

## **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain**

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### **I. Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

In this chapter, the following shall be summarized:

- the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (**the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Committee** etc.);
- details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review is part (number of doctoral advisors, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);
- details about the doctoral study domain under review (number of students, institutional context, short history etc.).

The evaluation visit of the Doctoral School of History and Doctoral Studies in History of the University of Bucharest was conducted on 22-26 November 2021. Prior to this, the experts in charge of this evaluation, Professor Lucretiu Birliba, coordinator of the expert panel, Professor François Pernot, international expert, and Mr Roland Olah, doctoral expert, had already been able to work on the preparation of this evaluation on the basis of a written report elaborated during the first semester of 2021 and submitted in October 2021. The written self-evaluation report consisted of 45 pages (including two annexes), and to this report were also attached 16 annexed documents corresponding to 16 of the evaluation criteria, as well as other annexes (internal regulations, methodology for the admission of doctoral students, investment plan, scientific CVs of the thesis supervisors, etc.)

It should be pointed out here that a number of additional documents were requested during the visit and interviews from the Doctoral School of History, which provided them immediately. In this respect, it is a pity that the experts did not have at their disposal, as soon as the initial self-evaluation report was sent, simple but absolutely necessary documents to better understand the reality of the History doctoral school and of doctoral studies in history, such as simple, readable tables, ordered by year, of the number of doctoral students enrolled year by year between 2015 and 2020, the number of newly enrolled doctoral students each year, the number of candidates year by year, the number of defences year by year, the length of the theses, etc. Having these documents available long enough before the online interviews in

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<sup>1</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



order to be able to analyse them could have made the interviews smoother and allowed the experts to better understand some of the realities of the Doctoral School of History and of doctoral studies in History.

The Doctoral School of History of the University of Bucharest was founded in 2005 and its successive supervisors have been professors Zoe Petre (2005-2010), Lukacs Antal (2010-2011), Mihai Retegan (2011-2012), Bogdan Murgescu (2012-2013) and Viorel Panaite (since 2013).

Today, the Doctoral School of History has 14 thesis supervisors, who work in the following historical specialty areas: Ancient History and Archaeology; Medieval Studies; Byzantine and Post-Byzantine History and Culture; the Mediterranean in the Early Modern Period (16th-17th centuries); History of Romania 1918-1989; Fascism and Communism in Europe 1918-1989; Theory of History; Economic and Social History; Modern and Contemporary History; History of Ideas; History of the 19th Century; History of the 20th-21st Centuries; Historical Development of Human Capital; Cultural History and Visual Studies; History of Mass Culture; History of Cinema; Memory Studies (post-1945); Islam; History of the Ottoman Empire; Southeast European Studies; History of Culture and Mentalities; State and Society in the First Half of the 20th Century; History of Romanian Communism and Post-Communism; Oral History and Memory Studies.

A total of 114 PhD candidates were admitted to the Doctoral School of History of the University of Bucharest between 2015 and 2020: 14 in 2015, 12 in 2016, 17 in 2017, 25 in 2018, 26 in 2019 and 20 in 2020.

A total of 68 PhD theses were defended between 2016 and 2020: 22 in 2016, 9 in 2017, 18 in 2018, 12 in 2019 and 7 in 2020.

In terms of enrolment, between 2016 and 2020 137 PhD students were enrolled in the Doctoral School of History: 20.4% in Archaeology and Cultures of Antiquity, 18.2% in Medieval History, 5.8% in Modern History and 55.5% in Contemporary History. It should be noted that the Doctoral School of History has had to mourn the loss of four of its members between 2019 and 2021 and has had to work actively to help doctoral students who have recently lost their supervisor to find a supervisor and continue their work.

In 2020, 72 doctoral students were enrolled in the Graduate School, with each of the 14 supervisors supervising between 1 and 8 doctoral students.

In 2021, the number of doctoral students in the Doctoral School is 105.

To carry out their studies, doctoral students can receive funding. This funding comes in three forms: some doctoral students have a doctoral scholarship and a bursary, others have a doctoral scholarship and no bursary, and the last ones are salaried students without a scholarship.

The University of Bucharest receives a number of PhD scholarships from the Ministry of Education. This number is constant, and there are no significant differences between the academic years. Secondly, the scholarships are distributed among the doctoral schools according to mainly scientific criteria and taking into account the last admission (to check whether all scholarships were awarded, for example, or whether there was strong competition).

Doctoral scholarships from the Ministry of Education are for a maximum of three years; the first two years the funding amounts to 313 euros, while the last year it amounts to 350 euros. Students are not necessarily employed by the university, but theoretically they may be obliged to carry out some teaching



activities. Indeed, according to the law, an assistant position can only be occupied by a doctor, but doctoral students can give seminars.

It is possible to do a thesis without specific funding but working and this is one of the reasons why a significant number of PhD students need more than three years to carry out their research. However, there are some mechanisms such as social grants to support their efforts (141 euros/month), but no doctoral student from the Doctoral School of History has applied.

## II. Methods used

This chapter will contain the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including at least:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;

- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);

- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;

- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, comprising (indicative and non-exhaustive list, which shall be changed according to the context):

- classrooms;
- laboratories;
- the institution's library;
- research centers;
- the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
- lecture halls for students;
- the student residences;
- the student cafeteria;
- sports ground etc.;

- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;

- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;

- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;

- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;

- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;

- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:

- The Council of the Doctoral School, the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures);
- the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
- student organizations;
- secretariats;
- various departments/administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.);



- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

### III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

#### **Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

#### **Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.** *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:*

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;*
- (b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;*
- c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);*
- d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;*
- e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;*
- f) the contract for doctoral studies;*
- g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.*
  - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*
  - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The Doctoral School of History of the University of Bucharest has an Institutional Regulation of organization and functioning based on the National Education Law no. 1/2011 and the Code of University Doctoral Studies adopted by Government Decision no. 681/2011. These Regulations were last revised on 31 January 2019 and approved by the Senate in September 2020, and describe, in general, how doctoral studies are organised and conducted - the doctoral study programme in the field of History is organised by the Doctoral School of History, under the coordination of the Doctoral School Council (DSC) and the Faculty Council -, how the admission of doctoral students is done. In this respect, an admission methodology is adopted annually, but no significant changes have taken place in the last seven years -



only adaptations of the admission procedure have been made to take into account the COVID-19 pandemic.

Candidates are not required to have a supervisor to apply; they all sign a contract at the beginning of their thesis.

The Institutional Regulations for the organisation and functioning of the Doctoral School also establish how doctoral studies and the defence of the thesis are carried out and how the thesis should be presented. The Internal Regulations describe the Doctoral School Council (DSC) and the frequency of its meetings, as well as the status of the doctoral advisor.

However, the Institutional Regulations for the Organisation and Functioning of the Doctoral School of History do not establish how the elections for the position of supervisor of the Doctoral School Council (DSC) or the elections by students of their representative on the DSC are carried out. The provisions governing these modes of election are common to all the Doctoral Schools of the University of Bucharest and are to be found in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies at the University of Bucharest (text adopted on 23 September 2020). According to this text, the supervisor of the doctoral school is elected by all the thesis directors affiliated to the Doctoral School of History. Candidates must submit a CV and prove that they meet the minimum criteria of the CNATDCU. Elections are then held for two other members who are part of the Doctoral School of History. Only thesis supervisors who are part of the University of Bucharest can vote and be elected. In addition, the same PhD coordinators elect two external board members based on their scientific visibility and achievements (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/istorie/informatii-generale/>).

Finally, two PhD students' representatives are elected by the vote of all PhD students. The new board is validated by the Council of the Faculty of History, the Council of Doctoral Studies at university level and finally by the Senate of the University of Bucharest.

The Institutional Regulations for the Organisation and Functioning of the Doctoral School of History do not establish the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad, nor the internal procedures set up to evaluate and validate the proposals concerning the training for doctoral study programmes based on advanced academic studies.

***Recommendations:***

§ Establish more precisely, in the Institutional Regulations for the organisation and functioning of the Doctoral School of History, how the elections for the position of supervisor of the Doctoral School Council (DSC) and the elections by students of their representative on the DSC are carried out. The description of the procedure exists in the general regulations of the university, and the regulations of the doctoral school could refer to it.

§ Establish in the Institutional Regulations for the organisation and functioning of the Doctoral School of History the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad, as well as the internal procedures set up to evaluate and validate proposals concerning training for doctoral programmes based on advanced academic studies.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator A.1.1.2. The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision***



No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

According to Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, the supervisor of the Doctoral School of History coordinates periodically an evaluation of the relevance and efficiency of the Doctoral School and the content of the doctoral training programme. This evaluation is based on a satisfaction survey of doctoral students from their 2nd year of enrolment onwards; a survey of "some of the most important research institutions in Romania in the field of History or other related fields", without specifying these; a consultation of the main employers of the graduates of the Doctoral School of History - again without mentioning their status -; and a survey of the new graduates of the Doctoral School of History.

The report mentions the existence of a satisfaction survey of doctoral students from their 2nd year of enrolment onwards; a survey of "some of the most important research institutions in Romania in the field of History or other related fields"; a consultation of the main employers of History doctoral school graduates; a survey of the new graduates of the Doctoral School of History; and "in order to evaluate the training programme based on academic studies", a "comparative analysis involving other doctoral schools of similar profile from Romania and the European Higher Education Area".

However, the surveys in question, the status of the Romanian research institutions consulted, the status of the main employers of new PhDs in History, as well as the analysis and exploitation of the results of these surveys are not included in the report.

*Recommendations:*

Producing the satisfaction surveys of doctoral students from their second year of enrolment, the status of the Romanian research institutions consulted, the status of the main employers of new PhDs in History, as well as the analysis and exploitation of the results of these surveys do not appear in the report.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

*Standard A.1.2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

***Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.***

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself



Before 2018, the management of doctoral students was done in an IT way mainly through simple office tools such as the Office suite and through the National Student Registration (RMU), the latter being a mandatory national platform that contains the personal information of BA, MA and PhD students from all higher education institutions in Romania.

Since the 2018/2019 academic year, the University of Bucharest has deployed the UMS programme at the doctoral study level to ensure the management of the status of the candidates to the Doctoral School, their admission to the Doctoral School, the management of their doctoral studies from the beginning until their graduation or eviction from the Doctoral School. The UMS programme, which is a GDPR-compliant information system, integrates not only the management of doctoral students' courses, but also the progress reports of their thesis work, the pre-tenure reports, the defence of their doctoral thesis, the awarding of their doctoral degree, etc.

The UMS software has several advantages as it can be queried via different criteria to provide data tailored to the needs of the Doctoral School managers (e.g. internal quality assurance reports). The UMS platform is implemented for the Doctoral School of History by the head of the secretariat.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.***

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*
- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Since 2013, the University of Bucharest has a dedicated IT tool capable of checking the similarity percentage of PhD theses. This check can be requested by the supervisor. As of 2014, this check of similarities in PhD theses was first done randomly among 10% of the PhD theses that were to be defended publicly, and since 2016, all PhD theses are checked, according to the national law. In 2020, two anti-plagiarism programs are used: Turnitin and SistemAntiPlagiarism.ro. It should be noted that these two computer programmes for recognising similarities, SistemAntiPlagiarism.ro and Turnitin, can detect similarities in another language. However, the managers of the Doctoral School consider the latter to be more efficient in this respect.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Standard A.1.3. The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.***

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*



**Performance Indicator A.1.3.1.** *Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The Doctoral School of History and its researchers have benefited and continue to benefit from several research grants.

A history programme called "Paradigms of Modernity in Central and Eastern Europe, 19th-20th centuries", financed by private funds from the Institut für Wissenschaftenvom Menschen (IWM), to which the Institut für den Donauraum und Mitteleuropa (IDM) in Vienna has been added in 2019, is coordinated by a lecturer from the Doctoral School.

Between 2017 and 2019, a research programme entitled "Theories of Divination in Late Antiquity and Early Byzantium (2nd-7th centuries)" and funded by the CNCS-UEFISCDI was awarded to a researcher from the Doctoral School of History.

Between 2015 and 2017, a research programme entitled "Strategies of survival and socio-professional integration in the families of former political prisoners in the first two decades of the communist regime" funded by the CNCS - UEFISCDI was awarded to a researcher from the Doctoral School of History.

Finally, between 2011 and 2016, a research programme entitled "Economic planning, higher education and human capital accumulation in Romania during the communist regime 1948-1989" funded by the National Council for Scientific Research was granted to a researcher from the Doctoral School of History.

Several doctoral students were also integrated into research projects funded by Europe.

However, the global pandemic in 2020-2021 has reduced the possibilities of obtaining grants.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.2.** *The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*





As of spring 2021, 19 doctoral students were receiving various sources of funding, in addition to government funding, over varying periods of time, including Erasmus + mobility grants, a DAAD grant, a Fulbright grant, grants from European universities or institutes, etc. - 3 doctoral students received 2 or 3 grants.

The Structural Funds Department of the University of Bucharest also granted funding, in the period 2016- 2020, to PhD students in History.

Usually the grants awarded by the Structural Funds Department of the University of Bucharest are obtained through an open competition between PhD students from different PhD schools. In some cases, access to scholarships is restricted to certain categories of doctoral students due to specific requirements. In this case, these requirements are mentioned in the tender form and are not imposed by the will of the University of Bucharest. An example of a public tender for such scholarships (Atrium): <https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/organizare/administratie/departamentul-proiecte-de-dezvoltare/#1562161401403-dc6791e0-fbba>

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.<sup>2</sup>** *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The Doctoral School of History encourages the participation of doctoral students in national and international scientific events, the funding of international co-supervision theses, the participation of doctoral students in international internships for those enrolled in the European doctoral programme (Doctorae Europus/European Doctorate), the participation of doctoral students in conferences within the University of Bucharest, the publications of doctoral students' conferences.

It strives to support the professional activities of doctoral students by helping them to obtain research grants, offering them Erasmus mobility opportunities and other internationalisation activities, providing scholarships and implementing European-funded institutional development projects, as well as developing a curriculum based on transversal skills.

However, the criterion that at least 10% of doctoral scholarships obtained through institutional contracts and tuition fees for doctoral students enrolled in fee-paying programmes are used to reimburse

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<sup>2</sup> The indicators marked with an asterisk (\*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral studies domains, as per Article 12 from the annex No.1 of the Order of the minister of education No. 3651/12.04.2021 approving the Methodology for evaluating university doctoral studies and the system of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation. In case they are not met, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.



doctoral students' professional training expenses is not met in 2019 and remains an objective for the future.

The fact that this criterion is not met is partly a result of the cumbersome procedure for allocating funding from doctoral scholarships obtained through institutional contacts and tuition fees of postgraduate students enrolled in fee-paying programmes is centralised at the University of Bucharest. Doctoral students can indeed apply for funding to take part in national and international conferences or to get external mobility other than Erasmus+. The procedure requires some preliminary steps:

- Doctoral students must fill in a form in which they describe and justify their funding request ([https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/cerere\\_deplasare\\_doctoranzi.pdf](https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/cerere_deplasare_doctoranzi.pdf)).

- This application must be validated by the Dean of the Faculty, the Supervisor of the Doctoral School of History, the Director of the Doctoral Studies Council and the Rector of the University of Bucharest.

- Specific information regarding expenses (e.g. transportation to the conference) must also be provided.

- PhD students have to submit a report after their return ([https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/raport\\_activitate\\_doctoranzi.pdf](https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/raport_activitate_doctoranzi.pdf)).

However, many PhD students find the procedure too cumbersome. Moreover, not all supervisors have sufficiently encouraged their students to obtain this funding. Most students therefore turn to other types of funding for their theses.

To remedy this, the future Council of the Doctoral School of History should adopt proactive measures:

- Better promote this opportunity among doctoral students, both through their representatives (e.g. question and answer sessions) and their coordinators.

- Incentivise PhD students to apply for a more significant amount of ECTS credits for activities requiring funding from PhD grants.

- Offer a bonus to doctoral coordinators who have the greater number of candidates applying for such funding.

#### *Recommendations:*

As the Doctoral School of History has clearly identified why the criterion of at least 10% of doctoral grants obtained through institutional contracts and tuition fees of doctoral students enrolled in fee-paying programmes being used to reimburse doctoral students' professional training expenses is not being met in 2019, the future Council of the Doctoral School of History should adopt proactive measures to remedy this without delay.

#### ***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

### **Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*



**Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.** *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

During the years 2015-2020, the University of Bucharest has carried out important construction, renovation and rehabilitation works of its reception and research facilities (new buildings, dormitories, heating, cafeteria, reading rooms, lecture halls).

The Doctoral School of History at the University of Bucharest has rooms and equipment for doctoral students to carry out their research activities; video-projection equipment is installed in all the lecture and seminar rooms of the Faculty of History; and doctoral students have access, on request, to computers equipped with specific software.

Doctoral students also have access to 2 reading rooms in the Faculty library with 30 and 90 seats respectively - the Faculty of History library is open every day but closed on Saturdays and Sundays, as is the university central library (10 minutes' walk from the Faculty) which is closed on Sundays. The number of places available appears to be sufficient because students have access to other libraries in Bucharest. Moreover, an effort to digitise the collections and works was made at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, so doctoral students have access to more data. Nevertheless, it is necessary for doctoral students to be able to work in the library at weekends and opening slots on Saturdays and Sundays could be envisaged accordingly.

On behalf of the Doctoral School of History, the History Faculty has also entered into several partnership agreements in order to facilitate doctoral students' access to institutions that can help them in their research. These partnerships concern 9 (nine) museums in Bucharest, 6 (six) research institutes, and institutions of national interest such as the National Archives, the National Council for the Study of Securitate Archives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Romanian Parliament. It should also be noted that, for doctoral students in archaeology, several of the professors of the Doctoral School supervising doctoral students in archaeology are themselves coordinators of archaeological excavations.

***Recommendations:***

In order for doctoral students to be able to work at weekends, the library of the Faculty of History should be open on Saturdays and Sundays, and the university central library on Sundays.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*



Standard A.3.1. At the level of each domain there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.1.** *Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Of the 14 thesis supervisors in the field of History, 11 meet the minimum standards of the National Council for the Attestation of University Degrees and Certificates (Consiliul Național de Atestare a Titlurilor, Diplomelor și Certificatelor Universitare - CNATDCU) applicable at the time of the evaluation and necessary and obligatory to obtain the certificate of habilitation, i.e., a percentage of 78.57%, which complies with the required percentage.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.2.** *At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Of the 14 thesis supervisors in the field of History, 8 (57.14%) are members of IOSUD, which meets the required percentage. Nevertheless, this figure is just sufficient and needs to be consolidated.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*



- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The courses of the Advanced Studies Programme related to the field are taught by professors or researchers who are also PhD supervisors and holders of a professorship at the University of Bucharest and thus present all the guarantees of a proven expertise in the field of the courses they teach.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The 14 supervisors of the Doctoral School of History supervise on average between 1 and 8 theses, not more. This relatively low ratio is presented as having been sought by the doctoral school to maintain a balance in the number of doctoral students coordinated by a supervisor and thus preserve a certain quality of doctoral studies by recruiting only the best candidates.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Standard A.3.2.** *The Doctoral advisors within the domain are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.2.1.** *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership*

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<sup>3</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



*on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The thesis supervisors of the Doctoral School of History benefit from an international or national scientific visibility.

- They are members of the scientific boards of journals such as *Annales Mercatorum*, *Jahrbuch für internationale Handelsgeschichte / Yearbook for the History of International Trade*, *Revue des études roumaines*, *Revue roumaine d'Histoire*, *Romanian Political Science Review*, *Studii și articole de istorie (History Studies and Articles)*, *Archiva Moldaviae*, *Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie (Studies and Research in Ancient History and Archaeology)*, *Analele Universității din București - seria Istorie (The Annals of the University of Bucharest - History)*, *Acta Transylvanica*, *Arhiva Istorică a României (Romanian Historical Archives)*, *Revista Arhivelor (Archive Review)*, *Arhiva genealogică (Genealogical Archives)*, *Revista de istorie socială (Social History Review)*, *Analele Brăilei (Annals of Braila)*, *Sud-Estul și Contextul European - Buletin al Institutului de Studii Sud-Est Europene al Academiei Române (The South-East and the European Context - Bulletin of the Institute of South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy)*, *Caiete de Antropologie Istorică (Journal of Historical Anthropology)*, *Studia Politica*, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai* or *Arhivele Olteniei (Oltenia Archives)*.

- The supervisors of the Doctoral School of History are also members of scientific institutions such as the Romanian Academy, the Turkish Academy of Sciences, the Research Council of the European University Institute, the European Association for Jewish Studies in Oxford, the Scientific Council of the Institut für Ost und Südosteuropaforschung in Regensburg, the Council of the Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies "Sever Zotta", the Council of the New Europe College, the Scientific Council of the Security Policy Centre, the Society of Historical Sciences of Romania, the Romanian Society of Heraldic Studies, Sigillography and Genealogy of the Romanian Academy.

- The supervisors of the doctoral school of history have also been distinguished with prizes and awards.

Nevertheless, if the supervisors of the Doctoral School of History have produced important contributions in the field of History at national and international level, it is not directly indicated whether at least 50% of them have at least 5 publications indexed by Web of Science or ERIH.

***Recommendations:***

Even if the criterion is met, it would be a good idea for the Doctoral School of History to give greater value in the self assessment report to the publications of thesis supervisors indexed by Web of Science or ERIH.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



**Performance Indicator \*A.3.2.2.** *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

During the period 2016-2020, 11 supervisors (out of 14, i.e. 78.57%) of the Doctoral School of History obtained between 25.25% and 72.94% of the score required by the minimum standards imposed by the CNATDCU in order to obtain the Certificate of Accreditation, thus fully meeting the criterion.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

### **Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard B.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.1.1.** *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Between 2016-2020, 28 former master students from other higher education institutions in Romania or abroad applied for doctoral studies in History at the University of Bucharest. The applicants come from higher education institutions such as the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, the



National School of Political and Administrative Studies, the University “1 Decembrie 1918” from Alba Iulia, the University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” from Iasi, the University “Babeş-Bolyai” from Cluj-Napoca, the University “Dunărea de Jos” from Galaţi, the University “Ovidius” of Constanţa, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babeş”, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timişoara, the University of Belgrade, the University of Craiova, the University of Oradea, the University of Piteşti, the National University of Theatre and Film Art “I. L. Caragiale” and the University of Southampton.

The 28 candidates represent 0.28 of the total number of 98 state-funded vacancies in the doctoral school, which meets the criterion.

Students/Academic year	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2016-2020
State financed places	20	20	20	18	20	98
Master’s degree students from other HEIs	2	6	8	7	5	28
Ratio	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.38	0,25	0.28

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Standard B.1.2 Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.2.1.** *Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The Doctoral School of History has put in place a methodology for the admission of candidates to doctoral studies, which is validated by the Board of the Doctoral School at each admission session. Candidates first fill in a file indicating their academic background. The file is examined by the prospective supervisor, who sits on a sub-committee for each speciality, made up of at least two doctoral directors. The candidate is interviewed and marked according to criteria known in advance. A distribution of admitted candidates over the places financed by the budget, with or without a grant, is then carried out and a ranking established by the Doctoral School’s admissions committee (composed of the Doctoral School’s Supervisor and two members of the Doctoral School Council) and finally approved by the Council of the Doctoral School of History.



*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.** *The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission<sup>4</sup> does not exceed 30%.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

During the period 2016-2019, only 9 doctoral students dropped out or were not re-registered during their first two academic years, i.e. 8.33% of the total number of doctoral students, which is well below the maximum threshold of 30%. The main reason for dropping out or not being re-enrolled by the university is that the workload is too high in addition to the research workload and therefore the doctoral students are unable to attend training courses.

<b>Students / Academic year</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2015-2019</b>
Total number of students	19	22	23	22	22	108
Total number of expelled students	3	5	0	0	1	9
Ratio	15,78%	22,72%	-	-	4,54%	8,33%

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.1.** *The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.*

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<sup>4</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The advanced study programme of the Doctoral School of History is designed, on the one hand, to enhance the research capabilities of doctoral students and, on the other hand, to strengthen their ethical behaviour.

This advanced study programme consists of five courses tailored to scientific research training, two of which are devoted to the in-depth study of research methodology and statistical data processing (Methodology of historical research; defining the research subject and historiographical positioning; research in archives, libraries; manuscripts, rare books and documents). The other three courses are more related to scientific research topics.

These courses are considered very useful for training in research methodology -preparing the research problem, the plan, etc.- and sufficient by doctoral students and other students. -and sufficient for PhD students and new doctors.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.2.** *At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the field of scientific ethics, the University of Bucharest took action already in 2013 by equipping itself with plagiarism detection software. In addition to this technical measure, the university has opened several courses integrating sequences on research ethics and deontology, academic writing and scientific project management. These courses are not restricted to historical research only, but are available to PhD students from all PhD schools of the University of Bucharest.

Furthermore, in 2017, the University of Bucharest implemented a funded programme "The promotion of academic ethics and deontology at the University of Bucharest", a programme dedicated to 1st year master and PhD students. This programme included a series of 6 lectures within the framework of the academic ethics course for a total of 429 1st year PhD students.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>5</sup>.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The doctoral studies in History are conceived as a progression allowing doctoral students to enrich their knowledge, to increase their scientific skills and also to achieve total autonomy in research from the third year. The doctoral school encourages doctoral students to find collaborations with foreign countries -there are a certain number of mobility programmes that benefit doctoral students, particularly in France, as History at the University of Bucharest has a long tradition of exchanges with France-, to publish articles related to their thesis before the defence -this is not an obligation-, to participate in missions or archaeological campaigns, to organise national or international scientific events, being integrated into research projects as well as professional associations or even editorial committees. All these activities can earn students ECTS credits, which are validated by the coordinating professors.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.** *All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Throughout their doctoral studies, doctoral students are monitored by an advisory committee whose role is to guide, coordinate, monitor and correct, together with the thesis supervisor, the activities of the doctoral student. This advisory committee can, in particular, advise the doctoral student on his/her research programme and the training courses he/she must follow.

This committee is composed of three members with the title of Doctor, who are staff affiliated to the doctoral school or teaching and research staff not affiliated to it. The members of this committee are chosen by the thesis supervisor after consultation with the doctoral student.

Doctoral students report that they are very well supervised by very available supervisors.

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<sup>5</sup> Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.5.** *For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

For 137 doctoral students enrolled in the Doctoral School between 2016 and 2020, the number of supervisors, guidance committee members and advanced study programme course holders is 121, which meets the required criteria.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion B.3. The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation.**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard B.3.1. Doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.** *For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

According to the requested indicator, PhDs from the Bucharest Doctoral School of History must publish relevant articles and contributions in the last 5 years after their thesis defense. Out of 5 of these relevant articles/contributions per field of doctoral studies, at least 3 of the selected articles present significant original contributions in the field concerned.

*Recommendations:*



***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.1.2.** *The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The ratio of the number of presentations by doctoral students who have completed their postgraduate studies during the period under evaluation at prestigious international events (including in Romania) to the number of doctoral students who have completed their postgraduate studies during the period under evaluation (last five years) is at least 1, which meets the required criterion.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Standard B.3.2.** *The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.1.** *The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Between 2016 and 2020, the Doctoral School of History of the University of Bucharest has solicited 125 external examiners to be part of the public defence commissions evaluating doctoral theses. One external examiner sits on each defence jury at most twice a year.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.2.** *The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral*



study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Among the external scientific examiners coming from a higher education institution other than the one organising the defence of the doctoral thesis, one was invited 10 times (ratio of 0.25), another 8 times (ratio of 0.20) and a third 6 times (ratio of 0.15).

The ratio between the number of doctoral theses supervised by an external examiner affiliated to a higher education institution other than the one organising the defence of the doctoral thesis and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same doctoral field of the doctoral school does not therefore exceed 0.3, which meets the required criterion.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

### **Criterion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator C.1.1.1.** *The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*

*(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;*

*(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;*

*(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;*

*d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;*

*e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;*

*f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself



- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The University of Bucharest has several structures responsible for continuous quality assurance and improvement, which cascade downwards.

At the central level, the responsibility for quality assurance lies with the Committee for Evaluation and Quality Assurance. (<https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/organizare/comisii/comisia-de-evaluarea-si-asigurarea-calitatii/>), governed by the Regulations for the Organisation and Operation of the CQEI, approved at the UB Senate meeting of 18.07.2012 (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-WydKIC-sxCVlh5UHJNUVFUX1k/view>).

The Committee represents the structure responsible for the development and implementation of a quality management system at the University of Bucharest. The Rector of the UB is directly responsible for quality management at the institutional level and the task is carried out by a dedicated vice-rector, responsible for the field, currently the vice-rector responsible for quality management, social responsibility and relationship with social partners, with a role of president of the CQEI-UB.

The activity of the CQEI-UB is accompanied by an executive body (the Department of Quality Management (DQM) (<https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/organizare/administratie/departamentul-de-management-al-calitatii/>)), which provides support and advice both to the Faculty management and to the committees operating in each faculty to implement and develop a quality management system at the University.

Another structure playing an important role in quality assurance at the UB is the Department of Curricular Development and Qualification (<https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/organizare/administratie/directia-generalasecretariat/serviciul-de-recunoastere-echivalare-si-certificare-studiilor-si-actelor-de-studii/biroul-dezvolare-curriculara-si-calificari/>) which organises the process of provisional authorisation, accreditation or periodical evaluation of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the University of Bucharest.

Finally, in each faculty there is a Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CQEI-F), which is responsible for responding in action to the objectives of the CQEI-UB and to the specific objectives of each field, in accordance with the faculty strategy.

In the area of doctoral studies, the specificity is that the University Doctoral Studies Board (CUDS) (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/consiliul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat/>) and the University Doctoral Schools Board (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/scoli-doctorale/>) are directly involved in the internal quality assurance processes according to a methodology of monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of university doctoral studies (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

Thus, it is the CUDS that coordinates the activity of monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of doctoral schools, adopting the necessary measures to guarantee the quality of university doctoral studies, the periodic evaluation of doctoral schools and supervisors and compliance with ethical and deontological rules, both by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

The CUDS thus aims, for each doctoral school:

- The activity of the doctoral school board.
- The human resources of the doctoral school and that the scientific subfields of the doctoral school are well covered scientifically.
- Analysis of the doctoral school ability to attract candidates to doctoral studies, in view of the number of candidates who have passed the entrance exam and the number of registered candidates.



- The actual organisation of doctoral studies.
- The preparation programme based on advanced studies.
- The individual research programme (including equipment).
- The scientific events and publications organised.
- The contribution of the Doctoral School to the research visibility of the University of Bucharest.
- Institutional cooperation and joint directions (national, international, interdisciplinary).
- The internationalisation of the field of the Doctoral School.
- The projects of the Doctoral School.
- Academic ethics and integrity.
- Duration of doctoral studies.
- Analysis of the percentage of and reasons for failure (withdrawals, rejections, invalidated theses, etc.)
- Doctoral theses defended.
- Notable achievements of doctoral students and alumni of doctoral schools (e.g. publications, awards, prestigious post-docs).

Students are represented at all levels of the quality assessment structures and have a role in providing information by taking part in surveys, focus groups, etc., and in the drafting of self-evaluation reports. Student members of the CUDS have also been involved in drafting a document on dropout prevention, proposing activities that contribute to the reduction of dropout rates in university doctoral studies: <https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.***

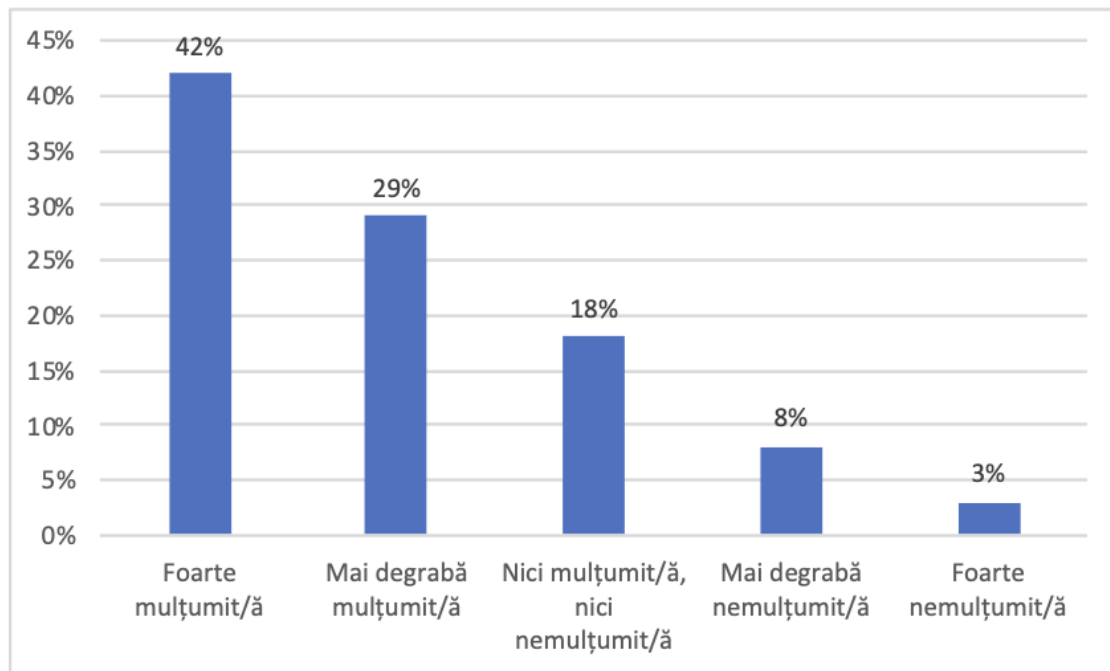
*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

The University of Bucharest has an integrated statistics department that carries out annual analyses on student and faculty satisfaction and on the professional trajectory of graduates after graduation. These analyses are carried out on each study cycle, field and programme and target many aspects of the professional life of the graduates. 42% of doctoral graduates declared themselves very satisfied, while 29% said they were rather satisfied with their doctoral experience at the University of Bucharest.



*Figure 1. The general level of satisfaction with the Doctoral School*



If this survey is limited to History PhD students, 28% are rather satisfied with their Graduate School -but here there were only 8 respondents among History PhD students. This is a general perspective, for all doctoral schools.

A new survey is needed to better understand the concerns of History PhD students. Some measures have been proposed, but they have not been exhaustively discussed by the doctoral coordinators. Nevertheless, some individual initiatives have emerged between some doctoral coordinators and their students.

*Recommendations:*

Carry out a satisfaction survey of doctoral students in the Doctoral School of History in order to get a more comprehensive view of doctoral students' concerns.

*The indicator is partially fulfilled.*

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

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator C.2.1.1.** *The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:*

*(a) the Doctoral School regulation;*



- (b) the admission regulation;
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;
- (e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;
- (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;
- (g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);
- (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;
- (i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.
  - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
  - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The public has access to the information and data of the University of Bucharest both in paper and electronic versions via the institutional web page - [www.unibuc.ro](http://www.unibuc.ro), in Romanian and English, but also its associated pages, such as the pages dedicated to admission, doctoral studies or ICUB (Research Institute of the University of Bucharest).

The page <https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/>, in compliance with the general rules of data protection, contains the regulations of the doctoral school, the admission methodology, the procedures for thesis defences, including information on public defences, the content of the academic programmes, information on the standards for writing theses, etc.

The self-evaluation report itself is silent on two pieces of information that should normally be available directly in the report, namely: (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research topics of the doctoral advisers in the field, as well as their institutional contact details; (g) the list of doctoral students in the field with the necessary information (year of enrolment; adviser). However, these data are available here: <https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/istorie/prezentarea-scolii/>.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Standard C.2.2. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

***Performance Indicator C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.***

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*



*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

All doctoral students have free access to a platform of academic databases relevant to the organised doctoral fields. In History, PhD students have access to electronic resources and databases such as: American Chemical Society, CEEOL, Cambridge Journals, Emerald Management Journals 200, JSTOR, MathSciNet, Nature Journals, PROQUEST Central, SAGE HSS Collection, ScienceDirect Freedom Collection - Elsevier, Scopus - Elsevier, SpringerLink Journals - Springer, Web of Science - Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovations Index - Clarivate Analytics, Wiley Journals.

The online databases can be consulted on any computer on the premises of the University of Bucharest, by accessing the website [www.anelisplus.ro](http://www.anelisplus.ro) or permanent remote access (the online databases can be consulted on computers located outside the premises of the University of Bucharest by means of an account and a password).

Furthermore, each doctoral student has an institutional address allowing him/her to create an institutional profile on the E-information portal ([www.e-information.ro](http://www.e-information.ro)) and can access the electronic resources made available by ANELIS Plus from anywhere, on any computer.

The E-information portal also offers doctoral students the possibility to use the electronic resources, including on their computers, mobile phones, by installing the myEnf application, which allows access to the resources available at the University of Bucharest. The application is available for Android and IOS and authentication is done using the username and password on [www.e-information.ro](http://www.e-information.ro).

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.***

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Since the 2017-2018 academic year, PhD students have been able to familiarise themselves with the anti-plagiarism software in their Academic Ethics course, and then in the Ethics and Academic Integrity course.

Then, in 2018-2019, PhD students were able to access one of the electronic anti-plagiarism systems used by the University of Bucharest under the conditions provided by the Procedures for the use of the electronic similarity control system by PhD students of the University of Bucharest (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



**Performance Indicator C.2.2.3.** *All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

Depending on the subject of their thesis, History doctoral students are hosted in one of the 15 research centres dealing with the historical and cultural sectors of the University of Bucharest – “Vasile Pârvan” Archaeology Seminar; CICSA - Centre for the History of Ancient Societies; Centre for the History of the Imaginary; Centre for Turkish Studies; CSEA-Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies; CCICC-Centre for Research in Contemporary History Cont\*texte; Centre for Byzantine and South-East European Studies “Gheorghe Brătianu”; University Club of 8 Cartophily, Philately and Maximaphily; Centre for the Methodology of History; Centre for Research on 20th Century History; CeRISS-Romanian-Italian Centre for Historical Italian Studies; Centre for Church History; Centre for Transylvanian History; Centre for the Edition of Historical Sources Romanian Historical Archives; Centre for Studies of Rome.

Doctoral students in History are also required to be active in the research centres.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

*Standard C.3.1. There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*C.3.1.1.** *IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*



In terms of internationalisation, for the greater benefit of doctoral studies in History, the Faculty of History at the University of Bucharest has agreements with ten higher education institutions in the European Higher Education Area with which it implements Erasmus + agreements: the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Greece, Italy or Turkey.

Each year, History doctoral students can benefit from study mobility grants under the Erasmus + programme as well as internships in the partner universities of the European University CIVIS (Aix-Marseille University, Sapienza University of Rome, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Eberhard Karls Universitaet Tuebingen, Free University of Brussels, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Stockholm).

Six PhD students went on Erasmus+ mobility between 2016 and 2020 (4 in 2016 and 2 in 2017). The University of Bucharest signed a partnership agreement for Erasmus+ mobilities in History, Archaeology, Cultural Studies and Political Studies with 10 institutions - 1 in the Czech Republic, 2 in Germany, 3 in France, 1 in Greece, 1 in Italy, 1 in Turkey and 1 in Portugal - during the academic year 2020-2021. This is too little.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this international mobility has been suspended and many doctoral students did not apply for mobility, preferring to reserve for an internship in the 2021-2022 academic year.

*Recommendations:*

Erasmus mobility should be further developed.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.*** *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

- *description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

- *analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself*

International co-supervision is not very developed in the field of History. In 2021, only two doctoral students are enrolled in this way and are expected to defend their thesis under international co-supervision. There are several reasons for this low number.

On the one hand, only a few doctoral coordinators are drivers of internationalisation and promote international co-supervision of the thesis. However, after the Doctoral School of History decided to reform the status of coordinator, they were selected with the aim of promoting cooperation and co-supervision of the thesis with colleagues from other countries. On the other hand, a large number of regulatory and bureaucratic processes burden both the coordinator and the doctoral student and seriously handicap the conclusion of international cotutelle agreements.

*Recommendations:*

Work to remove regulatory barriers to developing international co-supervision theses.



*The indicator is partially fulfilled.*

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.3.** *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In order to develop internationalisation in doctoral study activities, doctoral students are encouraged to include international experts in the defence panels of their doctoral theses and to write their thesis in an international language.

Between 2015 and 2020, only six theses include international experts in the follow-up of the thesis, which is low.

*Recommendations:*

Increase the number of international experts in thesis monitoring committees and thesis juries.

*The indicator is partially fulfilled.*

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High-quality faculty and thesis supervisors with national and international scientific visibility.</li> <li>- Doctoral students are carefully selected on the basis of their skills and their actual and potential visibility (publications and participation in national and international scientific conferences).</li> <li>- Support for doctoral students to obtain funding for their thesis (national grants, research grants, mobility grants, etc.).</li> <li>- Support for doctoral students and new doctors to enhance the value of their thesis in their professional careers.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A problem with the stability of the organisation of the secretariat of the Doctoral School of History, which has led to delays in a number of administrative and management activities.</li> <li>- Insufficient evaluation of the quality of doctoral training as well as insufficient collaboration with the internal assurance structures of IOSUD.</li> <li>- While the relationship with new PhDs is well ensured by each PhD supervisor, the alumni network is insufficiently developed and institutionalised.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The large number of research and heritage institutions on which the Doctoral School of History can draw could be further exploited through formal partnerships.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A certain lack of opportunities for new PhDs in history and especially the declining quality of undergraduate and graduate students may contribute to a decrease in the number of candidates for PhD studies.</li> </ul>

- The participation of the University of Bucharest in the European alliance CIVIS may lead to an increase in the degree of mobility of doctoral students and, eventually, to the award of the title of Doctor Europaeus.	- The lack of or insufficient number of specialists in some of today leading and sought-after historical fields may lead to a decrease in the number of potential candidates. - Repeated legislative changes lead to a lack of predictability in the development of the strategic framework for the development of the history doctoral school.
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## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

*The recommendations contained in the report shall be resumed in the indicators' analysis. Other general recommendations may be made that do not fit within a particular indicator.*

*VERY IMPORTANT!!! – Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation!*

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

*Several important issues raised during the evaluation are resumed and some general conclusions are drawn on the quality of the education provided within the doctoral study domain under review; the Experts' Panel also presents general assessments about the institution. Other general recommendation may also be presented, which cannot be related to a specific indicator and have not been presented at point V.*

*A decision is proposed, together with the reasons for granting it (if the Experts' Panel members do not reach a consensus, each of them can propose and argue his/her own decision).*

The Doctoral School of History and the doctoral studies in History at the University of Bucharest are of high quality. The faculty and the doctoral students are of high quality, the admission requirements for the History doctorate are strict and the studies are scientifically demanding. The doctoral studies in History at the University of Bucharest follow the academic tradition in History.



In addition to a number of cyclical problems that the institution has had to face and still has to face, due in particular to the disappearance of colleagues, the COVID-19 pandemic and a necessary administrative reorganisation of the History Doctoral School, the latter is confronted, like many other Doctoral Schools of History in Europe, with more structural problems such as the decline in the quality of candidates for a doctorate, the increasingly fragile mastery of the methodological expectations of the doctoral thesis, the difficulty of doctoral students to finance their doctoral studies and the relative mismatch between the History doctorate and society's expectations in terms of professional skills -other than those of being a History researcher- and therefore the possible outlets for a new doctor in History.

On this point, doing a PhD in History at the University of Bucharest has a number of advantages.

First of all, the research centres that host the doctoral students remain in contact with them once they have graduated. Some of the new PhDs are even recruited afterwards in the centre.

Furthermore, many doctoral students working on cultural history topics have met potential employers during their studies: cultural or heritage institutions, museums, art dealers, auction houses, banks, auctioneers, art experts, etc., all of whom have a good opinion of doctoral studies in History. Thus, all the members of the Romanian National Heritage Institute are graduates of research centres at the University of Bucharest. Similarly, several PhDs from the CSEA-Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies are employed at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It should be noted, however, that employment in the public sector was virtually frozen after the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, except in the health, education and social services sectors.

As for primary and secondary school teachers, they can claim their highest professional degree when they receive the title of doctor. The professional degree is usually obtained more than ten years after starting to teach and after passing several assessments. However, if they choose to apply this route, they will not receive the monthly allowance. There are also several other advantages, for example, priority in certain internal HR decisions.

It is worth noting that former PhDs who work in the same field as their field of study receive a monthly bonus of up to 50% of the country minimum gross salary.

Finally, few PhD graduates choose to work in the private sector. And, in general, having a PhD does not necessarily have an impact on a candidate applying for a job in the private sector.

For the future, the Doctoral School of History could develop actions aimed at consolidating the outlets for new PhDs, not only outlets in the classic sectors for a PhD holder in History -research in a research centre, teaching, etc.- but also and above all outlets in sectors such as cultural institutions, museums, heritage institutions by multiplying agreements with them to develop PhD programmes that meet the expectations of these institutions and above all the growing expectations of society in sectors such as heritage.

Overall, the Doctoral School of History and doctoral studies in History are very scientifically demanding and aim at scientific quality above all.

## **VII. Annexes**

*The following types of documents shall be attached:*

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation - if applicable.*





- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.*

*Professor François Pernot  
International Expert*