

IOSUD – West University of Timișoara
Doctoral School of Biology

INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

Doctoral University Studies Domain:

BIOLOGY

(DSUD – B)

Timișoara
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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. The doctoral school that manages the doctoral studies

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) 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, 1962, strengthened by Government Decision no. 458 of July 29, 1994.

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 – The Code of Doctoral Studies. It is defined as such by the Charter of the West University of Timișoara, The UVT Charter of 2019 (*Annex 1. Charter of the West University of Timisoara*) which stipulates: “UVT is an Organizing Institution of Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD-UVT) operates based on the Institutional Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies in UVT, 2021 (*Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT*) which is approved by the UVT Senate, under the conditions of the law and of the Code of Doctoral Studies” (Chapter 8, Organizational structure of UVT, art. 46.1).

The organization of doctoral studies 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, new faculties, new bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs have appeared. The economic fields (Finance, Economics, Accounting, Management and Marketing), Chemistry, Computer Science, Visual Arts or History have been added to the initial doctoral specializations – *Annex 3. IOSUD 2021 Internal Evaluation Report; Annex 4. UVT Rector's Report 2022.*

Once the concept of doctoral school was legally framed in Romania through the GD 567/2005 Regarding the Organization and Development of Doctoral Studies and the Bologna Convention regulations were introduced in UVT, the new doctoral schools could commence.

The doctoral studies in IOSUD – West University of Timisoara were carried out, during 2022, within the following doctoral schools: *Arts* (field: Visual Arts), *Chemistry* (field: Chemistry), *Law* (field: Law), *Faculty of Economics and Business Administration* (fields: Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Management, Finance), *Physics* (field: Physics), *Geography* (domain: Geography), *Computer Science* (domain: Computer Science), *Mathematics* (field: Mathematics), *Music* (fields: Music, Theatre and Performing Arts), *Psychology* (fields: Psychology, Education Sciences, Sports Science and Physical Education), *Sociology, Philosophy and Political Science* (fields: Sociology, Philosophy, Political Sciences), *Humanities* (fields: Philology and History). Thus, 12 doctoral schools are established, within which 24 doctoral study programs are organized. During 2022, two new doctoral fields have obtained ARACIS accreditation, Economic Informatics and Social Work.

During 2022, 596 doctoral students were enrolled at the doctoral schools within IOSUD – West University of Timisoara, of which:

- 559 Romanian students: 307 in budgeted regime, 252 in fee-based regime,
- 30 international students: 2 financed by the Romanian state (EU students, Romanian students from everywhere), 3 in their own account lei (EU students, Romanian students from everywhere) and 25 on their own currency regime.

Thus, in relation to the last academic year, a slight decrease in the total number of PhD students, as well as in the number of PhD students with fee, Romanians and internationals, can be noted, but a slight increase in the number of PhD students in the budget.

Table 1. Distribution by categories of doctoral students (B-budget, T- fee, CPL – Own account in lei, CPV – own account in foreign currency)

PhD Students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Romanian PhD Students - budget	271	255	270	292	306
Romanian PhD Students - tax	231	264	296	316	252
Romanians abroad PhD Students - scholarships	11	12	12	5	5
Romanians abroad PhD Students - no scholarships	2	4	4	4	2
Romanians abroad PhD Students - tax	1	2	1	0	0
Rrom - budget	4	5	5	2	1
Foreign PhD Students - budget	3	3	1	3	2
Foreign PhD Students - tax (lei)	5	6	5	4	3
Foreign PhD Students - tax (own currency)	37	45	39	17	25
Foreign students/students' ratio	10%	12%	10%	5%	6%
Raport total student/students' buget	1,94	2,14	2,16	2,16	1,93

During 2022, 97 doctoral theses were defended, examined in the National Commission for the Award of University Degrees and Diplomas (CNATDCU) and confirmed by ministerial order. During 2021, 10 professors defended their habilitation thesis, of which 7 obtained the habilitation certificate, and during 2022 there were 13 habilitation theses defended and confirmed by the CNATDCU, with the corresponding certificate obtained.

In 2021, ARACIS evaluated the doctoral fields of IOSUD-UVT. Following the visit that took place on 11-15 October 2021, the ARACIS Council awarded the qualification "maintenance of accreditation", a decision that was approved by the Order of the Minister of Education No 5.842 of 17 December 2021. Out of 22 doctoral fields evaluated, for 21 the maintenance of accreditation was approved, and for 1 field (Marketing), accreditation was conditional on a new evaluation within a maximum of one year. The necessary documentation for the Marketing field has been submitted on time and the evaluation visit is awaited. Also in 2021, following the Order of the Minister of Education no. 5255/2021 on the verification of compliance with academic ethics and deontology in the preparation of doctoral theses from 1990-2016, the CSUD developed the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of the Phenomenon of Plagiarism in the West University of Timisoara and the Regulation of Organization and Operation of the Office of Ethics and Academic Integrity of UVT, which will implement this strategy, in particular the creation of a digital library with all doctoral theses defended at UVT since 1990. This will make it easier to identify the doctoral research topics that have been addressed at UVT, the qualification awarded to doctoral theses defended at UVT, etc. The digitisation of doctoral theses will make it possible to check them using the Ithenticate anti-plagiarism software.

2021 is the year in which 32 postdocs completed the postdoctoral research programme. Also at that time, UVT's 24-month, self-funded, full-time advanced postdoctoral research programme started. Of the 15 budgeted postdoctoral grants proposed, 10 have been filled during 2022, in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Economics, Finance, Political Science, Visual Arts.

In order to increase the institutional support for the organisation of cotutelle PhDs, the Methodology for cotutelle PhDs and European PhDs was developed in 2021 (*Annex 5. Methodology*

for cotutelle and European doctorate). 2 cotutelle PhDs started in 2021 (1 in the field of Law - UVT main cotutelle, 1 in the field of Philology - UVT secondary cotutelle). At the time of writing this report, according to the current Methodology, for the year 2022, the situation is as follows:

- 9 doctorates in cotutelle (UVT main partner, within the Unita Universitas Montium Alliance);
- 1 cotutelle doctorate (UVT secondary partner, within the Unita Universitas Montium Alliance);
- 2 cotutelle doctorates (with UVT main/secondary partner)

Priorities for 2023:

- Dynamise the process of organising international cotutelle, including at the level of the UNITA Universitas Montium Alliance.
- Opening and accreditation of new doctoral fields
- Attract good quality postdoctoral researchers, including international ones.

The most recently confirmed fields of doctoral studies are: Economic Informatics (Order 4515 of 10 August 2022) and Social Work (Order 5430 of 5 October 2022).

Composition of the Council of Doctoral Studies of the UVT 2020-2024 (from November 2021)

CSUD Director – Professor Dana PERCEC, PhD

Members:

Professor Oana LOBONȚ, PhD
Prof. Adriana LUCACIU, PhD
Professor Marius PAULESCU, PhD
Professor Mihai Viorel PUTZ, PhD
Prof. Adina Luminița SASU, PhD
Prof. univ. Dr. Irina SFERDIAN

PhD student members:

Alina IONAȘCU
Daniel Milencovici

The Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) is in the process of being established as of 2022, following the fulfilment of the requirements that at least 3 IOSUD-UVT affiliated teaching staff hold the status of PhD coordinator (habilitation). Thus, it becomes possible for the first time in the history of UVT, the existence of a level of doctoral studies within the field of Biology. At the time of writing this self-assessment report, the SDB can include 3 PhD coordinators in its composition, as it does not yet have any doctoral or postdoctoral students enrolled.

The composition of the SDB is: Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN (West University of Timișoara), Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI (West University of Timișoara), Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU (West University of Timișoara). Being in the early stage of establishment, there have been no elections within the SDB, so at the time of writing this report no involvement of SDB members in the composition of the CSUD boards can be presented.

The conduct of the elections and the establishment of the management and coordination structures at the level of the CSUD and the Doctoral School of Biology will be organised as soon as all requirements are met and will comply with the legislation, regulations and methodologies in force at that time.

The main goal of the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) is to investigate at the level of academic excellence issues of fundamental biological phenomena such as: biomonitoring, evolution of organisms, spatial ecology, impact of invasive species on native biota, molecular modeling of biological processes, prediction of biological activity of various xenobiotics. SDB's mission will

always be to develop and promote high-performance research programmes in line with international trends and to generate new knowledge in biology. The effect of these research programmes will be reflected in the generation of more scientific knowledge, in the increase of the visibility and reputation of the Romanian field of study at national and international level and in a higher quality of teaching. SDB also develops in its graduates superior skills for professional activity and rapid insertion into the labour market, as well as competitiveness at national and international level.

Through its curriculum, SDB will offer to first year PhD students a number of 3 disciplines: 1) Ethics and Academic Integrity; 2) Scientific Research and Academic Writing; 3) Research Methodology and Scientific Authorship (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*).

The SDB has a well-developed and well-equipped material base that allows its future PhD students access to an extensive research infrastructure. The SDB will implement a system of quality assurance of the educational act and of transposition into practice of the principles, norms and rules valid at national and international level in terms of ethics of all scientific research and academic integrity, of ensuring transparency and equal opportunities in terms of access to education and training. The operational objectives of this system, which will be included in the future SDB Operating Regulation, are to:

- Obtain continuous feedback from PhD students on the quality of teaching;
- Identifying and resolving possible situations of deviation from the ethics of scientific research activity and from the general principles of an appropriate educational act;
- Improvement of teaching, mentoring and coordination of doctoral students;
- Transposing the specific provisions of national legislation in this field;
- Properly developing the interaction between the quality assurance system and university management;
- Using the information produced by the internal quality assurance system as a tool for quality management and improvement of education and other tutoring and mentoring activities.

A strategic objective of the SDB is to increase the internationalisation of its work by: (a) attracting doctoral students from Europe and beyond; (b) establishing international co-ordination agreements; (c) inviting international and national personalities in the life and biomedical sciences to disseminate knowledge and professional expertise to doctoral students; (d) increasing the visibility of doctoral coordinators in national and international academic and professional circles.

In terms of the existing research infrastructure at the doctoral school level, enrolled PhD students have access to the entire UVT infrastructure, including here:

- Central University Library (B.C.U.) "Eugen Todoran" - located in the top four largest university libraries in Romania, B.C.U. "Eugen Todoran" has more than 1,000,000 documents available for PhD students;
- through Anelis Plus PhD students have free access to all major databases (e.g. Science Direct, Wiley, Sage, Scopus, Springer or Web of Science).

The Biology PhD field is a new PhD field. With this self-evaluation dossier we apply for accreditation of this PhD in the Doctoral School of Biology.

Annually, the Report of the Dean of the **Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography (FCBG)**, contains a chapter dedicated to the activity of doctoral studies, in which the situation of doctoral enrolment, the situation of doctoral students (2019-2021), as well as the number of doctoral coordinators are analysed (*Annex 7. FCBG Dean's Annual Report, 2023*). The official website of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography of the West University of Timisoara is www.cbg.uvt.ro.

For more than 20 years the FCBG has been organizing undergraduate studies and for more than 10 years master's studies in the field of Biology, within the **Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC)**. By order of the Ministry of Education no. 116521 of 12.06.1990, the Faculty of Biology-Geography was established at the West University of Timisoara, with two specialization sections and a number of 20 places for each specialization. Since the academic year 1991/1992, by H.G., annex 38/1992, the Biology specialization receives the status of a section within the Faculty of Chemistry-Biology-Geography, so that in 1995 the Biology specialization of the West University of Timișoara is included in the list of accredited specializations in H.G. 568 (Official Monitor no. 187/16.08.1995).

In 2005, within the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography, a Master's specialization in Biology called Developmental Biology and Genetics was established and authorized. According to the ARACIS A/17.04.2008, the Master's programme was accredited with the title: Developmental Biology (Embryology) and Teratology. With the GD no. 582/2014 on accredited master's degree fields, study programmes and the maximum number of students that can be enrolled in the academic year 2014-2015, the programme Developmental Biology and the influence of exogenous factors on organisms is operating under the current name. The Biology master field is accredited as of 2019 (<https://admitere.uvt.ro/program/biologia-dezvoltarii-si-influenta-factorilor-exogeni-asupra-organismelor>). We mention that the beginnings of the master field BIOLOGY (2005) were based on and capitalized on more than 30 years of experience in Developmental Biology and Teratological Testing of several specialists. This experience was accumulated in the only laboratory of its kind in Romania (Laboratory of Experimental Embryology) that functioned within the Romanian Academy Branch in Timisoara and the Academy of Medical Sciences until 1998.

The development and consolidation of the educational offer for the first two cycles of studies of the Bologna Process, as well as the existence of a sustained research activity, both within the FCBG and the existing research centres at faculty level, entitle us to agree to offer the third cycle of university studies, the doctoral level, within the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB), as a distinct field of doctoral university studies, an offer that we submit to the present evaluation.

The rationale for the efforts to build a team of PhD coordinators was firstly related to the **prestige of the field of Biology**, both nationally and internationally, and secondly, to the prestige of the academic staff in Biology. It is the first time in the history of UVT that we have experienced this opportunity to establish a new PhD field within a new doctoral school.

1.2. The Biology field of doctoral studies (DSUD – B)

Description of the mission and objectives of the Biology PhD programme

Doctoral studies in the field of Biology will be organized at the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB), Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography (FCBG), West University of Timisoara (UVT) (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/educatie/programe-de-doctorat>).

The PhD programme in the field of Biology is of the scientific type and is aimed at graduates of the second cycle of university studies and graduates of long university studies (pre-Bologna).

The mission of the PhD field is to provide the opportunity to accumulate knowledge and to train advanced professional and cross-disciplinary skills in biology. At the same time, doctoral students will have the opportunity to focus their scientific research on priority, topical themes, of which we will list just a few: biomonitoring, phytotoxicology, immunobiology, aquatic ecology, spatial ecology, phylogeography, biogeography, invasive species, bioinformatics, computational

biology, molecular modeling of biological processes.

PhD studies in the field of Biology have clear and realistic objectives that derive from the topicality and importance of new trends, challenges and data processing technologies in the context of the evolution of techniques for their investigation, analysis and interpretation.

The specific objectives aim at: (i) developing indispensable skills for scientific research; (ii) acquiring skills for a successful career in research, education or as experts in different public or private sectors; (iii) supporting doctoral students and coordinators in achieving the proposed research objectives; (iv) disseminating and promoting research results; (vi) stimulating collaboration both within the institution and with other national and international institutions active in the field of scientific research.

Doctoral field Biology. Teaching plan

Doctoral studies constitute the third cycle of university studies, centred on learning through research, whose purpose is to develop human resources competent in scientific research, capable of entering the highly qualified labour market. The doctorate has two components: a training programme based on advanced university studies and an individual scientific research programme. (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*). We propose the inclusion of DSUD - B 1) Ethics and Academic Integrity; 2) Scientific Research and Academic Writing; 3) Research Methodology and Scientific Authorship in the general curriculum of the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB). In DSUD - B, doctoral students will be required to take these subjects in the curriculum of the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB).

Learning and research in PhD programmes in Biology have several dimensions:

- Spiral learning which implies that identifying and validating the solution to a research problem generates another research problem;
- Networked learning and research involve a focus on building partnerships within academia and socio-economics;
- Interdisciplinarity and depth;
- Respect for core principles and values in research and dissemination of research results.

Doctoral coordinators in the field Biology

The PhD in the field of Biology is directed by 3 full professors of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography (FCBG) of the West University of Timisoara, namely. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN, Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI and Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU. The 3 PhD coordinators in the PhD field Biology are full members of the Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC) (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/departament-biologiechimie/>) and are affiliated to IOSUD - UVT (*Annex 8. Habilitation orders; Annex 9. Approval of the establishment of DSUD - B*).

The 3 PhD coordinators in the field of Biology meet the minimum necessary and obligatory standards for the conferral of teaching titles in higher education and professional research and development degrees, M.E.N.C.S. Order. No. 6.129 of 20.12.2016 published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, No. 123/15.03.2017. Annex no. 19 - Biology and Biochemistry Commission (*Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators*). Table 2 presents the Hirsch Index and the CNATDCU score for each PhD coordinator in the field of Biology:

Table 2. Doctoral coordinators - Hirsch Index & NCATDCU score

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN	Hirsch Index: 12. CNATDCU score: 936,18
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Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI	Hirsch Index: 9. CNATDCU score: 677
Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU	Hirsch Index: 15. CNATDCU score: 824

The 3 PhD coordinators are involved in teaching activities as foreseen in the Staff Regulations of the Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC), where all disciplines in the field of biology are regulated, and in research activities in accordance with the DBC strategy (***Annex 11. DBC Statement of Operations, 2021-2022***). DBC promotes research. In support of this, we provide the scientific papers published by the three PhD coordinators, as well as the experience gained in grants or research projects, and other projects that also have a dimension involving research studies. The 3 PhD coordinators collaborate with the teaching staff of the DBC, of the other departments of the FCBG, as well as with colleagues from UVT or other universities in the country and abroad in this research direction in the field of Biology or interdisciplinary. Therefore, there are prerequisites for the establishment of doctoral supervision committees for potential doctoral students in the framework of doctoral studies in Biology (***Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications***).

We present in Table 3, the scientific areas of interest of the 3 PhD coordinators in the field of Biology (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/departament-biologiechimie/>; ***Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications***):

Table 3. Doctoral coordinators - Areas of interest / Scientific research topics

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN	1 - Bioinformatics 2 - Computational Biology 3 - Molecular modelling
Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI	1 - Biomonitoring 2 - Fitotoxicology 3 - Immunobiology
Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU	1 - Aquatic ecology, spatial ecology 2 - Biogeography, phylogeography 3 - Invasive species, behaviour

Research centres/laboratories

The Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography operates 2 research centres (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/cercetare/centre-de-cercetare/>): 1) CRC - CRAYFISH RESEARCH CENTRE, 2) CBAB - CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND BIOMONITORING.

A distinct feature within DBC is **ICAM**. The ICAM project is part of the Intelligent Specialisation Area 3 Energy, Environment and Climate Change, subarea 3.2 Environment and Climate Change by its very nature, responding to almost all strategies with applicability in the field.

- The multidisciplinary nature of the research to be carried out within ICAM will be ensured by the following directions of action envisaged:
- The development of new research areas in line with international research trends and with the requirements of the national and European economy, with important economic implications;
- Development of new methods, technologies and prototypes serving a multi-disciplinary regional scientific community and integration into the international scientific community concerned with solving environmental problems;

- The creation and identification of the convergence of three strategic research directions for UVT: research in the exact sciences (the first area of university strategic research), applied research in technological and environmental sciences (the second area of university strategic research), research in the field of socio-ecological sciences and the transfer of innovation to society (the third area of university strategic research), crystallized on the major fields in which the academic community of this institution is active.
- The second thematic area (applied research in the field of environmental technological sciences) is the number 1 priority of this project, as it has the most application value, which is the basic objective of the programme;

By research areas, the specific objectives are the following:

1. In strategic area I - basic research in the exact sciences:

- To achieve an interdisciplinary approach at the intersection of environmental science - chemistry - biology - geography - mathematics - computer science - economics, combining the strengths of all these fields to solve environmental problems (pollution, climate change, non-conventional energies, waste recovery and recycling, etc.);
- Development of existing mathematical models and development of new mathematical models for physical, chemical, biological, technological and economic processes and development of specific software for certain models that are capable of exploiting environmental studies;
- Development of computer models for solving complex problems based on artificial intelligence techniques (intelligent systems, soft computing, hybrid techniques, multi-agent systems) and on parallel and distributed computing (HPC, Grid computing, Cloud computing) with application to environmental problems;
- Founding methods for the study of nanostructures and modelling of concrete dynamic systems, prediction and control phenomena allowing the ecoremediation of polluted environments, etc.

2. In strategic area II - applied research in technological and environmental sciences:

- Development of technologies for the production of materials with predetermined properties or adaptable to technological requirements through genetic engineering studies in the field of accelerated evolution;
- Development of methods to study the thermal behaviour of various materials with environmental impact;
- Development of methods to quantify the "fragility" of the environment due to climatic and anthropogenic conditions;
- Development of highly applicable procedures for environmental and landscape restoration, etc..

3. In strategic research area III, research on green economy and transfer of innovation to society:

- Customer orientation of R&D&I activity and development of research tools useful in the strategic management of the portfolio of R&D&I activities with an application-oriented character, predominantly oriented towards environmental protection;
- Testing the practical validity of research results, especially in the field of ecoremediation of polluted environment, etc.;

The detailing and simulation of the operation of the centre over a period of 10 years leads to favourable economic and financial efficiency indicators (according to the Feasibility Study). The team that will use the research spaces, i.e. the laboratories, will be mixed, with researchers from the fields mentioned above in order to have a multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary approach to the

research activity, based on the experience of the team, experience acquired in laboratories abroad. The new location created by the project (ICAM building), as well as the equipment and intangible assets acquired by the project will be used by UVT researchers and, through inter-institutional collaboration protocols, by other researchers working in the field of climate change and environmental protection. Each laboratory will have a person in charge of the proper functioning of the laboratory, but all the facilities acquired through the project will be used in a co-sharing system, so that both the research process and the research results are multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary.

The project contributes to the sustainable development of advanced scientific research in UVT, because it provides measures to ensure:

- (1) human resources (involvement of young people in the research and management team, training of new researchers by involving students of all levels in scientific research activities, creation of new partnerships with research teams abroad);
- (2) economic resources (addressing research topics that can be rapidly transferred to industry and for which the national and global market is in high demand - the field of biotechnologies and the creation of biodegradable polymers from renewable resources) and
- (3) environmental protection and reduced use of non-renewable resources (by proposing the production of biodegradable polymers from renewable resources to replace as far as possible polymers obtained from oil which are not biodegradable).

The Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography is continuously concerned with improving the educational process and has developed a close collaboration with the regional economic and social environment in order to increase the quality of the educational programmes provided to students, while ensuring a suitable infrastructure for teaching and research activities (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/facultate/parteneriate>).

Internet access to the electronic catalogue (OPAC) of the B.C.U. is provided. "Eugen Todoran", which contains 334,656 bibliographic units, which represents more than 90% of the usual collection of documents (<http://aleph.bcut.ro/F?RN=204446683>). Also, ANELIS provides free access to all important databases (e.g. Ebsco Academic Search Premier and Proquest Central, ScienceDirect, Scopus, SpringerLink e-journals and Thomson ISI Web of Science), including ISI journals, books and book chapters, books, PhD thesis (<https://intranet.uvt.ro/>, <https://portal.anelisplus.ro/>).

Main scientific achievements

The scientific & professional activity of the 3 full professors at the West University of Timisoara, Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN, Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI and Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU was and is being carried out within the Department of Biology-Chemistry, with a didactic dimension, research in the field of Biology and interdisciplinary approaches, and a dimension of initiatives with the socio-economic environment (***Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators***). The teaching staff of the Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC) has a potential for development towards future empowerment (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/departament-biologiechimie/>).

The doctoral field of Biology is a new doctoral field within the new Doctoral School of Biology (SDB). This evaluation report seeks accreditation of the doctoral field and its establishment within the SDB. As such, all strategies and procedures governing the functioning of the SDB will be applied, with the aim of continuously improving the quality of the doctoral programmes.

1.3. The internal quality assurance system

The internal quality assurance system within IOSUD – UVT (including the future DSUD – B) is built according to UVT internal regulations (UVT Charter, Institutional Regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, Regulations on the organization and operation of SDSFSP), which are aligned with the National Education Law 1/2011, GEO No 75 of 2005 on quality assurance of education, respectively HG 681 Code of doctoral studies, as amended, in force at the time of drafting the regulations.

Internal quality assurance is done through collaboration between the SDB management structure (Director of the Doctoral School, Doctoral School Council) and the existing quality management structures in the UVT (Department for Quality Management - <https://dmc.uvt.ro/>).

The operational objectives of the quality assurance system implemented within the SDB are to:

- Obtain continuous feedback from PhD students on the quality of teaching activity;
- Identifying and resolving possible situations of deviation from the ethics of scientific research activity and from the general principles of an adequate educational act;
- Improvement of the teaching and coordination of doctoral students;
- Transposition of specific provisions of national legislation in this field;
- Properly run the interaction between the quality assurance system and university management;
- Using the information produced by the internal quality assurance system as a tool for quality management and improvement of education and other activities.

Quality assurance policies include regulations, procedures and arrangements for modalities:

- - informing doctoral students and coordinators of the ethical and deontological standards to be followed, by introducing dedicated courses in the educational offer;
- - ensuring diversified skills in the coordinatory committees;
- - monitoring situations of delay in doctoral study processes;
- - checking compliance with ethical standards in the writing of research products by checking them with iThenticate software.

The effectiveness of internal **quality assurance** procedures and structures is assessed annually in the management reports of the Rector of UVT and the Deans (*Annex 4. UVT Rector's Report 2023, Annex 7. FCBG Dean's Annual Report 2023*). These reports contain references to the activities of the West University structures (Faculties, Doctoral Schools) as well as the activities of the administrative structures explicitly involved in quality management (e.g., Department for Quality Management).

In relation to the **monitoring and continuous development** of the internal quality assurance system, it can be noted that several measures have been adopted within the institution to ensure the quality of education, as follows:

- Continuous improvement of the educational offer;
- collection of doctoral students' opinions on the doctoral programme;
- creation of events (in partnership with the Faculty's research structures) for the complementary training of doctoral students;
- measures to increase the quality of the scientific research activity of doctoral students.

The information produced by the internal quality assurance system has been used both for the appropriate adjustment of internal quality assurance mechanisms and for strategic decisions on selection procedures (with an annual adjustment of the selection methodology), training and support of doctoral students.

II. INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE CRITERIA, STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS DETAILED IN ANNEXE NO. 4, ACCOMPANIED BY CORROBORATIVE DIGITAL DOCUMENTS

A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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

A.1.1. The institution offering doctoral programs (IODP) has implemented the efficient functioning mechanisms as per the specific legal framework regarding doctoral programs.

A.1.1.1. Specific regulations and their implementation at the level of IODP and of the doctoral school, over the last 5 years:

In the IOSUD-UVT Internal Evaluation Report (*Annex 3. IOSUD 2021 Internal Evaluation Report*) specific regulations and their application at doctoral school level are mentioned.

a) internal rules of procedure of the administrative structures

The regulatory framework concerning the organization and conduct of doctoral degree programs at the Western University is established by the *Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies (Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT)*. The rules are posted on the website of the West University of Timisoara (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Regulamentul-institutional-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-IOSUD-editia-.pdf>) and promotes a set of common principles to guarantee quality in the organisation.

b) the methodology for conducting elections within the Council of Doctoral Studies, within the doctoral schools and their evidence

Elections for all UVT structures and leadership positions for the 2020-2024 term were held in accordance with *Regulation containing the Methodology for the elections of the structures and governing functions of the UVT for the term 2020-2024 (Methodology for the elections of the UVT structures and management functions for the 2020-2024 term of office)*.

All information related to the conduct of these elections (methodology, candidates, results) are posted on the university website at - <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/alegeri-2020-2024/>. Paragraph 2.2 of the methodology for the conduct of elections in the UVT for the 2020-2024 term sets out the regulations for the election of members of the Doctoral School Council. We mention:

Art. 22 (3) "A maximum of 40% of the doctoral school council shall consist of doctoral coordinators from the doctoral school, 20% of doctoral students, rounded up if necessary, the remaining 40% being made up of members from outside the doctoral school chosen from among scientific personalities whose scientific work has significant international recognition and/or personalities from the relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors."

Art. 25 "Doctoral students elect their representatives in the council of the doctoral school according to art. 14 (2) of H.G. no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, based on their own regulations" (*Methodology for the elections of the UVT structures and management functions for the 2020-2024 term of office*).

The election of students to the governing structures of the CSUD, respectively to the

councils of doctoral schools, is regulated by separate, specific documents designed to organize student elections at UVT (*Annex 15. Regulations for the election of student representatives in the UVT, 04.02.2021 mandate 2020-2024*). Student elections are held annually according to a specific timetable announced by UVT student organisations - <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/>.

c) the methodology for conducting the latest competition for the position of Head of the Council of Doctoral Studies and their evidence

The proper conduct of doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is regulated by a series of methodologies and regulations, which detail and explain the institutional regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies. The regulations and procedures are publicly available at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>

Thus, each year the CSUD discusses the framework for the admission of doctoral students, proposing specific admission methodologies (public at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Regulament-admitere-doctorat-UVT-2022-2023.pdf>). These methodologies are in accordance with the national methodologies of the Ministry of Education and Research, respectively with the Methodologies for admission to studies of Romanian candidates from abroad. On the basis of the general admission methodologies, discussed in the CSUD, endorsed by the UVT Board of Directors and approved by resolution of the University Senate, the doctoral schools draw up their own admission methodologies, which are specific according to the particularities of the doctoral study field.

Admission to doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT is conducted in transparent conditions, with the dissemination of useful information for registration. Thus, the website announces the places available and the type of places available (full-time / part-time; budget with scholarship / budget without scholarship / own funding) as well as the distribution of places by doctoral schools and fields of doctoral studies. The doctoral studies website is updated frequently, containing current information of interest from the admission process to the completion of doctoral studies (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>). As regards the special places allocated to Romanian candidates from abroad, respectively, for admissions in the academic years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, the special places allocated to Roma candidates, for their occupation the candidates who applied were classified according to the results of the admission competition. In order to avoid situations of parity, the IOSUD Admission Methodology has established clear criteria and criteria for differentiation.

The Regulations of the Doctoral School will provide that the Entrance Examination consists of two papers: A) presentation of the admission file composed of: 1. Curriculum Vitae, 2. Written proposal of the research topic (PhD Proposal) - according to the international rules presented in advance on the website of the Doctoral School/IOSUD-UVT, 3. A brief motivation regarding the choice of the topic, 4. Portfolio of published works in the chosen field of research (where applicable); B) Oral presentation in front of the admission committee. Both tests are conducted in Romanian or English. In order to ensure the valorisation of the PhD student's previous research activity and his/her motivation to pursue the PhD cycle, in the evaluation of the students during the admission exam it is possible to award bonus points (based on a transparent grid made public at least 30 days before the admission date) for the activities carried out by them before admission, such as publications, experience in the academic and research environment, etc.

In addition, candidates must meet the conditions imposed by IOSUD-UVT for enrolment in doctoral studies specified in the Institutional Regulations on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies at UVT.

In order to take part in the admission competition, candidates must submit an admission file. The content of this file is regulated at university level and includes the following documents: application form; application form; birth certificate (certified copy); marriage certificate or any other document certifying change of name (certified copy); baccalaureate diploma (certified copy); bachelor's degree (certified copy); transcript of records or annex to the bachelor's degree (certified copy); master's degree or equivalent (certified copy); certificate of language proficiency; curriculum vitae; receipt for payment of the application fee.

The certificate of language proficiency or its equivalent (e.g. proof of completion of university or college courses in English) is required as it attests to the candidate's ability to complete both the entrance examination and the subjects in the curriculum that require reading material in English.

In the interests of transparency and objectivity, the PhD admission committee is voted by the Doctoral School Board, based on the proposal made by the Director of the School and the PhD coordinator concerned. In order to ensure alignment with the approaches of other doctoral schools in Romania, admission to doctoral studies is by means of a competition held annually in September.

IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for the completion of doctoral studies. These procedures are based on national legislation and comply with the national platforms for the validation of doctoral degrees (Integrated Educational Register and Single Register). They include information on the steps leading up to the PhD thesis as well as the conditions for the thesis. All these procedures are designed to ensure conditions of total exigency and transparency with regard to doctoral theses. The latest version of the methodology for the PhD thesis is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/10/Metodologie-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-sustinere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat-ed.-III-a-2022.pdf>. The latest procedure for the online submission of doctoral theses is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Regulament-SDFSSP.pdf>. In this way, IOSUD-UVT follows the steps for checking the similarity of doctoral theses in a step-by-step manner, without turning this technical procedure into a substitute for discussions between the doctoral coordinator and the doctoral candidate. Each similarity analysis report carried out using the Ithenticate software is accompanied by the written opinion of the PhD coordinator, confirming the acceptance of the thesis for the start of the public submission process.

At the same time, the procedures for the public defence of the PhD thesis specify when the abstract of the PhD thesis/thesis in full format is made public and accessible before the public defence. Thus, the PhD thesis (in physical format) is available at the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" 20 days before the public defence, while the abstract of the thesis is available online, as for example: <http://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/02/Rezumat-teza-Voiculescu-Denisa-Ioana.pdf>.

The Regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at UVT specify the regulations on the completion of doctoral studies - *Chapter 5 Content and completion of doctoral study programmes and Section C - Doctoral thesis and completion of doctoral studies (Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT)*. We mention:

Art. 5.12 (1) "Doctoral studies shall be completed by the public defence of the doctoral thesis before the committee for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral committee". The public defence can only take place after the completion of steps a) - g) mentioned in Art 5.12 (2).

There is also a regulation for the conduct of admission to doctoral studies at UVT (*Annex 16. Regulation on the organisation and conduct of the competition for admission to doctoral studies 2022-2023*).

At SDB level, these regulations will be included in the Regulations of Operation of the Doctoral School and will be applied concretely, available annually online in both Romanian and English, link: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=8261>.

d) mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral coordinator and of validation of doctoral titles earned abroad

Starting from 2017, implementing national regulations, IOSUD-UVT has described through internal methodologies and procedures the recognition of the quality of PhD coordinator, based on certifications obtained in foreign universities, as well as the recognition of PhD degrees obtained abroad. Methodology for the recognition by the UVT of the quality of doctoral coordinator obtained in accredited university institutions abroad (*Methodology for the Recognition within WUT of the Doctoral Coordinator Quality Obtained by Foreign Accredited Higher Education Institutions*) available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Metodologia-privind-recunoasterea-de-catre-UVT-a-calitatii-de-conducator-de-doctorat-obtinuta-in-institutii-de-invatamant-universitar-acreditate-din-strainatate-editia-a-II-a.-HS-36-din-13.07.2017..pdf> (*Annex 17. Methodology for the recognition, by UVT, of the quality of doctoral supervisor obtained in accredited university education institutions abroad*), as well as the Methodology for the recognition at UVT of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor in science or in a professional field, obtained in foreign accredited academic institutions (*Methodology for the Recognition within WUT of the Ph.D. Diploma and Doctoral Degree of Science or Professional Fields Certificates and Degrees Awarded by Foreign Accredited Higher Education Institutions*), disponibil la: https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Metodologie_privind_recunoastrea_titlului_de_doctor.pdf (*Annex 18. Methodology for the recognition by UVT of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor in science or in a professional field, obtained in accredited university education institutions abroad*).

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 3 persons (2022), young researchers who studied abroad and chose to apply for research or teaching positions at the West University of Timisoara: FEHÉR-GAVRA BALÁSZ, in the field of POLITICAL SCIENCE; CONDRACHE GEORGE-ALEXANDRU, in the field of PHILOLOGY; SCHIFFBECK ADRIAN, in the field of POLITICAL SCIENCE.

e) functional administrative structures [IOSUD / The Council of Doctoral School (regularity of calling meetings)]

The governance structure of doctoral studies in the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) will be provided by the Council of the Doctoral School of Biology which will be constituted in accordance with the regulations in force.

The Council of the Doctoral School of Biology will meet, according to the documents governing the work of this forum, "as often as necessary, but not less than twice a year". In essence, the Council will be convened to decide on the smooth running of doctoral studies for the field held within the Doctoral School. In this respect, for example, the Council contributes to the organisation of doctoral admissions (allocation of places, organisation of committees, confirmation of results), analysis and validation of doctoral study committees, research plans, evaluation and validation of examination committees, etc. Evidence of the regularity of these meetings can be found in the convocations or minutes of meetings.

f) the doctoral study contract

The relationship between the doctoral student, the doctoral coordinator and IOSUD-UVT is established and confirmed by the *Doctoral Studies Contract* (publicly available at <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?=3285>). This document specifies the rights and obligations of each of the parties, setting out the doctoral student's pathway through the years of study.

All changes that occur during the course of studies (interruptions of studies, extensions of studies) are stipulated by means of Additional Acts to the Doctoral Studies Contract. Also, upon signing the Study Contract, doctoral students complete, with and in agreement with their PhD coordinator, a Research Plan (publicly available at <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Planul-studiilor-doctorale3.pdf>) which specifies the topics and periods for

the submission of progress reports, the training programme based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which doctoral students participate, the mobility carried out, etc. Also, on the same occasion, the doctoral coordinator, on the basis of discussions with the doctoral student, following the analysis of the doctoral student's research topic, establishes the mentoring committee (publicly available at <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Componenta-comisie-de-îndrumare.pdf>).

g) internal procedures of analyzing and approving proposals regarding the topics of the doctoral study programs

The relationship between the doctoral student, the doctoral coordinator and IOSUD-UVT is established and confirmed by the *Doctoral Studies Contract* (publicly available at https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Contract-2022-2023_1.pdf). This document specifies the rights and obligations of each of the parties, setting out the doctoral student's pathway through the years of study.

All changes that occur during the course of studies (interruptions of studies, extensions of studies) are stipulated by means of Additional Acts to the Doctoral Studies Contract. Also, upon signing the Study Contract, doctoral students complete, together with and in agreement with the doctoral coordinator, a Research Plan specifying the themes and periods for the submission of progress reports, the training programme based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which the doctoral students participate, the mobility undertaken, etc. Also, on the same occasion, the doctoral coordinator, based on discussions with the doctoral student, following the analysis of the doctoral student's research theme, establishes the supervision committee.

Doctoral students complete, together with and in agreement with the doctoral coordinator, a Study Plan in which all the usual academic path of the doctoral student is specified (the subjects of the advanced study programme, the themes and the periods for submitting progress reports, the deadline for the public defence, the projects in which the doctoral student participates, etc.), all these forms being found at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>. Also, on the same occasion, the PhD coordinator, on the basis of discussions with the PhD student, following the analysis of the PhD student's research topic, establishes the mentoring committee (idem above). The study plans proposed by the PhD coordinators together with the PhD students will be reviewed by the SDSB Board and endorsed by the signature of the SDSB Director.

A.1.1.2. The Regulation of the doctoral school includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for all aspects mentioned in art. 12 para. (5) in the Code of Doctoral Studies, approved by the Ministry Decision no. 681/2011, and with its subsequent amendments.

The Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) operates in compliance with the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies mentioned above, thus aligning itself with the requirements of the university and IOSUD-UVT in particular (*Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT*). According to the Code of Doctoral Studies (HG 681.2011), art. 17, the regulations of the doctoral schools of IOSUD - UVT specify these procedures, with the particularities of each field of doctoral studies. The acceptance of new members in the doctoral schools is validated by the Councils of the doctoral schools, based on an analysis of opportunity and taking into account the fulfilment of scientific criteria and scientific and professional integrity. The Councils of the Doctoral Schools also discuss and validate the competences that doctoral students are expected to acquire by following the advanced degree-based training programme, determine the subject structure of this plan and the number of credits for each subject. At the same time, special situations are approved in which the doctoral student, on the basis of discussions with the doctoral coordinator and in order to prepare his/her research topic, chooses to follow courses other than those offered by the doctoral school in which he/she is enrolled, including courses from the curriculum of some UVT master's degrees.

Doctoral schools follow the Romanian legislation in force as well as the Institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (available at <http://doctorat.uvt.ro/?p=7901>) to resolve possible situations of incompatibility or even conflict between the doctoral coordinator and the doctoral student, resorting to mediation between the two or, where appropriate, to a change of doctoral coordinator. The procedures concerning the prevention of intellectual fraud, including plagiarism, and issues related to the frequency of doctoral students also follow these general procedures.

The SDB follows the procedures and methodologies adopted at UVT level with regard to obtaining the habilitation certificate and the affiliation of qualified teachers to the Doctoral Schools (*Annex 19. Institutional regulation on the organisation and conduct of the process of obtaining the habilitation certificate, 2021*).

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

A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an adequate computer system to keep the evidence of all doctoral students and their academic career

IOSUD-UVT supports the implementation of IT solutions needed to optimize and carry out administrative activities related to doctoral students. Thus, the record of doctoral students and their academic career is found in 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 - National Register of Doctoral Students.

A.1.2.2. The existence and the application of a computer program and evidence of its implementation to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 1, art. art. 4, pc. b) of Order 3897/16.05.2017 amending the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the National Council for the Accreditation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of 24.03.2016, IOSUD-UVT uses the online software iThenticate (available at <http://www.ithenticate.com>) whereby all doctoral theses are examined, according to internal procedures, before being defended by the supervising committee, i.e. before the public defence. The resulting reports are uploaded in their entirety on the REI National Platform, for verification and validation by the CNATDCU of the doctoral files and the proposal to award the doctoral degree. The similarity report is also accompanied by a resolution of the PhD coordinator assessing the similarity situations identified by the software. This procedure is considered essential within IOSUD-UVT, since the coordinator's opinion confirms that the similarity is purely mechanical (broad titles, names of institutions, names of documents and legal acts, formulations that have entered into common usage in the language of a given discipline, etc.) and that there is no question of fraudulent taking over of comments belonging to other authors or of taking over ideas, in other words, there is no question of plagiarism.

A.1.3. IOSUD ensures that the financial resources are optimally used and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented by additional funding, other than the one provided by the Government.

According to the decision of the UVT Senate, the tuition fee for the third cycle (doctoral studies) has been set at the level of our faculty at 6000 lei. The fee is stipulated in the study contract, which is signed at the beginning of the academic year and can be paid in two instalments.

In order to supplement the budget of the Doctoral School, a source of extra-budgetary funding will be represented by attracting non-reimbursable funds through research projects.

Teaching activities related to the curriculum of the research programme organised by the Doctoral School, as well as those related to other courses organised by the Doctoral School, are regulated in the Doctoral School's Staff Regulations and will be remunerated on an hourly basis. At

the same time, the activities carried out by the members of the tutoring committee and the doctoral committees are regulated in the doctoral school's staff regulations and will be remunerated on an hourly basis, in accordance with the provisions of the legal regulations in force.

To cover the salary expenses related to the posts in the function list of each doctoral school, funds will be used from doctoral grants obtained by the doctoral coordinators, from the tuition fees paid and from other legally constituted sources, provided that the legal provisions in force are respected (national research projects, obtaining non-reimbursable funds, etc.).

***A.1.3.1. The existence of at least one research grant or one implemented institutional/human resources development grant at the time of submitting the self-assessment file for each doctoral domain or the existence of at least 2 research grants or institutional/human resources development grant for each doctoral domain earned by the coordinators of the assessed domain in the last 5 years.**

At the level of doctoral studies in Biology there is 1 research grant in implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file: (i) "Idle Crayfish: from the unknown to the next generation of species conservation assessment", host institution West University of Timisoara, project director Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian Pârvulescu, PN III - Exploratory Research Projects, funding: CNCS - UEFISCDI, project code: PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-1187, duration: 36 months (2021-2023), project budget: 1.197.712,00 lei. Similarly, in the last 5 years of activity, within the Biology field, research grants obtained by PhD coordinators in the evaluated field have been implemented: (i) 2019-2021 RoRS337, ROmania Serbia NETwork for assessing and disseminating the impact of copper mining activities on water quality in the cross-border area (project manager Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN; (ii) "Study on the quality of environmental factors in the commune of Zăvoi (intra-urban and extra-urban), whose administrative territory partially includes the ROSCI0126 Țarcu Mountains site and the ROSCI0217 Retezat site superimposed with the ROSPA0084 Retezat Mountains special protection area for birds, as a first step towards planning a sustained development of the commune, integrating not only economic and social aspects but also environmental protection aspects", research contract 29100/29. 11.2016, SC Alset Energy, 2016-2018 (project manager Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI); (iii) PN-III-P1-1.2-PCCDI-2017-0686. "Complex multidisciplinary platform for integrative and systematic research on identities and tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage in Romania, PATCULT#RO, Component project no. 3, New technologies for the preservation, conservation and recovery of cultural heritage 2018 (partner manager UVT Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI).

***A.1.3.2. The proportion of doctoral students at the time of the assessment, who for minimum 6 months benefit from funding other than the governmental funding, through scholarships offered by individuals or legal entities or who are financially supported through research grants or institutional development / human resources grants, is not less than 20%.**

This is not the case. The Biology PhD field is a new PhD field. The present self-evaluation dossier requests the accreditation of this field within the SDB.

***A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total sums resulting from doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contract and tuition fees collected from doctoral students who pay for their studies, shall be used to reimburse the training expenses of doctoral students (participation in conferences, summer schools, courses, internships abroad, publication of specialized articles or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.).**

At the level of the economic-financial department of the West University of Timisoara, there is no analytical breakdown of the amounts allocated for the mobility of doctoral students by funding source, because the legislative provisions do not require such a measure.

From the analysis made on the expenses with travels made at the level of the West University of Timisoara in 2018, the following information could be extracted: the approximate amounts allocated for the mobility of doctoral students amount to 105.956,60 lei, which is composed of: expenses with per diem 21.373,54 lei, expenses with internal travels 13.430,82 lei, expenses with external travels 50.717,31 lei, expenses with various fees 20.434,93 lei.

At the time of writing this report, at the level of IOSUD-UVT there is a *Methodology on access by doctoral students to institutional resources for professional training* (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/> (*Annex 18. Methodology for accessing institutional resources for PhD students*)). It states: "Art. 7. Doctoral students working exclusively in IOSUD-UVT or in national cotutelle may benefit annually, during the 3-year training period, from financial support for training activities in the amount of 10% of the value of an annual doctoral grant"; "Art. 8. The doctoral student working in an international cotutelle or for a European doctorate may benefit annually, during the 3-year training period, from financial support for training activities amounting to 20% of the value of an annual doctoral grant"; "Art. 9. The financial support specified in Articles 7 and 8 refers to: documentation/research/creation/sporting performance internships; participation in training/seasonal schools/professional/doctoral student-specific events/shows; open access publication of 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" (*Annex 20. Methodology for access by doctoral students to institutional resources for professional training*).

The training and professional development of doctoral students is an important aspect for the production of quality doctoral theses and for the development of the human resources of the Department of Biology-Chemistry, where the three PhD coordinators affiliated to the field of Biology work.

A.2. Research infrastructure

A.2.1. IOSUD/Doctoral schools have a modern research infrastructure that can support all specific activities within the doctoral program.

A.2.1.1. The spaces and the equipment of IOSUD/the doctoral school permit the unfolding of research activities within the assessed domain, in accordance with the announced mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the offer of research services are openly presented through a specialised platform. The research infrastructure shall be distinctly highlighted, and it shall be acquired and developed in the last 5 years.

IOSUD- UVT has its own premises in the premises of the West University of Timisoara, currently on Paris Street no. 1 (between 2020-2023, due to renovation works at the premises on Paris Street, the activity of the Doctoral Studies Office was carried out in the premises of UVT on Oituz Street no. 4). Apart from the office and archive space, there is a room for public presentations of doctoral and habilitation theses, as well as various public conferences. Conferences and symposia can also be held in the UVT's specially equipped rooms, in particular rooms A01 and A11, which are equipped with projection and amplification equipment.

The doctoral students of the SDB have access to the research infrastructure of the West University of Timisoara under the conditions of the internal regulations and on the basis of the student ID card. The electronic resources provided by BCUT are available at: <http://www.bcut.ro>. These can be accessed from the Western University networks, including the University dormitories and the library networks (wireless in the B building of the library) and include among others: ROLiNeST portal; ANELIS PLUS; Web of Science; CEEOL; Ebsco; Oxford Journals; ScienceDirect; SCOPUS; Sage; SpringerLink e-journals; Ulrichs; Wiley Journals etc. Internet

access is provided to the U.C.B. Electronic Catalogue (OPAC). "Eugen Todoran", which contains 334,656 bibliographic units, which represents more than 90% of the usual collection of documents (<http://aleph.bcut.ro/F?RN=204446683>). Also, ANELIS provides free access to all important databases (e.g. Ebsco Academic Search Premier and Proquest Central, ScienceDirect, Scopus, SpringerLink e-journals and Thomson ISI Web of Science), including ISI journals, books and book chapters, books, PhD thesis (<https://intranet.uvt.ro/>, <https://portal.anelisplus.ro/>).

IOSUD-UVT are un parteneriat instituțional cu BCUT „Eugen Todoran”, parteneriat în virtutea căruia biblioteca păstrează teza doctorală permițând consultarea acesteia înainte de susținerea publică, respectiv de-a lungul timpului.

In order to facilitate the teaching process, the PhD students of the study programme subject to accreditation have access, through the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" (BCUT) in Timisoara, to books and journals in the field of Biology. Within the BCUT there are libraries organized by fields of study with 2 study cabinets with 16 seats and 90 seats available in the room, available to students and PhD students. In addition, they have access to 10 computers to carry out their work. Doctoral students can consult 10419 book titles and 20689 volumes of books in the natural sciences, as well as 265 journal titles and 7379 volumes of journals.

The West University of Timisoara is committed to providing educational facilities for students at all levels of study (bachelor, master and doctorate). To facilitate communication, we offer free access to an institutional email account (@e-uvt), an Office educational package and unlimited access to Google suite facilities. Online resources for students can be found at: <https://it.uvt.ro/>

Within the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Department of Biology-Chemistry there are 3 research centers, whose material base can be used by teachers and doctoral students in the teaching and research process of the Biology doctoral field at IOSUD-UVT: Research Center for Environmental Thermal Analysis, Research Laboratory in Physical and Computational Chemistry for Nanosciences and QSAR (L-CF-SC-NQ) and Advanced Environmental Research Laboratories, respectively (www.elearning-chemistry.ro – LCAM). These research centres provide theoretical and practical support services in chemistry and biology, chemical and biological analyses in specific fields, implement research projects and thus support scientific research activities (experimental, theoretical or field) of inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary character, respectively organise various types of scientific events, with students (and especially PhD students) being involved in all these activities.

The research activity in the field of biology is not only reflected in the existence of a dedicated research infrastructure, but also in the research-development-innovation projects carried out by full professors of the DBC and in the journals published and indexed in international databases: Annals of West University of Timisoara, Series of Biology (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/cercetare/publicatii/annals-of-west-university-of-timisoara-series-of-biology-awut-serbio/>), and New Frontiers in Chemistry (<http://www.newfrontchem.iqstorm.ro/>). There is also a scientific journal aimed especially at students, BIOSTUDENT (<https://cbg.uvt.ro/cercetare/publicatii/biostudent/>). The research activity in our field is also reflected by the initiation, organisation and coordination of national and international scientific events (symposia, workshops, conferences). We will detail just a few of these: Annual Biology Conference, Student Chemists Symposium, Environmental Pollution and Remediation Solutions (International Conference, 2021), Computational Methods Used to Assess the Effects of Xenobiotics on the Environment (2021), Polymeric Nanobiomaterials for Medical Applications (2020), Functionalized Biomaterials Based on Chitosan With Wound Healing Properties (2020), Biopolymers as Wound Healing Agents (2019), Implementation of SAFE-BY-DESIGN Approach for Polymeric Nanobiomaterials Used for Drug Delivery. Case Study: Chitosan (2019), Implication of Metalloenzymes in Health and Environment (2018), Nano-Mod Conferences (2019, 2018), BIOSTUDENT workshop.

SDB has the following equipped spaces and computer labs for the teaching and research activities of PhD students:

The laboratories and rooms have specific equipment (research equipment, computers, TV, projection systems) and, where appropriate, software specific to research activities (Chimera, PyMol, ToxTree, Ochem) and access to servers that allow the implementation of online studies. There is a constant concern to improve the conditions for study and research in UVT premises.

The resources already described in the above section are part of the current offer of the Doctoral School and therefore of the Biology doctoral field of the Western University. In addition, the DBC provides the Doctoral School with rooms 17, 18, E07 where PhD coordinators and PhD students can carry out teaching, research and scientific activities. These rooms are located in the FCBG building (16 Pestalozzi Street) and in the LCAM building (4A Oituz Street).

After the accreditation of the new PhD field in Biology, the West University of Timisoara will provide a room dedicated only to the PhD School of Biology, on Pestalozzi Street or Oituz Street, for the DSUD-B office, where the PhD coordinators of this newly established field will have their offices. In order to help the relocation process, the University of West offers to doctoral students who do not live in Timisoara the dormitories that are part of its heritage. Doctoral students have the possibility to use the logistics of the faculty and its Research Centres, consisting of offices, computers.

A.3. The quality of human resources

A.3.1. Each doctoral school has qualified staff with all necessary experience to carry out the doctoral study program.

A.3.1.1. Within each doctoral field, at least three doctoral coordinators shall be employed and at least 50% of them (but not less than three) shall meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the moment of carrying out the evaluation, necessary and obligatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate.

For the field of doctoral studies in Biology, within the Doctoral School of Biology of IOSUD-UVT, the following persons will act as PhD coordinator:

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN cf. OM 5133/23.09.2017 (*Annex 8. Habilitation orders*) – **titular al UVT**; BSc in Physics and Biology, MSc in Management and Marketing, PhD in Physics, post-doc in Computational Biology, habilitation in Biology (*Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*).

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI cf. OM 4154/21.06.2017 (*Annex 8. Habilitation orders*) – **titular al UVT**; BSc in Biology; MSc in Biology, PhD in Biology, habilitation in Biology and Dean of FCBG (*Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*).

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU cf. OM 3299/22.02.2022) (*Annex 8. Habilitation orders*) – **titular al UVT**; BSc in Biology, MSc in Biology, PhD in Biology, habilitation in Biology (*Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*).

Prof. dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN is a university professor, PhD coordinator in Biology. She is concerned with the qualitative development of university education. She holds a BSc in Physics (1988) and a BSc in Biology (2016), a MSc in Management and Marketing (2008) and a PhD in Physics (2000, Magna cum laude) from Babes Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca, postdoctoral studies in computational biology at the Saclay Atomic Energy Centre (France, 2001-2002). At undergraduate level he teaches Physics, Biophysics, Introduction to Bioinformatics, and at master level he teaches Computational methods used in molecular biology, Chemoinformatics, Protein

structural bioinformatics. He has coordinated and been a member of the working teams of numerous research projects in the field of bioinformatics, many of these projects being carried out in international partnership. He has also coordinated human resource development projects. He has carried out 3 visiting professorships at Evry University (2003) and Paris Diderot University (2009 and 2016) and numerous short-term research internships (1-3 months) at universities abroad: Barcelona University, Paris Diderot University, Institut Curie Orsay (France), Saclay Atomic Energy Centre (France), University of Groningen. Prof. Dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN continuously participates in the review of numerous scientific articles for Web of Science indexed journals and is a permanent member of the editorial board of the journals *Molecules*, *Current Computer-Aided Drug Design* and *New Frontiers in Chemistry*, and a member of the editorial board of *JSM Bioinformatics*, *Genomics* and *Proteomics*. Furthermore, she has been a member of the supervising committees for 11 PhD theses in the field of Chemistry and is currently a member of the supervising committees for 5 PhD theses in the fields of Physics and Chemistry. Last but not least, Ms. Adriana ISVORAN has been part of numerous evaluation committees for PhD theses in the fields of Physics and Chemistry, both at UVT and at other universities in the country. Her **hirsch index (ISI web of knowledge)** is 12, and her score according to the **CNATDCU Grid: 967.67 points**. More details about the professor can be found in the attached documents (*Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators, Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications, Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*). The decision of the UVT Senate on the affiliation of Professor Adriana ISVORAN to the CSUD UVT, in the new doctoral field of Biology can be found in *Resolution no. 75 of the UVT Senate, Point 10, on the affiliation to CSUD UVT, PhD supervisor Adriana ISVORAN (Annex 21. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Isvoran)*.

Prof. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI is a university professor, PhD coordinator in Biology. She is concerned with the qualitative development of university education. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology (1996), a master's degree in Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (1997, dissertation with title "*Cartarea genelor a Amy, Cxp, Nor la populația locală de secară Ullma*"), MSc in Developmental Biology and Genetics (2009, dissertation entitled "*Cercetări aeropalino-logice și aeromicologice prin monitorizarea volumetrică a bioparticulelor aeropurtate din vestul României*") and a PhD in Biology (2010, PhD thesis entitled "*Morphoanatomical researches on Plantago species from Romania*") at București University. At undergraduate level he teaches Plant Cytology, Plant Morphology and Anatomy, Immunobiology, Plant Physiology, and at master level he teaches Clinical Immunology. He has coordinated and has been a member of the working teams of numerous research projects, some of which have been carried out in international partnership. He has also participated in human resource development projects. Prof. Dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI continuously participates in the review of numerous scientific articles for Web of Science indexed journals. She is editor-in-chief of *ANNALS OF WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA, SERIES OF BIOLOGY* and *BIOSTUDENT*. Last but not least, Ms. Nicoleta IANOVICI has been a member of numerous PhD thesis evaluation committees at other universities in the country. Her **hirsch index (ISI web of knowledge)** is 9, and her score according to the **CNATDCU Grid: 677 points**. More details about the professor can be found in the attached documents (*Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators, Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications, Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*). The Resolution of the UVT Senate concerning the affiliation to the CSUD UVT in the new doctoral field Biology can be found in Resolution no. 75 of the UVT Senate, Point 10, concerning the affiliation to the CSUD UVT, PhD supervisor Nicoleta IANOVICI (*Annex 22. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Ianovici*).

Prof. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU is a university professor, PhD coordinator in Biology. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biology (2005) and a dissertation degree in Developmental Biology and Genetics (2007), both obtained at the West University of Timisoara. He obtained his PhD degree in 2010 at the Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca with the thesis "Study of aquatic

communities of malacostraceans (Crustacea: Malacostraca) in the Anina Mountains", with Prof. Nicolae Tomescu as coordinator. At the undergraduate level he teaches the subjects Systematics of Invertebrates, Biology of Invertebrates, and at the master's level he teaches the subjects Medical Parasitology and Ethics in Research. He has coordinated two research projects won through a national competition (UEFISCDI) and has been a member of the working teams of numerous wildlife monitoring projects. Prof. Dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU has established partnerships with prestigious institutions in Europe which have proved to be particularly fruitful in terms of scientific output, such as: Senckenberg Nature Research Institute, University Koblenz-Landau, Charles University in Prague. He also continuously participates in the manuscript review process for various scientific journals Web of Science (Publons profile: A-1278-2012), as well as evaluator/coordinator of national grants (UEFISCDI, Czech Science Foundation). Moreover, he was a member of the supervising committees for 2 PhD theses in the field of Biology defended in Romania at Babeș-Bolyai University and one at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. The Hirsch Index based on Web of Science records is 15, and the score according to the CNATDCU grid on the "International" component is 660 (out of 150) points and the "Total" score is 874 points. More details about the lecturer can be found both in the attached documents in the annexes (*Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators, Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications, Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*), and on the personal website <http://www.lucianparvulescu.crayfish.ro>. The decision of the UVT Senate regarding the affiliation to the CSUD UVT of Mr. Lucian PÂRVULESCU, in the new doctoral field of Biology can be found in *Senate Decision no. 63 of 17.03.2022, Point 15, on affiliation to CSUD UVT, PhD supervisor Lucian PÂRVULESCU (Annex 23. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Pârvulescu)*.

We present below the current status of fulfilment of CNATDCU criteria by all PhD coordinators in the field of Biology.

Table 4. CNATDCU criteria. Total score Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Professor level	Total score
A. Mandatory preconditions			
1	scientific qualification	a doctoral degree in the subject of the post or closely related to it, the habilitation certificate	PhD in Physics, Magna cum laude (2000), thesis title Molecular dynamics of some biopolymers, PhD in Biology (2017)
2	scientific articles as main author	minimum 4 articles in ISI-listed journals with cumulative AIS greater than or equal to 4, of which minimum 2 articles with AIS greater than 0.3 in the last 5 years	- 59 lead author articles in WoS journals with cumulative AIS = 19.819 - no. of lead author articles with AIS \geq 0.3 in the last 5 years = 9
3.	coordination of research projects	a minimum of two national grants as Principal Investigator (or project responsible in the case of partnerships) or one national (as PI) and one international (as national partner responsible)	Project Director for 7 research projects obtained through national competition (of which 4 were Romania-France bilateral collaboration projects), 2 Romania-Serbia cross-border collaboration projects and 2 POSDRU projects obtained through national competition
C. Evaluation of the research work			
C1	Internaional recognition	150	732,80

C2	Total performance	250	1017,57
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Table 5. CNATDCU criteria. Total score Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Professor level	Total score
A. Mandatory preconditions			
1	scientific qualification	a doctoral degree in the subject of the post or closely related to it, the habilitation certificate	PhD in biology (2010), PhD thesis entitled "Morphoanatomical researches on Plantago species from Romania", scientific coordinator prof. dr. Marin Andrei, University of Bucharest, Romania
2	scientific articles as main author	minimum 4 articles in ISI-listed journals with cumulative AIS greater than or equal to 4, of which minimum 2 articles with AIS greater than 0.3 in the last 5 years	- 13 lead author articles in WoS journals with cumulative AIS = 4.81 - no. of lead author articles with AIS \geq 0.3 in the last 5 years = 2
3.	coordination of research projects	a minimum of two national grants as Principal Investigator (or project responsible in the case of partnerships) or one national (as PI) and one international (as national partner responsible)	Project manager/national leader/partner leader for 10 research projects
C. Evaluation of the research work			
C1	Internaional recognition	150	431.134
C2	Total performance	250	762.737

Table 6. CNATDCU criteria. Total score Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Professor level	Total score
A. Mandatory preconditions			
1	scientific qualification	a doctoral degree in the subject of the post or closely related to it, the habilitation certificate	PhD in Biology (2010), thesis title Study of aquatic communities of malacostraca (Crustacea: Malacostraca) in the Anina Mountains; PhD in Biology (2022), thesis title <i>Ecologie spațială prin prisma speciilor de raci</i> (in Romanian)
2	scientific articles as main author	minimum 4 articles in ISI-listed journals with cumulative AIS greater than or equal to 4, of which minimum 2 articles with AIS greater than 0.3 in the last 5 years	- 27 lead author articles in WoS journals with cumulative AIS = 14,484 - no. of lead author articles with AIS \geq 0.3 in the last 5 years = 13
3.	coordination of research projects	a minimum of two national grants as Principal Investigator (or project responsible in the case of partnerships) or one national (as PI) and one international (as national partner responsible)	Project Director for 2 research projects obtained through CNCS - UEFISCDI national competition
C. Evaluation of the research work			

C1	Internaional recognition	150	740
C2	Total performance	250	953

All three doctoral coordinators assigned to this field of doctoral studies continue to be scientifically active and exceed by more than 100% the score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific results of the last five years.

CONCLUSIVE: Within the Biology PhD field, 3 PhD coordinators will work (quality obtained according to the law), 100% of them (3 out of 3) fulfilling the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate, at the time of the evaluation of the Biology PhD field.

A.3.1.2. At least 50% of the doctoral coordinators in the evaluated doctoral field are tenured IOSUD members. This means that the coordinator has a full-time work contract, for an indefinite period in the IOSUD coordinating higher education institution or in one of the institutions of the IOSUD consortium or partnerships signed under the conditions art. 6 of the Code approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions.

The 3 PhD coordinators in the field of Biology: Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN, Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI and Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU, are full professors at the West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography, Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC) (*Annex 11. DBC Statement of Operations, 2021-2022*).

A.3.1.3. The training program subjects based on advanced university study programs related to the domain are taught by professors or researchers who are doctoral coordinators/habilitated staff, professors/CS I or associate professors/CSII with all necessary expertise or further specialists in the field who fulfill the necessary criteria to hold teaching and research positions.

In the accredited Biology doctoral field, the subjects of the advanced degree-based training programme related to the field are taught by PhD/doctoral coordinators with proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught. We attach herewith the CVs of the following teachers (*Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators*) and publication lists (*Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications*) who will teach those subjects, as well as the Curriculum of the new PhD Biology (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*).

***A.3.1.4. The share of doctoral coordinators who simultaneously coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12, within their doctoral study program [3 or 4 years, depending on the field, plus the extension periods granted according to art. 39 para. (3) of the Code approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions], does not exceed 20%.**

Not the case.

A.3.2. The doctoral coordinators within the doctoral school complete a visible international scientific activity.

A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the PhD coordinators of the assessed field have at least 5 publications indexed Web of Science or ERIH, in impact factor journals or further achievements with relevant significance for the respective field, which mirror their international contributions with relevant scientific and research-related progress.

We will present relevant publications for PhD coordinators in the field of Biology, their works being indexed in the indicated databases, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar. For documentation, in electronic format, we attach the evaluation grids of the coordinators in the field of Biology (*Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators*), as well as lists of publications in the Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar databases (*Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications*).

According to the data recorded and presented below, 3 of the 3 Biology cordators (100%) meet the standards of scientific publication quality and present at least 5 papers indexed in Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of Science or ERIH in journals with impact factor or other achievements relevant to the field. In terms of national and international visibility, by number of citations in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, membership in professional associations and/or their boards, and membership in the boards of national or international journals listed in international databases, 3 out of 3 (100%) coordinators in the field of Biology meet these conditions.

In the following we present the detailed situation of coordinators in the field of Biology with regard to the indexing of relevant papers in Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of Science or ERIH databases, in journals with an impact factor or other achievements relevant to the field.

1. Name of PhD coordinator: **Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN**

Web of Science: 64 papers/433 citations, H Index 12

Scopus: 76 papers/518 citations, H Index 12

Google Scholar: 197 papers/973 citations, H Index 16

- membership of professional associations and/or their boards:

- . Member of the Romanian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics
- . Member of the Romanian Society of Cell Biology
- . Member of the Romanian Society of Bioinformatics
- . Member of the Romanian Society of Physics
- . Member of the Romanian Society of Chemistry
- . Member of BioMentorHub Association

- membership on the boards of national or international journals listed in international databases:

1. Member of the editorial board for the journal JSM Bioinformatics, Genomics and Proteomics (<https://www.jscimedcentral.com/Bioinformatics/editors.php>)
2. Member of the permanent reviewers for the journals Molecules, Current Computer Aided Drug Design, New Frontiers in Chemistry respectively for the international conferences RESEARCHFORA.

2. Name of PhD coordinator: **Nicoleta IANOVICI**

Web of Science: 22 papers/246 citations, H index 8

Scopus: 22 papers/346 citations, H index 9

Google Scholar: 130 papers/1436 citations, H index 19

- editor-in-chief ANNALS OF WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA, SERIES OF BIOLOGY (2010-2021), <http://www.cbg.uvt.ro/publicatii-annals-of-west-university-of-timisoara/>
- editor-in-chief BIOSTUDENT, <http://www.cbg.uvt.ro/biostudent-2/>
- member of editorial boards
 - *International Journal of Science, Technology, and Design*, ISSN: 2757-8127
 - *NewFrontChem*, ISSN 2393-2171
 - *Current Trends in Natural Sciences*, ISSN 2284-9521
 - *Romanian Journal of Meteorology*, ISSN 2284-6220

3. Name of PhD coordinator: **Lucian PÂRVULESCU**

Web of Science (ResearcherID: A-1278-2012): 35 papers/541 citations, H index 16

Scopus: 35 papers/588 citations, H index 17

Google Scholar: 74 papers/912 citations, H index 18

- membership of professional associations and/or their boards:

1. Regional Ambassador in the European Reference Genome Atlas (ERGA), from 2021
2. Member of the Ponto-Caspian Invasive Species Experts Group PCISEG, since 2011
3. Member of the International Association of Astacology IAA, based in Auburn, since 2008
4. Member of the Limnological Society SL, based in Bacau, since 2003
5. Contributor to the IUCN Red List database, Cambridge UK
6. Contributor to the Natura 2000 database in Romania

- membership on the boards of national or international journals listed in international databases:

Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution (ISSN 2296-701X), Water (ISSN 2073-4441), Hydrobiology (ISSN 2673-9917)

- Special issue: "Spatial and Functional Ecology in Freshwater Ecosystems", Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, 2022;
- Special issue: "Marine and Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation", Hydrobiology, 2021-2022;
- Special issue: "Early Detection, Control, and Management of Invasive Alien Species in Aquatic Environments", Water, 2021

Expert-Evaluator/Rapporteur: UEFISCDI (PCCF-2016, PCE-2016, PCE-2021), Czech Science Foundation (2019), MCDI (PNCDI Nucleu-2022).

Doctoral coordinators in the field have also created/developed scientific research areas or directions. We will some of them:

1. Name of PhD coordinator: **Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN**

- Development of a research group in the field of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology since 2009
- New lecture: *Introduction to Bioinformatics*
- New lecture, transversal discipline: *Bioinformatics*
- New lecture, transversal discipline: *Chemoinformatics*

- New lecture, transversal discipline: *The fascinating world of fractals*
 - New lecture: *Scientific writing and communication*
2. Name of PhD coordinator: **Nicoleta IANOVICI**
- New lecture: *Imunobiologie*
 - Development of an Environmental Biology and Biomonitoring Research Group
 - Investigation of urban habitat quality by volumetric method for collection, identification and quantification of airborne particles
 - Studies on the effects of stress on living organisms
3. Name of PhD coordinator: **Lucian PÂRVULESCU**
- Research group in the field of Crayfish Biology and Ecology, the Crayfish Research Centre, dedicated to the coagulation of the best undergraduate students (ERRTIS: <https://eertis.eu/erlb-2200-000k-0697>)
 - New lecture: *Research ethics*
 - Academic mentoring: development of a mentoring portal dedicated strictly to the doctoral pathway, with pre- and post-doctoral involvement, accessible at <http://coaching.crayfish.ro/indexRO.html>

***A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral coordinators assigned to a field of doctoral studies continue to be scientifically active, obtaining at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the date of evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation, based on their scientific results over the last five years.**

Out of the total of 3 PhD coordinators assigned to the field of Biology, all 3 continue to be very active scientifically (100%), obtaining more than 25% of the score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific results of the last 5 years, as attested by the above data and the electronic documents available in the annexes.

We present below the current situation of the fulfilment of the CNATDCU criteria by all PhD coordinators in the field of Social Work, in the last 5 years.

Table 7. CNATDCU criteria. Score last 5 years Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Habilitation	Total score	Score last 5 years: 2019-2023	% of the standard
C1	Internaional recognition	150	732.80	158.22	105
C2	Total performance	250	1017.57	196.59	79

Table 8. CNATDCU criteria. Score last 5 years Prof. univ. dr. habil Nicoleta IANOVICI

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Habilitation	Total score	Score last 5 years: 2019-2023	% of the standard
C1	Internaional recognition	150	431.134	137.26	91.5
C2	Total performance	250	762.737	149.46	59.7

Table 9. CNATDCU criteria. Score last 5 years Prof univ. dr. habil Lucian PÂRVULESCU

Crt.	Criterium definition	The standard for Habilitation	Total score	Score last 5 years: 2019-2023	% of the standard
C1	Internaional recognition	150	740	336	224
C2	Total performance	250	953	387	154

All three PhD supervisors assigned to this field of doctoral studies exceed by more than 50% the score of the last 5 years required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force and by more than 200% the score calculated over the whole career.

B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

B.1.1. The institution offering the doctoral studies has the capacity to attract a larger number of candidates than the number of available places.

***B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of master's degree graduates from other higher education institutions in Romania or abroad who have registered for the admission competition to the doctoral program over the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget is at least 1.2.**

During the period under analysis, the number of annual budgeted places for admission allocated to IOSUD-UVT by the Ministry of National Education fluctuated between 80-100. To these places were added, every year, special grants for PhD students from the Romanian abroad category. Alongside these doctoral grants, UVT has also recruited self-financing students (Romanian fee-paying students, i.e. foreign students paying on their own account).

IOSUD-UVT. Doctoral studies statistics (last 5 years)

Below is an update on doctoral studies over the last 5 years (*Anexa 23. Statistici studii doctorale, ultimii 5 ani*).

IOSUD-UVT. Doctoral studies statistics (last 5 years)

We present below an updated situation on doctoral studies in the last 5 years (*Anexa 30 Statistici studii doctorale, ultimii 5 ani*).

Table 10. Statistical situation regarding the evolution of the number of students according to the regime 2018-2022

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Budgeted Romanian	271	255	270	292	306
Romanian with fee	231	264	296	316	252
ROP scholarship	11	12	12	5	5
ROP-no scholarship	2	4	4	4	2
ROP fee	1	2	1	0	0
Roma budget	4	5	5	2	1
Stranger budget	3	3	1	3	2
Foreign CPL	5	6	5	4	3
Foreign CPV	37	45	39	17	25
Foreign students/students ratio	10%	12%	10%	5%	6%
Total students/budgeted students ratio	1,94	2,14	2,16	2,16	1,93

Thus, the ratio of applicants to budgeted places at IOSUD level has decreased from 2.16 to 1.93 in 2022.

IOSUD-UVT complies with the Romanian legislation in force, so that 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.

Within the doctoral schools, most of the candidates come from study programmes completed also within the faculties of the UVT, even if there is a tendency to change faculties for the doctoral programme (a migration from the Faculty of Arts and Design, respectively from the Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication Sciences to the PhD fields of the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology, due to the fact that there is no accredited PhD field in Communication Sciences, but also vice versa to the PhD fields Philosophy or Political Sciences).

As for the number of candidates coming from abroad, it is around 13% on average, being mainly provided by foreign candidates (Romanians from abroad, graduates of universities in Serbia or Moldova, citizens of third countries, especially Iraq, Algeria, Vietnam, Armenia and India).

Taking into account these data, as well as those presented in the previous chapters, we consider that the field of Communication Sciences of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science is open to graduates of Communication Sciences (and related fields) both from our own higher education institution and from other institutions in the country or abroad.

In the last 5 years' admissions, by field of study, the number of applicants is as shown in the table below (the ratio of applicants/budgeted places is shown in the last column).

PhD admission situation UVT

Domeniu	Admitere 2016				Admitere 2017				Admitere 2018				Admitere 2019				Admitere 2020				
	Buget cu bursa	Buget fara bursa	Taxa	Respins	Buget cu bursa	Buget fara bursa	Taxa	Respins	Buget cu bursa	Buget fara bursa	Taxa	Respins	Buget cu bursa	Buget fara bursa	Taxa	Respins	Buget cu bursa	Buget fara bursa	Taxa	Respins	
Arte	2	3	9	4	3	4	10	2	3	2	15	0	4	3	17	1	4	4	12	3	3,28
Chimie	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	4	0	1,42
Geografie	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	5	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1,41
Drept	3	2	14	3	4	4	8	4	2	3	14	2	2	4	10	0	3	3	6	0	3,03
Fizică	2	2	2	0	2	3	1	0	3	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	2	3	0	0	1,20
Matematică	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	1,50
Informatică	2	3	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1,30
Contabilitate	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	5	3	2	0	4	1	2	0	3	8	0	0	1,13
Economie	2	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1,26
Finanțe	5	1	4	0	4	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	3	0	2	0	3	0	1,52
Management	2	4	8	0	2	3	8	0	2	4	11	0	4	1	8	0	3	1	8	0	2,65
Marketing	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1,29
Sociologie	3	2	12	0	3	2	2	0	3	2	16	0	2	3	12	0	3	3	6	0	2,85
Psihologie	3	2	2	0	3	3	3	0	3	3	2	1	3	3	2	1	3	1	0	0	1,41
Științe ale educației	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	3	0	2,40
Filosofie	1	2	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	9	0	1	2	1	0	2,46
Științe Politice	1	1	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	0	2	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	2,55
Filologie	6	5	12	0	7	4	9	0	8	6	11	0	6	4	8	0	6	4	11	0	1,91
Istorie	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	1,29
Știința sportului și educației fizice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	3	6	0	3,00
Muzică	1	5	6	2	1	3	5	3	2	2	3	0	0	2	6	0	1	2	10	0	2,84
Teatru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1,75

Thus, the ratio of candidates to budgeted places at IOSUD-UVT level has evolved as follows: in 2016, the ratio is 2.06; in 2017, 1.67; in 2018, 2.23; in 2019, 2.15; in 2020, 1.86.

Teze de abilitare susținute la UVT în anul 2022

Crt.	Candidate	Teaching/research	Domaiu	Date of the habilitation examination	OM for granting the certificate	Obs.
1.	Sida Cristian Daniel	Conf. univ. dr.	Visual arts	1/13/2022	OME 3762/12.05.2022	
2.	Fuiorea Vasile	Conf. univ. dr.	Visual arts	1/13/2022	OME 3760/12.05.2022	Universitatea din Craiova
3.	Păunescu George	Conf. univ. dr.	Visual arts	1/17/2022	OME 3763/12.05.2022	Universitatea din București
4.	Ștefăniță Gabriela	Lect. univ. dr.	Visual arts	1/17/2022	OME 3764/12.05.2022	Universitatea din Craiova

5.	Dragomir Gabriel-Mugurel	Conf. univ. dr.	Sociology	2/24/2022	OME 4018/08.06.2022	Universitatea Politehnica din Timișoara
6.	Nadolu Bogdan	Conf. univ. dr.	Sociology	4/4/2022	OME 4460/08.08.2022	
7.	Crucean Cosmin	Lect. univ. dr.	Physics	4/6/2022	OME 4194/05.07.2022	
8.	Andreescu Diana-Ornella	Conf. univ. dr.	Visual Arts	5/6/2022	OME 4335/27.07.2022	
9.	Onchiș-Moacă Darian	Conf. univ. dr.	Computer Science	5/16/2022	OME 5752/29.09.2022	
10.	Popa Liliana	Conf. univ. dr.	Visual Arts	5/20/2022	OME 4334/27.07.2022	
11.	Paștiu Carmen-Adina	Conf. univ. dr.	Marketing	5/27/2022	OME 5772/29.09.2022	Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba-Iulia
12.	Ianc Dorina-Florina	Conf. univ. dr.	Sport Science and Physical Education	6/22/2022	OME 6338/05.12.2022	Universitatea din Oradea
13.	Činč Eudjen	Conf. univ. dr.	Music	6/30/2022	OME 6269/17.11.2022	
14.	Szentesi Silviu-Gabriel	Prof. univ. dr.	Managemen t	11/22/2022	în analiză CNATDCU pe platforma REI	Universitatea „Aurel Vlaicu” din Arad

B.1.2. Candidates admitted to the doctoral program are of the highest quality.

***B.1.2.1. Admission to the PhD programmes is based on selection criteria that include: the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates, an interest in scientific or artistic/sports research, publications in the field and a proposed research topic. An interview with the applicant is a compulsory part of the admission procedure.**

Once accredited as a doctoral field of study within a Biology doctoral school, the field of Biology will be allocated, according to the Senate decision, budgeted and fee-paying places, starting from the academic year 2022-2023, when it plans to proceed with the enrolment of doctoral students in the doctoral field of Social Work.

UVT has a transparent and rigorous recruitment and admission policy for PhD students, based on the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates.

Admission is based solely on the candidate's academic skills and does not apply any discriminatory criteria. Admission to the cycle of doctoral studies at UVT is based on the Institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (***Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT***), as well as the Regulations on the organisation and conduct of the competition for admission to doctoral studies, approved annually, the latter being accessible at <http://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Regulament-admitere-doctorat-UVT-2022-2023.pdf>. According to these documents, the admission procedure for doctoral studies is the process of selecting candidates for each vacant doctoral student position that the doctoral school coordinators decide to propose for occupancy at a given time. The selection of the PhD candidate for a vacant position is carried out by the PhD coordinator supervising that position, with the content and form of the admission competition being determined by the PhD coordinator in consultation with the PhD School Board.

Doctoral schools shall ensure the transparency of the selection procedures for admission to the doctoral programme, the evaluation criteria and the standards required of candidates, and

guarantee access to this information, including through publication on the Internet. All this information, as well as the vacant doctoral student positions per doctoral coordinator, shall be published on the IOSUD-UVT website and at the premises where each doctoral school operates.

Only graduates with a master's degree or its equivalent, from home and abroad, are entitled to participate in the admission procedure for doctoral studies, according to art. 153 para. (2) of Law no. 1/2011.

Admission to doctoral studies is by means of a competition held annually in September.

B.1.2.2. The rate of expulsion of doctoral students, including those who drop out, within 3 or 4 years of admission does not exceed 30%.

This is not the case for Biology. This self-assessment report seeks accreditation in the Doctoral School of Biology.

B.2. The content of the doctoral study programs

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

B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced university studies includes at least three subjects relevant for training students in scientific research, at least one of these subjects is tailored for the in-depth study of research methodology and / or statistical data processing.

The structure of the doctoral programme is regulated by the Institutional *Regulation on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (according to Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT)*. Thus, the doctoral programme in Biology will have two components: a) the doctoral candidate's advanced university training programme and b) the doctoral candidate's individual research programme under the supervision of the scientific coordinator. The duration of the doctoral programme is usually 3 years. The duration of the doctoral programme may be extended by 1-2 years, with the approval of the University Senate, at the proposal of the doctoral coordinator and within the limit of available funds, only for justified reasons.

Curriculum (Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024): proposed for the new PhD field reflects, in a balanced way, the students' preparation for the field of Biology. It is envisaged that the advanced undergraduate training programme will consist of activities carried out in institutional study groups, through lectures, seminars, and individual training activities, and will run for 12 weeks. The total number of credits awarded for the activities to be carried out during this period is 30 credits. During the second semester of the first year of doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate will be responsible for preparing his/her research project, under the supervision of the scientific coordinator, for which a further 30 credits will be allocated. The weighting of each category of activities carried out by doctoral students in the advanced training programme, as well as their correlation, will be determined by the Director of the Doctoral School in consultation with and with the positive opinion of the Doctoral Coordinator and the Doctoral School Council, with an emphasis on learning through research.

Each taught discipline will conclude with an examination. The outcome of the examination will be assessed using the following grades: Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory. If the grade obtained in a subject is Unsatisfactory, the doctoral candidate will have to redo the academic programme associated with that subject, as recommended by the subject holder.

The main objective of the scientific research programme is the preparation of the doctoral thesis, which may include (a) basic research, (b) translational research, (c) applied research, (d)

development-innovation research. The scientific research programme begins after the acceptance by the Doctoral School of the scientific research project in which the topic and methodology for the doctoral thesis are presented.

The doctoral candidate, together with the coordinating professor, may agree on an individualized plan of intensive training, including participation in other courses offered in the faculty or by UVT colleges. Student mobility during the individual research internship is encouraged. Doctoral students may also undertake research internships in partner research institutes, and may be involved in project work as research assistants. Each doctoral student benefits from a mentoring committee, established by the coordinating professor and approved by the director of the doctoral school and the director of CSUD-UVT.

The following is the curriculum of the new DSUD - B for the years 2022-2023:

Table 11. CURICULLUM

FIELD DOMAIN Biology.

2023 – 2024

YEAR OF STUDY I
SEMESTER I

Crt	Discipline (Evaluation)	Hrs. / week			ECTS	COVERAGE
		lectu re	semin ar	practi ce		
1	ETHICS AND ACADEMIC COACHING (Colloquium)	1	2	-	8	Prof. Dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU
2	BIOLOGY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (Examination/Colloquium)	1	2	-	8	Prof. Dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI
3	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC WRITING (Colloquium)	1	2	-	8	Prof. Dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN
4	COMPUTATIONAL METHODS AND DATABASES USED IN BIOLOGY RESEARCH * (Examination/Colloquium)	1	2	-	6	Prof. Dr. habil. Adriana ISVORAN
	RESEARCH GRANTS MANAGEMENT* (Colloquium)					Prof. Dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU

* optional one of these courses

SEMESTER II

Crt	Research activity	ECTS
1	Presentation at conferences, workshops, (national) colloquia of material (oral presentation, poster) as main presenter (with proof of participation), or publication as co-author* of an article in a BDI journal.	10
2	Writing and defending the first scientific dissertation of the doctoral research programme.	20

* equals any of the higher positions

YEAR OF STUDY II

Crt	Research activity	ECTS
1	Presentation of material (oral presentation, poster) at (international) conferences, workshops, colloquia as a main presenter, with proof of participation.	10
2	Publication of at least one scientific article as first author in a BDI-indexed journal, or co-author* in a Web of Science journal.	20

3	Writing and defending the second scientific paper of the doctoral research programme.	30
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* equals any of the higher positions

YEAR OF STUDY III

Crt	Research activity	ECTS
1	Publication of at least one scientific article in a Web of Science journal as first author.	20
2	Writing and defending the third scientific paper of the doctoral research programme.	20
3	Writing and defending the doctoral thesis in the supervision committee.	20

Each discipline within the curriculum is described by a discipline sheet which can be found on both the Doctoral School website and the Department of Biology-Chemistry website. These subject sheets contain the general objectives of the subject, the competences formed through the study of the subject, the examination and assessment procedures, the topics covered and the recommended bibliography. The subject sheets of the curriculum can also be found in the annexes of this report (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*).

The subjects proposed to be taught in DSUD - B represent an important step in the training of PhD students and have been designed with the aim of complementing and developing students' knowledge of advanced topics and methods of research in biology. All courses will place special emphasis on the active and continuous participation of PhD students throughout the programme. Thus, the course holder will provide the subject file for each PhD student. By taking these subjects included in the curriculum, PhD students can thus receive the knowledge base necessary for the development of their own PhD thesis.

Profile of the doctoral supervising and teaching staff. In compliance with the legal provisions (art.167 of Law no.1/2011), each doctoral coordinator will have under his/her supervision a maximum of 8 doctoral students at different stages of their doctoral studies. Thus, the ratio of number of doctoral students per number of doctoral coordinators will not exceed 8.

In order to be able to respond appropriately to the needs of doctoral students, there will be three full professors in DSUD - B who will act as teaching, mentoring, research and doctoral research supervision staff, as already briefly outlined above:

1. Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN
2. Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI
3. Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU,

Another criterion that we followed in the creation of the PhD students' management team, but also in the teaching of the DSUD - B curriculum, was also the complementarity of the competences of the 3 university teachers covering various fields related to Biology. Prof. dr. habil. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN has expertise in bioinformatics and computational biology. Prof. univ. dr. habil. Nicoleta IANOVICI has expertise in biomonitoring, phytotoxicology and immunobiology. Prof. univ. dr. habil. Lucian PÂRVULESCU has competences in aquatic ecology, biogeography, invasive species. Each of the three colleagues has been involved in research projects at national and international level. The professors have also been involved in numerous PhD support committees and in some PhD student supervision committees in the fields of physics and chemistry.

The skills targeted to be trained to doctoral students through this programme are in line with EQF/CNC level 8. The PhD programme offered at UVT bears the imprint of expertise accumulated in the field of biology research, from both national and international perspectives. In addition, according to the expertise of the coordinating professors, the issues of bioinformatics and computational biology, biomonitoring, phytotoxicology and immunobiology are equally covered. Among the generic competences to be trained, in line with the competences identified for the field of Biology, we list:

Professional skills

- C1: Ability to communicate academically using specialist language.
- C2: Identify and appropriately apply knowledge paradigms in understanding and explaining problems specific to the field of biology.
- C3: Ability to develop a meta-analysis of a specific subfield of biology.
- C4: Analyse and interpret complex and appropriate different concepts, theories and methods in biology.
- C5: Ability to plan and conduct a research project.
- C6: Knowledge and application of ethical and deontological standards in scientific research.
- C7: Ability to carry out qualitative and quantitative research on different aspects of biology.
- C8: Ability to apply specific evaluation tools and to analyse databases in a correct and appropriate way.
- C9: Ability to present scientific results using correct terminology.
- C10: Ability to write and defend a scientific paper.
- C112: Digital skills (operating MsOffice, SPSS) and skills in using Turnitin and Ithenticate anti-plagiarism software.
- C12: Inter- and trans-disciplinary communication of research results using specialist language.
- C14: Ability to design national strategies and European projects in the field of Biology.

Cross-cutting skills

- CT1: Leadership and mentoring, effective and timely communication, team collaboration.
- CT2: Professional and personal development through continuous concern for growth, development and excellence.
- CT3: Creativity, innovation, social and emotional intelligence in managing research projects and the stages of work to be completed during the PhD.
- CT4: Digital and ICT skills.

Thus, one can distinctly observe the concern to provide doctoral students with skills of academic writing and scientific authorship, skills of advanced mastery of scientific research methodology, ethical data processing, as well as continuous professional development.

Completion of doctoral studies is achieved through the preparation and public defence of the doctoral thesis. In this regard, the standards will be regulated by the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Biology. The rules of writing, the size of the text and the final format of the thesis are regulated by criteria decided at the level of each doctoral field. These details will also be included in the future DSUD - B Regulation.

At the time of submission of the doctoral thesis as well as the reports prepared during the course, the candidate will have to sign affidavits that they do not fall under the notion of plagiarism. Each doctoral thesis or scientific work produced by doctoral students during their doctoral studies is checked by the **anti-plagiarism software**. At the Western University it is generalized the evaluation of all scientific works, bachelor, master, doctoral, since the academic year 2014-2015, no graduate student can defend the final work without having the verification report, issued by the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin (for bachelor and dissertation) and iThenticate (for doctoral thesis) and signed by the scientific advisor. Furthermore, each student or PhD candidate has their own account where they can progressively check their work with the anti-plagiarism software and have the related academic writing guidelines.

B.2.1.2. There is at least one subject dedicated to ethics in scientific research and to intellectual property or well-defined topics of these fields taught within one further subject of the doctoral program.

The discipline of *Ethics and Academic Coaching*, as set out in the DSUD - B Curriculum (*Annex 4. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*) is dedicated to the ethics of scientific research and intellectual property. This discipline has a Discipline Sheet that provides for the training of specific skills and trains PhD students in honest research practice in accordance with research ethics and professional ethics, containing topics related to the issue of originality and plagiarism, citation methods, etc. (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*).

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

Each area of doctoral studies has a number of courses organised as part of the advanced undergraduate programme. Clearly, the aim of these courses is to develop competences, skills and aptitudes for scientific research in particular and academic activity in general.

The curricula usually include between 3 and 5 courses (lectures and practical seminars), of which about one third are devoted to the training of general research skills and about two thirds are devoted to specialised courses, aimed at training advanced research skills in the specific field of doctoral studies.

In the first weeks after signing the study contract, the doctoral candidate draws up, together and in agreement with the doctoral coordinator, a plan for his/her doctoral research. This plan sets out, in detail, the courses to be taken by the doctoral student, depending on the specific nature of his/her doctoral research topic, the sequence of research reports and their topics, as well as a number of other additional elements which may add value to the research (participation in conferences, publication of texts, national or international mobility, etc.).

In accordance with the Discipline Sheet for each teaching activity, the learning outcomes are oriented towards the formation of competences, skills and attitudes specific to the doctoral level. The subjects taught in the Biology doctoral programme represent an important step in the training of doctoral students and have been designed with the aim of complementing and developing students' knowledge of advanced research topics and methods. All courses will place a strong emphasis on the active and continuous participation of PhD students throughout the programme. Thus, the course holder will provide the list of required reading and discussion topics for each hour of lecture/seminar.

According to the discipline sheets (*Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024*), learning outcomes are organised into two broad types of competences, vocational and transversal. In each subject, teachers combine these competences with those of other subjects so that the training programme is complex and intelligent.

B.2.1.4. Throughout the entire doctoral training period, students benefit from the counseling / coordination of functional guidance commissions, an aspect that shall be reflected by the guidance and by written feedback or regular meetings.

The Biology PhD field is a new PhD field. This self-evaluation report seeks accreditation in the Doctoral School of Biology.

According to IOSUD-UVT Doctoral Studies Regulation (*Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT*), each doctoral coordinator, in consultation with the doctoral student, proposes a mentoring committee composed of three other members, who may be members of the doctoral coordinator's research team, other persons affiliated to the doctoral school or teaching, and research staff not affiliated to the doctoral school.

In this regard, standards will be regulated including by the Doctoral School Regulations discussed in this paper. These standards must be met in order for the doctoral student to successfully complete his/her studies. The doctoral thesis must have a specific structure, must present logical coherence in argumentation, must demonstrate thorough knowledge of the subject under analysis. In order to be awarded a doctoral degree, the thesis must represent a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field under consideration). When submitting the doctoral thesis as well as the reports produced during the course of the thesis, the candidate will be required to sign affidavits that they do not fall under the notion of plagiarism.

Doctoral students have an individual study programme consisting of the preparation and regular submission of research reports, which are followed up by the coordinator together with the coordinatory committee (link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1foEZP91zgHf46N_r5EFr8SdHwvSKNcXJ?usp=sharing).

Research reports are defended in front of the steering committee.

In order to complete their doctoral studies, students must publicly defend their doctoral thesis, but only after peer review. The public defence of the doctoral thesis may take place in the presence of at least 4 of the 5 members of the doctoral committee, with the chair of the committee and the coordinator being present (except for limited/objective situations that would not allow their participation). The abstracts of the doctoral thesis defended publicly are made available to the interested public on the Doctoral School website and after the public defence. The Council of the Doctoral School is the body that will decide how to conduct the academic ceremony of the public defence of the doctoral thesis and the awarding of the doctoral degree.

Doctoral coordinators are available to meet with doctoral students on a weekly basis, providing them with a time slot in which they can be requested for advice and guidance in the academic research process.

B.2.1.5. For a field of doctoral studies, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of professors / researchers providing coordination shall not exceed 3:1.

Not the case.

B.3. Results of the PhD study program and their assessment procedures

B.3.1. Doctoral students capitalize their research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, through technology transfer, patents, products, service orders.

B.3.1.1. For the assessed field, the assessing commission shall be provided with at least one article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student, who has earned the doctoral degree over the last 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission randomly select for analysis 5 such relevant articles / contributions per field of doctoral studies. The selected and analysed articles will be graded on a scale from 1 to 5, according to their original contribution to the development of the field. At least three articles must reach the threshold of 3.

Not the case.

***B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (over the last 5 years), including posters, exhibitions at prestigious international events (in Romania or abroad) and the number of PhD students who have completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (over the last five years) is at least equal to 1.**

Not the case.

B.3.2. The doctoral school appeals to a significant number of external co-referees for the PhD defense committees.

***B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses assigned to a co-referee affiliated with a higher education institution other than IOSUD-assessed, shall not exceed two (2) for theses coordinated by the same doctoral coordinator, per year.**

Not the case.

***B.3.2.2. The ratio between the number of doctoral theses assigned to a referee affiliated with a higher education institution other than the one where the defense is organised and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same doctoral field within the doctoral school shall not be higher than 0.3, as compared to the situation over the last five years. Only those doctoral fields will be assessed where at least ten doctoral theses have been defended over the last five years.**

Not the case.

C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

C.1. The existence and regular development of the internal quality assurance system

C.1.1. The existing institutional framework will apply a procedure for monitoring the internal quality assurance as well as the relevant internal quality assurance policies.

***C.1.1.1. The doctoral school where the field of doctoral studies is affiliated proves the constant development of its assessment process and its internal quality assurance in accordance with a procedure developed and applied at the IOSUD level, the assessed criteria shall include: a) the scientific activity of the coordinators; b) the infrastructure and the**

logistics necessary to carry out the research activity; c) the subsequent procedures and norms that the doctoral studies are based on; d) the scientific activity of the doctoral students; e) the training program based on the advanced university studies of the doctoral students.

In order to ensure the quality of the activities carried out in the doctoral schools, IOSUD-UVT has organised, periodically, internal evaluations of the doctoral schools. The internal evaluation reports followed the evolution of the logistical infrastructure necessary for the research activity, the scientific activity of the PhD coordinators, and the evolution of the procedures and rules under which the activities are carried out in the doctoral schools.

Thus, internal evaluation reports have been produced, such as the IOSUD report of 2021, (*Annex 3. IOSUD 2021 Internal Evaluation Report*) and internal evaluation reports of doctoral schools and doctoral study areas, based on OMEN no. 5403/1.11.2018 (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

At the same time, in order to optimise all components of the doctoral activity, a series of audit and internal control procedures have been initiated within the university. Thus, by service order no. 9132 dated 19.03.2019, the Rector of the West University of Timisoara, at the proposal of the CSUD Director, appointed a committee to audit the teaching activities carried out by doctoral students in the university departments.

a) scientific activity of PhD coordinators

The scientific activity is monitored every two years in the context of the NCFIS IC reports. In order to facilitate this reporting, a process has been initiated to digitise the individual CNATDCU criteria check sheets and Annex 5 of the CNFIS reporting based on an online URAP system (<http://urap.uvt.ro>), with:

- permanent updating of the file by each teacher/doctoral coordinator
- automatic uploading of articles indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection and Scopus and their citations
- calculation of the indicators in the individual CNATDCU check sheets
- download of the individual verification sheets and annex from the CNFIS report

At IOSUD level, an analysis of the scientific output of PhD coordinators with impact in the period 2016-2020 was carried out in March 2021. In terms of scientific output, 86 PhD coordinators have a number of UVT-affiliated presences in the Web of Science (Core) of 2858 out of 5265 UVT-affiliated presences, which represents 54% of the number of UVT-affiliated presences in WoS. There have been 1021 UVT-affiliated presences in the last 5 years (2016-2020), which represents 36% of the number of Web of Science leader presences.

In November 2021 ARACIS evaluations of all UVT PhD fields took place, the result of these evaluations will be posted on the ARACIS website:

https://www.aracis.ro/evaluari_dsd/?fwp_universitate=universitatea-de-vest-din-timisoara.

b) the infrastructure and logistics needed to carry out the research

Doctoral students work in laboratories and research centres whose infrastructure and logistics are managed at the faculty level. From 2022, both doctoral students and teachers will have access via the <https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/> to a number of electronic research resources.

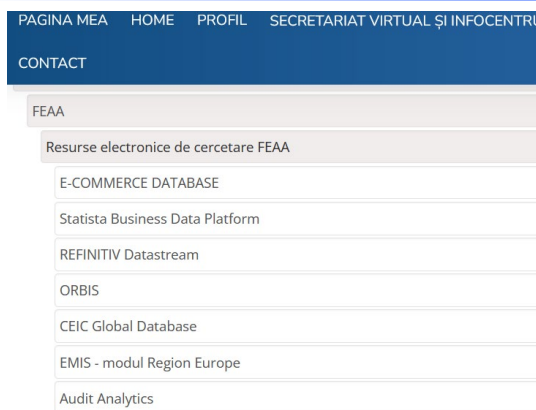


Figure 1. Electronic research resources

c) the regulations and procedures under which doctoral studies are organised

Regulations and procedures are publicly available at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>. Thus, each year the CSUD discusses the framework for the admission of doctoral students, proposing specific admission methodologies (available at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>). On the basis of the general admission methodologies, discussed in the CSUD, endorsed by the UVT Board of Directors and approved by resolution of the University Senate, the doctoral schools draw up their own admission methodologies, which are specific according to the particularities of the doctoral field of study.

Admission to doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT is conducted in transparent conditions, with the dissemination of useful information for registration. Thus, the website announces the available places and their type as well as the distribution of places by doctoral schools and fields of doctoral studies. The latest announcement, for admission in September 2022, is available at: <https://www.uvt.ro/wpcontent/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Calendar-admitere-doctorat-1.pdf>

IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for the completion of doctoral studies. These procedures are based on national legislation and comply with the national platforms for the validation of doctoral degrees (Integrated Educational Register and Single Register). They include information on the steps leading up to the PhD thesis as well as the conditions for its defence. All these procedures are designed to ensure conditions of total exigency and transparency with regard to doctoral theses. The latest version of the methodology for the PhD thesis defense, as well as the latest procedure for the online PhD thesis defense is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>.

d) scientific activity of PhD students

The PhD students' scientific and artistic work is carefully supervised by the PhD coordinators and the mentoring committees. A list of their own work accompanies each doctoral thesis submitted for analysis.

At UVT level, the Department of Scientific Research and Artistic Creation maintains a record of UVT-affiliated publications, updated periodically.

At IOSUD level, an analysis of the scientific output of PhD students in the period 2016-2021 was carried out in March 2021, which showed that the 456 PhD graduates have 264 Web of Science (Core) submissions.

Doctoral students can also benefit from educational exchanges, scientific training (internships, summer schools, workshops), co-tutelle coordination through the UNITA university network, of which UVT is a member <https://www.uvt.ro/unita/>.

e) advanced degree-based training programme for doctoral students

Upon signing the Study Contract, doctoral students complete, together with and in agreement with their PhD coordinator, a Research Plan (publicly available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp->

[content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-1.pdf](#)) specifying the topics and periods for the submission of progress reports, the training programme based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which doctoral students participate, the mobilities carried out, etc.

f) **social and academic support services** (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counselling services for doctoral students.

The UVT Social Service manages the process of accommodation of doctoral students in the dormitories and ensures the maintenance of the accommodation facilities.

Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (<https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/facilitati-pentru-studenti/consiliere-ccoc/>) UVT offers students vocational guidance and counselling services, as well as psychological counselling.

Participation in local, national and international scientific events and publication of articles is financially supported by the funds of the doctoral grant "Development of entrepreneurial skills for PhD students and postdocs in the field of economics", SMIS code 125015, call POCU/380/6/13/ - "Support for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers", from the support funds (IDF), from faculty funds, or from national or international R&D grants. As of 2022, a Methodology for accessing by the PhD students of the institutional resources for professional formation has been adopted by UVT (***Annex 20. Methodology for access by doctoral students to institutional resources for professional training***), available at: <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Anexa-7.-Metodologie-accesare-resurse-institutionale-doctoranzi.pdf>.

At the same time, every year, an induction session is organized for PhD students admitted in the first year, at IOSUD UVT level, where the main activities, opportunities, facilities are presented and a first community relationship is established between PhD students at the beginning of their PhD internship and those in the completion phases of their studies. The last such meeting took place in October 2022: <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>.

Doctoral students work in laboratories and research centres whose infrastructure and logistics are managed at the faculty level. From 2022, both doctoral students and teachers will have access via the <https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/> to a number of electronic research resources.

***C1.1.2. During the doctoral training, students' feedback will be implemented, in order to identify their needs and their general level of satisfaction with the program and to continuously improve the academic and administrative processes.**

As far as the Biology PhD field is concerned, this is a new PhD field. This self-evaluation report seeks accreditation within the Doctoral School of Biology.

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

C.2.1. All information of interest for doctoral students, for future candidates and information of public interest are available in an electronic format.

C.2.1.1. The doctoral school will publish through IOSUD the following on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection: a) the regulations of the doctoral school; b) the admissions regulation; c) the doctoral studies contract; d) the regulations for completing the studies, which should also include the procedure for the thesis defense; e) the content of the study programs; f) the scientific profile and the thematic areas / research topics of the doctoral coordinators in the field, as well as their institutional contact data; g) the list of doctoral students in the field with their basic information (year of registration; coordinator); h) information about the standards for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis; i) links to the abstracts of the doctoral theses to be defended,

as well as the date, time, venue where they will be defended, at least 20 days prior to the defense.

IOSUD-UVT publishes on its website relevant information on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies at the university. Thus, on the website can be found the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies as well as a whole series of specific information on the registration for doctoral studies, the conduct of doctoral studies / research, respectively the public defense of the doctoral thesis (Figure 2).



Figure 2. IOSUD – UVT website

IOSUD-UVT updates annually the methodology for admission to doctoral studies, according to national methodologies and regulations, taking into account the internal priorities of the doctoral schools, their evolution and projects. On the university's website are presented the annual admission methodologies, the admission calendar, particular situations (admission for disabled candidates, admission for foreign citizens from third countries, admission for Romanians from abroad, admission for Roma, etc.), providing candidates with electronic versions of all the necessary admission forms.

In the same direction of correct, detailed and transparent information on doctoral studies, the IOSUD-UVT website provides useful information on doctoral studies: projects, content of advanced degree programmes, information on doctoral research (research reports, study interruptions, study extensions, etc.).

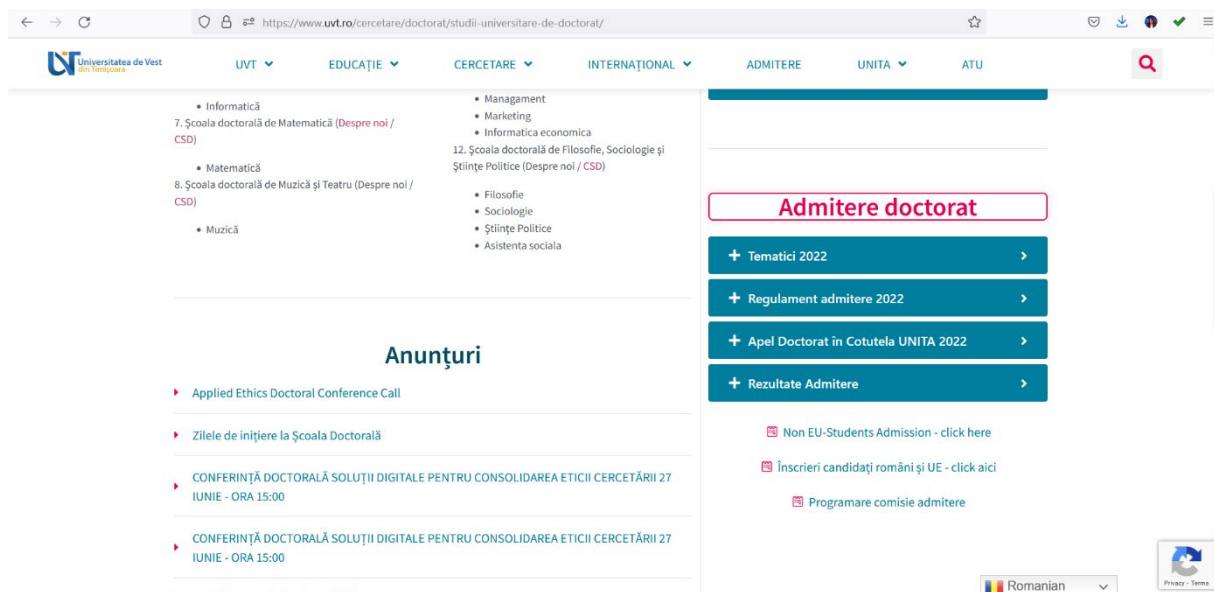


Figure 3. IOSUD-UVT admission webpage

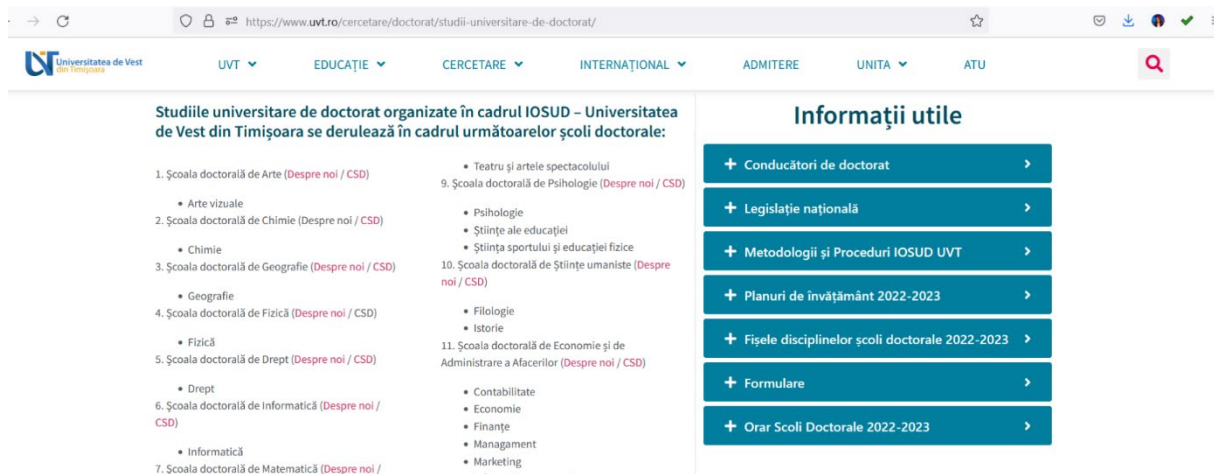


Figure 4. IOSUD-UVT study information webpage

Also detailed on the website are the other (specific) regulations concerning the PhD, in particular the regulations and procedures for the public defence of the PhD thesis. The steps to be followed for the public presentation of the doctoral thesis are outlined, respecting the scientific rigour and the Romanian legislation in force.

The doctoral schools publish and customise, on their own websites or in sections of the faculty websites, information on the conduct of doctoral studies according to fields. Thus, the specific regulations of the doctoral schools are published, as well as information on admission to doctoral studies (number of places and types of places, admission methodologies, admission calendar, topics proposed by doctoral coordinators, etc.), information on the actual conduct of doctoral studies (content of study programmes, information on conferences and training organised by the university, etc.), and information on the organisation and public defence of doctoral theses.

Information of general interest on research projects, mobility, scholarships available to doctoral students, training courses, is also available on the facebook page of doctoral studies.

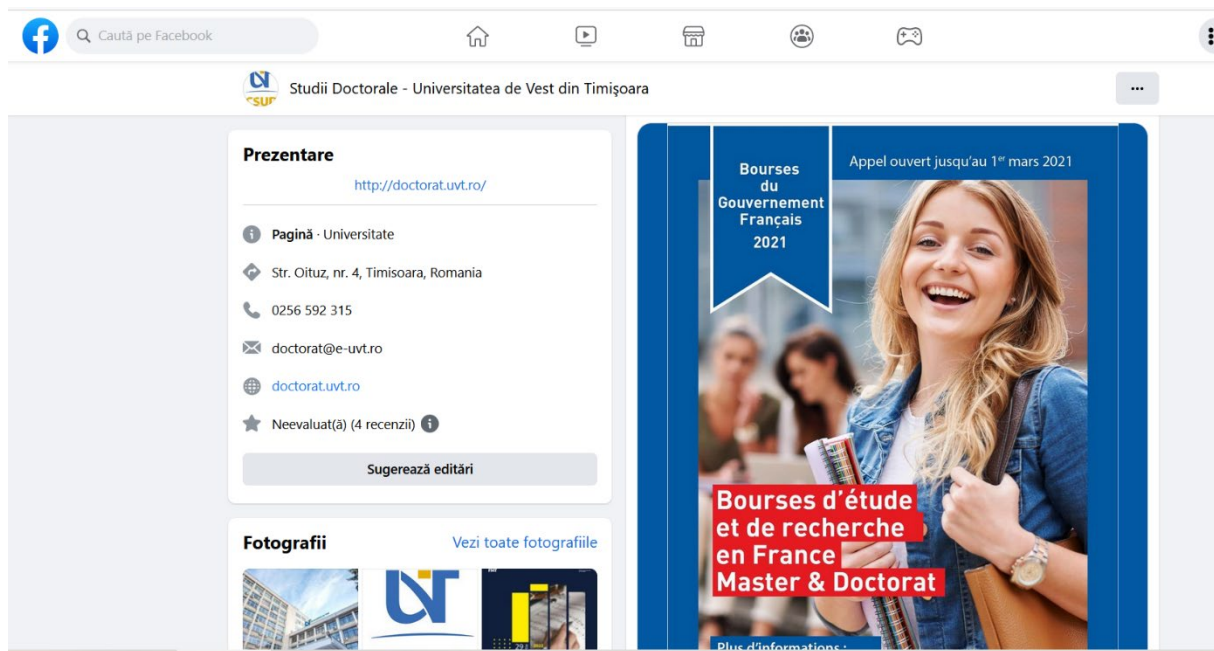


Figure 5. IOSUD-UVT Facebook page

In 2022, more than 100 PhD theses were defended at IOSUD-UVT. More details on these doctoral theses can be found on the uvt website, for each field/doctoral school (Figure 6). And the list of UVT doctoral coordinators can be found in *Annex 24. UVT affiliated PhD coordinators, 2022*.

+ Conducători de doctorat				
<p>Conducători de doctorat - vezi fișierul</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDEAA 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDM 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDA 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDI</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDSU 2022</p> <p>Conducători doctorat și teme propuse muzică 2022</p> <p>Conducători doctorat și teme propuse teatru și artele spectacolului 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat SDF 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SD Psi 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDCh 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse SDD 2022</p> <p>Conducători de doctorat și teme propuse Asistență socială 2022</p>				
Coordonatori de doctorat afiliați la IOSUD - UVT				
1.	Informatică economică	Conf. dr. Gabriela MIRCEA	OMEN 4186/21.06.2017	gabriela.mircea@e-uvt.ro
2.	Informatică economică	Prof.dr. Mihaela MUNTEAN	OMECS 5679/19.11.2010	mihaela.muntean@e-uvt.ro
3.	Informatică economică	Conf. univ. dr. Brandas Vasile Claudiu	OMEC 5823/16.10.2020	claudiu.brandas@e-uvt.ro
4.	Științe ale comunicării	Prof.dr. Ileana Cristina Rotaru	OMEN 4079/28.05.2019	ileana.rotaru@e-uvt.ro

Figure 6. IOSUD-UVT Information about PhD coordinators and PhD students

IOSUD-UVT publishes on its website links to the abstracts of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, as well as the date, time and place where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>) – Figure 7

▶ SUȘȚINERI PUBLICE TEZE DE DOCTORAT	
▶ Arte vizuale	▶ Știința sportului și educației fizice
▶ Chimie	▶ Filologie
▶ Geografie	▶ Istorie
▶ Fizică	▶ Contabilitate
▶ Drept	▶ Economie
▶ Informatică	▶ Finanțe
▶ Matematică	▶ Management
▶ Muzică	▶ Marketing
▶ Teatru și artele spectacolului	▶ Filosofie
▶ Psihologie	▶ Sociologie
▶ Științe ale educației	▶ Științe Politice

Figure 7. IOSUD-UVT – Section for public defense of PhD theses

C.2.2. IOSUD / The doctoral school provides the doctoral students with access to the necessary resources in order to carry out their doctoral studies.

C.2.2.1. All PhD students have free access to a platform with academic databases, relevant to the doctoral fields.

UVT is part of the *Anelis+* consortium, which brings together the main higher education institutions and research institutes in Romania interested in access to the leading scientific literature. Currently UVT has subscriptions to the following scientific article databases: *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 Source Complete*, *EBSCO Art Full text*, *NATURE*, *ScienceDirect ARHIVE NATIONALE*, *Springer Arhive*, *Wiley Arhive*, *Institute of Physics Journals Arhive*, *ScienceDirect Arhive Curente 2016*.

This is not the case for the Biology PhD field. The Biology PhD field is a new PhD field. This self-evaluation report seeks accreditation within the Doctoral School of Biology.

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

Doctoral students can get access / become account holders on Ithenticate upon request, based on a simple request to the IT service and after verification of their doctoral student status (<https://lists.uvt.ro/>).

This is not the case for the Biology PhD field. The Biology PhD field is a new PhD field. This self-evaluation report seeks accreditation within the Doctoral School of Biology.

C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or to other facilities depending on the specificity of the field(s) within the doctoral school, according to internal regulations.

The doctoral study contracts stipulate the right of doctoral students to have access to UVT libraries and to the various research laboratories, depending on the specific field. The annexes

attached to the internal evaluation reports of the doctoral study areas specify which are those specific laboratories, i.e. their specific material base.

The West University of Timisoara has research centres that carry out projects with international, national or local funding. These projects involve PhD coordinators and PhD students as members of research teams.

During 2018 UVT carried out an institutional development project through which it proceeded to evaluate the research centres within the university, including the accreditation of functional centres by visiting external experts. They are currently operating as a separate architecture of research at UVT with a division into three main areas: the field of exact sciences, the field of socio-economic sciences and the field of humanities (<http://uvt.ro/organizare/organigrama/>).

We mention the existence of the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Commission of Ethics and Academic Deontology of UVT (*Annex 25. Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Ethics and Academic Deontology Commission of UVT*), We mention the existence of the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Commission of Ethics and Academic Deontology of UVT (*Anexa 24*), as well as the establishment of the UVT Academic Ethics and Integrity Office within IOSUD-UVT (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/csud/>) and implementation of the strategy to prevent and combat plagiarism (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Strategia-de-prevenire-si-combatere-a-fenomenului-de-plagiat-in-UVT.pdf>) – (*Annex 26. Strategy to prevent and combat plagiarism at UVT*).

C.3. Degree of internationalisation

C.3.1. The strategy to increase the internationalization of doctoral studies exists and will be applied.

***C.3.1.1. The assessed field of study implements through IOSUD mobility agreements with foreign universities, with research institutions, with companies that carry out activities in the studied field, aiming at the mobility of doctoral students and of professors (ex. ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students will have completed a training mobility abroad or another form of mobility, such as participation in international scientific conferences.**

The full list of partnership agreements includes first of all the partner universities in the Erasmus and Erasmus + international programmes. Through the Department of International Relations, but also through the Erasmus+ coordinators in the faculties, partnership agreements have been signed with a number of universities abroad, both in Europe and in partner countries. The list of partners is available: <https://ri.uvt.ro/programul-de-mobilitati-erasmus/>.

The number of doctoral students who have undertaken Erasmus+ mobility is:

- 2017-2018: 27 PhD students in mobility.
- 2018-2019: 10 PhD students in mobility
- 2019-2020: 13 doctoral students in mobility
- 2020-2021 2 long-term study mobilities and 9 long-term practice mobilities
- 2021-2022 1 long-term study mobility, 1 short-term study mobility (participation in a Blended Intensive Programme), 5 long-term practice mobilities and 6 short-term practice mobilities.

Bilateral agreements also allow for mobility; the list of international partners is available at <https://ri.uvt.ro/acorduri-de-colaborare-cu-parteneri-internationali/>.

As of 2020, UVT is a member of the UNITA consortium, an alliance of six comprehensive universities where over 165,000 students study and over 13,000 teaching and non-teaching staff work, as well as benefiting from the educational offer of the member universities in this network. UVT students

have the opportunity to complete their international experience by virtually participating in one or two courses offered by one of the UNITA universities during the academic year 2022-2023. More information can be found on the dedicated website: <https://www.uvt.ro/international/erasmus/unita-mobilitati-virtuale/>.

In the same vein, under the POSDRU PhD research scholarship projects, 177 PhD students were required to undertake external research mobility and to attend at least one international conference abroad.

Taking into account these data, which do not cumulate the 213 national and international conferences attended by doctoral students, the percentage of mobilities is systematically above the required level of 5%.

As regards participation in international grants, mobility in the international environment, conferences and lectures given by visiting professors, following applications by Prof. Dr. SILVIU ROGOBETE, Director of SDSFSP, Erasmus Plus mobilities have been obtained annually with two prestigious universities in South Africa: Stellenbosch University and Western Cape University. So far, 2 Romanian and 4 South African PhD students (6 months for each mobility), teachers in the field of political science (4 reciprocal visits with colleagues in South Africa in 2016-2019) have benefited from such mobilities. Erasmus-type collaboration contracts exist with a significant number of universities in the EU area.

There have been international offers made by PhD coordinators and there are currently some advanced discussions for starting cotutelle with Montpellier University, France, Szeged University, Hungary, Holloway London.

Our PhD students have the opportunity to regularly attend lectures by international personalities that our faculty invites on different occasions. Thus, one of the invited experts was David Goa, Director of the Chester Ronning Centre, Alberta University, Canada, International Fellow of the Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life. Lecture "Freedom of speech and hate speech", May 2017.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mobilities were interrupted, although the selection process was carried out on both sides. They have partially resumed from 2022 with the lifting of restrictions.

C.3.1.2. The assessed field of studies supports, even financially, the international co-ordination of doctorates, the invitation of high rank experts to deliver courses / lectures for its doctoral students.

SDB encourages and supports the practice of organising doctoral studies in cotutelle. Within the SDB there are concerns for the development of international partnerships for the realisation of doctoral cotutelle or for inviting specialists to give lectures to doctoral students.

C.3.1.3. The internationalization of the activities of the doctoral program is supported by concrete measures (for example, participation in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; the inclusion of international experts in the coordinating or defence committees, etc.).

West University of Timisoara is an active participant in international fairs organised to disseminate the international study offer. Also, through partnerships with a number of stakeholders, the university attracts international students from North African countries or the Arab peninsula.

However, without this being generalised, a number of researchers and professors from foreign universities have been integrated into the work of the doctoral schools. Thus, a number of researchers or professors from foreign universities are also affiliated to the doctoral schools as doctoral coordinators; researchers or professors from foreign institutes and universities have also been integrated into the committees for the supervision of doctoral research and the committees for the public defence of doctoral theses. This criterion is also taken into account in the field of doctoral studies in communication sciences, by inviting Prof. Sorin Adam MATEI from Purdue University, USA, as associate professor.

Within IOSUD-UVT, a *Methodology for the cotutelle or European PhD (IOSUD-Cotutela)* has been adopted and is available at: <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Metodologie-doctorat-cotutela-si-doctorat-european.pdf>, it states that: "Art. 8. In the case of international cotutelle doctoral students enrolled at IOSUD-UVT, if the applicable national legislation for doctoral studies

provides for enrolment also at IOSUD in cotutelle, IOSUD-UVT does not lose its rights regarding the main role of IOSUD in the doctoral study programme, which shall be obligatorily mentioned in the cotutelle agreement.

Art. 9. a. The tutoring committee includes both PhD coordinators; b. The committee for the public defence in Romania of a PhD thesis elaborated in cotutelle includes both coordinators; c. The PhD candidate's training programme is agreed by both PhD coordinators; d. Changes to the doctoral study programme for which the cotutelle agreement has been concluded, such as change of coordinator, change of title of the doctoral thesis, date of the public defence, shall be made in compliance with the legal provisions in force and with the agreement of both doctoral coordinators.

Art. 11. If a doctoral coordinator from IOSUD-UVT is requested for supervision in another institution through a national or international co-supervision agreement, the coordinator in question shall submit for consideration by the Doctoral School Council, the agreement proposed by the IOSUD where the doctoral student for whom co-supervision is requested is registered. The cotutelle agreement is approved by the doctoral coordinator, the Director of the Doctoral School, the Director of the CSUD and is institutionally assumed by the Rector.

Art. 15. The European Doctorate (European Doctorate/Doctor Europaeus/Doctor Europaea) is a qualification added to the Doctor of Science degree in order to recognise the European dimension of doctoral studies and to facilitate the integration of doctoral graduates from the European Union into the international academic and socio-economic environment.

Art. 16. The European PhD in IOSUD-UVT is in line with the recommendations of the European University Association (EUA) and is recognised by European universities implementing the model and conditions set by the EUA.

Art. 17. The European doctorate is optional. Doctoral students enrolled at IOSUD-UVT may apply for a European doctorate route on the basis of an application endorsed by the doctoral coordinator and the director of the doctoral school, and approved by the CSUD director (Annex 6).

Art. 18. The European doctoral certificate shall be awarded if the following conditions are met:

- IOSUD-UVT doctoral student enrolled on the European doctoral route no later than the end of the second year of doctoral studies
- The doctoral thesis is written in an international language, preferably English.
- During the first three years of studies the doctoral student has completed a research internship of at least three months at a university or research institute in the European Community and the period is certified by the host organisation.
- The public presentation of the thesis is supported (through thesis reports) by at least three PhD coordinators, of which at least two are from higher education institutions in two countries other than the country where the presentation takes place (not including reports from IOSUD-UVT members, nor from the partner IOSUD if the PhD is in cotutelle).
- At least one member of the public dissertation committee is from a higher education institution in a country other than the country in which the dissertation is publicly defended.
- The public presentation of the thesis is made in an official language of the European Community which is not the language of the country where the presentation takes place.

Art. 19. Failure to meet the criteria shall lead to the cancellation of the route. The doctoral student may waive the route by submitting a request. The doctoral coordinator may request the interruption of the route".

In terms of promoting the UVT PhD offer to international students, we use:

- website: <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>;
- social media platforms with the official UVT/ IOSUD/CSUD page;
- national platform Study in Romania: <https://www.studyinromania.gov.ro/fp/index.php?&sm=module.fp.home&ddpN=1889031329&we=cf9516660d3d48bb8c4d53b784a51fa3&wf=dGFCall&wtok=&wtkps=VY1BDolwFETv8veQtIAkny1LF17h01KKUsAiNMZ4dy3qwtVM3mRmCCU+FswQl15DtaDkCKUpbtfSnc16UML4kS7ZZm0uRUfFPQimwyxswu3oaQsJd2poYlUghDYaniO4Sa9Dm5o5tZP70HjSkIf25KfOk9shQr0r/4XH3jX0jdh/r34vjf0aIUOA6vkC&wehk=28d0928ad64c5489b340ba85903403be6ac78cb3>

With regard to UVT's participation in international higher education fairs, where representation has been made through DRI, here is a list of them in the period 2016-2019 (pre-pandemic):

- Erasmus Congress & Exhibition ERACON 2016, Thessaloniki, Greece
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2016, Liverpool, England
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2017, Seville, Spain - national stand "Study in Romania" organised by 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, Switzerland - national stand "Study in Romania" organised by CNR
- International Education Fairs of Turkey (IEFT) 2018, Istanbul, Turkey
- BMI Global Education Fair UAE 2018, Dubai, United Arab Emirates - national stand "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- Education Abroad Fair 2018, Kiev, Ukraine - national stand "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- "Campus Roumanie" 2018, Tunisia - national stand "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- Study Abroad Event 2018, Paris, France
- European Association for International Education Annual Conference 2019, Helsinki, Finland - national stand "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- NAFSA (National Association for Foreign Student Affairs) Annual Conference 2019, Washington, USA - national booth "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- Vietnam Global Education Fair 2019, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam - national stand "Study in Romania" organized by CNR
- Annual Forum of Member Universities in the 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
- 15th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2019, New Delhi, India
- European Association for International Education Spring and Autumn Academies 2019, Bordeaux - France and Budapest - Hungary respectively
- Masterclass on Internationalisation of Higher Education, organised by the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) in collaboration with the International Association of Universities (IAU), 2019, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Since 2020, UVT's educational offer has been promoted at fairs and events dedicated to internationalization in higher education, organized online, as follows:

- The event "EAIE Community Summit: The Year Ahead", organised online by the European Association for International Education (EAIE) on 16-17 June 2020.
- The recruitment fair "A2 VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR", organised online by Flexy Class Global Education on 27-28 July 2020, brought together potential candidates from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania.
- The "Online Education Fair for Africa (North Africa)", organised online by Begin Group on 18 August 2020, brought together potential candidates from North Africa, from countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.
- The "Online Education Fair for Africa (Tropical Africa)" recruitment fair, organised online by Begin Group on 20 August 2020, brought together potential candidates from Tropical Africa, from countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania.
- THE Virtual World Academic Summit event, organised online by Times Higher Education (THE) from 1-2 September 2020.

- The recruitment fair "Study and Go Abroad. Virtual Education Fair", organised online by Recruit in Canada on 24 September 2020, brought together potential candidates from Tropical Africa, from countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania.
- The annual higher education fair "Study in Europe", organised online by the Delegation of the European Union to Singapore on 26 September 2020. "Study in Europe" is an annual higher education fair aimed at bringing to the attention of Singaporean students the study opportunities offered by European universities, details of application processes and the range of scholarships available. UVT's participation in the event involved contributing to Romania's website by creating content on the UVT page, as well as supporting the live webinar "Discover West University of Timisoara", which presented UVT's educational offer to international candidates and answered their specific questions.
- The recruitment fair "India and Nigeria Virtual Conference and College Fair 2020 (Lekkside Education Fair)", held from 9-11 October 2020, brought together potential candidates from Nigeria and India.
- The annual EAIE Community Exchange Conference, organised by EAIE (European Association for International Education) from 14-16 October 2020.
- The recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Indian Subcontinent)", organised by Begin Group on 27 October 2020, brought together potential candidates from the Indian subcontinent, from countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka.
- The recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Eurasia)", organised by Begin Group on 29 October 2020, brought together potential candidates from countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine.
- Recruitment Fair "European Dream - European Education Fair 2020", organised by the Nordic Centre and the Austrian Centre of Fudan University on 30 October 2020.
- The recruitment fair "Online Education Fair (Central Asia)", organised by Begin Group on 3 November 2020, brought together potential candidates from countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.
- The recruitment fair "EuroPosgrados", organised on 14 and 28 November 2020, brought together potential candidates from Latin American countries, mainly Mexico.
- The event for recruiters entitled "Study in Romania/Study in Canada/Study in USA", organised by New Educational Trend (NET) from October 2020 to January 2021. NET is an online platform that brings together representatives of international student recruitment agencies from around the world.
- The annual conference "Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2020", organised by the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC) on 19-20 November 2020.

According to the Rector's Report 2021, UVT was present at the following **fairs and events dedicated to internationalization in higher education**, organized online:

- The annual conference "Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2021", organised by the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC) from 5-9 July 2021. It brought together, in a hybrid format, a number of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme, as well as the various internationalisation efforts of universities in European countries.
- The EAIE Community Exchange event, organised online by the European Association for International Education (EAIE) from 28 September to 1 October 2021. This conference took place online and hosted over 2000 participants from 70 countries around the world to explore topical issues in the sphere of internationalisation of higher education.
- The "EAIE Online Academy" event organised online by the European Association for International Education (EAIE) from 17-19 November 2021. This virtual event addressed the theme "Launching virtual exchange at your institution", providing an opportunity for a member of the Erasmus+ Office to participate in specialised training sessions in the field of

internationalisation delivered by quality higher education specialists as well as training and information sessions on the development of virtual mobility.

- The recruitment fair "IEF (International Education Fair)", held from 25.03-03.04.2021, brought together potential candidates from Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan. The main aim was to promote UVT's educational offer, in order to recruit as many international students as possible from these areas.

- The APAIE event "Asia-Pacific Association for International Education", organized between 23.03-24.04.2021, brought together universities from countries such as Japan, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and so on, with the aim to present their study offers, as well as to give the opportunity for networking and to conclude bilateral agreements with the countries and institutions participating in this event from the Asia-Pacific area.

- The educational webinar "8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education - Outlook 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe (Whova Singapore)", held online on 10.09.2021 brought together universities from around the world to present 4 modules dedicated to supporting the education system globally and better integrating international communities within universities.

- The annual Study in Europe Higher Education Fair, organised online by the Delegation of the European Union to Singapore on 25 September 2021. "Study in Europe" is an annual higher education fair aimed at bringing to the attention of Singaporean students the study opportunities offered by European universities, details of application processes and the range of scholarships available.

- The event "UNISTAR -Supporting University Educators and Staff to Advance Refugees' Inclusion", held online on 29.10.2021. The event was organised in the form of training and information sessions on refugees.

- Recruitment fair "13th European Higher Education Fair Indonesia (EHEF)", organised online on 12-13.11.2021, brought together potential candidates from Indonesia. The main aim was to promote UVT's educational offer in order to recruit as many international students from this country as possible.

- The annual higher education fair "Study in Europe", organised online by the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam on 21 November 2021. "Study in Europe" Vietnam is an annual higher education fair, aimed at bringing to the attention of Vietnamese students the study opportunities offered by European universities, details of application processes and the range of scholarships available.

- The recruitment fair "IEF (International Education Fair)", held from 25.03-03.04.2021, brought together potential candidates from Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan. The main aim was to promote UVT's educational offer in order to recruit as many international students as possible from these areas.

Other promotional events in which UVT participation was ensured: "University Admissions Strategy Redefined" (8.04.2021), an event dedicated to adapting admissions conditions for international citizens to a pandemic context; online meeting to inform about international student recruitment platforms (Docsity platform on 25.03.2021); online presence at the event dedicated to AUF scholarships and entitled Journée des boursiers Eugen Ionescu - promotion 2020-2021 (5.11.2021). BCSD members also participated in a number of other national events aimed at contributing to the expansion and integration of international communities]in Romania and implicitly in UVT : "Inclusive education : services adapted to students with special needs" (26.11.2021); "StudyinRomania 2.0 - how do we promote higher education in Romania?" (25.11.2021).

In 2022, UVT continued to be present at events of this type, in online or onsite format:

- EAIE Community Summit (online) 10-11.03.2022
- International Education Virtual (online) Fair Tbilisi 30.04.2022
- ERACON (onsite) 27 June - 1 July
- EAIE (onsite) 13 - 16 September
- Vietnam (26 October - 4 November 2022)
- Argentina (15-18 November 2022)
- Marocco (24 - 28 November 2022)
- Azerbaijan (3 - 4 December 2022)

III. STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURE THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR PH.D. STUDIES, TO CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS, OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED BY ANNEXE NO. 4

The PhD field Biology (DSUD - B) is a new PhD field in the Doctoral School of Biology. This self-evaluation report seeks accreditation of the PhD field and its establishment within the SDB.

In the framework of the SDB, the following strategic measures and operationalisation actions are envisaged to increase the quality of doctoral programmes:

- 1) Achieving a high level of **national mobility** (within the Universitaria consortium) and **international mobility** of doctoral students.
 - through participation in Erasmus+ mobility programmes;
 - by encouraging access to bilateral mobility projects funded by UEFISCDI;
 - Identifying the opportunities that exist in this respect from UVT's participation in the "UNITA European Alliance" project;
 - by encouraging the participation of doctoral students in activities of interest carried out within the consortium.
- 2) Develop **effective mechanisms for recruiting** doctoral students.
 - attracting students from the master's degree programmes in the Department of Biology-Chemistry and graduates of other master's degree programmes in the field of Biology, especially from the Western region of the country, and international students;
 - to develop appropriate criteria for the evaluation of research projects submitted during the admission procedure;
 - implementation of effective mechanisms for presenting the SDB educational offer to master students.
- 3) **Involvement of doctoral students in the work carried out by the CBD research centres.**
 - Develop a joint offer of activities offered by the CBD research centres in partnership with SDB;
 - To carry out further training activities dedicated to specific concrete requirements at the proposal of PhD students;
 - Identify possibilities for the inclusion of PhD students in research teams formed at the level of the DBC and/or its research centres (including the development and submission of research projects for national or international competitions).
- 4) **Decrease in the rate of postponement of the submission of progress reports and extension/termination of the PhD programme.**
 - Implementation of a trilateral analysis mechanism (SDB management / coordinator / student / PhD student) of the causes leading to delays, extensions / interruptions;
 - Rethinking the way progress reports are submitted (possibly by organising bi-annual submission sessions).
- 5) **Improving the structure of the steering committees.**
 - Attracting international personalities to the steering committees on the basis of existing or future partnership agreements;
 - Identify other academics than those already involved who, although not PhD coordinators, have relevant research experience and involve them in the mentoring committees;
 - Identify ways to enhance and extend the work of the committees beyond the evaluation of progress reports in order to provide ongoing advice and support to PhD students;
 - Inviting Romanian specialists from other university centres to the mentoring committees (currently the collaboration with such specialists is only sporadic).
- 6) **Improved collaboration between PhD students.**
 - Organisation of regular/permanent joint activities (e.g. a monthly SDB research seminar).

IV. OPIS ANNEXES IN DIGITAL FORMAT**ordered as they appear in the REPORT***DOCTORAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES DOMAIN**BIOLOGY**DSUD – B*

- Annex 1. Charter of the West University of Timisoara
- Annex 2. Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies
IOSUD-UVT
- Annex 3. IOSUD 2021 Internal Evaluation Report
- Annex 4. UVT Rector's Report 2023
- Annex 5. Methodology for cotutelle and European doctorate
- Annex 6. Curriculum of the new PhD Biology, DSUD - B, for 2023-2024
- Annex 7. FCBG Dean's Annual Report 2023
- Annex 8. Habilitation orders
- Annex 9. Approval of the establishment of DSUD - B
- Annex 10. Checklists on the fulfilment of academic standards for PhD coordinators
- Annex 11. DBC Statement of Operations, 2021-2022
- Annex 12. List of PhD coordinators' publications
- Annex 13. CVs of PhD coordinators
- Annex 14. Methodology for the elections of the UVT structures and management
functions for the 2020-2024 term of office
- Annex 15. Regulations for the election of student representatives in the UVT,
04.02.2021 mandate 2020-2024
- Annex 16. Regulation on the organisation and conduct of the competition for
admission to doctoral studies 2022-2023
- Annex 17. Methodology for the recognition, by UVT, of the quality of doctoral
supervisor obtained in accredited university education institutions abroad
- Annex 18. Methodology for the recognition by UVT of the doctoral degree and the
title of doctor in science or in a professional field, obtained in accredited university
education institutions abroad
- Annex 19. Institutional regulation on the organisation and conduct of the process of
obtaining the habilitation certificate, 2021
- Annex 20. Methodology for access by doctoral students to institutional resources for
professional training
- Annex 21. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Isvoran
- Annex 22. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Ianovici
- Annex 23. Affiliation IOSUD UVT Pârvulescu
- Annex 24. UVT affiliated PhD coordinators, 2022
- Annex 25. Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Ethics and Academic
Deontology Commission of UVT
- Annex 26. Strategy to prevent and combat plagiarism at UVT

Aprobat prin HS nr. 94 din 15.06.2023