **Cover sheet** | | | |
| 1.1. Heading | | | |
| 1.2. Authors | | | |
| 1.3. Advisers | | | |
| 1.4. Institutions | | | |
| 1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| **2. Introduction** | | | |
| **3. Chapter I. Research problem** | | | |
| 3.1. Problem formulation (Background and context of the problem) | | | |
| 3.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
| 3.3. Justification | | | |
| 3.4. Limitations | | | |
| 3.5. Hypothesis | | | |
| **4. Chapter II. Theoretical framework** | | | |
| 4.1. Literature review | | | |
| 4.2. State of the art | | | |
| 4.3. Theories and concepts assumed | | | |
| **5. Chapter III. Methodological design** | | | |
| 5.1. Research type | | | |
| 5.2. Population and sample | | | |
| 5.3. Variables (operationalization of variables) | | | |
| 5.4. Data collection techniques and instruments | | | |
| 5.5. Reliability and validity of the instruments | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.6. Data processing and information analysis | | | |
| **6. Chapter IV. Administrative aspects** | | | |
| 6.1. Schedule of activities | | | |
| 6.2. Resources: human, material and financial | | | |
| **7. References** | | | |
| **8.  Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

| | | Form No .: 5.1.1. |
| CNEA | Consejo Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación | Design of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area |
| Nicaragua | | of knowledge |
| | | Page 3 of 3 |

**Instructions** for filling in **Form No. 5.1.1 Design of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge**, the way of how it should be done is indicated.

**General Data**.

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Assessment of the structure of research projects (quantitative approach) presented**

Column (a) presents the elements that the structure of a research project must contain in relation to its cover, introduction, problem statement, theoretical framework, methodological design, administrative aspects, references, and annexes (appendix).

In column (b) "Fulfil", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether or not the project contains said elements.

In column (c) "Justification", justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b) or those that do not apply.

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA Code):

| Structure of research projects (qualitative approach) presented | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(a)** | **(b)** | | **(c)** |
| **Elements of the research project** | **Fulfill** | | **Justification** |
| | **Yes** | **No** | |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
| 1.1. Heading | | | |
| 1.2. Authors | | | |
| 1.3. Advisers | | | |
| 1.4. Institutions | | | |
| 1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| **2. Introduction** | | | |
| **3. Chapter I. Statement of the problem** | | | |
| 3.1. Identification of the research problem. (Background and context of the problem) | | | |
| 3.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
| 3.3. Core research question | | | |
| 3.4. Justification | | | |
| 3.5. Limitations | | | |
| 3.6. Basic assumptions | | | |
| 3.7. Entrance to the field. Definition of the study context | | | |
| 3.8. Context mapping | | | |
| **4. Chapter II. Theoretical perspective** | | | |
| 4.1. Literature review | | | |
| 4.2. State of the art | | | |
| 4.3. Theoretical perspective assumed | | | |
| **5. Chapter III. Methodology** | | | |
| 5.1. Assumed qualitative approach and its justification | | | |
| 5.2. Theoretical sample and study subjects | | | |
| 5.3. Data collection methods and techniques | | | |
| 5.4. Methods and techniques for data processing and information analysis | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.5. Quality criteria: credibility, reliability, confirmability, transferability and triangulation. | | | |
| 6. **Chapter IV. Administrative aspects** | | | |
| 6.1. Schedule of activities | | | |
| 6.2. Resources: human, material and financial | | | |
| **7. References** | | | |
| **8. Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in form No. 5.1.2 Design of research projects (qualitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge**, the following sections will be available
**General data**

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.
University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".
Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic centre, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university centre.
Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.
Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.
Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Assessment of the structure of research projects (qualitative approach) presented**
Column (a) "Elements of the research project" presents the elements that the structure of a research project must contain in relation to its cover, introduction, problem statement, theoretical perspective, methodology, administrative aspects, references, and annexes. (appendix).
In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether or not the project contains said elements.
In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.
Shaded cells should not be filled.

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN
Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES
Project's name:
Date of presentation:
Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

| Assessment of the structure of research projects (quantitative approach) presented | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **(a)** | **(b)** | | **(c)** |
| **Elements of the research project** | **Fulfill** | | **Justification** |
| | **Sí** | **No** | |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
|     1.1. Heading | | | |
|     1.2. Authors | | | |
|     1.3. Advisers | | | |
|     1.4. Institutions | | | |
|     1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| 2. **Introduction** | | | |
| 3. **Chapter I. Research problem** | | | |
|     3.1. Formulation of the problem (Background and context of the problem) | | | |
|     3.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
|     3.3. Research question | | | |
|     3.4. Justification | | | |
|     3.5. Limitations | | | |
|     3.6. Basic assumptions | | | |
|     3.7. Entrance to the field. Definition of the study context | | | |
|     3.8. Context mapping | | | |
| 4. **Chapter II. Theoretical framework** | | | |
|     4.1. Literature review | | | |
|     4.2. State of the art | | | |
|     4.3. Theoretical perspective assumed | | | |
|     4.4. Theories and concepts assumed | | | |
| 5. **Chapter III. Methodological design** | | | |
|     5.1. Mixed design type[4] | | | |
|     5.2. Quantitative perspective | | | |
|       5.2.1. Kind of investigation | | | |
|       5.2.2. Population and sample | | | |

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[4] The types of mixed designs are: sequential exploratory, sequential explanatory, sequential transformative, concurrent triangulation, sequential nesting, concurrent nesting, concurrent transformative, multiple integration (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2014)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.2.3. Variables (operationalization of variables) | | | |
| 5.2.4. Data collection techniques and instruments | | | |
| 5.2.5. Reliability and validity of the instruments | | | |
| 5.2.6. Data processing and information analysis | | | |
| 5.3. Qualitative perspective | | | |
| 5.3.1. Assumed qualitative approach and its justification. | | | |
| 5.3.2. Theoretical sample and study subjects | | | |
| 5.3.3. Data collection methods and techniques | | | |
| 5.3.4. Methods and techniques for data processing and information analysis | | | |
| 5.3.5. Quality criteria: credibility, reliability, confirmability, transferability and triangulation | | | |
| **6. Chapter IV. Administrative aspects** | | | |
| 6.1. Schedule of activities | | | |
| 6.2. Resources: human, material and financial | | | |
| **7. V. References** | | | |
| **8. VI. Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in the form No. 5.1.3 Design of research projects (mixed approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge,** the following sections will be available:

**General Data**.

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution:

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Assessment of the structure of research projects (mixed approach) presented**

Column (a) "Elements of the research project" lists the items that should be the objective of verification (the basic elements that a research project should have).

In column (b) "Compliant", an X will be marked in the corresponding column, yes or no, indicating whether or not the project contains said elements.

In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

**Research project report (quantitative approach):**

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minimum elements of the structure of the project report presented | Fullfill | Does not Filfull | Justification |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
| 1.1. Heading | | | |
| 1.2. Authors | | | |
| 1.3. Advisers | | | |
| 1.4. Institutions | | | |
| 1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| **2. Abstract** | | | |
| **3. Table of contents** | | | |
| **4. Index of tables** | | | |
| **5. Index of figures** | | | |
| **6. Introduction** | | | |
| 6.1. Background and context of the problem | | | |
| 6.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
| 6.3. Research questions | | | |
| 6.4. Justification | | | |
| 6.5. Limitations | | | |
| 6.6. Hypothesis | | | |
| 6.7. Variables | | | |
| 6.8. Contextual Framework | | | |
| **7. Theoretical framework** | | | |
| 7.1. State of the art | | | |
| 7.2. Theories and conceptualizations assumed | | | |
| **8. Methods (design)** | | | |
| 8.1. Kind of investigation | | | |
| 8.2. Population and sample selection | | | |
| 8.3. Data collection techniques and instruments used | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8.4. Reliability and validity of instruments (formulation and validation) | | | |
| 8.5. Procedures for data processing and analysis | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **9. Results** | | | |
| **10. Conclusions** | | | |
| **11. References** | | | |
| **12. Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in the form No. 5.1.5 Report of research projects (quantitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge,** the following sections will be available:

**General data:**

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Research project report (Quantitative approach)**

This section provides a table format that allows assessing the structure of the research project report (quantitative approach) developed by the institutions in the corresponding period from 2015 to 2020.

Column (a) "Minimum elements of the structure of the project report presented, the items that should be the objective of verification are listed.

In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether the project is consistent with the elements indicated and whether it identifies the types of beneficiaries mentioned.

In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.

Shaded cells should not be filled.

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

**Research project report (Qualitative approach):**

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Structure of the project report presented** | **Fullfill** | **Does not Filfull** | **Justification** |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
| 1.1. Heading | | | |
| 1.2. Authors | | | |
| 1.3. Advisers | | | |
| 1.4. Institutions | | | |
| 1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| 2. **Abstract** | | | |
| 3. **Table of contents** | | | |
| 4. **Index of tables** | | | |
| 5. **Index of figures** | | | |
| 6. **Introduction** | | | |
| 6.1. Background and context of the problem and Context of the investigation | | | |
| 6.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
| 6.3. Core research question | | | |
| 6.4. Justification | | | |
| 6.5. Limitations | | | |
| 6.6. Basic assumptions | | | |
| 6.7. Research categories, themes and emerging patterns | | | |
| 7. **Theoretical perspective** | | | |
| 7.1. State of the art | | | |
| 7.2. Theoretical perspective assumed | | | |
| 8. **Metodología** | | | |
| 8.1. Assumed qualitative approach and its justification. | | | |
| 8.2. Theoretical sample and study subjects | | | |
| 8.3. Data collection methods and techniques used | | | |
| 8.4. Quality criteria applied: credibility, reliability and triangulation | | | |
| 8.5. Methods and techniques for data processing and information analysis | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **9. Discussion of results or findings** | | | |
| **10. References** | | | |
| **11. Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in the form No. 5.1.6 Report of research projects (qualitative approach) by area or sub-area of knowledge,** the following sections will be available:

**General Data:**

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Research project report (Qualitative approach)**

This section provides a table format that allows assessing the structure of the research project report (qualitative approach) developed by the institutions in the corresponding period from 2015 to 2020.

Column (a) "Structure of the submitted project report" presents the elements that the report structure must contain.

In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether the project is consistent with the elements indicated and whether it identifies the types of beneficiaries mentioned.

In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.

Shaded cells should not be filled.

**General Data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

**Research project report (mixed approach)**

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Structure of the project report presented | Fullfill | Does not Filfull | Justification |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
|    1.1. Heading | | | |
|    1.2. Authors | | | |
|    1.3. Advisers | | | |
|    1.4. Institutions | | | |
|    1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| **2. Abstract** | | | |
| **3. Table of contents** | | | |
| **4. Index of tables** | | | |
| **5. Index of figures** | | | |
| **6. Introduction** | | | |
|    6.1. Background and context of the problem | | | |
|    6.2. Objectives (General and specific) | | | |
|    6.3. Research questions | | | |
|    6.4. Justification | | | |
|    6.5. Limitations | | | |
|    6.6. Variables | | | |
|    6.7. Research categories, themes and emerging patterns | | | |
|    6.8. Basic assumptions | | | |
|    6.9. Research context | | | |
| **7. Theoretical framework** | | | |
|    7.1. State of the art | | | |
|    7.2. Theoretical perspective assumed | | | |

| | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **8. Methods (design)** | | | |
|    8.1. Mixed design type [5] | | | |

---

[5] The types of mixed designs are: sequential exploratory, sequential explanatory, sequential transformative, concurrent triangulation, sequential nesting, concurrent nesting, concurrent transformative, multiple integration (Hernández Sampieri et al., 2014)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8.2. Quantitative perspective | | | |
| 8.2.1. Kind of investigation | | | |
| 8.2.2. Population and sample | | | |
| 8.2.3.  Variables  (operationalization of variables) | | | |
| 8.2.4. Data collection techniques and instruments | | | |
| 8.2.5. Reliability and validity of the instruments | | | |
| 8.2.6. Data processing and information analysis | | | |
| 8.3. Qualitative perspective | | | |
| 8.3.1. Qualitative approach assumed and its justification | | | |
| 8.3.2. Theoretical sample and study subjects | | | |
| 8.3.3. Data collection methods and techniques | | | |
| 8.3.4. Methods and techniques for data processing and information analysis | | | |
| 8.3.5. Quality criteria: credibility, reliability, confirmability, transferability and triangulation | | | |
| **9. Results or findings** | | | |
| **10. Discussion** | | | |
| **11. References** | | | |
| **12. Annexes or Appendices** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in the form No. 5.1.7 Report of research projects (mixed approach) by area or sub-areas of knowledge,** the following sections will be available:

**General data:**

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Research Project Report (Mixed Approach)**

This section provides a table format that allows identifying each of the research projects (mixed approach) developed by the institutions in the corresponding period from 2015 to 2020.

Column (a) "Structure of the submitted project report" presents the elements that the report structure must contain.

In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether the project is consistent with the elements indicated and whether it identifies the types of beneficiaries mentioned.

In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.

Shaded cells should not be filled

**Institution data**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

**Research project report (Scientific paper)**

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Structure of the project report presented (scientific papers) | Fulfill | Does not Fulfill | Justification |
| 1. **Cover page** | | | |
| 1.1. Heading | | | |
| 1.2. Authors | | | |
| 1.3. Advisers | | | |
| 1.4. Institutions | | | |
| 1.5. Date of presentation | | | |
| **2. Abstract** | | | |
| **3. Introduction:** | | | |
| 3.1. Research topic and problem | | | |
| 3.2. Nature and scope | | | |
| 3.3. objectives | | | |
| **4.** Framework | | | |
| 4.1. Historical references, conceptual and theoretical | | | |
| **5. Metodology** | | | |
| 5.1. Research type | | | |
| 5.2. Sample design | | | |
| 5.3. Methods and techniques | | | |
| 5.4. Analysis of data | | | |
| **6. Results** | | | |
| 6.1. Results obtained | | | |
| 6.2. Discussion and analysis of results | | | |
| **7. Conclusions.** | | | |
| **8. Bibliography** | | | |
| **9. Annexes** | | | |

**Instructions for filling in Form No. 5.1.9 Report of research projects (scientific articles) by area and sub-area of knowledge,** the following sections will be available:

**General data**.

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Research project report (scientific papers).**

This section provides a table format that allows identifying each of the research projects (scientific articles) developed by the institutions in the corresponding period from 2015 to 2020.

Column (a) "Structure of the submitted project report" presents the elements that the report structure must contain.

In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether the project is consistent with the elements indicated and whether it identifies the types of beneficiaries mentioned.

In column (c) "Justification", you can justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b), or those that do not apply.

Shaded cells should not be filled.

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN
Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES
Project's name:
Date of presentation:
Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assessment of the relevance of projects designed or executed | Fulfill | Does not Fulfill | Justification |
| A. The project is linked to: | | | |
| A.1. National Human Development Plan (PNDH) | | | |
| A.2. Municipal or communal plans | | | |
| A.3. Regional plans | | | |
| A.4. CONICYT guidelines | | | |
| TO 5. Local or regional development | | | |
| A.6. Science development | | | |
| B. The project identifies as beneficiaries: | | | |
| B.1. Public institutions | | | |
| B.2. Private institutions | | | |
| B.3. Communities of the region | | | |
| B.4. Local communities | | | |
| B.5. Others | | | |

**Instructions for filling out form No. 5.2.1. Relevance of research projects, at the central level and Campus,** indicates how it should be done.

**Genera data**.

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Assessment of the relevance of projects presented**

In column (a) "Assessment of the relevance of projects designed or executed", the aspects to be assessed are presented, which is carried out in two aspects, listed as A (link with social development) and B (beneficiaries), the Items A.1 - A.6 and B.1 - B.5 indicate the elements to be verified.

In column (b) "Compliant", it will be marked yes or no in the corresponding column, indicating if the project is consistent with the indicated elements and if it identifies the types of beneficiaries mentioned, more than one can be marked.

In column (c) "Justification", it will be put justify, argue or provide an explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b).

Shaded cells should not be filled.

**Institution**

University or Institution: UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

Campus: EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Project's name:

Date of presentation:

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code):

**Relevance of the research project carried out**

| (a) | (b) | | (c) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Assessment of the relevance of executed projects** | **Complies** | **Not complies** | **Justification** |
| **A. The results of the project express contributions to:** | | | |
| A.1. Systematization of theory or methodologies, according to area or sub-area of knowledge. | | | |
| A.2. Systematization of methodologies, according to area or sub-area of knowledge. | | | |
| A.3. Solution of problems of the country or of a particular community, according to area or sub-area of knowledge. | | | |
| A.4. Development of applied technology according to area or sub-area of knowledge. | | | |
| A.5. Theoretical development according to area or sub-area of knowledge. | | | |

**Instructions for filling in Form No. 5.2.2. Relevance of the research projects carried out,** the following sections will be available:

**General data**.

This section corresponds to the general information of the institution.

University or Institution, you must write the name of the university or institution of higher studies, example: "Universidad Paulo Freire".

Campus, corresponds to the name of the headquarters, campus, regional academic center, interdisciplinary faculty, campus or regional university center.

Project name, is the name or subject of the research project that the institution has or continues to execute in the period from 2015 to 2020.

Project submission date, the date the final report or research project was approved by the competent authority.

Knowledge area or sub-area (CNEA code), the code number that the CNEA has provided is indicated to identify the area and sub-area of knowledge corresponding to the research topic.

**Relevance of research projects carried out**

This section provides a table format that allows verifying the relevance of the research projects carried out by the institutions in the corresponding period from 2015 to 2020.

In column (a), "Assessment of the relevance of executed projects", this assessment is made based on the aspect, listed as A (project results), items A.1 - A.5 indicate the elements to be verified.

In column (b) "Compliant", the corresponding column will be marked yes or no, indicating whether the project expresses contributions to one or more elements mentioned.

In column (c) "Justification", put a justification, argument or explanation about the assessment indicated in column (b).

The shaded cell should not be filled.

# Accreditation Information

# Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN

is a fully recognised and autonomous university with central campus in Managua City. It was accredited in 1998 by the Consejo Nacional de Universidades CNU (the institutional accreditation agency in Nicaragua) and afterwards awarded the status of autonomy by Act of Parliament and Presidential Decree.

UCN is among the best Central American Universities and was awarded "Exemplary Central American University 2010" in the United States of America in 2011.

Internationally, UCN operates as a member of CONIES, the International Association of Higher Education, established in 2012 in Managua with several signatories of recognised universities worldwide.

Within Europe UCN offers specific programmes in the Management, Social and Economic sciences, Education and Psychology, International Relations and International Law study areas, also as inter-university dual degree programmes (trans-national collaborative provision).

**Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN**

**is a fully recognised and autonomous university according to Nicaraguan higher education law with autonomous degree awarding powers at all academic levels of carreras (professional graduate programmes) and postgraduate programmes (Specialist, Master, Doctor).**



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN participates in the mandatory national quality assurance programme with CNEA the national Council of Evaluation and Quality Assurance.



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN (Central University of Nicaragua) is an approved member of the International Association of Universities IAU. **Member Institutions** are universities or degree-conferring higher education institutions whose main objective is teaching and research. WHED number  IAU-017332



Listed as recognised university by
International Handbook of Recognised Universities

Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is a member of ODAEE **ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS PARA LA EXCELENCIA EDUCATIVA**



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is an accredited member of CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation and the postgraduate trans-national collaborative online programmes of UCN are accredited by CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation.



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is an accredited member of CPD Certification Service in the UK. The CPD Certification Service evaluate further learning activities to the highest standards. Hundreds of thousands of professionals recognise our CPD Certified symbol as the

qualitative benchmark that, not only reflects but also sets those standards. The CPD Certification Service supports the Continuing Professional Development policies of institutional and professional bodies on an increasingly international basis. Established in 1996, The CPD Certification Service is the largest and leading independent CPD accreditation organisation working across all industry sectors.

Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is a member of UDUAL

**In addition to the constitutionally protected status as recognised autonomous university in Nicaragua the Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN was accredited by ASIC with Premier Provider status** in order to demonstrate the commitment to quality and continuous improvement, whereby, accreditation is holistic-encompassing institutions in their entirety rather than particular courses, programmes or qualifications.



ASIC, Accreditation Service for International Colleges, based in the UK is a UK Government recognised Accreditation Body, a member of the British Quality Foundation (BQF), sits on the Quality Standards Group of UK NARIC, is listed in the international registry for the UK of CHEA, the US Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and is a national UK Affiliate of ENQA, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. ASIC inspections include an examination of the content and standard of the curriculum as well as the quality of its delivery to learners. ASIC also pays close attention to the consistency and reliability of assessment. However, it should be noted that ASIC neither confers nor validates degree-awarding powers. ASIC inspectors conducted thorough audits at the university in Nicaragua, including domestic and international programmes, and based on their fair evaluation report the ASIC commission has awarded Premier University status to our university.



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN obtained APPROVED CENTRE status by AABPS Accrediting and Assessment Bureau for Post Secondary Schools. A 2013 UK OFQUAL recognised awarding organisation.



Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is accredited as APPROVED CENTRE by EBMA Education for Business Managers and Administrators, a UK awarding organisation.

Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is a Signatory to the Earth Charter

Gobierno de Reconciliación
y Unidad Nacional
*El Pueblo, Presidente!*

NICARAGUA TRIUNFA!

2009: AÑO 30 DE
LA REVOLUCIÓN
*Viva Nicaragua Libre!*

Managua, 19 de febrero del 2009
DAL-DAG-0304-190209

Señores
**MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION**
República de Colombia
Su atención.-

Estimados señores:

Por solicitud de la Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN) por este medio hacemos constar, que al Ministerio de Educación de la República de Nicaragua, conforme el marco jurídico vigente de nuestro País, no le corresponde ni aprobar, ni supervisar a las instituciones de Educación Superior, es decir, Universidades Públicas o Privadas. De conformidad a la Ley No. 89 "Ley de Autonomía de las Instituciones de Educación Superior" del 5 de abril de 1990, estas funciones le corresponden al Consejo Nacional de Universidades CNU.

En consecuencia, es a este órgano del Estado, a quien se debe solicitar cualquier información de las entidades universitarias ya señaladas.

Sin otro particular, les saludo.

Atentamente,

**Delfina Arévalo González**
Directora de Asesoría Legal

Cc: Cro. Miguel De Castilla Urbina – Ministro
     Archivo

PODER
CIUDADANO
*Nicaragua
Gana con Vos!*

Ministerio de Educación
División de Asesoría Legal
Centro Cívico Camilo Ortega, Módulo "Q", Planta Alta •
Tel: 2650195 • Fax: 2653546 • http://www.mined.gob.ni

**Translation of Information by Ministry of Education (Nicaragua)**

Dear Sirs,

as requested by Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN) we hereby confirm that the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Nicaragua, in accordance with the valid legal framework of our country, is not in charge of neither approval nor supervision of the institutions of higher education, regardless, whether public or private.
In compliance with the Law 89 "Law on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education" of 5. April 1990, these functions are conferred on the National Council of Universities CNU.

Consequently, it is this organ of the state from which one must retrieve any information on the said university institutions.

www.cnu.edu.ni

WEBSITE LISTING OF UCN BY CNU

# CONSTANCIA

El suscrito Secretario Técnico del Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), hace constar que la **Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN), ha sido autorizada por el CNU, en sesión No. 10-98, el 18 de noviembre de 1998, y que según la ley 89 ley de autonomía de las instituciones de educación superior, le confiere entre otras potestades de expedir: certificados de estudio, cartas de egresados, constancias, diplomas, títulos de grado, Postgrados, Maestrías, Doctorados y educación en línea. Asimismo, emite equivalencias de estudios del mismo nivel realizados en otras universidades y centros de educación superior, nacional o extranjero. Promueve relaciones mediante convenios con entidades académicas, científicas y culturales con sede dentro o fuera del país.

De acuerdo con la ley 89, es una institución de educación superior legalmente establecida en el país que goza de personalidad jurídica propia, y se rige por la Constitución Política de la República, leyes y reglamentos que se refieren al subsistema de educación superior del país.

Dado en la ciudad de Managua, Nicaragua a los dieciséis días del mes de agosto del dos mil trece.

Atentamente,

Arturo Collado Maldonado
Secretario Técnico
Consejo Nacional de Universidades

**Translation of CNU Confirmation**

CONFIRMATION

The underwriting Technical Secretary of the National Council of Universities (CNU) herewith confirms, that the Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN) has been authorised by CNU, in the Session No. 10-98 dated 18. November 1998, and compliant with the Law Nr. 89, "Law on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education", it has been granted among other rights the following entitlements, to award: Certificates of Study, Statements of Studies, Confirmations, Diplomas and academic degrees, postgraduate degrees, Master and Doctor, as well as online education. Equally, to issue equivalencies of studies at the same level, conducted at other universities and higher education centres, nationally or abroad. It can establish relationships by means of conventions with academic, scientific and cultural entities with seat in the country of outside the country.

In compliance with the Law No. 89, it is an institution of higher education, legally established in the country, enjoying the full own juridical personality, regulated by the Political Constitution, the Laws and Decrees, related to the sub-system of higher education of the country

Arturo Collado Maldonado
Technical Secretary
National Council of Universities

# CNU
Consejo Nacional de Universidades

Cloud Bai- Yun
Chief Executive
UK NARIC
Oriel House, Oriel Road
Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1XP

El suscrito Secretario Técnico del Consejo Nacional de Universidades (CNU), hace constar que la **Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN)**, ha sido autorizada por el CNU, en sesión No. 10-98, el 18 de noviembre de 1998, y que según la ley 89 ley de autonomía de las instituciones de educación superior, le confiere entre otras potestades de expedir: certificados de estudio, cartas de egresados, constancias, diplomas, títulos de grado, Postgrados, Maestrías, Doctorados y educación en línea. Asimismo, emite equivalencias de estudios del mismo nivel realizados en otras universidades y centros de educación superior, nacional o extranjero. Promueve relaciones mediante convenios con entidades académicas, científicas y culturales con sede dentro o fuera del país.

De acuerdo con la ley 89, es una institución de educación superior legalmente establecida en el país que goza de personalidad jurídica propia, y se rige por la Constitución Política de la República, leyes y reglamentos que se refieren al subsistema de educación superior del país.

Dado en la ciudad de Managua, Nicaragua a los dieciséis días del mes de agosto del dos mil trece.

Atentamente,

Arturo Collado Maldonado
Secretario Técnico
Consejo Nacional de Universidades

Managua, Nicaragua september 17th de 2013

Cloud Bai – Yun
**Chief Executive**
**UK NARIC**
**Oriel House, Oriel Road**
**Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1XP**

Dear Ms. Bai – Yun:

I hereby refer Official Constancia (statement) National Council of Universities CNU, duly notarized (Notary Authentic Statement), with the respective legalization of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Apostille.

Also attached summary of the laws of the Higher Education System in the Republic of Nicaragua in fully establishing the degrees of Bachelor, Engineering, Architecture, Law, MD, Graduate, Masters and PhD (Dr. / PhD) are valid and the country's universities have the powers of provision and issue the respective diplomas or degrees.

Appreciating your kindness

Mirna Elizabeth Delgadillo Castro
**Public Notary**

# UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA

### Dirección de Relaciones Públicas e Internacionales

## *Higher Education System in Nicaragua*

### Stages of Study:

Grados (graduate degrees) and Postgrados (Specialist, Master and Doctor)

University level first stage: Licenciatura

The Licenciatura is awarded after four to six years´ study, depending on the Career. A professional qualification is awarded after studies lasting five years in Engineering (Ingeniero) and Architecture (Arquitecto) and six years in Medicine (Doctor).

University level second stage: Maestría, Especialización (Master Degree MSc, MA...)

A Maestría (Master Degree MSc, MA...) is conferred after studies lasting for one to two years after the Licenciatura. Students must present a thesis.

There are also postgraduate courses in various specialities in, Health Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Law, Psychology, Education, Economics and Social Sciences.

University level third stage: Doctorado (Dr./PhD)

A Doctorado (Dr./PhD) is conferred after studies lasting for two to three years after the Maestría (Master Degree MSc, MA...) or graduate degree. Students must present a thesis. There are also doctoral research courses in various specialities including Business Administration, Education, Law, Psychology and Health Sciences and others.

## Nicaraguan Higher Education Legal Framework
* All quotes are textual.
* Quotation from Political Constitution of Nicaragua:

Article 125

"Universities and Higher Technical Education Centers enjoy academic, financial, organizational and administrative autonomy, in accordance with the law.

They shall be exempt from all taxation and tax contributions, regional and municipal. Their assets and income shall not be subject to intervention, expropriation or seizure, unless the obligation is asserted, has its origin in civil contracts, commercial or labour.

Autorizada por el CNU en sesión No. 10-98, del 18 de Noviembre de 1998

UCN Recinto El Carmen, Reparto El Carmen, frente a Radio 580• Teléfonos: 2268-7144 / 2268-7145
Dir. Relaciones Públicas 2266-3364  • E-mail: dirrelpub@ucn.edu.ni - www.ucn.edu.ni

80

CONSEJO NACIONAL DE EVALUACIÓN Y ACREDITACIÓN DEL
SISTEMA EDUCATIVO NACIONAL

## CONSTANCIA

Por la presente se hace constar, que la **UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA (UCN)** presentó al Consejo Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación de la Educación el ocho de agosto de dos mil trece, su Proyecto de Autoevaluación Institucional en cumplimiento a lo establecido por la Ley 704.

Se extiende la presente a solicitud de parte interesada, en la ciudad de Managua, a los treinta días del mes de enero de dos mil catorce.

DR. ALFONSO VALLE GONZALEZ

Miembro Secretario

CNEA

CONSEJO NACIONAL DE EVALUACIÓN Y
ACREDITACIÓN DEL SISTEMA EDUCATIVO (CNEA)

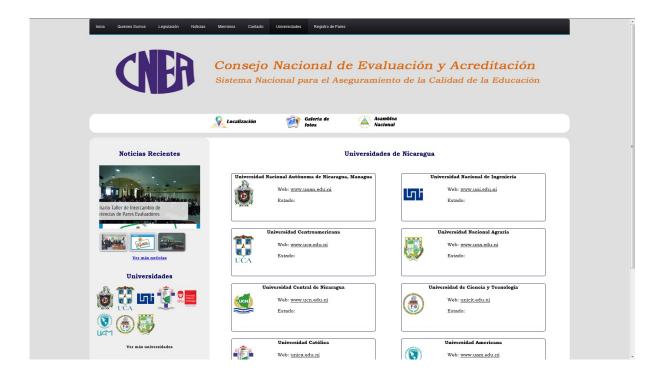**Translation of the CNEA confirmation**

CONFIRMATION

This is to confirm that Universidad Central de Nicaragua (UCN) presented to the National Council of Evaluation and Accreditation of education on 8. Aug. 2013 its Project of Institutional Auto-Evaluation in compliance with the requirements of Law 704.
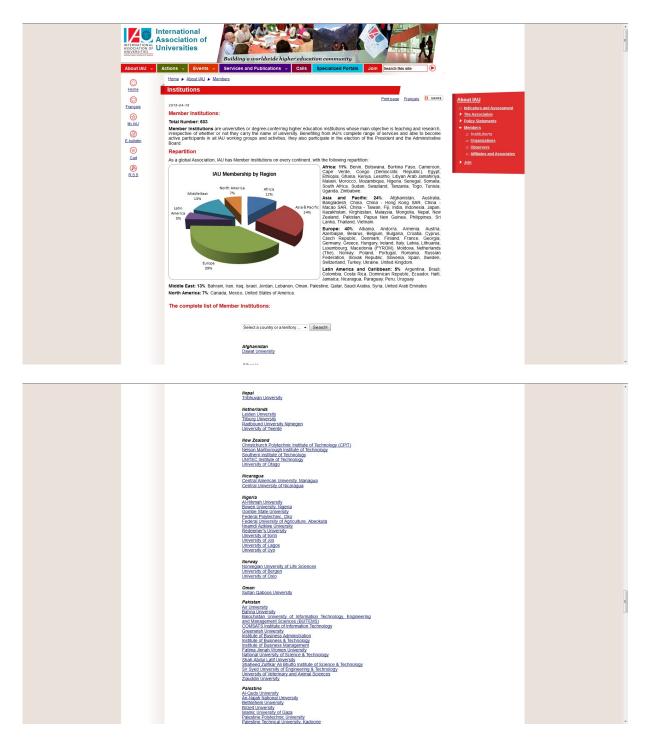
http://www.cnea.edu.ni

UCN listing on CNEA official website

[http://www.iau-aiu.net/content/institutions](http://www.iau-aiu.net/content/institutions)

UCN Listing as IAU Member

**CONIES CONFEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR**
**ICHE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
**COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SUPERVISION**

## CONIES BOARD OF ACCREDITATION
# PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION
## UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA UCN

### Programmes accredited by
### CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation

CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation validates and accredits the postgraduate qualifications and programmes

(i)     UCN (EQF Level 7) Master as accredited Master (MBA, MSc) degree programme;

(ii)    UCN (EQF Level 8) Doctor as accredited Doctor (Dr.) degree programme, in Management and Business Administration, Economics and Social Sciences, Psychology, Education, International Relations and Law, Health Sciences, Environmental Sciences.

The programme accreditation includes online distance education delivery. The transnational programmes have been accredited as stand-alone and as a collaborative provision with partner universities. UCN programmes are accredited as bona-fide postgraduate programmes meeting the CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation standards. Universidad Central de Nicaragua UCN is a fully autonomous recognised university enjoying the rights and degree awarding powers listed under WHED number  IAU-017332. UCN is approved by CNU, quality assurance audited by CNEA by law, awarded autonomy status by Charter Act of Parliament and Decree of the President. The accredited programmes and degrees are provided acc. Art. 7 and 9 Law 89 on the Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions and fully recogised by law; and in accordance with § 27 Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the previous approval for provision in Austria by Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency AQ Austria.  CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation is recognised by the Founding member universities of CONIES Confederación Internacional de Educación Súperior and not endorsed or recognised by any government agency or public accreditation body. The Board is acting in full independence from the founding member universities and the autonomy is reflected in the development of its assessment functions.

Certificate no.: CONIES-BOA-UCN-04112020
Accreditation period: 04.11.2020 – 04.11.2025– Extension Period: 18.01.2022 – 18.01.2027

CONIES-ICHE, founded at Conference in 2012 by international member Universities is devoted globally to enhancement of quality assurance in collaborative and transnational provision of postgraduate Master and Doctor programmes of recognised and authorised universities with degree awarding authority. The CONIES-ICHE Board of Accreditation does not accredit undergraduate programmes subject to regulatory authorities. CONIES Council on International Higher Education Supervision LLC. Delaware State File Number: 4154700. www.conies.org

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

This is to certify that

# UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA

Reparto el Carmen, Frente a Radio 580, Managua, Nicaragua 12042

is accredited by
Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC) as a

## PREMIER UNIVERSITY

Period of Accreditation: 16th September 2013 – 15th September 2017
Accreditation No: AS11157/0911

Universidad Central de Nicaragua has been awarded commendable grades in the following areas:

A.   Premises and Health & Safety            B.   Management and Staff Resources

C.   Learning and Teaching; Course Delivery   D.   Quality Assurance and Enhancement

G.   Marketing and Recruitment

Chairman                                Head of Accreditation

                                        02/10/2013

CEO                                     Date

ASIC House, 13 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3NJ
Tel: +44 (0)1740 617 920  Fax: +44 (0)1740 617 929  Web: www.asic.org.uk
E-mail: info@asic.org.uk

UCN ASIC Accreditation Certificate

# CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

This is to certify that

## UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE NICARAGUA

Semaforos del Zumen, 3 C. Abajo, 1 C. al Lago, Managua, Nicaragua 12079

is accredited by
Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC) as a

## PREMIER UNIVERSITY

Period of Accreditation: 16th September 2013 – 15th September 2017
Accreditation No: AS11157/0911

Universidad Central de Nicaragua has been awarded commendable grades in the following areas:

A. Premises and Health & Safety          B. Management and Staff Resources

C. Learning and Teaching; Course Delivery          D. Quality Assurance and Enhancement

G. Marketing and Recruitment

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Chairman

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CEO

*L Hammond*

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Head of Accreditation

08/04/2014
.......................................................
Date

ASIC House, 13 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3NJ
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