

IOSUD –WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA

INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

TIMIȘOARA

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The Council of Doctoral University Studies (CSUD)

Office for Doctoral Studies

Address: Strada Oituz 1, Timișoara, județul Timiș

Tel.: 0256 592 315

E-mail: doctorat@e-uvt.ro

Contact person:

Director of CSUD:

Prof. Dana Petcu, PhD

e-mail: dana.petcu@e-uvt.ro;

tel. 0256 592 270

1. General information

1.1. Institutional capacity of IOSUD

Foundation

The West University of Timișoara was established by Royal Decree-Law no. 660 of December 30, 1944 and operates uninterruptedly as an institution of higher education and emblematic research for the western region of Romania based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 999 of September 27, 1962¹, strengthened by Government Decision no. 458 of July 29, 1994².

The West University of Timișoara is an Organizing Institution for Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD - UVT) and operates as such based on the National Education Law (1/2001) and GD 681/2011 - Code of Doctoral University Studies. In fact, it is defined as such by the Charter of the West University of Timișoara which stipulates, in this sense: „UVT is the Organizing Institution of Doctoral University Studies (hereinafter referred to as IOSUD-UVT). IOSUD-UVT operates on the basis of the institutional regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies in UVT which is approved by the UVT Senate, in accordance with the law and the Code of doctoral studies.”³

Structure

The activity of IOSUD is coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), subordinated to the Board of Directors. The doctoral school is run by a doctoral school board. Within IOSUD there are 12 doctoral schools with 22 doctoral fields.

Evolution

The organization of doctoral research is one of the important components of the West University of Timișoara, having an institutional and historical relevance, in direct relation to the affirmation, in the 1970s, of the first generation of University professors, in the fields of Philology (Literature, respectively Language and Linguistics), Mathematics or Physics. After the 1990s, with the reorganization of the higher education system in Romania and, at the same time, in the conditions of unprecedented development of the university, in which new study specializations and, in turn, new faculties were organized, new doctoral specializations were opened. The economic fields (Finance, Economics, Accounting), Chemistry, Informatics, Visual Arts or History were added to the old doctoral specializations, joining them, one by one, Philosophy, Sociology, Management, Marketing and Geography. The newest fields are Political Science, Theater and Performing Arts, Sports Science and Physical Education, Education Sciences.

Mission

In accordance with the legislation in force, the doctoral university studies have the general mission to ensure the preparation in the third cycle of university studies which is completed by defending the doctoral thesis and granting the doctoral degree.

The IOSUD-UVT mission consists in ensuring the European level training of doctoral students, by institutionalizing a coherent, stable, unitary, permanent and sustainable system of attracting and guiding doctoral students in activities to deepen the topics of doctoral theses, in the form of scientific research, artistic creation or sports performance, as well as efficient public use of the results obtained.

The IOSUD-UVT mission refers to the ways, mechanisms, policies and resources through which a high level of training is achieved.

¹ <http://arhivelenationale.ro/site/download/inventare/Comitetul-Central-al-Partidului-Comunist-Roman.-Sectia-Cancelarie.-Hotarari-ale-Consiliului-de-Ministri.-1962.-Inv.-3248.pdf> (page 32)

² <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/5029>

³ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Carta-Universitatii-de-Vest-din-Timisoara.-HS-86-din-30.05.2019..pdf> (art. 38)

Vision

The vision regarding IOSUD-UVT refers to the target pursued by the design, organization, implementation and operation of doctoral schools and can be defined as follows: "UVT doctoral studies will be a valuable reference in scientific research, scientific creation and sports performance in Romania."

Level of quality certification

Certification is the activity of an authorized, independent institution or organization to determine, verify and certify in writing the conformity of an entity's quality (product, service or process) by confirming the superiority of all its features over a pre-established benchmark.

The default references for IOSUD-UVT are:

- national, by the qualitative criteria established by nationally recognized experts, more precisely by:
 - a. the quality criteria of the doctoral studies established by ARACIS,
 - b. the criteria established by the CNATDCU specialized commissions related to the doctoral supervisors, the habilitation theses and the doctoral theses,
 - c. the institutional performance criteria established by CNFIS
- international, by:
 - a. inclusion of UVT in international classifications related to research performance, artistic creation and sports performance
 - b. publications, awards, professional recognitions at international level of the graduates of the doctoral studies from UVT and of the doctoral supervisors from IOSUD-UVT.

This report is intended to provide evidence in support of the assertion that the IOSUD-UVT benchmark required at the national level by ARACIS experts is met.

Existing common resources (managerial, administrative, logistical and financial)

Managerial resources:

The persons involved in the management activity of IOSUD-UVT (CSUD, Doctoral School Directors, Doctoral School Councils) are:

1. PhD supervisors who carry out both the activity of guiding doctoral students and the activity of research / artistic creation / sports performance
2. PhD students with results recognized by the team
3. external UVT experts with significant professional activity.

The management activities are complementary to the basic activity, and the basic activities are those that give consistency and legitimacy to the managerial act.

Administrative resources:

The Office of Doctoral Studies (BSD) currently has three permanent staff who ensure the resolution of administrative and bureaucratic problems, such as student records, documents and scholarships, study contracts, communication, establishment and maintenance of the archive, correspondence, issuance of certificates or certificates, assistance technical support, statistics, etc⁴. BSD is entirely dedicated to IOSUD-UVT activities.

Other departments and offices that support IOSUD activity⁵:

- The Department of Scientific Research and University Creation supports the activities of IOSUD through regular information related to opportunities for institutional, national or international funding of doctoral activities.
- The Department of International Relations (DRI) assists in the activities of promoting the offer of doctoral studies of UVT, recruiting international students for doctoral studies, ERASMUS + mobilities, trips through collaboration agreements or establishing international partnerships.
- The Department of Human Resources (DRU) deals with the calculation and granting of salary rights for IOSUD-UVT staff.

⁴ https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Anexa-1_ROF_Biroul-Studiilor-Doctorale_ed-II.pdf

⁵ <https://www.uvt.ro/ro/organizare/organigrama/> (Structura organizatorică tehnico-administrativă)

- The Economic-Financial Department ensures the correct and efficient management of doctoral grants and doctoral fees, including the remuneration of guidance activities. Other activities relevant to IOSUD-UVT: development and implementation of equitable evaluation, remuneration and professional development systems; elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the processes of application of human resources policies, recruitment and selection, promotion and training, supervision of the observance of the discipline rules in UVT.
- The Department for Quality Management (DMC) performs the following activities: coordinating the activities of internal quality assessment in the teaching process at the level of all faculties and departments in UVT; monitoring compliance with quality standards in higher education developed by ARACIS; providing the necessary support and consultancy to all UVT study programs to be authorized, accredited or periodically evaluated by ARACIS. DMC deserves all cycles of education.
- The legal office assists in the elaboration of study contracts, regulations, methodologies, specific IOSUD-UVT procedures.
- The IT&C service provides support in the management of students, online platforms for admission, meetings, exams, electronic resources, training, posting announcements, updating web sites, etc.
- The Department of Communication, Image and Institutional Marketing deals with the dissemination in the press / social media / TV / institutional partners of information related to the activity of UVT, including IOSUD-UVT, the design of the official web pages of UVT.
- The Department of Heritage, Procurement and Investment Monitoring has the mission to support IOSUD-UVT in achieving the proposed objectives of ensuring appropriate logistical conditions for carrying out activities.
- The Department for Relations with the Social-Economic Environment and Alumni keeps track of graduates and ensures communication with them.
- The Career Counseling and Guidance Center provides counseling services for students.
- The Social Service manages and administers accommodation spaces that also benefit doctoral students.
- UVT Publishing House and Printing House offers the possibility to publish doctoral theses or studies related to doctorate or habilitation.

Logistic resources:

UVT has teaching spaces and offices, conference rooms that are used by both PhD supervisors and PhD students⁶. Details are provided in the evaluation reports of the fields of doctoral studies.

The doctoral studies office and the IOSUD thesis and documents archive are currently located on the UVT campus on Oituz Street. The UVT building on Paris Street, intended for doctoral studies and which had this functionality until recently, is being expanded (with an amphitheater) and renovated.

Access to electronic documentation resources is provided through the information platform⁷ (ANELIS+ project) and physical documentation resources through the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" Timișoara (BCUT)⁸.

Financial resources:

The main financial sources for carrying out IOSUD-UVT activities are the annual doctoral grants (financed by the Ministry of Education) and the fees associated with doctoral studies.

On January 1, 2020, the official data⁹ (CNFIS) indicated:

University (ref. date: Jan 1, 2020)	Doctorate					
	Total PhD students	From which:		Ratio budget/fee	% PhD students from total students	% PhD students from master's students
		Budget	Fee			
West University of Timisoara	616	272	344	0,79	4,10%	17,14%

⁶ <https://depami.uvt.ro/patrimoniu-uvt/spatii-de-invatamant/>

⁷ <https://www.e-nformation.ro/>

⁸ <http://www.bcut.ro/>

⁹ http://www.cnfis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SF_LMD-1ian2020_final.pdf

On 1 November, internal data indicated the next distribution of places according to the source of funding:

PhD students	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Romanians supported from the state budget	267	258	271	255	270
Romanians paying fees	225	212	231	264	296
Romanians across borders supported from the state budget	5	11	13	16	16
Romanians across borders paying fees	3	2	1	2	1
Roma students supported from the state budget		1	4	5	5
Foreigners supported from the state budget	5	7	3	3	1
Foreigners paying fees in national currency	7	8	5	6	5
Foreigners paying fees in foreign currency	70	66	37	45	39
TOTAL	582	566	565	596	633

To these main financial sources are added the non-reimbursable funds obtained through national competitions (PNIII programs, FDI for research) and European (H2020, structural funds) which include activities of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

The research, artistic creation and sports performance activity of UVT holders who are affiliated to doctoral schools is carried out both in the context of doctoral school in collaboration and guidance of doctoral students, but also in the basic activity as members of teaching departments or research grants. development-innovation.

1.2. Doctoral schools

Foundation

After the legislation, in Romania, of the concept of doctoral school, by Government Decision 567/2005 regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies¹⁰ and with the application of the frameworks of the Bologna Convention, these departmental structures were organized in the West University of Timișoara.

Evolution

Currently, the fields of doctoral studies operating within IOSUD-UVT are confirmed by a series of successive legislative documents, the first of which is Ministerial Order no. 5037 / 13.09.2013¹¹. By Government Decision 595/22.07.201¹² the following doctoral fields are confirmed: Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Geography, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management, Marketing, Law, Sociology, Philology, Philosophy, History, Psychology, Music, Visual Arts. Subsequently, the field of Political Sciences was confirmed by Order MENCS 5382 / 29.09.2016¹³. The most recent confirmed fields of doctoral studies are: Theater and performing arts (within the Doctoral School of Music) through OMEN 4209/31.07.2018¹⁴, Education Sciences (within the Doctoral School of Psychology) through OMEN 4154/23.07.2018¹⁵, the Science of Sport and Physical Education (within the Doctoral School of Psychology) through OMEN 5472/14.11.2018¹⁶.

Structure

IOSUD-UVT currently has 12 doctoral schools, as follows: Doctoral School of Arts, Doctoral School of Chemistry, Doctoral School of Law, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, Doctoral School of Physics, Doctoral School of Geography, Doctoral School of Computer Science, Doctoral School of Mathematics, Doctoral School of Music and Theater, Doctoral School of Psychology, Doctoral School of Sociology, Philosophy and Political Science, Doctoral School of Humanities.

¹⁰ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/62599>

¹¹ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/151536>

¹² <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/170336>

¹³ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/183674>

¹⁴ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/203651>

¹⁵ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/203542>

¹⁶ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/207319>

No.	Doctoral school	Fundamental field(s)	The field of doctoral university studies
1	Arts	Humanities and arts	Visual arts
2	Chemistry	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Chemistry
3	Law	Social Sciences	Law
4	Economics and Business Administration	Social Sciences	Accountancy
		Social Sciences	Economy
		Social Sciences	Finance
		Social Sciences	Management
		Social Sciences	Marketing
5	Physics	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Physics
6	Geography	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Geography
7	Computer science	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Computer science
8	Mathematics	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Mathematics
9	Music and Theater	Humanities and arts	Music
		Humanities and arts	Theater and performing arts
10	Psychology	Social Sciences	Psychology
		Social Sciences	Education sciences
		Social Sciences	Sports Science and Physical Education
11	Sociology, Philosophy and Political Sciences	Humanities and arts	Philosophy
		Social Sciences	Sociology
		Social Sciences	Political Sciences
12	Humanities	Humanities and arts	Philology
		Humanities and arts	History

Also, at the West University of Timișoara are currently affiliated 3 doctoral coordinators qualified in the field of doctoral studies Social Assistance (newly established specialization at national level as a doctoral specialization), the institution is currently starting a process of institutionalization of this field of doctoral studies. At the same time, 3 persons, full-time teachers in UVT, qualified in the field of Economic Informatics are affiliated to IOSUD-UVT without coordinating doctorates, waiting for the establishment of a new field of doctoral studies. A PhD supervisor in communication sciences is currently affiliated with the field of sociology.

Research mission

Each doctoral school has the mission expressed in the regulations of the doctoral schools (such as ^{17 18 19 20 21 22}), in the annual evaluation reports (such as ²³) and in the self-evaluation reports of the fields of study submitted to ARACIS that accompany this report.

For example, we mention the mission of the Doctoral School of Mathematics: the development of doctoral programs in the subdomains of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Interdisciplinary Mathematics.

Vision

The vision of the doctoral schools is aligned with the vision of IOSUD.

Level of quality certification

IOSUD-UVT and the doctoral schools aim at the acquisition by the doctoral students of a qualification of level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (CEC)²⁴ and of the National Qualifications Framework.

¹⁷ <https://arte.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulamentul-Scolii-Doctorale-2018-2019.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://www.cbg.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Reg-Doctorat-Chimie-2017-1.doc>

¹⁹ https://physics.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament_SDF.pdf

²⁰ <https://geografie.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament-Scoala-Doct-Geografie-2018-2019.pdf>

²¹ https://fsp.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/RegulamentSD_15012019.pdf

²² <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Anexa-4-Regulament-institutional-Scoala-Doctorala-de-Muzica.pdf>

²³ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Autoevaluare-Scoala-doctorala-de-Economie-si-Administrarea-Afacerilor.pdf>

²⁴ <https://europa.eu/europass/ro/european-qualifications-framework-eqf>

Specific measures for quality management and promotion of professional ethics and deontology implemented at the level of the doctoral school

For the implementation of measures related to quality, ethics and deontology, a set of regulations and procedures has been developed at IOSUD level and at the level of doctoral schools which are presented in this report in Chapter 2 (at IOSUD level) and in the self-assessment reports of each field of study.

Presentation of the human resource and the existing research infrastructure at the level of the doctoral school

The number of doctoral supervisors at the level of doctoral schools is as follows:

No.	Doctoral school	Study fields	Number of Phd supervisors
1	Arts	Visual arts	14
2	Chemistry	Chemistry	6
3	Law	Law	11
4	Economics and Business Administration	Accountancy, Economy, Finance, Management, Marketing	41
5	Physics	Physics	12
6	Geography	Geography	5
7	Computer science	Computer science	7
8	Mathematics	Mathematics	10
9	Music and Theater	Music, Theater and performing arts	12
10	Psychology	Psychology, Education sciences, Sports Science and Physical Education	17
11	Sociology, Philosophy and Political Sciences	Philosophy, Sociology, Political Sciences	22
12	Humanities	Philology, History	30

Presentation of the elements of educational effectiveness at the level of the doctoral school

The quality of doctoral theses at IOSUD-UVT is confirmed by their validation by the specialized commissions of CNATDCU in a percentage almost 100%, as will be presented in this report in Chapter 2, as well as by contributing to the international visibility of UVT through scientific publications indexed in Web of Science (5% of total WoS attendance of UVT is due to active PhD students in the period 2016-2020).

1.3. The fields of doctoral studies managed by the doctoral schools from IOSUD

Currently, within IOSUD-UVT, the following fields of doctoral studies operate, according to the legal frameworks:

Nr. crt.	Școala doctorală	Domeniul de studiu universitare de doctorat	Minister's order
1	Arts	Visual arts	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
2	Chemistry	Chemistry	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
3	Law	Law	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
4	Economics and Business Administration	Accountancy	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		Economy	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		Finance	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		Management	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		Marketing	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
5	Physics	Physics	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
6	Geography	Geography	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
7	Computer science	Computer science	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²

8	Mathematics	Mathematics	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
9	Music and Theater	Music	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	<i>OMEN 4209/31.07.2018¹⁴</i>
10	Psychology	Psychology	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		<i>Education sciences</i>	<i>OMEN 5472/14.11.2018¹⁶</i>
		<i>Sports Science and Physical Education</i>	<i>OMEN 4154/23.07.2018¹⁵</i>
11	Sociology, Philosophy and Political Sciences	Philosophy	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		Sociology	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		<i>Political Sciences</i>	<i>OMENCS 5382/29.09.2016¹³</i>
12	Humanities	Philology	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²
		History	HG 595 / 22.07.2015 ¹²

Note: In italics new fields (under 5 years).

The 22 fields of doctoral studies and the number of doctoral supervisors are:

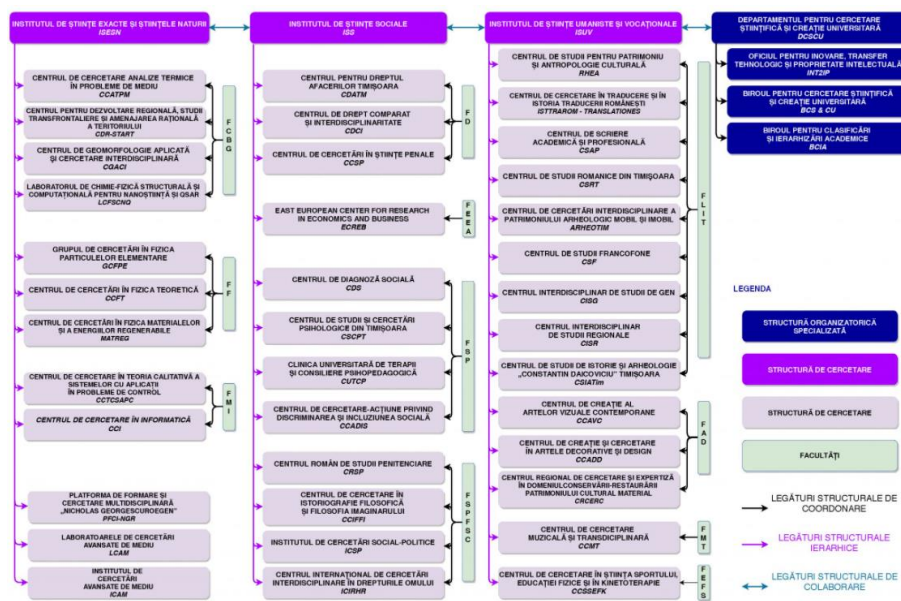
No.	The field of doctoral university studies	Nr. doctoral supervisors in the field of doctoral university studies
1	Visual arts	14
2	Chemistry	6
3	Accountancy	6
4	Law	11
5	Economy	6
6	Philology	24
7	Philosophy	5
8	Finance	17
9	Physics	12
10	Geography	5
11	Computer science	7
12	History	6
13	Management	9
14	Marketing	3
15	Mathematics	10
16	Music	8
17	Psychology	9
18	Sociology	13
19	<i>Sports science and physical education</i>	3
20	<i>Political sciences</i>	4
21	<i>Education sciences</i>	5
22	<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	4

Note: In italics new fields (under 5 years).

Research centers / laboratories

PhD students work in research centers, laboratories, artistic creation and sports performance and in teaching departments²⁵.

²⁵ <https://uvt.ro/ro/organizare/organigrama/>



Aprobat în Ședința Senatului din 29.01.2019.

The evolution of the number of doctoral students and the number of doctors in the last 5 years

The number of students has evolved in this way:

	Field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Visual arts	55	57	54	61	72
2	Chemistry	18	14	16	17	20
3	Accountancy	25	15	23	23	28
4	Law	64	66	66	65	67
5	Economy	13	16	13	14	15
6	Philology	78	88	81	77	76
7	Philosophy	26	21	19	21	22
8	Finance	37	32	24	24	21
9	Physics	19	19	17	18	16
10	Geography	18	14	17	17	20
11	Computer science	21	21	21	20	16
12	History	5	5	11	12	12
13	Management	56	55	42	53	53
14	Marketing	9	9	7	8	8
15	Mathematics	17	13	16	16	15
16	Music	20	29	31	32	35
17	Psychology	19	23	28	23	26
18	Sociology	58	52	50	50	50
19	Sports science and physical education			3	6	11
20	Political sciences				6	15
21	Education sciences	19	15	18	22	22
22	Theater and performing arts	5		8	11	13

Registration and title award have evolved as follows:

Field	Doctoral students registered in the year:				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visual arts	15	17	19	24	20
Chemistry	6	4	5	3	7
Accountancy	4	4	10	7	11
Law	19	16	21	16	12
Economy	6	4	2	5	3
Philology	29	20	27	17	21
Philosophy	6	5	6	6	4
Finance	10	7	4	6	5
Physics	6	6	6	7	5
Geography	4	4	8	4	3
Computer science	7	5	5	4	4
History	3	5	4	2	5
Management	14	13	11	9	8
Marketing	1	3	1	12	2
Mathematics	2	2	5	6	3
Music	12	9	15	11	14
Psychology	7	9	8	8	4
Sociology	16	7	13	12	12
<i>Sports science and physical education</i>	-	-	-	5	9
<i>Political sciences</i>	-	-	3	3	6
<i>Education sciences</i>	3	3	9	9	3
<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	0	0	0	0	3

Field	Number of students who obtained a doctorate				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visual arts	13	12	8	12	12
Chemistry	2	3	4	1	1
Accountancy	1	7	7	1	2
Law	4	5	7	7	7
Economy	2	3	2	1	5
Philology	5	23	14	11	15
Philosophy	0	7	6	3	3
Finance	1	10	3	1	3
Physics	4	4	4	4	3
Geography	1	4	5	2	3
Computer science	2	0	0	0	2
History	0	1	1	1	1
Management	2	10	7	9	6
Marketing	2	2	3	1	0
Mathematics	4	1	1	3	1
Music	0	0	0	1	9
Psychology	0	0	5	4	3
Sociology	1	2	2	14	8
<i>Sports science and physical education</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Political sciences</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Education sciences</i>	0	1	5	4	2
<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	0	0	0	0	0

Objectives and missions

They are exposed in the self-assessment reports of the fields of study that accompany this report and in the regulations of the doctoral schools (such as ^{26 27 28 29 30 31}).

Curricula

They are available online (e.g. ^{32 33 34 35 36}) and are presented in the self-assessment reports of the fields of study that accompany this self-assessment report.

The main scientific achievements

The scientific output of doctoral graduates in the period 2016-2020 registered in Web of Science (Core) is associated with 264 records. This number represents 5% of the number of UVT-affiliated WoS affiliations.

1.4. Operation of the internal quality assurance system at IOSUD level

Objectives and general structure of the internal quality assurance system

At the level of UVT there is, according to the legislation in force, a Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC^{37 38}) whose composition is approved by the University Senate, and at the level of each faculty of UVT there is a Commission for Quality Management (CMC, as well³⁹).

The operation of the CEAC is carried out with the operational support of the Quality Management Department (DMC). DMC⁴⁰ has as fundamental objective the promotion of a culture of quality in the West University of Timișoara by implementing ESG 2015 - Standards and Guidelines of the European Union for quality assurance in higher education.

Quality assurance policies and the definition of procedures, beneficiaries and their responsibilities

Quality assurance policies and strategies are implemented taking into account the UVT Quality Manual⁴¹, the UVT Quality Assurance Code⁴² and the UVT Institutional Development Strategy⁴³, involving all faculty and research members, as well as students.

Participation of staff, PhD students and external stakeholders in the quality assurance process

Teachers are involved in the processes of peer review and review of curricula, and students are involved in the process of evaluating teaching activities.

²⁶ <https://arte.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulamentul-Scolii-Doctorale-2018-2019.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.cbq.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Reg-Doctorat-Chimie-2017-1.doc>

²⁸ https://physics.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament_SDF.pdf

²⁹ <https://geografie.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament-Scoala-Doct-Geografie-2018-2019.pdf>

³⁰ https://fsp.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/RegulamentSD_15012019.pdf

³¹ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Anexa-4-Regulament-institutional-Scoala-Doctorala-de-Muzica.pdf>

³² <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Plan-de-%C3%AEnv%C4%83%C8%9B%C4%83m%C3%A2nt-2020-2021-%C8%98coala-Doctoral%C4%83-de-%C8%98tiin%C8%9Be-umaniste.pdf>

³³ https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Plan_invatamant_Sc.Doct_deMatematica.pdf

³⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Macheta-plan-invatamant.pdf>

³⁵ https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SDCH-UVT-Plan-Inv-Orar_2020-2021.pdf

³⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Plan-de-invatamant-2020-2021-Sociologie.pdf>

³⁷ <https://old.dmc.uvt.ro/sistemul-de-management-al-calitatii/comisia-pentru-evaluarea-si-asigurarea-calitatii-a-universitatii-de-vest-din-timisoara/>

³⁸ <https://senat.uvt.ro/ro/comisii/managementul-calitatii/>

³⁹ https://www.cbq.uvt.ro/old/regulamente/reg_CMC.pdf

⁴⁰ <https://dmc.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ROF-DMC-Editia-III.pdf>

⁴¹ <http://www.old.dmc.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/manualul-calitatii-principii-generale.pdf>

⁴² <https://drept.uvt.ro/administrare/files/1481035101-codul-de-asigurare-a-calitatii-in-uvt.-hs-50-din-27.11.2014..pdf>

⁴³ https://uvt.ro/cercetare/?jet_download=622

The evaluation of teachers and support staff by students is mandatory and takes place at the end of each semester, using an electronic platform to which all university students have access, guaranteeing the evaluator's confidentiality, based on a system procedure approved by the University Senate.

Self-assessment and management evaluation of teachers is carried out at the level of each department, currently UVT is developing an electronic platform that includes all four types of teacher evaluation: by students, college, self-assessment, by the director of the department / doctoral school.

The interaction between the quality assurance system and university management

The Department for Quality Management, through its employees, provides support and administrative support to the Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance (CEAC) which acts at institutional level in the UVT.

CEAC elaborates and coordinates the application of the procedures and activities of evaluation and quality assurance, approved by the UVT management.

Transparency and access to information specific to the internal quality assurance system for internal and external beneficiaries

The Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) at the UVT level prepares an annual internal evaluation report on how to implement the provisions of the quality policy program and the positive and negative aspects of internal quality assurance, including the information received. from the Commissions for Quality Management (CMC) at the level of the faculties.

The efficiency of the internal quality assurance procedures and structures and their impact on the activities within the doctoral studies

The CSUD director and the directors of the doctoral schools periodically make self-evaluation reports (e.g. ^{44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51}), which are presented to the CSUD and are subject to the approval of the Doctoral School Council. CSUD evaluates annually the efficiency of internal quality assurance procedures and structures, as well as their impact on activities in doctoral studies.

Use of information produced by the internal quality assurance system as a tool for quality management and for the improvement of education and other activities

The conclusions of the self-assessment quality reports at the level of doctoral schools are periodically analyzed within the CSUD to identify problems and subsequently solutions for continuous quality improvement at the level of doctoral schools by introducing or amending procedures and regulations.

Monitoring, evaluation and continuous development of the internal quality assurance system

Internal quality assurance at IOSUD UVT level and its monitoring is performed by:

1. Periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors
2. Periodic evaluation of the quality of the proposed doctoral study programs
3. Periodic evaluation of the quality of students' research activity,
4. Periodic evaluation of the quality of research results conducted by doctoral students.

⁴⁴ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Autoevaluare-activitatii-IOSUD-UVT-2016..pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Autoevaluare-Scoala-doctorala-de-Economie-si-Administrarea-Afacerilor.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Autoevaluare-Scoala-doctorala-de-SocioFilosofie-Stiinta.pdf>

⁴⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Autoevaluare-Scoala-doctorala-de-Drept.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Autoevaluare-scoala-doctorala-de-Stiinta-umaniste.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Raport-de-autoevaluare-SDM.pdf>

⁵⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dosar-Raport-Autoevaluare-Scoala-Doctorala-de-Muzica.pdf>

⁵¹ https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/AutoEval_SDPsi_feb2019.pdf

2. Information necessary to assess the fulfillment of the criteria, standards and performance indicators

FIELD A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

CRITERION A.1. Institutional, administrative, managerial structures and financial resources

STANDARD A.1.1. The organization organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the efficient functioning mechanisms provided in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of IOSUD, respectively of the doctoral school:

- a) internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulation of organization and development of the doctoral university studies, the regulations of the doctoral schools);
- b) the methodology of conducting the contest / elections at the CSUD level, respectively of the doctoral school, including the election by the students of the representatives in the CSUD / CSD, and evidence of their development;
- c) methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies);
- d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral supervisor and for equivalence of the doctorate obtained in other states;
- e) functional management structures [IOSUD / CSUD / Doctoral School Council (regularity of convening meetings)];
- f) the doctoral university contract;
- g) internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the topic of doctoral university study programs.

IOSUD-UVT has adopted, updated periodically, depending on the evolution of national regulations and based on the identification of typical problems in the functioning of doctoral studies, a series of regulations.

a) Internal regulations of the administrative structures (Institutional regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies / regulations of doctoral schools)

The general frameworks of the functioning of the doctoral studies within IOSUD-UVT are stipulated in two main documents: the Charter of the West University of Timișoara⁵² and the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of the doctoral studies⁵³.

The UVT Charter, as a statutory document of the university, meant to harmonize its mission and strategic objectives with the legislative framework in force, mentions and describes, specifically, a series of components of doctoral studies: Council of Doctoral Studies - CSUD, CSUD Director, Director of the doctoral school.

⁵² <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Carta-Universitatii-de-Vest-din-Timisoara.-HS-86-din-30.05.2019..pdf>

⁵³ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9925>

The entire activity of the doctoral schools within IOSUD, of the doctoral coordinators and of the doctoral students is subsumed to the mission of the West University of Timișoara, formulated as one of “advanced scientific research and education, generating and transferring knowledge to society”, through:

„ scientific research, development, innovation and technological transfer, through individual and collective creation, in the field of sciences, engineering sciences, letters, arts, by ensuring the performances and physical and sports development, as well as the capitalization and dissemination of their results; b) initial and continuous training, at university level, for the purpose of personal development, of the professional insertion of the individual and of the satisfaction of the skills needs of the socio-economic environment. UVT assumes its own mission as a catalyst for the development of Romanian society by creating an innovative and participatory environment for scientific research, learning and cultural-artistic creation, transferring skills and knowledge to the community through the education, research and consulting services it offers to the economic and socio-cultural partners.”

More precisely, the development of the activities within IOSUD-UVT is regulated by the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral university studies. The three editions of the institutional regulation were drafted in the legal frameworks in force, in compliance with the National Education Law 1/2011, respectively of HG681 Code of doctoral studies⁵⁴, with subsequent amendments, in force at the time of drafting the regulations. They establish the institutional framework for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (doctoral schools, governing bodies: CSUD, CSUD director, doctoral school councils, doctoral school directors), define the main actors in this process (doctoral students, doctoral supervisors), stipulate the conditions for admission to the doctorate, the staff of the doctoral research activity as well as the conditions for completing the doctoral university studies.

The institutional regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies is one that describes the general frameworks, main actors and documents necessary for doctoral studies, taking into account new legislative benchmarks (affiliation to doctoral schools, recognition of doctoral degrees / certificates obtained abroad , the conditions / criteria specific to the fields of doctoral studies / branches of sciences, etc.). At the same time, this regulation includes a series of recommendations related to the institutional strategies of the UVT as a whole, of the faculties or of the doctoral schools / fields of doctoral studies.

The regulations for the organization and functioning of the Doctoral Schools within IOSUD-UVT complete the institutional regulation with specific measures (e.g. ^{55 56 57 58 59 60}). The set of regulations from 2019 can be found in the archive at the address ⁶¹.

b) Methodologies for conducting the competition / elections at the CSUD level, respectively of the doctoral school, including the election by the students of the representatives in the CSUD / CSD, and evidence of their development

The West University of Timișoara regulated and specified the frameworks for organizing the elections of the governing bodies through specific regulations. Thus, in 2015, the Methodology on the election of management structures and positions of the West University of Timișoara for the 2016-2020 ter⁶² was developed. According to this methodology, the following positions were elective in UVT: member of CSUD (4 positions for which doctoral supervisors holding UVT holders can be nominated, being voted by all doctoral supervisors affiliated to UVT, holders in UVT), respectively 2 positions for each of the doctoral school boards (positions for which UVT-headed PhD supervisors who are affiliated to that doctoral school may apply; candidates are voted by all UVT-certified PhD supervisors affiliated to that doctoral school).

⁵⁴ <https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/fisiere%20articole/HG%20681-2011%20%28reactualizat%202016%29.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://arte.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulamentul-Scolii-Doctorale-2018-2019.pdf>

⁵⁶ <http://www.cbg.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Reg-Doctorat-Chimie-2017-1.doc>

⁵⁷ https://physics.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament_SDF.pdf

⁵⁸ <https://geografie.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Regulament-Scoala-Doct-Geografie-2018-2019.pdf>

⁵⁹ https://fsp.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/RegulamentSD_15012019.pdf

⁶⁰ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Anexa-4-Regulament-institutional-Scoala-Doctorala-de-Muzica.pdf>

⁶¹ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Regulamentele-scolilor-doctorale-din-cadrul-IOSUD-UVT-editia-I.-HS-73-din-29.01.2019..rar>

⁶² <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/files/edb58eff17cad17453c8e68bbadcf9674bcc462f/>

Based on this methodology, the West University of Timișoara organized several rounds of by-elections, given that some elective functions / positions were vacated, including for positions of member of doctoral school boards (the whole process is documented for the 2016 term- 2020 la ⁶³).

UVT organized in 2016 an international public competition in order to occupy the position of CSUD Director, according to the national legislation in force. The competition was conducted based on the Methodology for organizing the competition for the position of Director of the Council of Doctoral Studies at the West University of Timișoara for the 2016-2020 term ⁶⁴, a methodology that specified the legislative frameworks of the competition, its stages and schedule, conditions which must be completed by the candidates as well as the documents required for the application files.

The elections for the period 2020-2024 are documented at ⁶⁵. The competition for the position of CSUD director was organized similarly to 2016 in July 2020, based on the updated methodology ⁶⁶. Ads are available at ⁶⁷, and the candidates' results are available at ⁶⁸.

The election of students in the management structures of CSUD, respectively in the councils of doctoral schools is regulated by special, specific documents, intended for the organization of student elections within UVT⁶⁹. Student elections take place annually, in accordance with a specific schedule, announced by student organizations within the UVT.

c) Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (specific methodologies regarding the admission to doctoral studies / completion of doctoral studies)

The development of the doctoral university studies within IOSUD-UVT is regulated by a series of methodologies and regulations, which detail and make explicit the institutional regulation regarding the organization and development of the doctoral university studies..

Thus, the CSUD annually discusses the frameworks for the admission of doctoral students to studies, proposing customized admission methodologies (for example for the 2020 admission:⁷⁰). These methodologies are in accordance with the national methodologies of the Ministry of National Education, respectively with the Methodologies for admission to studies of Romanian candidates everywhere. Based on the general admission methodologies, discussed in CSUD, endorsed by the Board of Directors of UVT and approved by decision of the University Senate, doctoral schools compose their own admission methodologies, which are specific depending on the particularities of science / arts (such as ^{71 7273 74}). Admission to doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT is carried out in conditions of transparency, with the dissemination of useful information for enrollment. Thus, on the website www.doctorat.uvt.ro are announced the available places and their type (frequency / reduced frequency; budget with scholarship / budget without scholarship / own funding) as well as the distribution of places on doctoral schools and fields of university studies doctorate (as at the last admission ⁷⁵). In 2020, admission took place online using the platform admitere.uvt.ro.

IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for completing doctoral studies (Methodology on organizing and conducting the process of defending doctoral theses within UVT⁷⁶). Drafted based on national legislation and

⁶³ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/arhiva-alegeri-2016-2020/>

⁶⁴ <https://senat.uvt.ro/files/f259155310303f0a07f93c1c9b34cd089e8fa9a9/>

⁶⁵ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/alegeri-2020-2024/>

⁶⁶ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/files/9162a37dadd7f5acc52055e62b6eaa434e0bb3f1/>

⁶⁷ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/search/Director%20CSUD/>

⁶⁸ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/files/5f4034e579f672b0d365104031fa2479234f695d/>

⁶⁹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12dLUzVfhi1JD6nWijmhsYXJEh2H84IX/view?usp=sharing>

⁷⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-online-doctorat-2020.editia-I.pdf>

⁷¹ https://arte.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Metodologie-admitere-doctorat_domeniul-ARTE-VIZUALE_SDA-2020.pdf

⁷² <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Metodologie-admitere-2018-2019-Scoala-doctorala-Chimie.pdf>

⁷³ <https://drept.uvt.ro/administrare/files/1594761868-uvt-fd-metodologieadmiteredoctorat-2020.pdf>

⁷⁴ https://www.info.uvt.ro/others/all/Metodologie_admitere_SDM_2020_2021_v1.pdf

⁷⁵ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8818>

⁷⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Metodologie-privind-organizarea-%C5%9Fi-desf%C4%83%C5%9Furarea-procesului-de-sus%C8%9Binere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat.pdf>

compliant with national doctoral validation platforms (Integrated Educational Register - REI and Single Matriculation Register - RMU), these procedures include information on the stages prior to defending the doctoral thesis and the conditions for defending it. The development of all these procedures is meant to ensure conditions of total exigency and transparency regarding the doctoral theses. Thus, IOSUD-UVT gradually follows the steps of verifying the similarity of doctoral theses, without transforming this technical procedure into a substitute for discussions between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student. In fact, IOSUD-UVT has never imposed on its PhD students a percentage of similarity (recommended in the current regulation not to exceed 10% including self-citations), considering that it is not the figure that is important, but the effective analysis of similarity. At the same time, each similarity analysis report made using the Ithenticate software is accompanied by the written opinion of the doctoral coordinator, which confirms the acceptability of the thesis. This procedure is considered essential in the IOSUD-UVT, as the coordinator's opinion confirms that the similarity is purely mechanical (broad titles, names of institutions, names of documents and normative acts, formulations entered into the common use of the language of a certain discipline, etc. .) and one cannot talk about fraudulent taking over of comments belonging to other authors or taking over ideas, in other words, one cannot talk about plagiarism. At the same time, the procedures for public defense of the doctoral thesis specify the situations in which the summary of the doctoral thesis / thesis in full format are made public and are accessible before the public defense. Thus, the doctoral thesis (in physical format) is available at the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" 20 days before the public defense, while the abstract of the thesis is available online⁷⁷. In 2020, the presentations took place online according to a specific procedure⁷⁸.

d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral supervisor and for equivalence of the doctorate obtained abroad

Starting with 2017, implementing the national regulations, IOSUD-UVT described through internal methodologies and procedures the recognition of the quality of doctoral coordinator, based on certifications obtained in foreign universities, through the Methodology on automatic recognition, by UVT, of quality of doctoral degree obtained in accredited university institutions from abroad⁷⁹, as well as the recognition of doctoral degrees in science obtained abroad, through the Methodology on the recognition by UVT of the doctoral degree and doctoral degree in science or in a professional field obtained in university institutions accredited from abroad⁸⁰.

Although the number of applications in this regard was not very high, the application of these procedures led to the recognition of the title of doctor of science for 4 people, young researchers who studied abroad and who chose to apply for research or teaching positions within West University of Timisoara. At the same time, 7 qualifications obtained abroad were recognized, especially in order to co-opt doctoral supervisors from abroad in the doctoral schools from IOSUD - UVT, in order to internationalize the doctoral studies.

e) functional management structures: CSUD

IOSUD-UVT is coordinated by a Council of Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), elected according to the Romanian legislation in force and according to the regulations mentioned above.

CSUD was composed, in the period 2016-2020 of:

CSUD director: Prof. dr. Otilia HEDEȘAN,

CSUD members:

Prof. dr. Bogdan DIMA – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Prof. dr. Iosif MĂLĂESCU – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Prof. dr. Eleonora RINGLER-PASCU – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Prof. dr. Silviu ROGOBETE – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Prof. dr. Adina-Luminița SASU – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara
Prof. dr. Alin SAVA – Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara

⁷⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=46>

⁷⁸ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Procedura-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-sustinere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-UVT-in-varianta-online-editia-a-II-a.-HS-25-din-22.10.2020.pdf>

⁷⁹ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/files/c910eee42a7e44acb61dad931144f7e9e1c527c9/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Metodologia-privind-recunoasterea-in-cadrul-UVT-a-diplomei-de-doctor-si-a-titlului-de-doctor-in-stiinte-sau-intr-un-domeniu-profesional-obtinue-in-institutiile-de-invatamant-superior-acreditate-din-s.pdf>

Student: Oana Alexandra Toda

Student: Roxana Elena Sichitiu

External members:

Prof. Dr. Bruno Mazzone – Università degli Studi di Pisa, Italia

Prof. Dr. Virgil Băran – Universitatea din București

As of July 2020, the Director and internal members are:

CSUD director: Prof. univ. dr. Dana PETCU

CSUD members:

Prof. dr. Adriana LUCACIU

Prof. dr. Marius PAULESCU

Prof. dr. Dana PERCEC

Prof. dr. Mihai V. PUTZ

Prof. dr. Adina-Luminița SASU

Prof. dr. Irina SFERDIAN

Assoc.Prof. dr. Oana LOBONȚ

Student: Armand-Alexandru Voinov

The CSUD meets, as provided by the documents governing the activity of IOSUD, "as many times as necessary, but not less than twice a year". Mainly, CSUD was convened to decide on the organization of doctoral admission (allocation of places, confirmation of results, confirmation of proposals of doctoral schools regarding the extension of doctoral studies or expulsion of doctoral students who have not fulfilled their contractual and research obligations from within the program). CSUD is convened for the elaboration and endorsement of methodologies and procedures (with a frequency of approximately 10 per year) and the analysis of self-evaluation reports, statistics related to doctoral schools, special requests / notifications from the teaching staff or doctoral students. During the period subject to CSUD accreditation, it discussed several complaints regarding the ethics of scientific research.

f) the doctoral university contract

The relations between the doctoral student, the doctoral coordinator and IOSUD-UVT are established and confirmed by the Contract of doctoral studies⁸¹. This document specifies the rights and obligations of each of the parties, establishing the course of the doctoral student in the years of study.

All changes that occur along the way (interruptions of studies, extensions of studies) are stipulated through additional documents to the Contract for doctoral studies.

Also, once the Study Contract is signed, the doctoral students complete, together with the doctoral coordinator and in agreement with him, a research plan⁸² in which are specified the themes and periods of support of the progress reports, the training program based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which the doctoral students participate, the mobilizations carried out, etc. Also, on the same occasion, the doctoral coordinator, based on the discussions with the doctoral student, following the analysis of his / her research topic, establishes the guiding commission⁸³.

g) internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the subject of training programs based on advanced university studies.

The study programs elaborated by the nominated teams at the level of the study fields are approved by the Councils of the Doctoral Schools, by CSUD, and are approved by the UVT Senate.⁸⁴

⁸¹ https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Anexa-1_Contract-studii-doctorale-2016-2017.pdf

⁸² <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Planul-studiilor-doctorale3.pdf>

⁸³ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Componenta-comisie-de-îndrumare.pdf>

⁸⁴ <https://senat.uvt.ro/ro/hotarari/Hotararea-Senatului-2020-nr-25/>

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR A.1.1.2. The regulations of the doctoral school include criteria, procedures and mandatory standards for the aspects specified in art. 17 para. (5) of the Code of doctoral studies, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions.

According to the Code of doctoral studies (GD 681.2011), art. 17, the regulations of the doctoral schools within IOSUD - UVT specify these procedures, with the particularities of each field of doctoral university studies. The acceptance of the affiliation of new members within the doctoral schools is validated by the Councils of the doctoral schools, based on opportunity analyzes and taking into account the fulfillment of the scientific criteria and of scientific and professional integrity. Also, the Doctoral School Councils discuss and validate the competencies that doctoral students are to acquire by following the training program based on advanced university studies, establish the structure of subjects in this plan and the number of credits for each subject. At the same time, the special situations in which the doctoral student, based on the discussions with the doctoral coordinator and in order to prepare his research topic, chooses to follow other courses than those offered by the doctoral school he is enrolled in, including courses in the curriculum. of some master's degrees within UVT.

Doctoral schools follow the Romanian legislation in force as well as the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies⁸⁵ to resolve any situations of incompatibility or even conflict between the doctoral coordinator and the doctoral student, using mediation between the two or, where appropriate, when changing the doctoral coordinator. Also, the procedures regarding the prevention of intellectual fraud, including plagiarism, respectively the issues related to the frequency of doctoral students follow these general procedures.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR * A.1.1.3. The component doctoral schools of IOSUD are organized on disciplines or disciplinary and interdisciplinary topics, in accordance with art. 158 para. (7) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions.

Seven of the doctoral schools each manage a field of doctoral study. The other five group more than one domain:

No	Doctoral school	Fields of doctoral studies	The fields of study at master's / bachelor's degree are within the same faculty
1	Economics and Business Administration	Accountancy, Economy, Finance, Management, Marketing	yes/yes
2	Music and Theater	Music, Theater and performing arts	yes/yes
3	Psychology	Psychology, Education sciences, Sports Science and Physical Education	no/no
4	Sociology, Philosophy and Political Sciences	Philosophy, Sociology, Political Sciences	no/no
5	Humanities	Philology, History	yes/yes

The grouping of the fields within the five doctoral schools allows a natural collaboration in the activities of guiding the doctoral students.

The research-development and artistic creation activity of the doctoral students is carried out in groups organized thematically and represented by the guiding commission that includes specialists in the field tezei.

⁸⁵ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7901>

STANDARD A.1.2. IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to fulfill the mission of doctoral studies.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR A.1.2.1. Existence and effectiveness of an adequate computer system for the record of doctoral students and their academic career

IOSUD-UVT supports the implementation of IT solutions necessary for the optimization and development of administrative activities related to doctoral students. Thus, the record of doctoral students and their academic path can be found in the UVT's own system: UMS - University Management System, but also in the systems of the Ministry of National Education: REI - Integrated Educational Register and RMU - Single Matriculation Register.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR A.1.2.2. Existence and use of a high-performance computer program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 1, art. art. 4, pc. b) to Order 3897 / 16.05.2017 for amending the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates⁸⁶, IOSUD-UVT uses as a support tool for learning academic writing and for verifying the degree of similarity software *iThenticate*⁸⁷ by which are analyzed, according to the internal procedures, all the doctoral theses before the defense within the guiding commission, respectively before the public defense. The resulting reports are submitted in full on the National REI Platform⁸⁸, in order to verify and validate by CNATDCU the doctoral files and the proposal to confer the doctoral degree. The similarity report is also accompanied by a resolution of the doctoral supervisor by which he evaluates the similarity situations identified by the software.

CRITERION A.2. Research infrastructure

STANDARD A.2.1. IOSUD / Doctoral schools have a modern research infrastructure to support the development of activities specific to doctoral studies.

INDICATOR A.2.1.1. IOSUD / Doctoral schools present evidence regarding the possession or renting of spaces for research activities specific to doctoral programs (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations, etc.).

UVT appears in the European Research Infrastructure System (ERRIS⁸⁹) with 39 own research infrastructures of international caliber in which PhD students and teachers from IOSUD-UVT work.

IOSUD - UVT has an individualized headquarters inside the West University of Timișoara on Paris street no. 1⁹⁰. În afară de spațiul de birouri și arhivă, există o sală destinată susținerilor publice a tezelor de doctorat și a celor de abilitare, precum și diverselor conferințe publice.

In addition to the office and archive space, there is a room for public dissertations on doctoral and habilitation theses, as well as various public conferences.

⁸⁶ https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/ORDIN%203897-2017_0.pdf

⁸⁷ <https://www.ithenticate.com/>

⁸⁸ <https://rei.gov.ro/informatii-generale-14>

⁸⁹ <https://eeris.eu/>

⁹⁰ Currently this space is expanding (with an amphitheater); funding is provided through structural funds, and the project will be completed in 2022.

The conferences and symposia organized can also take place in the specially arranged spaces of UVT, especially in rooms A01 and A11 which have projection and amplification equipment. The availability of amphitheatres, classrooms, laboratories, seminar and offices is visible online⁹¹ and outside teaching hours can be allocated for research activities, artistic creation and sports performance.

Each doctoral school has spaces dedicated to doctoral activities, the development of courses in the program of advanced university studies, and the actual research of doctoral students. The self-assessment reports attached to the current report detail these features. For example, the UVT supercomputing center⁹², managed by the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics is one of the most powerful and modern computing and data centers in Romanian universities.

INDICATOR A.2.1.2. IOSUD / Doctoral schools has / have collaboration agreements concluded with higher education institutions, with research institutes, with research networks for the exploitation in partnership of various research infrastructures and presents publicly its offer of research services through a profile platform.

UVT is part of the UNITA consortium⁹³: Universitas Montium is one of the projects funded by the European Commission under the European Universities initiative, with the aim of generating systemic change in European higher education. The partners of the European UNITA Alliance are Università degli studi di Torino (Italy), Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (France), Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France), Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain) and Universidade Beira Interior (Portugal). . The consortium brings together universities with communities of more than 160,000 students from five European-speaking Romance languages and operating in border geographical, cultural and socio-economic ecosystems. Through its long-term strategy and mission, UNITA's main objectives are to create a participatory, open, inclusive and efficient European university. This mission will be achieved by: developing a research-based and student-centered education of excellence, creating a learning environment that inspires them, promoting linguistic diversity in Europe by using the method of intercomprehension in communication, supporting non-central regions / innovation in research, increasing the number and quality of physical and virtual mobility for the whole community (including through initiatives such as "rural Erasmus" and "green mobilities"), and contributing to the strengthening of European identity, citizenship and values. These plans will be put into practice in a European inter-university campus, digitized and connected to the cultural and socio-economic realities of the represented territories. In the pilot phase of the UNITA approach, ie in the first three years, the areas on which the alliance's efforts will focus in order to achieve the project objectives are: Renewable Energies, Circular Economy and Cultural Heritage. The Alliance has over 40 associated partners (higher education institutions, non-governmental organizations, public and private companies, local and regional government institutions), which makes the UNITA ecosystem unique and a model of good practice for the future of European education. The co-supervised PhD at UNITA is in its infancy.

IOSUD-UVT has an institutional partnership with BCUT "Eugen Todoran", a partnership by virtue of which the library keeps the doctoral thesis allowing its consultation before the public support, respectively over time.

IOSUD-UVT is also a partner of the Universities in the University Consortium (University of Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, A.I. Cuza University of Iași, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies), together with which it organized national conferences for doctoral students.

In order to establish specific relationships within co-supervised doctorates, UVT has established partnerships with a number of foreign universities such as the Università degli Studi di Pisa, Università Clermont-Ferrand, Universitat de Valencia.

UVT is part of the Anelis + consortium, which engages the main higher education institutions and research institutes in Romania, interested in access to the top scientific bibliography. UVT currently has subscriptions to the following databases of scientific articles: ScienceDirect Freedom Collection Journals ACCES, Springelink journals, Thomson Web of Knowledge, American Institute of Physics Journals, American Physical Society Journals, Oxford Journals, IEEE / IEL, SCOPUS, Sage Journals HSS, Wiley Journals, American Chemical Society, Cambridge Journals, Institute of Physics Journals, MatSciNet, EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Business

⁹¹ <https://orar.uvt.ro/universitatea-de-vest-din-timisoara-parter/>

⁹² <http://hpc.uvt.ro>

⁹³ <https://www.uvt.ro/unita/>

Source Complete, EBSCO Art Full text, NATURE, ScienceDirect NATIONAL ARCHIVE, Springer Archive, Wiley Archive, Institute of Physics Journals Archive, ScienceDirect Current Archive 2016.

The International Relations Department manages the activities within ERASMUS + from an administrative point of view. The list of partners in the ERASMUS + program is available at⁹⁴. UVT has concluded bilateral partnership agreements with universities from several continents; these agreements are listed at⁹⁵. In 2020, the number of Erasmus + agreements was 548, and the number of international inter-institutional agreements was 241. Each agreement specifies the conditions of mobility and the level of qualification of people on the move.

Regarding the promotion of the UVT doctoral offer addressed to international students, the following are used:

- UVT websites^{96 97}
- National study platform in Romania⁹⁸.

INDICATOR A.2.1.3. IOSUD / Doctoral Schools demonstrate that it is concerned with the permanent renewal of research infrastructure that provides doctoral students with access to current research resources, by applying research infrastructure funding in various competitions and by purchasing research infrastructure from their own revenues of IOSUD.

The infrastructure is periodically improved through the purchase of equipment in laboratories. For example, most PhD students involved in research projects have received a laptop. The existence of these equipments allowed the school's doctoral students to be involved in a series of internal, national and European research projects.

All doctoral schools strive to keep up with the rapid transformations that are currently taking place in the field of research. In fact, the internal evaluation reports of the doctoral study fields specify what these updates of the research infrastructure consist of. For example, in the case of the aforementioned infrastructure, the UVT supercomputing center:

- the infrastructure will be renewed within the MOISE project⁹⁹ (structural funds).
- within the BID¹⁰⁰ institutional project, financed in the period 2018-2020, from PNIII-P1.2-PFE was established a multidisciplinary team (computer science, geography, archeology, political science, psychology) consisting of postdoctoral students, doctoral students and master's students research is related to Big Data, and a third of the funding was allocated to the acquisition of a state-of-the-art computing and storage system;
- PhD students at the Doctoral School of Computer Science have contributed and are contributing to H2020 (such as VI-SEEM¹⁰¹ on access to virtual research environments) and national (on multidisciplinary topics such as energy and distributed systems in Cloud2Energy¹⁰², or satellite imagery and artificial intelligence in research projects like CERES and FUSE4FL).

The annual list of research projects¹⁰³ is maintained by the Dep. for Scientific Research and University Creation.

The Methodology regarding the access by doctoral students of the institutional resources for professional training¹⁰⁴, in chapter III, specifies: "The doctoral student who works exclusively in IOSUD-UVT or in national co-supervision, regardless of the form of financing, can benefit annually, during the 3-year training period, financial support for carrying out training activities in the amount of 10% of the value of a doctoral grant, independent of other sources of funding. " Financial support includes, but is not limited to, consumables, software, equipment, or access to electronic / physical resources that are not present in IOSUD-UVT.

⁹⁴ <https://ri.uvt.ro/programul-de-mobilitati-erasmus/>

⁹⁵ <https://ri.uvt.ro/acorduri-de-colaborare-cu-parteneri-internationali/>

⁹⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro>

⁹⁷ <https://ri.uvt.ro/cetateni-din-state-terte-uniunii-europene-2/?lang=en>

⁹⁸ <https://www.studyinromania.gov.ro/>

⁹⁹ <https://tv.uvt.ro/dezvoltare-tehnologica-prin-proiectul-moise/>

¹⁰⁰ <https://bid.hpc.uvt.ro/>

¹⁰¹ <https://vi-seem.eu/>

¹⁰² <https://staff.fmi.uvt.ro/~marc.frincu/cloud2energy.html>

¹⁰³ https://cercetare.uvt.ro/?page_id=4237

¹⁰⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

CRITERION A.3. The quality of human resources

STANDARD A.3.1. At the level of each doctoral school there are enough qualified staff so as to ensure a quality educational process.

INDICATOR * A.3.1.1 The share of doctoral supervisors who coordinate at the same time more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12, during the doctoral studies, does not exceed 20%.

At the time of drawing up the self-assessment report:

No.	The field of doctoral university studies	No. doctoral supervisors in the field of doctoral university studies	Nr. PhD supervisors with more than more than 8 PhD students	Percent (d from c)
a	b	c	d	e
1	Visual arts	14	0	0
2	Chemistry	6	0	0
3	Accountancy	6	0	0
4	Law	11	2	18,18%
5	Economy	6	0	0
6	Philology	24	2	8,33%
7	Philosophy	5	0	0
8	Finance	17	0	0
9	Physics	12	0	0
10	Geography	5	0	0
11	Computer science	7	0	0
12	History	6	0	0
13	Management	9	3	33,33%
14	Marketing	3	0	0
15	Mathematics	10	0	0
16	Music	8	0	0
17	Psychology	9	0	0
18	Sociology	13	1	7,69%
19	<i>Sports science and physical education</i>	3	0	0
20	<i>Political sciences</i>	4	1	25%
21	<i>Education sciences</i>	5	0	0
22	<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	4	0	0
	TOTAL	187	9	4,81%

Evidence is included in the self-assessment reports of the fields of study that accompany this report.

The Methodology regarding the organization and online conduct of the competition for admission to doctoral studies for the academic year 2021/2022¹⁰⁵ specifies in article 4, paragraph 3, that “places are not distributed to leaders who exceed or would exceed by distribution the number of 12 doctoral students in the first three years of study or extension”.

¹⁰⁵ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10242>

INDICATOR A.3.1.2. At least 50% of the teaching / research staff involved in teaching and research activities related to the programs of preparation of advanced university studies or in the individual programs of scientific research or artistic creation are holders of IOSUD, employed with the conclusion of an employment contract for an indefinite period.

La momentul întocmirii raportului de autoevaluare:

No.	The field of doctoral university studies	No. doctoral supervisors	Of which, staff with employment contract at IOSUD:			Percent of UVT holders with a contract for an indefinite period of total supervisors (d of c)
			UVT holders with a contract for an indefinite period	retirees	external UVT	
a	b	c	d	e	f	g
1	Visual arts	14	8	4	2	57,14%
2	Chemistry	6	4	1	1	66,67%
3	Accountancy	6	5	1	0	83,33%
4	Law	11	6	5	0	54,55%
5	Economy	6	3	2	1	50%
6	Philology	24	12	6	6	50%
7	Philosophy	5	3	1	1	60%
8	Finance	17	12	3	2	70,59%
9	Physics	12	4	4	4	33,33%
10	Geography	5	4	1	0	80%
11	Computer science	7	5	1	1	71,43%
12	History	6	2	1	3	33,33%
13	Management	9	5	3	1	55,56%
14	Marketing	3	2	0	1	66,67%
15	Mathematics	10	7	2	1	70%
16	Music	8	5	1	2	62,5%
17	Psychology	9	8	0	1	88,89%
18	Sociology	13	10	0	3	76,92%
19	<i>Sports science and physical education</i>	3	3	0	0	100%
20	<i>Political sciences</i>	4	4	0	0	100%
21	<i>Education sciences</i>	5	3	0	2	60%
22	<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	4	4	0	0	100%
	TOTAL	187	119	36	32	63,64%

FIELD B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

CRITERION B.1. The number, quality and diversity of the candidates who applied for the admission competition

STANDARD B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies are of the highest quality, are diversified as gender and social representation.

INDICATOR * B.1.1.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria that include: the previous academic, research and professional performance of the candidates, their interest in scientific or artistic / sports research, publications in the field and a proposal for a research topic. An interview with the applicant is a mandatory part of the admission procedure.

Admission to doctoral university studies within IOSUD-UVT is organized within the legal framework, based on the national methodologies for organizing these competitions, by adapting them to the needs of doctoral schools and fields of doctoral university studies. Every year, the Methodology regarding the organization and online conduct of the competition for admission to doctoral studies is updated ¹⁰⁶. All candidates for doctoral studies are graduates of the master's degree cycle or of long-term studies (equivalent, according to the National Education Law in force) with master's studies.

The minimum general average for admission to doctoral studies may not be less than 7.00. The average is calculated to two decimal places without rounding. The general admission average is calculated as an arithmetic average or a weighted average of the marks obtained at the entrance exams, depending on the specific methodologies of the Doctoral Schools. The classification order resulting from the admission will also be used for the distribution of the places financed from the state budget. The Doctoral Schools decide the criteria for separating the candidates by their own methodologies.

The organization of the doctoral admission contest is the competence of the Doctoral Schools, coordinated by CSUD. They ensure the transparency of the selection and admission procedures for the doctorate, including by publishing them on the websites of the doctoral schools, faculties and doctorat.uvt.ro.

The content and form of the admission competition are established by the regulations of the doctoral schools (the latest methodologies are visible at ¹⁰⁷).

The previous performance of the candidates is an important criterion in the admission process; for example in the admission to the Doctoral School of Mathematics ¹⁰⁸ "The doctoral admission file will include other documents attesting the candidate's activity in the research topic for which he applies (articles published or accepted for publication, participation in conferences, internships, scholarships, awards, abstract dissertation or bachelor's thesis), in electronic format on CD or memory stick; their list will be included in print format in the application file, with supporting links. "

The interview is an essential component of the admission process; for example in the admission process to the Doctoral School of Music ¹⁰⁹, "The admission exam consists of taking the project, an interview (oral test) for those who opt for the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate".

The research topic of each doctoral coordinator, the reference bibliography of the research topic are disseminated by posting on websites, according to the admission schedule. The selection of the doctoral candidate is made by the doctoral supervisor or by the admission commission, if the place has not been specifically assigned to a doctoral supervisor. Following the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, based on the

¹⁰⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-online-doctorat-2020.editia-1.pdf>

¹⁰⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8818>

¹⁰⁸ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-SDM-2020-2021-2.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-online-doctorat-TEATRU-septembrie-2020.pdf>

minutes of the admission test, the doctoral student can be enrolled, following obtaining the favorable approval of the doctoral school council.

In IOSUD – UVT doctoral schools can decide to practice unitary forms of doctoral admission competition for all doctoral supervisors. For example, at the Doctoral School of Informatics¹¹⁰, "The evaluation of the admission contest is done through the average of the marks given by the members of the examination commission. Each member will evaluate the performance of the candidates "; "Admission to the places financed from the budget or to those with a fee will be made according to the number of places put up for competition, in descending order of the averages obtained in the competition."

Within the doctoral schools, most of the candidates come from study programs completed also within the faculties of UVT, even if there is a tendency to change the faculties for the doctoral program (a migration from the Faculty of Arts and Design, respectively from the Faculty of Sciences Politics, Philosophy and Communication Sciences to the fields of doctoral studies at the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology).

Regarding the number of candidates coming from other higher education institutions in the country and abroad, it is around the proportion of 12.3%, being provided primarily by foreign candidates (Romanians across borders, graduates of some universities from Serbia or Moldova, third-country nationals, in particular Iraq, Algeria, Vietnam, Armenia and India)

INDICATOR B.1.1.2. IOSUD / Doctoral schools have a policy of stimulating the enrollment of doctoral students from disadvantaged social backgrounds, by allocating special places for admission and / or granting social scholarships or organizing support programs to prevent university dropouts.

During the period under analysis, the number of doctoral grants allocated to IOSUD-UVT by the Ministry of National Education for the first year of studies fluctuated between 83-95. To these places were added, every year, special grants for doctoral students in the Romanian category everywhere. Along with these doctoral grants, UVT also recruited self-financed students (Romanian students with fees, respectively foreign students who pay on their own foreign exchange). Starting with 2017, UVT allocates a number of places financed from the budget to Roma candidates.

Regarding the special places allocated to Romanian candidates everywhere, respectively, at the admissions from the academic years 2017 -2020, the special places allocated to Roma candidates, for their occupation the registered candidates were classified according to the results of the admission contest. In order to avoid parity situations, the IOSUD Admission Methodology provided clear and tiered criteria for the tie-breaking.¹¹¹

The Doctoral Studies Office carefully monitors the situation of doctoral students, operating over time in the electronic management system of students, situations such as interruption of doctoral studies (which occurs in most cases for medical reasons) or withdrawal from studies.

The steering committees carefully follow the evolution of the doctoral students together with the doctoral supervisor in order to avoid situations of abandonment or expulsion.

The UVT Career Counseling and Guidance Center¹¹² offers doctoral students vocational guidance and counseling services, as well as psychological counseling.

The measures are considered effective: for the period considered, the situation of withdrawals from doctoral studies is as follows.

Academic year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Dropouts	25	30	14	30	19
Percentage of total students	4,30%	5,32%	2,48%	5,03%	3,00%

¹¹⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/MetodologieFMI2020.pdf>

¹¹¹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-online-doctorat-2020.editia-1.pdf>

¹¹² <http://www.ccoc.uvt.ro>

CRITERION B.2. Content of doctoral study programs

STANDARD B.2.1. The training program based on advanced university studies is adequate to improve the research skills of doctoral students and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.

INDICATOR B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced university studies comprises at least three disciplines relevant for the training of scientific students in scientific research, of which at least one discipline is intended for the in-depth study of research methodology and / or statistical data processing.

Each field of doctoral studies has a series of courses organized within the advanced university training program. Obviously, the stake of these courses is the formation of skills, abilities and aptitudes for scientific research in particular, respectively for academic activity in general. Curricula usually include between 3 and 5 courses (practical courses and seminars), of which about a third are intended for the formation of general research skills (Academic Writing / Scientific Research / Research Methods / Ethics courses and integrity of research), and about two thirds are dedicated to specialized courses, designed to train advanced research skills in the specific field of doctoral studies (examples: ¹¹³ ¹¹⁴).

INDICATOR B.2.1.2. There is at least one discipline dedicated to ethics in scientific research and well-defined intellectual or thematic property on these topics within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.

Respecting the research ethics criteria is an important component of the doctoral education process within IOSUD - UVT. Thus, in the entire period subject to analysis, academic writing courses were organized at the doctoral schools within IOSUD-UVT, meant to lead to the improvement of the correct and honest writing skills of the doctoral students.

Starting with the academic year 2018 - 2019, all doctoral schools have included in the curricula within the advanced university training program, the Research Ethics course, in accordance with OM no. 3131 / 30.01.2018¹¹⁵ (examples: ¹¹⁶ ¹¹⁷).

INDICATOR B.2.1.3. IOSUD has created mechanisms to ensure that the training program based on advanced university studies, related to the evaluated field, aims at "learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills and responsibility and autonomy that PhD students should acquire after completing each discipline or through research activities.

The doctoral school is perfecting skills. The Institutional regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies within IOSUD-UVT¹¹⁸ specifies in chapter V the competencies provided by the doctoral university study programs. Professional skills, specific to the field of study:

"a) advanced knowledge in the field; b) the capacity to identify, formulate and solve research problems; c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques; d) knowledge regarding the management of research projects; e) mastery of new procedures and solutions in research; f) skills of documentation, elaboration and

¹¹³ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7692>

¹¹⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9877>

¹¹⁵ <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/197844>

¹¹⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9868>

¹¹⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8469>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Regulamentul-institutional-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-IOSUD-editia-.pdf>

capitalization of scientific works; g) language skills at academic level in languages of international circulation necessary for the documentation and elaboration of scientific papers; h) understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics, the principles of academic integrity in the field. i) these competencies are specified in the Curriculum of each doctoral study program, depending on its particularities. The subject sheets of the Advanced Studies Program specify their relationship to these competencies. ”

and transversal competences:

“a) communication skills, written and oral, in the field of science and culture; b) advanced language skills in languages of international circulation; c) use of information and communication technology; d) interrelationship and teamwork skills; e) knowledge of human, material and financial resources management; f) leadership qualities; g) knowledge of career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques for job search and job creation for others; h) knowledge of risk, crisis and failure management; i) knowledge on the use of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights; j) economic, technological and social entrepreneurship capacities. ”

In the same chapter it is mentioned: “The participation of a doctoral student in the training program based on advanced university studies and the choice of study elements within this program are established exclusively and independently by the doctoral supervisor in collaboration with the doctoral student’s research topic and are recorded as such in the Study Contract and in the Doctoral Studies Plan. In this sense, it is possible to opt for courses held at another doctoral school, or research master, in well-motivated cases. ”

In each subject sheet from the first semester of doctoral studies are specified the specific and transversal competences.

Learning outcomes are reflected both in cognitive performance and artistic creation, as well as in reports, publications, thesis.

The responsibility for the structure, content, development and organization of the scientific research program of the doctoral student rests with the doctoral supervisor. The research topics are established in the plan¹¹⁹ associated with the contract by mutual agreement between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor. The establishment of guidance commissions, necessary according to the Code of doctoral studies, is one of the first steps in organizing the doctoral research internship. Practically, in the first weeks after the doctoral enrollment, the doctoral supervisor establishes, in agreement with the doctoral student and the Guidance Commission¹²⁰, composed of members of the doctoral supervisor's research team specialized in the doctoral student's research topic. The members of the steering committees are full-time teachers in the institution, either doctoral supervisors from the same research sub-field, or lecturers or lecturers holding the doctoral degree with whom the doctoral coordinator works in joint research projects. Although it is not a very common practice, some steering committees include external UVT members, teachers or researchers from other universities in Timisoara or in the country or, in some cases, from abroad. The steering committee interacts with the doctoral student in a series of learning contexts or in informal education circumstances. The members of the Steering Committee participate in the support of the research reports and also in the pre-defense of the doctoral thesis, commenting on the research, ensuring its critical evaluation, offering suggestions for the further development of the research approach.

CRITERION B.3. The results of doctoral studies and their evaluation procedures

STANDARD B.3.1. The research is capitalized by doctoral students through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, through technology transfer, patents, products, service orders.

¹¹⁹ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Planul-studiilor-doctorale3.pdf>

¹²⁰ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Componenta-comisie-de-îndrumare.pdf>

INDICATOR B.3.1.1. Within the doctoral school there are initiatives to capitalize on the results of doctoral studies according to the specifics of the field (eg technology transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services in the case of social and humanities; festivals, competitions, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-artistic orders in the vocational field, presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, involvement of doctoral students in the development of research-development projects, etc.).

The methodology regarding the access by doctoral students of the institutional resources for professional training¹²¹, in chapter III, specifies:

"The doctoral student who carries out his / her activity exclusively in IOSUD-UVT or in national co-supervision, regardless of the form of financing, can benefit annually, during the preparation period of 3 years, from financial support for carrying out training activities in the amount of 10% of the value of an annual doctoral grant, independent of other sources of funding. "; "The doctoral student who carries out his / her activity under international co-supervision or for obtaining a European doctorate can benefit annually, during the 3-year training period, from financial support for carrying out training activities in the amount of 30% of the value of a doctoral grant, annually, independently of other sources of funding. "

"The specified financial support refers to:

- internships for documentation / research / creation / sports performance
- participation in workshops and conferences
- participation in trainings / seasonal schools / events / professional manifestations / specific to doctoral students
- publishing in open access regime an article / chapter / other reviewed document that is authored or co-authored by the student
- consumables, software, equipment or access to electronic / physical resources that are not present in IOSUD-UVT "

The analysis of the works registered in Web of Science with PhD students / co-authors who obtained in the meantime the scientific title of doctor in the period 2016-2020 reveals the following cumulative situation of doctoral students publications in active fields at least since 2016:

The field of doctoral studies	No. PhD students who received the degree	No. publications in WoS Core
Chemistry	11	15
Accountancy	32	23
Law	31	1
Economy	21	6
Philology	92	7
Philosophy	21	8
Finance	27	15
Physics	20	71
Geography	19	23
Computer science	4	12
Management	50	16
Marketing	8	2
Mathematics	7	16
Music	9	4
Psychology	12	25
Sociology	27	16

A statistical situation for the period of 5 years reveals that the average number of participation in conferences at IOSUD level of a doctoral student in internship is higher than 2 (motivation in subchapter C).

¹²¹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

UVT materially supported the participation of PhD students in these conferences. For example, from the analysis performed on the expenses with the trips made at the level of the institution in 2018, the following information could be extracted: the approximate amounts allocated for the mobilities of doctoral students amount to 105,956.60 lei and is composed of daily expenses 21,373, 54 lei, expenses with internal travel 13,430.82 lei, expenses with external travel 50,717.31 lei, expenses with various taxes 20,434.93 lei.

In the project CNFIS-FDI-2018-0398 "Research of excellence in UVT by supporting and developing the research centers of the university", 64 PhD students who proved their performance benefited from research scholarships worth 3000 lei.

IOSUD-UVT through the Department of Access and Implementation of Projects (DAIP)¹²² submitted several applications, especially projects to support the research activity of doctoral students. Also, during the period under analysis within UVT, several POSDRU / POCU projects were implemented, for doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships, which stipulated among the obligations of the scholarship holders to carry out documentation internships of at least one month in universities abroad. New POCU projects were submitted by UVT in 2020 under the Innotech Students program and qualified for the next selection phase¹²³.

POSDRU project	Doctoral field	No participating PhD students
POSDRU 133391 ¹²⁴ Doctoral and postdoctoral programs of excellence for the training of highly qualified resources for research in the field of Life, Environment and Earth Sciences	Geography	9
POSDRU 155559 ¹²⁵ Competitive multidisciplinary doctoral research at European level (CDocMD)	Visual Arts, Chemistry, Geography, Law, Economics, Physics, Philology, Mathematics, Computer Science, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology	69
POCU/380/6/13/123343 ¹²⁶ Entrepreneurial education and professional counseling for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers in order to organize the transfer of knowledge in the field of socio-human sciences to the labor market (ATRIUM)	Law, Letters, Psychology, History, Sociology	34
POCU/380/6/13/125015 Development of entrepreneurial skills for doctoral and postdoctoral students in the field of economics (InovAnt) ¹²⁷	Economics	10

The doctoral schools within IOSUD-UVT encourage the publication of research results in the most varied forms, from indexed scientific periodicals to author volumes published in prestigious publishing houses. In this sense, a collection was set up within the Western University Publishing House, "Research Library", and the references for public support may recommend the publication of the thesis within this collection.

The doctoral schools from IOSUD-UVT organize their own conferences for their doctoral students or encourage the participation of doctoral students in the thematic conferences of the departments and faculties of UVT or of

¹²² <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/uvt/organizare/organizare%20administrativa/departamente-administrative/daip/>

¹²³ <https://www.uvt.ro/ro/comunicate-presa/toate-cele-cinci-proiecte-depuse-de-universitatea-de-vest-din-timisoara-pentru-finantare-in-cadrul-programului-innotech-students-s-au-calificat-in-ultima-faza-a-jurizarii-pentru-fina/>

¹²⁴ <https://fondurieuropeene.centre.ubbcluj.ro/posdru1591-5g133391-programe-doctorale-si-post-doctorale-de-excelenta-pentru-formarea-de-resurse-umane-inalt-calificate-pentru-cercetare-in-domeniile-stiintelor-vietii-mediului-si-pamantului/>

¹²⁵ https://litere.uvt.ro/litere-old/pdf/doc/2015-16/2015_competitie_burse_doc.pdf

¹²⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/metodologie-de-selectie-a-grupului-tinta-doctoranzi-Anexe-POCU-123343.pdf>

¹²⁷ <https://antreprenoriatinovativ.ase.ro/>

other departments and faculties from the country and abroad. For example, in 2017-2018, conferences on doctoral studies were organized with the participation of doctoral students from the universities that make up the University Consortium, as follows: doctoral studies in Physics, Computer Science and Mathematics - conferences organized at UVT; fields of doctoral studies Chemistry and Geography - conferences organized at the University A.I. Cuza Iasi; fields of doctoral studies Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management and Marketing - conferences organized at ASE Bucharest; fields of doctoral studies Philology, Psychology, Sociology - conferences organized at Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, fields of university studies of Philosophy, History and Political Sciences - conferences organized at the University of Bucharest.

The doctoral coordinators also participated in international and national project competitions in most of the projects won, involving doctoral students from the research teams (list of projects available at ¹²⁸). The self-evaluation reports of the doctoral studies fields present in details the projects developed in the last 5 years.

CRITERION B.4. Quality of completed doctoral theses

STANDARD B.4.1. Completed doctoral theses meet high quality standards.

INDICATOR B.4.1.1. At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of invalidated theses, without the right to remake and resume the process of public support, at the level of the CNATDCU General Council is of maximum 5% in the last five years.

Most of the theses in the reported period were endorsed by the public support commissions favorably or with special mentions, and almost all validated by CNATDCU from the first evaluation.

A statistical situation of the doctoral theses defended (based on the data from REI¹²⁹ at the time of elaboration of the self-evaluation report and the internal evidence of BSD) reveals the following:

Theses defended in the year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Procent
Validated at the first evaluation	66	78	87	86	60	96,92%
Validated after additions	2	3	3	1	1	2,57%
Pending validation after additions	0	0	0	0	2	0,51%
Invalidated	0	0	0	0	0	0,00%

FIELD C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

CRITERION C.1. Existence and regular development of the internal quality assurance system

STANDARD C.1.1. The institutional framework exists and a procedure for monitoring internal quality assurance as well as relevant internal quality assurance policies is applied.

¹²⁸ https://ceretare.uvt.ro/?page_id=4237

¹²⁹ <https://rei.gov.ro/>

INDICATOR * C.1.1.1. IOSUD has developed and periodically applies a procedure for evaluation and internal monitoring of doctoral school activities, among the evaluated criteria being mandatory:

- a) the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors;
- b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity;
- c) the regulations and procedures on the basis of which the doctoral studies are organized;
- d) social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counseling provided to doctoral students.

In order to ensure the quality of the activities carried out within the doctoral schools, IOSUD UVT organized, periodically, internal evaluations of the doctoral schools. The internal evaluation reports followed the evolution of the logistic infrastructure necessary for the research activity, the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors, respectively the evolution of the procedures and norms based on which the activities within the doctoral schools are carried out.

Thus, internal evaluation reports were prepared (such as the IOSUD-UVT report from 2016¹³⁰) and internal evaluation reports of the doctoral schools and of the fields of doctoral university studies, based on OMEN no. 5403 / 1.11.2018 (e.g. ¹³¹ ¹³²).

a. **the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors**

The scientific activity is monitored regularly for two years in the context of the CNFIS' IC reports.

To facilitate this reporting, a process was initiated to digitize the individual verification sheets of the CNATDCU criteria and Annex 5 of the CNFIS reporting based on an online URAP system¹³³ that allows

- permanent updating of the file by each teacher / doctoral supervisor
- automatic upload of indexed articles to the Web of Science Core Collection and Scopus and their citations
- calculation of the indicators from the individual CNATDCU criteria verification sheets
- downloading the individual verification sheets and Annex 5 of the CNFIS reporting.

The system has the following features in May 2021:

- or 6 fields of study (Mathematics, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management, Marketing), the above functionalities without Annex 5 (2nd version of the system)
- for 6 fields of study (Physics, Informatics, Psychology, Chemistry, Geography, Philology), the above functionalities with the partial calculation of the indicators and with manual loading (version 1 of the system)
- for the other fields of study, manual loading and downloading of Annex 5

This system is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

At the level of IOSUD-UVT, an analysis was performed in March 2021 regarding the scientific production of doctoral supervisors with impact in the period 2016-2020. In terms of scientific output, 86 PhD supervisors have a number of UVT-affiliated attendances in the Web of Science (Core) of 2858 out of a total of 5265 UVT-affiliated attendances, which represents 54% of the number of attendances with UVT affiliation. In the last 5 years (2016-2020), 1021 attendances with UVT affiliation were registered, which represents 36% of the number of appearances in the Web of Science of leaders.

¹³⁰ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=2656>

¹³¹ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7572>

¹³² <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7718>

¹³³ <http://urap.uvt.ro>

b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity

PhD students work in laboratories and research centers whose infrastructure and logistics are managed at the level of profile faculties and research centers.

c) regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized;

Regulations and procedures are publicly available at ¹³⁴. Annually, CSUD discusses the frameworks for the admission of doctoral students to studies, proposing customized admission methodologies (public at ¹³⁵). Based on the general admission methodologies, discussed in CSUD, endorsed by the UVT Board of Directors and approved by decision of the University Senate, doctoral schools compose their own admission methodologies, which are specific depending on the particularities of the doctoral studies field.

Admission to doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT is carried out in conditions of transparency, with the dissemination of useful information for enrollment. Thus, on the website are announced the available places as well as their type as well as the distribution of places on doctoral schools and fields of doctoral studies. The latest announcement for admission in September 2020 is available at ¹³⁶.

IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for completing doctoral studies. Drafted on the basis of national legislation and compliant with national platforms for the validation of doctoral degrees (Integrated Educational Register and Single Matriculation Register), these procedures include information on the stages prior to defending the doctoral thesis and the conditions for defending it. The development of all these procedures is meant to ensure conditions of total exigency and transparency regarding the doctoral theses. The latest version of the methodology for defending doctoral theses is available at ¹³⁷. The last procedure for defending doctoral theses in the online version is available at ¹³⁸.

d) social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counseling provided to doctoral students.

The UVT social service manages the accommodation process of doctoral students in dormitories and ensures the maintenance of accommodation spaces.

The UVT Career Counseling and Guidance Center¹³⁹ provides students with vocational guidance and counseling services, as well as psychological counseling.

Participation in local, national, international scientific events and publication of articles is financially supported by doctoral grant funds (10% of the value of the doctoral grant, respectively 30% in the case of co-sponsors, by the Methodology for accessing doctoral students' access to institutional resources for professional training ¹⁴⁰), support funds (FDI), faculty funds, or national or international research and development grants.

INDICATOR C.1.1.2. The student associations and, as the case may be, the representative students organize elections among the doctoral students, for positions in CSUD, by universal, direct and secret ballot, all doctoral students having the right to choose and be elected.

Student elections are held each year, based on its own regulations¹⁴¹. Within the calendar of elections of the representative bodies of the students, the annual elections of the doctoral students also take place. The last elections are documented at ¹⁴².

¹³⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=37>

¹³⁵ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=43>

¹³⁶ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8818>

¹³⁷ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9462>

¹³⁸ <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9493>

¹³⁹ <http://www.ccoc.uvt.ro>

¹⁴⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

¹⁴¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12dLUzVfhi1JD6nWjmhYXJEhi2H84IX/view?usp=sharing>

¹⁴² <https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/2021/02/alegeri-pentru-studentii-reprezentanti-in-consiliile-facultatilor-senatul-universitar-consiliile-scolilor-doctorale-si-consiliul-pentru-studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>

INDICATOR C.1.1.3. The student associations and, as the case may be, the representative students organize elections among the doctoral students, at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the doctoral school councils, by universal, direct and secret vote, all doctoral students having the right to choose and be elected..

According to the aforementioned Election Regulations,

- Any doctoral student has the right to run for the position of student representative in the Council of the doctoral school in which he is enrolled, respectively for the position of student representative in the Council for Doctoral Studies.
- In the case of the Doctoral School Council, the representative students are elected by all doctoral students enrolled at the respective Doctoral School, and for the representative students in the Council for Doctoral Studies all doctoral students have the right to vote.

INDICATOR * C.1.1.4. Following the internal evaluation, both IOSUD and the doctoral schools elaborate strategies and action policies in order to remedy the reported deficiencies and to stimulate the scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.

IOSUD-UVT, respectively the doctoral schools within it carried out several internal evaluations. Following these evaluations, several problems of general functioning of doctoral studies were identified, and these findings led, in general, to the proposal and operation of some transformations (updates) of the specific regulations and methodologies.

Regarding the strategies for stimulating the scientific performance of doctoral supervisors, they are convergent with those developed within the entire West University, which adopted in this regard the Strategy for institutional development of the West University of Timișoara for 2016 - 2020¹⁴³ and Methodology -framework regarding the establishment of differentiated salaries for the staff of the West University of Timișoara¹⁴⁴.

Within IOSUD-UVT, an evaluation form was designed for the doctoral student's relationship with the doctoral supervisor / guidance committee. In order to prepare applications for doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship projects, questionnaires were developed to lead to the evaluation of the degree of satisfaction with studies at the university¹⁴⁵.

Among the latest methodologies that propose corrective or stimulating actions we mention:

- The methodology regarding the organization and online development of the competition for admission to doctoral studies, the academic year 2021/2022 which requires prioritizing the access of doctoral grants by the candidates of the coordinators with academic performances¹⁴⁶
- Methodology for access on doctoral students' access to institutional resources for vocational training that facilitate the access of doctoral students conditioned by the fulfillment of tasks¹⁴⁷.

CRITERION C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources

STANDARD C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates, respectively information of public interest are available for consultation in electronic format.

¹⁴³ https://uvt.ro/cercetare/?jet_download=622

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Metodologia-cadru-privind-stabilirea-de-salarii-diferentiate-pentru-personalul-din-UVT-editia-a-III-a.-HS-75-din-15.02.2019..pdf>

¹⁴⁵ <https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/local/evaluare/forms/evaluarecurisuristudenti.php?id=26>

¹⁴⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10242>

¹⁴⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

INDICATOR C.2.1.1. IOSUD publishes on the website of the higher education institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information on:

- a) IOSUD / doctoral school regulations;
- b) the admission regulation;
- c) the doctoral studies contract;
- d) the regulation for completing the studies, which should also include the procedure for public defense of the thesis;
- e) the content of training programs based on advanced university studies;
- f) the academic and scientific profile and the thematic areas / research topics of the doctoral supervisors in the school, as well as their institutional contact data;
- g) the list of doctoral students in the school with basic information (year of enrollment; leader);
- h) information about the elaboration standards of the doctoral thesis;
- i) information on opportunities for doctoral students aimed at attending conferences, publishing articles, awarding scholarships, etc.;
- j) links to the abstracts of the doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time, location where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense.

a) IOSUD / doctoral school regulations;

IOSUD-UVT publishes on its website relevant information regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies within the university. Thus, on the site can be found the Institutional Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies¹⁴⁸ as well as a whole series of concrete information regarding enrollment in doctoral studies, conducting doctoral studies / research, respectively public defense of the doctoral thesis.

b) admission regulations;

IOSUD-UVT annually updates the methodology for admission to doctoral studies¹⁴⁹, depending on national methodologies and regulations, respectively taking into account the internal priorities of doctoral schools, their evolution and projects. The university website presents, thus, the annual admission methodologies, the admission calendar, the particular situations (admission for candidates with disabilities, admission for foreign citizens from third countries, admission for Romanians across borders, admission for Roma, etc.), available to candidates electronic versions of all forms required for admission.

c) contractul de studii doctorale;

The study contract is available at¹⁵⁰. In the same direction of the correct, detailed and transparent information regarding the doctoral studies, on the IOSUD-UVT website can be consulted useful information about the doctorate: projects carried out, the content of advanced university study programs, information about the doctoral research itself (research reports, interruptions of studies, extension of studies, etc.¹⁵¹).

d) regulation for completing the studies, which also include the procedure for public defense of the thesis;

The methodology regarding the organization and development of the process of defending the doctoral theses within UVT is available at ¹⁵². The steps that must be taken in order to publicly present the doctoral thesis are highlighted, respecting the scientific rigor and the Romanian legislation in force.

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Regulamentul-institutional-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-obtinere-a-atestatului-de-abilitare-editia-a-II-a.-HS-20-din-24.09.2020..pdf>

¹⁴⁹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-online-doctorat-2020.editia-I.pdf>

¹⁵⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8370>

¹⁵¹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=49>

¹⁵² <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Metodologie-privind-organizarea-%C5%9Fi-desf%C4%83%C5%9Furarea-procesului-de-sus%C8%9Binere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat.pdf>

e) the content of training programs based on advanced university studies;

Curricula for the first semester of doctoral studies are also available on both the IOSUD website¹⁵³, and the doctoral school websites. The doctoral schools resume and customize, on their own sites or in sections on the websites of the faculties, information regarding the development of doctoral university studies according to the fields. Thus, the particular regulations of the doctoral schools are published, information regarding the admissions to doctoral studies (number of places and their types, admission methodologies, admission calendar, topics proposed by the doctoral supervisors, etc.), information about the effective development of doctoral studies (content of study programs, information on conferences and trainings organized by the university, etc.), as well as information on the organization and public defense of doctoral theses.

f) the academic and scientific profile and the thematic areas / research topics of the doctoral supervisors in the school, as well as their institutional contact data;

The list of doctoral supervisors indicating the fields of study is available on the IOSUD website¹⁵⁴. Academic profiles are presented on the websites of doctoral schools or profile faculties (avoidance of duplication and simplification of updating procedures). The institutional address has the format name.surname@e-uv-t.ro and is used by all doctoral supervisors from IOSUD-UVT.

g) list of doctoral students in the school with basic information (year of enrollment; leader);

The admission results specify the code assigned to each candidate for registration in the electronic admission platform in compliance with the law on GDPR.

Doctoral schools decide to display information related to doctoral students. For example, the Doctoral School of Informatics presents its doctoral students at ¹⁵⁵, and the Doctoral School of Political Science uses the IOSUD website¹⁵⁶ mentioning the year of enrollment and the year of obtaining the degree.

h) information about the elaboration standards of the doctoral thesis;

Doctoral schools have their own regulations for writing doctoral theses according to the requirements of the field of study (examples for Geography ¹⁵⁷, Music and Theater ¹⁵⁸, Physics¹⁵⁹).

i) information on opportunities for PhD students aimed at attending conferences, publishing articles, awarding scholarships, etc.;

The information is sent by institutional e-mail (name.surnameBirthYear@e-uv-t.ro), and on web sites at ¹⁶⁰ ¹⁶¹. The information of general interest regarding research projects, mobilities, scholarships accessible to doctoral students, trainings, are also repeated on the Facebook page of doctoral studies ¹⁶³.

¹⁵³ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?s=plan+de+%C3%AEenv%C4%83%C8%9Bam%C3%A2nt>

¹⁵⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=1998>

¹⁵⁵ <http://research.info.uvt.ro/wiki/People>

¹⁵⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=904#more-904>

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.cbg.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Scoala-Doctorala-de-Chimie-Ghidul-pentru-redactarea-tezei-de-doctorat-2016-2017.pdf>

¹⁵⁸ <https://fmt.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Ghid-de-redactare-TEZA-de-DOCTORAT-2019-NOU-converted.pdf>

¹⁵⁹ <https://physics.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Ghid-de-redactare-a-tezei-de-doctorat-FIZICA.pdf>

¹⁶⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=48>

¹⁶¹ <https://cercetare.uvt.ro/>

¹⁶² <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=54>

¹⁶³ <https://www.facebook.com/Studii-Doctorale-Universitatea-de-Vest-din-Timi%C5%9Foara-486504164697842>

STANDARD C.2.2. IOSUD / Doctoral school provides doctoral students access to the resources needed to conduct doctoral studies.

INDICATOR C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to a platform with academic databases relevant to the fields of doctoral studies in which they complete their thesis.

UVT is part of the Anelis + consortium, which engages the main higher education institutions and research institutes in Romania, interested in access to the top scientific bibliography (platform e-nformation¹⁶⁴). UVT currently has subscriptions to the following databases of scientific articles: ScienceDirect Freedom Collection Journals ACCES, Springlink journals, Thomson Web of Knowledge, American Institute of Physics Journals, American Physical Society Journals, Oxford Journals, IEEE / IEL, SCOPUS, Sage Journals HSS, Wiley Journals, American Chemical Society, Cambridge Journals, Institute of Physics Journals, MatSciNet, EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Business Source Complete, EBSCO Art Full text, NATURE, ScienceDirect NATIONAL ARCHIVE, Springer Archive, Wiley Archive, Institute of Physics Journals Archive, ScienceDirect Current Archive 2016.

INDICATOR C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student has access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic creations.

The West University of Timișoara purchased two software to verify the similarity of the texts. Doctoral schools use iThenticate software¹⁶⁵, as it allows a successful identification of the exact sources and landmarks of textual overlaps.

PhD students can access / become holders of an Ithenticate account upon request, based on a simple request to the computer service and after verifying their doctoral student status.

INDICATOR C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specifics of the field / fields within the doctoral school, according to internal rules.

Within the West University of Timișoara, there are research centers that carry out projects with international, national or local funding. PhD supervisors are involved in these projects, as well as PhD students as members of research teams.

During 2018, UVT carried out an institutional development project through which it proceeded to evaluate the research centers within the university, including accrediting the functional centers through the visit of external experts. They currently operate as a separate research architecture within the UVT with a compartmentalization on three main areas: the field of exact sciences, the field of socio-economic sciences, respectively the field of humanities¹⁶⁶.

The doctoral studies contracts stipulate the right of doctoral students to have access to the libraries within the UVT, respectively to the different research laboratories, depending on the specific field. The annexes attached to the internal evaluation reports of the doctoral university fields specify which are those specific laboratories, respectively which is their specific material basis.

CRITERION C.3. Degree of internationalization

STANDARD C.3.1. IOSUD / Doctoral school has a strategy and applies it to increase the internationalization of doctoral studies.

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.e-nformation.ro/>

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.ithenticate.com/>

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.uvt.ro/ro/organizare/organigrama/>

INDICATOR * C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for each doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with foreign universities, with research institutes, with companies that carry out activities in the studied field, which aim at the mobility of doctoral students and teachers (for example, ERASMUS agreements for the study cycle doctoral degree). At least 35% of doctoral students have completed a training period abroad or another form of mobility such as participation in international scientific conferences. IOSUD develops and implements policies and action plans aimed at increasing the number of doctoral students participating in training courses abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

On average at IOSUD level (for a period of 5 years), the number of national or international conferences attended by a UVT doctoral student exceeds the value of 2. The number of participations varies from an average of 0.3 at the Doctoral School of Music to a maximum of 4.9 at the Doctoral School of Mathematics. For example, in the fields of active study before 2016:

Field of study	No. conference participations in 5 years	Average participation per student
Visual arts	78	2,36
Chemistry	52	3,25
Accountability	90	3,75
Law	104	2,00
Economy	48	2,82
Philology	118	1,62
Philosophy	56	2,67
Finance	113	4,52
Physics	21	1,24
Geography	67	4,19
Computer science	35	1,67
History	36	3,00
Management	109	2,37
Marketing	15	2,14
Mathematics	79	4,94
Music	8	0,31
Psychology	15	0,63
Sociology	40	0,87
Total	1084	2,20

Through the doctoral coordinators, the Erasmus coordinators within the faculties and the Department of International Relations, but also partnership agreements were signed with a series of universities abroad, both in Europe and in the partner countries. The full list of partnership agreements primarily includes partner universities under international Erasmus + programs (the list of partners is available at ¹⁶⁷).

¹⁶⁷ <https://ri.uvt.ro/programul-de-mobilitati-erasmus/>

The number of PhD students who have completed Erasmus + mobility is as follows:

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
No.PhD students in Erasmus mobility	19	25	27	10	13
Percentage of students	3,26%	4,42%	4,78%	1,68%	2,05%

Within the POSDRU doctoral research scholarship projects, doctoral students had the obligation to carry out external documentation mobilities and to participate in at least one international conference held abroad.

Bilateral agreements also allow for the mobility of PhD students; the list of international partners is available at¹⁶⁸.

The number of internships at other universities also depends on the field of study. For example, in the fields of active study before 2016:

Field of study	No.stages in other universities in 5 years	Average stages per student
Visual arts	6	0,18
Chemistry	3	0,19
Accountability	16	0,67
Law	4	0,08
Economy	16	0,94
Philology	11	0,15
Philosophy	4	0,19
Finance	16	0,64
Physics	6	0,35
Geography	19	1,19
Computer science	14	0,67
History	15	1,25
Management	16	0,35
Marketing	16	2,29
Mathematics	24	1,50
Music	5	0,19
Psychology	7	0,29
Sociology	7	0,15
Total	205	0,42

IOSUD develops and implements policies and action plans aimed at increasing the number of doctoral students participating in training courses abroad. Thus, the recent Methodology on doctoral students' access to institutional resources for vocational training¹⁶⁹, in Chapter III, specifies:

- "The doctoral student who carries out his / her activity exclusively in IOSUD-UVT or in national co-supervision, regardless of the form of financing, can benefit annually, during the preparation period of 3 years, from financial support for carrying out training activities in the amount of 10% of the value of

¹⁶⁸ <https://ri.uvt.ro/acorduri-de-colaborare-cu-parteneri-internationali/>

¹⁶⁹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

an annual doctoral grant, independent of other sources of funding. "

Financial support includes:

- "internships for documentation / research / creation / sports performance
- participation in workshops and conferences
- participation in trainings / seasonal schools / events / professional manifestations / specific to doctoral students "

INDICATOR C.3.1.2. IOSUD supports, including financially, the organization of doctorates in international co-supervision, respectively the invitation of recognized experts to give courses / lectures for doctoral students.

During the period under evaluation, a series of co-supervised doctorates operated as follows:

Academic year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
International elbows co-supervision	6	5	5	7	7
National co-supervision	3	3	4	4	4
Field of studies	Finance, Philosophy, Sociology, Geography, Marketing, Management	Finance, Physics, Marketing, Sociology, Management	Economics, Finance, Geography, Informatics, Sociology, Philology, Management	Finance, Geography, Informatics, Sociology, Philology, Management	Economics, Finance, Geography, Informatics, Sociology, Philology, Management
Partner countries	France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Romania	France, Italy, Romania	France, Italy, Spain, Romania	France, Italy, Spain, Romania	France, Italy, Spain, Romania

The Methodology regarding the access by doctoral students of the institutional resources for professional training¹⁷⁰, in chapter III, specifies: "The doctoral student who works in international co-supervision or for obtaining a European doctorate can benefit annually, during the 3-year training period, financial support for carrying out training activities in the amount of 30% of the value of an annual doctoral grant, independent of other sources of funding." The specified financial support includes internships for documentation / research / creation / sports performance at the university / partner organization.

The methodology regarding the doctorate in the co-supervision doctorate and the European doctorate¹⁷¹ specifies in chap. V:

- "Expenditure of doctoral students for international mobility for European doctorates or doctorates is financially supported through Erasmus + programs, institutional funds for the training of doctoral students, as well as other scholarships and grants for research and development, artistic creation or sports performance."
- "In the case of a co-supervision, if it is necessary to extend the studies in order to complete the co-supervision agreement (for a period not exceeding the legal limit of the studies), no tuition fees will be charged."
- "The co-supervisor can be financially stimulated for both the principal and the partner supervisor".

Doctoral schools invite foreign experts for lectures, either at organized conferences or at scientific seminars, or in Erasmus + mobilities. For example, the Doctoral School of Computer Science:

- An associate professor from the University of Linz is a member of the doctoral school (lecture in curriculum)

¹⁷⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

¹⁷¹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10236>

- Invites doctoral students to participate in scientific seminars where there are presentations made by experts, often foreign, according to ¹⁷²
- Organizes the annual SYNASC international conference¹⁷³, to which it invites internationally renowned personalities in the field of doctoral study, the doctoral students being participants
- Organizes international seasonal schools for doctoral and master's students^{174 175}.

INDICATOR * C.3.1.3. At least 10% of the doctoral theses within the doctoral school are written and / or presented in an international language or are co-supervised.

The number of theses in a language of international circulation (includes those written in European co-tutoring) varies depending on the field of study:

No.	The field of doctoral university studies	No. theses completed in 2016-2020	Of which in international language	Percent
1	Visual arts	55	0	0,00%
2	Chemistry	11	0	0,00%
3	Accountability	32	3	9,38%
4	Law	31	0	0,00%
5	Economy	21	1	4,76%
6	Philology	92	28	30,43%
7	Philosophy	21	0	0,00%
8	Finance	27	2	7,41%
9	Physics	20	6	30,00%
10	Geography	19	3	15,79%
11	Computer science	4	3	75,00%
12	History	3	1	33,33%
13	Management	50	15	30,00%
14	Marketing	8	3	37,50%
15	Mathematics	7	2	28,57%
16	Music	9	0	0,00%
17	Psychology	12	0	0,00%
18	Sociology	27	12	44,44%
19	<i>Sports Science and Physical Education</i>	0	0	-
20	<i>Political Sciences</i>	6	0	0,00%
21	<i>Education sciences</i>	0	0	-
22	<i>Theater and performing arts</i>	0	0	-
Total		455	79	17,36%

INDICATOR C.3.1.4. The internationalization of activities within doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (for example, participation in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; inclusion of international experts in commissions for guidance or defense of doctoral theses, etc.).

The West University of Timișoara is an active participant in the international fairs organized for the dissemination of the offer of international studies.

Without this being generalized, however, in the interval under analysis, a number of researchers and professors from foreign universities were integrated in the activity of doctoral schools. Researchers or professors from

¹⁷² <http://research.info.uvt.ro/wiki/ScientificSeminar>

¹⁷³ <http://synasc.ro/>

¹⁷⁴ <https://irdta.eu/BigDat2018/>

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.info.uvt.ro/ssip2019/>

institutes and universities abroad have also been integrated in the guiding commissions of some doctoral researches, respectively in the public support commissions of some doctoral theses (for example¹⁷⁶).

IOSUD-UVT attracts international students from neighboring countries, North African countries or the Arabian Peninsula. The number of foreign students has varied in the last 5 years:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No foreign doctoral students	90	96	63	77	67
Percentage of doctoral students	15,46%	16,96%	11,15%	12,92%	10,58%

Regarding the promotion of the UVT doctoral offer addressed to international students, it is used:

- websites UVT¹⁷⁷ and ¹⁷⁸
- national platform Study in Romania¹⁷⁹:

Regarding the participation of UVT in international fairs in the field of higher education, where the representation was made through the Department of International Relations, during 2016-2019:

- Erasmus Congress & Exhibition ERACON 2016, Thessaloniki, Grecia
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2016, Liverpool, UK
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2017, Sevilla, Spain – national stand „Study in Romania” organizat de CNR
- European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) 2017, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan
- International Graduate Scholarship Fair (IGSF) 2017, Beijing, Changchun and Hangzhou, China
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2018, Geneva, Elveția – national stand „Study in Romania”
- International Education Fairs of Turkey (IEFT) 2018, Istanbul, Turkey
- BMI Global Education Fair UAE 2018, Dubai, United Arab Emirates – national stand „Study in Romania”
- Education Abroad Fair 2018, Kiev, Ukraine – national stand „Study in Romania”
- „Campus Roumanie” 2018, Tunisia – national stand „Study in Romania”
- Study Abroad Event 2018, Paris, France
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2019, Helsinki, Finland – national stand „Study in Romania”
- Annual conference of NAFSA (National Association for Foreign Student Affairs) 2019, Washington, USA – national stand „Study in Romania”
- Vietnam Global Education Fair 2019, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam - national stand „Study in Romania”
- Annual forum of member universities in University Alliance of the Silk Road 2019, Xi'an, People's Republic of China
- China Education Expo 2019, Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai, People's Republic of China
- The 15 Summit FICCI in the field of higher education 2019, New Delhi, India
- European Association for International Education Spring și Autumn Academies 2019, Bordeaux - Franța, respectiv Budapesta-Ungaria
- Masterclass on Internationalisation of Higher Education, organizat de către Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) în colaborare cu International Association of Universities (IAU), 2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia

In 2020, at fairs and events dedicated to internationalization in higher education, organized online, as follows:

- The event „EAIE Community Summit: The Year Ahead”, organized online by *European Association for International Education (EAIE)* in the period June 16-17, 2020.
- Recruitment fair „A2 VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR”, organized online by *Flexy Class Global Education* in the period July 27-28, 2020 (candidates from Maroc, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania).
- Recruitment fair „Online Education Fair for Africa (North Africa)”, organized online by *Begin Group* in August 18, 2020 (candidates from North Africa).

¹⁷⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9908>

¹⁷⁷ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>

¹⁷⁸ <https://ri.uvt.ro/cetateni-din-state-terte-uniunii-europene-2/?lang=en>

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.studyinromania.gov.ro/>

- Recruitment fair "Online Education Fair for Africa (Tropical Africa)", organized online by *Begin Group* in August 20, 2020 (candidates from din Tropical Africa).
- Evenimentul "THE Virtual World Academic Summit", organized online by *Times Higher Education (THE)*, in the period September 1-2, 2020.
- Recruitment fair "Study and Go Abroad. Virtual Education Fair", organized online by *Recruit in Canada* in September 24, 2020 (candidates from Tropical Africa)
- Annual higher education fair "Study in Europe", organized online by the EU Delegation in Singapore in September 26, 2020.
- Recruitment fair "India and Nigeria Virtual Conference and College Fair 2020 (Lekkside Education Fair)", organized in the period October 9-11, 2020 (candidates from Nigeria and India).
- Annual conference "EAIE Community Exchange", organized by *EAIE (European Association for International Education)* in the period October 14-16, 2020.
- Recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Indian Subcontinent)", organized by *Begin Group* in the date October 27, 2020 (candidates from indian from the Indian subcontinent).
- Recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Eurasia)", organized by *Begin Group* in the date October 29 2020 (candidates from countries like Azerbaidjan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine).
- Recruitment fair "European Dream - European Education Fair 2020", organized by *Nordic Centre and the Austrian Centre of Fudan University* in October 30, 2020
- Recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Central Asia)", organized by *Begin Group* in November 3, 2020 (candidates From countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan).
- Recruitment fair "EuroPosgrados", organized in November 14 and 28, 2020 (candidates from Latin Counries, especially Mexic).
- The event dedicated to recruitment agents entitled "Study in Romania/Study in Canada/Study in USA", organized by *New Educational Trend (NET)* in the period Octomber 2020 - January 2021
- Annual conference "Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2020", organized by the *European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC)* in the period November 19-20, 2020.

CRITERION C.4. The system of ensuring the observance of the norms of ethics and academic integrity

STANDARD C.4.1. IOSUD / The doctoral school has a functional and efficient system for preventing and ensuring the observance of the norms of ethics and academic integrity.

INDICATOR C.4.1.1. IOSUD / The doctoral school implements the provisions regarding ethics and deontology / academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has:

- policies based on prevention regarding the possible violation of the code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrating through public positions, studies, analyzes or measures this fact;
- practices and mechanisms for the prevention of fraud both from the institutional perspective and from the perspective of doctoral students;
- practices for the prevention of possible fraud in its academic, research or other activities, including active measures to prevent and eliminate any form of plagiarism, as well as to promote the principles of ethics and integrity or to respect intellectual property, copyright and related rights among all members of its academic community;
- administrative instruments to ensure the application of effective and eliminatory sanctions;
- mechanisms and measures to ensure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind.

IOSUD constantly monitors and evaluates these practices and can demonstrate their application to all activities and the involvement of students in all these processes.

Institutional regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral university studies within IOSUD-UVT ¹⁸⁰ specifies:

Politics

- Doctoral university study programs ensure the formation of professional skills (content, cognitive and research) in specialized fields, as well as transversal skills, including the ethics of scientific research.
- Professional skills include understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics, the principles of academic integrity in the field.

Prevention

- The doctoral school and CSUD-UVT take measures to prevent and sanction deviations from the norms of scientific, professional and university ethics, according to the code of ethics and professional deontology of UVT.
- The doctoral supervisor is responsible together with the author of the thesis for the observance of the quality or professional ethics standards, including the assurance of the originality of the thesis content.
- The doctoral school together with the doctoral supervisor have the obligation to inform the doctoral student about the scientific, professional and university ethics and to verify its observance, including: a) the observance of the deontological provisions during the doctoral research; b) the observance of the deontological provisions in the drafting of the doctoral thesis.
- The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and assumes, through a written statement, the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as the opinions and demonstrations expressed in the thesis.
- The doctoral supervisor is responsible together with the thesis author for the observance of quality standards or professional ethics, including ensuring the originality of the content.

Intellectual property

- The protection of intellectual property rights over the doctoral thesis is ensured in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- The capitalization of the copyright and / or of the industrial property rights over the original product or creation made within the doctoral university study program is made in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in the field.
- If the doctoral student does not opt for the distinct publication of the thesis or of some chapters from it, the digital form of the thesis is made public and can be freely accessed on the national platform after the issuance of the doctoral degree; the thesis will be assigned a copyright protection license.
- If the doctoral student opts for the distinct publication of the doctoral thesis or of some chapters from it, he / she receives a grace period of maximum 24 months for the accomplishment of this publication; after the expiration of the grace period, if no notification has been received at IOSUD regarding the distinct publication of the thesis, the document in digital format becomes freely accessible on the national platform with the assignment of a copyright protection license;
- After the publication of the thesis or some chapters from it, the author has the obligation to notify IOSUD on this fact and to send the bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform.

Sanctions

- In case of possible academic frauds, violations of university ethics or deviations from good conduct in scientific research, including plagiarism, the doctoral student and / or the doctoral supervisor are liable under the law.
- If a member of the doctoral committee identifies in the evaluation of the thesis, both before the public defense and in it, serious deviations from good conduct in scientific research and university activity, including plagiarism of the results or publications of other authors, results or the replacement of the results with fictitious data, the member of the doctoral commission is obliged to take the following measures: to

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Regulamentul-institutional-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-IOSUD-editia-.pdf>

notify the ethics commission of the higher education institution in which the doctoral student is enrolled and the ethics commission of the institution where the doctoral supervisor is employed for the analysis and solution of the case, including by expelling the doctoral student.

- In case of finding non-compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including in case of finding plagiarism, based on reports prepared by CNATDCU, CNCS or the National Council of Ethics of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation, the Minister of National Education may revoke, by order, granting the title of doctor.
- Following the identification of violations of good conduct in research, including plagiarism of results or publications of other authors, preparation of results or replacement of results with fictitious data, in the evaluation of the thesis by the doctoral supervisor or guidance committee, the public support agreement is not provided.

The Methodology regarding the organization and development of the process of defending the doctoral theses within UVT¹⁸¹ specifies:

- The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and assumes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as the opinions and demonstrations expressed in the thesis.
- It is mandatory in the doctoral thesis to mention the source for any material taken.
- The doctoral supervisor is jointly and severally liable with the author of the thesis for compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including ensuring the originality of the content.
- In IOSUD-UVT the program for analyzing the similarity of doctoral theses is iThenticate. The thesis is uploaded to iThenticate before the submission before the Steering Committee and, if there are objections, again before the public submission. If the degree of similarity is not acceptable by the doctoral supervisor, he / she requests the complete rewriting of the doctoral thesis. The thesis can be subjected to similarity analysis by iThenticate up to 5 times.
- The degree of similarity accepted in IOSUD-UVT varies depending on the doctoral schools, but it is recommended not to exceed 10%. In well-motivated cases, due to the specifics of the research, a higher percentage of similarity can be accepted with its motivation through a firm report from the doctoral coordinator.

The procedure regarding the organization and development of the process of defending the doctoral theses within the West University of Timișoara in the online version¹⁸² strengthens these provisions of the methodology by digitizing the process.

INDICATOR * C.4.1.2. All the notifications regarding the suspicions of plagiarism related to some doctoral theses were analyzed and solved by IOSUD within the legal term provided for the expression of the written point of view regarding the received notification.

In the West University of Timișoara, doctoral studies are carried out in compliance with the national legislative frameworks in force and with the application of specific specifications depending on the sectoral issues and fields of study.

Among the problems faced by doctoral schools are the registration in the last two years of two suspicions of plagiarism: in the field of Law (coord. Prof. Dr. Viorel Pașca / dr. Lascu Kovesi Codruța Laura - thesis defended in 2011) and in the field of Management (coord. prof. dr. Gheorghe Ionescu / dr. Bodog Florian Dorel - thesis defended in 2008).

The situation of these 2 notifications is as follows:

- In the case of Lascu Kovesi Codruța Laura, IOSUD-UVT received, in October 2016, a notification from CNATDCU (following the notification addressed to this institution by the GRAUR Association) regarding the suspicion of plagiarism. At the UVT level, the Ethics Commission set up an internal analysis commission that re-evaluated the doctoral thesis and submitted a report to CNATDCU. Based on this report and its own

¹⁸¹ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Metodologia-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-sustinere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-UVT-editia-a-II-a.-HS-20-din-24.09.2020..pdf>

¹⁸² <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Procedur%C4%83-sus%C8%9Binere-tez%C4%83-de-doctorat-%C3%AEn-variant%C4%83-online.HS-25-22.10.2020.pdf>

assessment, CNATDCU invalidated the suspicion of plagiarism and maintained the title of doctor obtained by the candidate (Decision of the General Council of CNATDCU / 01.02.2017 by Address no. 17753/17089 / 01.02.2017).

- In the case of Bodog Florian Dorel, IOSUD-UVT received, in October 2017, a notification from the League of Students from the University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Iași and, in November 2017, a notification from the GRAUR Association regarding the suspicion of plagiarism. At the UVT level, the Ethics Commission set up, at the proposal of IOSUD, an internal commission of specialists who re-evaluated the doctoral thesis. The report of this commission was sent to CNATDCU (including the chairman of the specialized commission) which validated the suspicion of plagiarism.

INDICATORUL C.4.1.3. În rapoartele anuale ale Comisiei de etică din cadrul IOSUD se regăsesc informații privind stadiul soluționării fiecărui caz în care a existat o sesizare sau o autosesizare relevantă pentru studiile doctorale cu privire la încălcarea unor norme și aspecte etice.

Rapoartele Comisiei de etica din UVT sunt publice la adresa ¹⁸³ (fac referire la hotărârile comisiei). In arhiva hotărârilor Comisiei de Etică disponibile la adresa ¹⁸⁴ se găsește Hotărârea nr. 14/17.07.2018 referitoare la suspiciunea de plagiat a tezei de doctorat în domeniul Științe economice elaborată de dl. Dr. Bodog Florian Dorel.

INDICATOR C.4.1.4. The measures taken by IOSUD following the final decisions of the CNATDCU to withdraw the doctoral title following the plagiarism notifications, all the aspects provided in the CNATDCU decision and in the legislation in force.

In Septembrie 2020 (within the legal term), UVT filed a lawsuit against Bodog Florin Dorel for withdrawing his doctorate ¹⁸⁵.

INDICATOR C.4.1.5. The measures meant to prevent academic fraud in doctoral studies, adopted by IOSUD, can be:

- a) the suspension of the right to coordinate new doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral supervisors who coordinated a doctoral thesis with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism;
- b) the exclusion from IOSUD of the doctoral supervisor who coordinated at least two doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism;
- c) suspension of the organization of the admission process for the respective doctoral field, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective doctoral field was completed and defended a doctoral thesis with final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism.

The measures taken by IOSUD-UVT since 2016 to verify the similarity of doctoral theses prevent academic fraud.

INDICATOR * C.4.1.6. Scientific references who have been part of the public support commissions of two or more doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism have not been appointed to the public support commissions of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.

There were no cases under this indicator during the reported period.

¹⁸³ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/uvt/comisia-etica-uvt/rapoarte-etica/>

¹⁸⁴ <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/uvt/comisia-etica-uvt/Hotararile-Comisiei/>

¹⁸⁵ Nr. 2705/111/2020 of 24.09.2020 Section III Administrative and Fiscal Litigation, object of annulment of administrative act, Bihor Tribunal

INDICATOR C.4.1.7. IOSUD has a public database in which are indexed all doctoral theses defended in the institution since at least 2016 in a format that contains: field, author, doctoral supervisor, thesis title and doctoral thesis in electronic format (if there is the consent of the author).

Anunțurile susținerilor tezelor de doctorat din perioada raportată sunt disponibile la adresa web¹⁸⁶. They contain: the title, the field, the author, the doctoral supervisor, the composition of the evaluation and public support commission, the date of the defense, the doctoral student's CV and the thesis summary. The search engine allows you to quickly find the data associated with a doctoral student.

The doctoral theses are kept by the West University of Timișoara in its own archive, in digital format at the Doctoral Studies Office (and physically, during the reported period). The variants of the doctoral theses submitted to the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" are kept in a special fund, based on the agreements between UVT and BCUT "Eugen Todoran". After granting the doctorate, within a maximum of 180 days, IOSUD-UVT has the obligation to send to the National Library of Romania a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes.

Theses in digital format are publicly available online through the REI platform (June 2016-present)¹⁸⁷. The search in this repository indicates the availability of 347 theses defended at IOSUD-UVT starting with autumn 2016.

¹⁸⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=46>

¹⁸⁷ <https://rei.gov.ro/teze-doctorat>

3. Strategies and procedures implemented at IOSUD level, as measures for continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral programs, other than those provided by the minimum standards, provided in annex no. 4 to guide.

An important component of the IOSUD-UVT activity is related to skills in the fields of doctoral studies, as a way to increase the study directions aligned with the latest achievements in science and society. The list of supports is available at ¹⁸⁸. The institutional regulation regarding the organization and development of the process of obtaining the habilitation certificate is available at ¹⁸⁹.

Another important component of the IOSUD-UVT activity is related to postdoctoral fellowships (to ensure continuity in research and attract new members to research teams). For example, in 2019, admission to postdoctoral programs was organized¹⁹⁰ (the latest methodology for admission, from 2020, is available at ¹⁹¹). The activities are carried out according to the Regulation on the organization and development of postdoctoral programs within the UVT ¹⁹².

The Rector's managerial plan for the period 2020-2024¹⁹³ provides the following regarding doctoral studies:

1. the establishment at the level of each study program of a board composed of teachers, representatives of employers, representatives of graduates and representatives of students from the master's or doctoral studies
2. creation of an institutional platform for the storage of bachelor's and dissertation papers, doctoral theses
3. allocation of doctoral places financed from the state budget to doctoral supervisors who meet the habilitation conditions in force
4. encouraging a teaching system based on research-based learning and scientific mentoring at the level of master's and doctoral studies
5. increasing the number of doctorates defended in co-tutoring with doctoral supervisors from foreign universities
6. facilitating international mobility for doctoral students through institutional development projects
7. the compatibility of the doctoral study programs with the existing ones at European level, within the limits allowed by the legal framework in force.
8. strengthening the mechanisms to ensure the observance of the norms of ethics and academic integrity in the whole process of elaborating doctoral theses
9. expanding the offer of co-tuition study programs, especially to the master's and doctoral study cycles.

Some of these directions have already been implemented. Point 3 is implemented starting with the admission of the academic year 2021/2022 according to the specific methodology¹⁹⁴. Points 5 and 7 are implemented starting with the current academic year through the Methodology regarding the doctorate in co-tutoring and the European doctorate ¹⁹⁵. The facilitation of international mobility provided for in point 6 is supported by the recent Methodology on access by doctoral students to institutional resources for vocational training ¹⁹⁶.

¹⁸⁸ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=41>

¹⁸⁹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=9459>

¹⁹⁰ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7608>

¹⁹¹ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Metodologie-admitere-postdoctorat-2020.pdf>

¹⁹² <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/files/054692275b80f5585f89b9f826b1ab58a9356ddc/>

¹⁹³ <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pirtea-Marilen-Gabriel..pdf>

¹⁹⁴ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10242>

¹⁹⁵ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10236>

¹⁹⁶ <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=10239>

4. Additional information relevant to IOSUD

The most recent SWOT analysis of IOSUD-UVT performed at CSUD UVT level relevant the following:

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality guidance for doctoral students • Regulations and procedures aligned with the legislation • Adequate research infrastructure • Documentation support provided by ANELIS • No. breeder of ISI doctoral student publications • Transparency of admission / support processes • Information support for checking similarities • No growing skills • Institutional support for the empowerment process • No. increasing affiliations to doctoral schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interest of high-performance masters for doctoral theses abroad • No small doctorate in co-supervision • No small thesis developed in an international context / based on mobility • Lack of involvement in doctoral projects in H2020 projects for doctoral • No small number of PhD supervisors for certain areas • Fields of master studies that have no equivalent in doctoral school • The low level of financing own or non-budgetary sources for scholarships • Low degree of computerization • Lack of teaching lines in English • No reduced collaborations with diaspora and international researchers • No reduced by theses developed in collaboration with the socio-economic environment • Low doctoral absorption of UVT master students
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibility of training master students for research • RO / EU funds that allow the inclusion of doctoral students • EC-funded grants for European doctorates • Opening of companies / organizations for collaboration • Erasmus agreements that can be exploited for elbows and mobility • Increasing the own funds of UVT that allows the launch of competitions for obtaining internal grants and mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doctoral scholarship is unattractive compared to a salary • The salary and career advantages of a graduate of doctoral studies not promoted in the Romanian labor market • The mediated cases of non-compliance with ethics in doctoral studies • The reluctance of companies to encourage employees to enroll in doctorate • Accepting low / unmotivated students • Difficulties of doctoral students employed • Sustained policy of universities abroad for attracting PhD students

5. Opis annexes, in electronic format, with access through links included in the text of the internal evaluation report.

The report does not contain any annexes. All links (footnotes) refer to documents publicly available online in digital format.