In view of the French Code of Education, particularly Article L612-7;
In view of the French Code of Research, particularly Article L412-1;
In view of the Decree of 25 May 2016 implementing the national framework of educational requirements and procedures for the issuance of the national doctoral degree.

The preparation of a thesis is based on a freely entered agreement between the PhD student and the thesis supervisor, with the approval of the management of the research unit and the management of the doctoral school. This agreement covers the choice of subject and the working conditions required in order for the research to progress. Both thesis supervisors and PhD students thus have their respective highly demanding rights and duties.

This charter defines these reciprocal commitments, bearing in mind the ethical considerations behind the applicable regulatory provisions and practices, with due respect for the diversity of disciplines and establishments. Its aim is to guarantee a high scientific standard. The establishment thus undertakes to ensure that the principles it lays down are respected.

The charter is approved by the PhD student, the manager of the research unit and the thesis supervisors. Along with their thesis supervisors, PhD students sign the doctorate charter when they first register.

1 – THE THESIS, A STAGE IN A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PROJECT:

The preparation of a thesis constitutes research training through research and professional experience of research. It leads to the production of new knowledge. It must fit into the framework of a personal and professional project that is clearly defined by PhD students in terms of goals and criteria. It implies clarity in the goals pursued and the means implemented in order to achieve them.

Candidates must be informed of the academic and extra-academic work prospects in their field. The doctoral school, thesis supervisors or the Student Observatory provides candidates with national statistics on the prospects for young PhD graduates and information on the professional prospects of PhD graduates trained in their host laboratory. Similarly, at the end of their PhD course, the students undertake to answer all requests for information concerning their professional integration and progress over a period of four years. The Student Observatory will contact them for surveys, particularly one year and three years after they defend their theses.

Future thesis supervisors and the management of the doctoral school inform candidates of existing resources for thesis preparation (e.g. type of research funding, industrial contacts, grants) and the desirable minimum income for PhD students in France (€900). In order to carry out their research work in good conditions, PhD students must have sufficient resources to enable them to conduct the thesis work in the assigned three years period. If their finances come from a professional activity not directly linked to the thesis, it is imperative to ensure that the research work assigned to PhD students can be completed in a maximum period of six years, with due respect for the Doctoral Decree of 25 May 2016.

PhD students and thesis supervisors must comply with the rules governing thesis registration, student supervision, mandatory training, the conditions for filing and defending theses, and the provisions for mediation.
In order to extend their field of competence and their professional horizons and to promote their professional integration, PhD students must attend training during the thesis period. This training is validated by the doctoral school, along with any training outside the range of the doctoral school that is chosen with the approval of the thesis supervisor. The doctoral school ensures that each PhD student receives training in the ethics of research and scientific integrity.

As an exception to the rule, co-supervised theses, CIFRE-type theses and other special types of theses, the management of the doctoral school may exempt PhD students from attending all or part of their training during the thesis.

A record of training attended, validated by the doctoral school, is included in the portfolio established by PhD students; students must submit this document before they are admitted to defend their theses.

2 – SUBJECT, PREPARATION AND FEASIBILITY OF TESIS:

The subject of the thesis leads students to conduct work that is both original and formative that must be completed within the assigned time. The choice of thesis subject is based on the agreement between the PhD students and the thesis supervisors, which is formalized at the time of registration. Thesis supervisors are consulted for their known expertise in the research field in question in order to help the PhD students to reveal the innovative character of their research project in the scientific context and to vouch for its topical relevance; they must also ensure that the PhD students prove to have an innovative approach.

Thesis supervisors define and bring together the means required in order to carry out the work. The laboratory directors and thesis supervisors make sure the PhD students have the means to present their work at scientific meetings, particularly at a national and international level. The doctoral school contributes to financing the international mobility of PhD students. The thesis supervisors provide high quality guidance and ensure that the thesis work is conducted accordingly.

Future PhD students are informed of the number of ongoing theses being directed by their thesis supervisors. Their thesis supervisors undertake to devote a significant part of their time to the students. They undertake to be available as required and to devote a significant part of their time to supervising the thesis. It is essential to establish the principle of frequent and regular meetings along with the initial agreement. The PhD students commit themselves for a given period and work rate. They are duty-bound to inform their thesis supervisors of the progression of their theses and any difficulties encountered. They must show initiative in their research.

An individual supervisory committee for PhD students ensures that the course is followed in accordance with the doctorate charter and the PhD student training agreement. In the course of a yearly interview with PhD students, the committee evaluates their training conditions and the progression of their research projects. It formulates recommendations and sends a report on the interview to the management of the doctoral school, the PhD students and the thesis supervisors.

Thesis preparation requires PhD students to renew their registration in the establishment annually. The opinion of the individual supervisory committee will be required for the third registration.
In the event of non-renewal of the expected registration, following a reasoned opinion by the thesis supervisor or supervisors and the supervisory committee, the director of the doctoral school informs the PhD students of the reasoned opinion. PhD students may apply to the research commission of the academic council of the establishment for a second opinion.

3 – PHD STUDENTS IN THE HOST LABORATORY:

The subject of the PhD students’ theses must be consistent with the research choices of the host unit. The PhD students are fully-fledged members of the laboratory and, as such, subject to the same rules as all the teacher-researchers and researchers in the unit, particularly in terms of publications, communication, patents on inventions, thesis promotion and scientific ethics. The quality and impact of the thesis can be measured in terms of the publications or patents and industrial relationships resulting from the work, either from the thesis itself or from articles written during or after the preparation of the manuscript. The name of the PhD student must appear, at least as a co-author if not the principal author, if the publications derive directly from his/her research work. PhD students undertake to maintain the confidentiality of the research work conducted, notwithstanding any special authorisations or agreements. They have access to the means necessary in order to accomplish their research work (equipment, means, particularly IT, documentation, the option of attending seminars and conferences). The thesis supervisors and laboratory directors inform the PhD students concerning the organisation of the research unit (e.g. statutes, internal rules, unit council, representation of PhD students in these bodies, rules for hygiene and safety).

4 – MEANS OF RECOURSE TO MEDIATION:

Any persistent dispute between the PhD students and the thesis supervisors can be submitted to the director of the laboratory, who will make every effort to help the parties to find a solution. The PhD students, thesis supervisors and directors of the attached research unit can also have recourse to the management of the Doctoral School, which will organise mediation. The mediation group consists of the opposing parties, and two representatives of the council of the Doctoral School, including one representative of the PhD students. It listens to the parties and suggests an impartial solution.

Should the mediation fail, the PhD students, the thesis supervisors and the directors of the laboratories can apply to the manager of the establishment to ask the research committee to appoint new mediation. In the event of a second failure, the parties can apply to the manager of the establishment.

At Pau, date…………………………

The PhD student,  
Name and signature;

The thesis supervisor,  
Name and signature;