

## ***SUMMARY OF ORDER ECI/229/2006, of 20 January.***

### **1.1 OBJECT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The object of the Ministry of Education and Science's Order ECI/229/2006, of 20 January, whereby announcement is made of the award of the Quality Label (*Mención de Calidad*) recognition for doctoral studies at Spanish universities for the 2006-2007 academic year, is to award and renew the Quality Label recognition for doctoral studies at Spanish universities for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Doctoral studies are understood to be those carried out on application of Royal Order 56/2005, of 21 January, concerning regulation of recognised university postgraduate studies and those started in accordance with Royal Order 778/1998, of 30 April, concerning regulation of third cycle university studies, the award and issuing of the PhD degree and other postgraduate studies, until its expiry in accordance with the regulatory repeal of the above-mentioned Royal Order 56/2005.

### **1.2 PROCESSES OF ASSESSMENT/AUDIT/VALIDATION/RENEWAL**

1.2.1 The granting or renewal of the Quality Label for doctoral studies structured in accordance with Royal Order 778/1998 shall be carried out by way of the following processes:

- a. **Assessment** of the programme's scientific and technical level, together with its content and aims, of doctoral studies submitted for the first time to obtain the Quality Label.
- b. **Audit**, by way of the *in situ* verification of the information provided with the application that led to the granting of the Quality Label, which shall be carried out in the cases of renewal for doctoral studies that obtained the recognition in the 2005-2006 academic year and those for whom it was granted for the 2004-2005 academic year and did not apply for renewal for the 2005-2006 academic year or who did not obtain the renewal for said academic year.
- c. **Simple renewal**, once it has been verified that the same conditions have been maintained in which the Quality Label was granted. This shall apply to:

Doctoral studies that obtained the Quality Label for the 2004-2005 academic year and obtained renewal by way of audit for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Doctoral studies that obtained the Quality Label for the 2003-2004 academic year, those that obtained renewal by way of audit for the 2004-2005 academic year and did not apply for renewal for the 2005-2006 academic year, and those that did not

request renewal for the 2004-2005 academic year and were renewed by way of audit for the 2005-2006 academic year.

- d. **Validation**, which shall extend renewal for an extra academic year, following verification that the same conditions in which the Quality Label was granted have been maintained, together with the degree of compliance of the aims and the results deriving from the same. This shall be applied to doctoral studies that obtained the Quality Label for the 2003-2004 academic year, those that obtained renewal by way of audit for the 2004-2005 academic year and those that obtained renewal by way of a simplified procedure for the 2005-2006 academic year.

1.2.2 The granting or renewal of the Quality Label for doctoral studies structured in accordance with Royal Order 56/2005 shall be carried out by way of the following processes:

- a. **Assessment** of the programme's scientific and technical level, together with its content and aims, which shall apply to doctoral studies that do not form part of a doctoral programme with the Quality Label in force for the 2005/2006 academic year.
- b. **Simple renewal** for applications for the renewal of doctoral studies with the current Quality Label for the 2005/2006 academic year that start their expiry prior to the end of the 2006/2007 academic year to give way to doctoral studies adapted to the Royal Order 56/2005.

### **1.3 APPLICATION PROCEEDINGS, FORMALITIES AND RESOLUTION**

The procedure for obtaining the Quality Label recognition shall begin by the interested party making an application in the standard way. It is incumbent on the Directorate General for Universities to institute the proceedings and carry out the formalities. Once the Directorate General For Universities has duly registered the applications, they shall be sent to the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA), which will carry out the assessment, audit and validation processes according to the procedures posted on the ANECA website. These processes shall be carried out during April, May and June 2006.

In the case of assessment and validation, the ANECA shall draw up an interim report notifying the corresponding Vice Rector for the subject making the application, that, within a maximum period of fifteen days, the ANECA be informed of any disagreement, if there is any, concerning the assessments carried out, and provided with any relevant evidence and/or documentation.

Subsequent to the provisional assessment stage, the ANECA shall draw up an individual detailed report for each application. This report, which shall be sent to the Directorate General

for Universities, shall contain the comments on each assessment criterion stipulated in the order, together with the rating, and the total score obtained by the doctoral studies that have been assessed. The Directorate General for Universities shall notify the universities applying for the Quality Label of the result of these reports.

#### ***1.4 RECOGNITION OF THE QUALITY LABEL***

The Quality Label constitutes recognition of the scientific, technical and training trustworthiness of the doctoral studies, together with the groups and departments that are involved with the doctoral training. Award of the Quality Label is open to all public and private non-profit-making universities and entitles participation in a specific Ministry of Education and Science's grant award scheme.

Doctoral studies that obtain the Quality Label shall be included in a list of Quality PhD programmes at Spanish universities, which will be made public and constitute a benchmark for quality assurance to be used for the purposes specified in the call for applications. The Directorate General For Universities shall be responsible for publishing, disseminating and updating this.