

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

Philosophy

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I. Introduction

This report is oriented to inform about the institutional evaluation process of the University of Bucharest as an external evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS). The assessment was conducted from November 22th and November 26th, 2021, in the online modality because of the restrictions related to the COVID19 pandemic. It is based on the activities of the Experts Committee of the Philosophy Domain and the common meetings. The University of Bucharest award the title of Doctor since 1899, and has nowadays 22 doctoral schools corresponding to 19 fields. The Doctoral School of the Faculty of Philosophy was founded in 2005, on the basis of a strong tradition covering the areas of theoretical philosophy, philosophy of culture and history of philosophy, and political and moral philosophy. Nowadays it has 17 supervisor, more than a hundred doctoral students and five research centres that shape a dynamic and high-quality programme.

II. Methods used

The assessment was focused on the Philosophy domain. It was based on the analysis of the internal evaluation report and its Annexes conducted before the contact with the University and the interviews with the representatives of the University of Bucharest and the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies, the Ethics Commission, representatives of the Quality Assurance area, and, in the Philosophy area, the officers in charge of the internal evaluation report, the academic staff, a group of PhD students, a group of Graduates of the PhD programme, representatives of the research area, and employers of some doctoral graduates. In all the cases, the interviews were carried out together with a national expert, Dr. Bogdan Popoveniuc, and a PhD student, Ingrid Orosz, also designated by ARACIS, appealing to a set of questionnaires apt to get information relevant to analysing performance indicators. Due to the blended



format of the evaluation, all the interviews have been conducted online. Still, relevant data about functioning and infrastructure were included in the questionnaires to obtain an overall view of the institutional capacities.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Under this criterion, the quality of the institutional structures is taken into account, paying attention to managerial procedures, the profile and abilities of the academic staff, and the situation of research and internationalisation within the PhD programme. The general results are positive and all the aspects are adequately addressed.

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

The institutional capacities are effective, well-developed and apt to develop doctoral training.

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.

The University of Bucharest has a suitable regulatory framework to conduct academic activities. Its mission, aiming at organising doctoral studies providing relevant skills for philosophical research with national and international impact, according to the institutional principles, values and objectives, is clear and adequate. The Doctoral School is in line with these provisions and also has proper regulations.

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:*

The Doctoral School is properly framed in current national regulations and has developed measures to clarify the functioning of the doctoral school strengthening quality assurance aspects. The figure and role of the Doctoral School Councils are adequate and fully in line with the Methodology of monitoring, evaluating and insuring the quality of the university doctoral studies.

The regulations of the Doctoral School are clear, as well as the methodology regarding the election of the Director of the Council and the students' representatives, with due evidence of the last five years elections. The methodologies for the organisation and functioning of the doctoral studies regarding admission and completion and the procedures for recognizing the capacity of doctoral supervisor and of certifying the equivalent validity of doctoral degrees obtained in other countries are adequate and contain all necessary details. There is also suitable information on the management activities, including regulation, meeting reports, contract for



doctoral studies, and procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training programme.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is 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.*

The regulations of the Doctoral School take in due account the mechanisms for acceptance of new members as doctoral supervisors and reasons that justifies the expelling, structure, content and mechanism to organise the training programme. They also include provisions regarding replacement of supervisors with conflict mediation measures, interruption of the doctoral programme, fraud prevention, mechanisms to ensure the proper access to research resources, and duties of the doctoral students.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The logistical resources of the Doctoral School are fully adequate.

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.*

The Doctoral School adopted the UMS programme to manage the candidate status, which keeps a recording of the whole academic steps during the doctoral studies, including suitable measures for data protection.

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.*



Since 2013 the University of Bucharest has had protocols for checking the similarity of doctoral dissertations, and since 2016 it is applied in all the theses. Two suitable software programmes are available.

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.

The internal evaluation report stresses the gradual expansion of the financial funding means of the doctoral students' professional development, mentioning transparent procedures to access funding to take part in academic events, mobilities, support for dissertations elaborated under international joint-supervision, and access to required research materials. During the interviews with PhD students and graduates, the opportunities for funding based on transparent processes were stressed.

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.

The academic staff participates in several research projects, which exceeds the requirements of this point. They count on the participation of PhD students and provide them opportunities for temporary contract-based collaborations.

During the interview with the directors of research centres, high-quality research activities were described, including international networking, cooperation between centres, involvement of doctoral students, development of cutting edge topics, edition of renowned journals and books.

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%.

The funding for PhD taking into account all the sources reaches the 20%.



Recommendations: Actions to improve the number of doctoral students with funding could be enhanced.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.¹ *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.).*

The internal evaluation report provides indications of ongoing measures to reach the amount, and emphasises that considering other funding the percentage is higher.

Recommendations: Enhance the budget allocated to professional training expenses of doctoral students.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

Research infrastructure is suitable and covers the needs of the program. It includes adequate classrooms and seminar rooms, internet connection, computers and associated devices, research software, electronic databases, and library service, among others.

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

The learning and research resources are adequate to support the main tasks of the Doctoral School, with suitable access to library services and adequate infrastructure for teaching and research activities.

During the interviews, all the academic community members coincided in the suitable environment and offered examples of recent improvements.

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*

¹ 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.



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.

The equipment at the disposal of the Doctoral School enables the research activities, and the internal evaluation report provides a detailed description of the available resources, highlighting the case of the library and its research funds, the research software and databases, and the items acquired during the last five years. The infrastructure of the Doctoral School of Philosophy is available on the website.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

The Doctoral School of Philosophy has a solid strategy for human resources that indicates the expected achievements. The profile of the teaching and management staff is excellent and able to ensure high-quality doctoral training.

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

The track record of the academic staff is outstanding, and they meet all the requirements to ensure high-quality doctoral training.

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.*

The Philosophy programme counts on 17 supervisors according to the standards of NCAUTDC. They are fully apt to guide doctoral studies, and their scientific contributions are high-quality and with proper international visibility.

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.*



Out of a total number of 17 supervisors, 10 of them are tenured members. The rest are retired professors. Then, 58% of the supervisors meet the requirement, and the criterion is fulfilled.

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.*

The training courses are taught by the supervisors and also by guest professors from international universities as part of the internationalisation plans to gain visibility.

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 programs² does not exceed 20%.*

Just one of the supervisors, because of an emergency due to the death of two doctoral supervisors, guided during the evaluated period more than 12 doctoral students. Beyond this exceptional case, the number is adequate and was considered during the interviews a model for other institutions in the country.

Recommendations: *Keep the number of coordinated theses per supervisor at adequate levels.*

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The academic staff's scientific activities are excellent and include valuable outcomes at the international level. During the interviews, they reveal a mature pedagogical position in a context of freedom and diversity.

² 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.



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 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.*

The academic production of the supervisors is excellent, with a significant ratio of international publications and several international professional activities, which ensures solid networking grounds.

During the interviews, the graduates stressed the high quality of the supervisors and their support to the students to carry out early research activities.

Recommendations: -

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.*

All the doctoral thesis advisors are active and meet the conditions.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Under this criterion, the quality of the PhD programme is taken into account, paying attention to the enrolment procedures, the content of the programme, the outcomes and evaluation protocols, and the quality of the doctoral theses. The overall findings are fully satisfactory.

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



The admission procedure is clear and consistent with a proper selection of candidates. It is based on adequate standards to ensure the proper development of the doctoral studies.

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.

The Doctoral School of Philosophy has a good attraction rate, and the number of candidates exceeds the admitted group. During the interviews, the academic staff offered interesting analyses about the benefits and threats of the incorporation of students without a major in philosophy, revealing a deep knowledge of the overall situation of the doctoral school, the pedagogical challenges, and the measures to deal with this feature amongst the candidates.

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.*

The Doctoral School of Philosophy has a high ratio of students graduated of master's programmes of other higher institutions. The percentage oscillates between 13% and 45%, which fully meets the criterion.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The measures to select the admitted candidates are adequate.

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.*

The admission process is clearly stated. It is based on an interview in which the candidates must present and explain a research project in front of the admission committee. The result of this instance is assessed together with the scientific antecedents of the candidates and the initial bibliography of the project.



During the interviews, the academic staff reveal clear ideas about the profiles of the candidates and the requirements to face doctoral studies according to the institutional standards.

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 admission³ does not exceed 30%.*

The expelling rate is below the limits, with 21.15%. It is worth noting that the Doctoral School has a drop-out prevention programme whose details are available in the webpage. During the interview with the academic staff, the implemented measures and the involvement of the supervisors was emphasised.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

Regarding its content, the Philosophy program is adequate to provide broad and up-to-date training in the field. It pays due attention to professional skills development through specific courses on methodology and integral activities oriented to this end. It also comprehends deontological aspects, which are addressed in a course on the matter.

Regarding its structure, the programme is appropriate and has suitable measures to keep it up-to-date. The training stage is sound and combines mandatory with optional courses to provide the skills needed to advance in the following steps. In the same way, the individual research stage supposes suitable guidance of the supervisor and enough monitoring to ensure the proper results. The circulation of preliminary results through publication and participation in academic events is properly encouraged.

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.*

The programme's structure is adequate and combines training courses and individual scientific research aiming at drafting the doctoral thesis. The courses are properly oriented to broaden the knowledge in the field and provide tools to conduct individual research through adequate methodological procedures and deontological principles. The duration of the courses is also adequate. The curricula are able to be adjusted according to the needs of the students and the research directions at the Doctoral School, which provides it suitable flexibility. During the period

³ 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.



oriented to individual research, the work patterns under the supervision of the advisor and the guidance committee are clear enough and involve regular presentations able to provide sufficient monitoring.

Regarding the PhD thesis, the institution offers clear guidelines with formal and structural parameters and editing requirements. Scientific relevance, expected impact, originality, adequate methodology, and comprehensive state of the art are properly emphasised. The publication and dissemination of preliminary results in peer review journals and collective volumes are suitably promoted.

During the interviews, the authorities described adequate measures to keep the program up-to-date. Both amongst the academic staff and the students, the benefits and obstacles of the current expected time to complete the doctoral students was discussed with proper arguments and taking into account different situations. Furthermore, the students provided suitable cases of interdisciplinary projects, showing complete satisfaction with the institutional framework.

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.*

The training programme includes twelve subjects grouped in three areas together with a mandatory course on Ethics and academic integrity. The curricula are flexible and include personalised schemes in the cases of doctoral students who did not major in Philosophy. Research methodology is well-covered in the courses. During the interviews, the students referred to the variety of courses and their criteria to choose between them.

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.*

The training programme includes a mandatory course on Ethics and academic integrity, which is based on mature institutional procedures and antecedents.

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 activities⁴.

The Doctoral School has proper measures to monitor the courses through a syllabus with a description of specific competencies to be reached. They are updated every year to include cutting-edge developments.

During the interviews, the authorities of the doctoral school showed proper attention to the students' skills, stressing the articulation with the labour market as an issue in which they are currently working.

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.*

The PhD students are supported by an advisory panel oriented to coordinate, monitor and correct together with the doctoral supervisor the overall doctoral activities. The advisory panel is composed of three members affiliated or not to the doctoral school, which provides flexibility and is helpful to cover specific thematic issues that are not fully addressed at the home institution. The partnership with the supervisor and the specific activities are adequate and sufficiently described. During the interviews, the students manifested familiarity with the advisor panel and highlighted the significant role it plays in the doctoral studies.

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.*

The total number of teaching staff, including supervisors, members of advisory panels and professors teaching the courses is 85, with 121 doctoral students, which is within the expected ratio.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

⁴ 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.



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

*Under this criterion, the measures for quality assurance are taken into account, paying attention to the implementation of specific procedures, the access to information and learning resources, and the quality of internationalisation mechanisms.*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.

The approach pays due attention to capitalising on the research results by combining efforts to the drafting of the PhD theses with the development and enhancement of professional skills related to publication and presentations in academic events. The programme promotes the presentation of theses in different languages. The external evaluations are varied to ensure diversity and transparency in the assessment.

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.*

The internal evaluation report informs 111 articles published by 55 students. Their overall quality is excellent. It is worth noting that they are published in well-indexed journals and includes many cases of international languages, which contribute to the international institutional visibility.

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.*

The presentations in academic events meet the requirements, with 169 participations belonging to 54 students, which exceeds the standards.

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.



The emphasis on networking is highlighted within the doctoral school, and this trait is well-reflected in the presence of external experts in the commissions for public defence of doctoral dissertations.

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.*

The Philosophy programme had more than 50 reviewers from other institutions of higher education. Only in one case an expert was summoned more than two times. During the interview with the programme authorities, suitable justifications were provided on the issue, considering the need to count on renowned specialists in not mainstream fields, which in the case of philosophy are difficult to reach keeping the schedules of the defences of PhD theses. Beyond this case, the procedure is fully adequate and ensures transparency.

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.*

The ratio is under 0.3.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Under this criterion, the measures for quality assurance are taken into account, paying attention to the implementation of specific procedures, the access to information and learning resources, and the quality of internationalisation mechanisms.

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



The institutional measures of quality assurance are mature and properly integrated into everyday life to enhance a culture of quality according to clear values of intellectual responsibility, academic freedom, and innovation. There are adequate units with suitable regulations and functions. At the doctoral level, the Council for University Doctoral Studies and the Doctoral Schools Council are involved according to clear regulations covering overall activities, human resources, capacities to attract candidates, training programmes, scientific events and publications, quality of research, institutional cooperation, internationalisation, and quality of the general outcomes, which is able to provide enough material for a proper assessment. The annual report provides due information and leads to periodical general self-evaluation reports. The activities include active programmes to solve issues related to drop-out, which indicates healthy practices to improve current structures. Students are represented at the level of all structures, and during the interviews showed adequate knowledge of the feedback opportunities.

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.

The units and procedures oriented to quality assurance are adequate and effective, and comprehends all the required elements to keep adequate standards and promote good practices. During the interviews with the Quality Assurance authorities and Ethics Commission, the general views, concrete measures and specific cases were properly presented.

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.*

The institutional evaluation processes are mature and comprehensive, taking into due account the scientific outcomes of the academic staff and the doctoral students, infrastructural features, overall regulations, the quality and up-to-date traits of the training programme, and the provisions for support services. During the interviews, all the academic community members were well-aware of the procedures and their relevance, and the authorities indicated the followed standards for continuous evaluation and annual reports. Furthermore, during the interview with the members of the Doctoral School Council, a broad range of issues oriented to enhance policies were provided.

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.

There are clear mechanisms to get feedback from students, teaching staff and graduates. The internal evaluation reports clear information about the general level of satisfaction with the Doctoral School, which is remarkably positive.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The circulation of information within the Doctoral School of Philosophy and its visibility, as well as the access to learning resources, are adequate and based on solid grounds to ensure the proper development of the academic activities.

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

All the relevant information is available at the webpage of the University of Bucharest and the specific pages of the Doctoral school.

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.*



All the required information is available. Some complementary information about outcomes is not fully available in English, which could be helpful to ensure international visibility. During the interviews, the students considered that the circulation of the information is appropriate, but some graduates indicated that

Recommendations: Offer a complete version in an international language to reinforce visibility. Considering that the institutional dimension could threaten the measures for effective communication, it could be helpful to reinforce the current measures to ensure that information reaches its target audiences.

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.

The access to the resources is apt to ensure the proper development of doctoral studies through proper procedures.

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.*

The set of databases available is broad and appropriate. During the interviews, the students and graduates were fully satisfied with the resources and the access procedures.

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.*

The access for verifying similarity is available under clear regulation. It is worth noting that it is integrated into the Academic Ethics and Integrity course to ensure knowledge and proper use amongst the students.

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.*

Access to scientific research laboratories is ensured. During the interviews, the students and graduates described the activities at the research centres as part of the everyday life of the



programme, and the directors of the research centres indicated several and suitable measures to include students within their regular plans.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

The Doctoral School of Philosophy has a strong internalisation strategy that pays due attention to student mobilities and “at home” actions, through internationalisation of the curriculum, academic activities and management. That strategy comprehends concrete elements related to international promotion, streamlining the administrative infrastructure with international standards, development of international partnerships to enhance joint-supervisions, participation in international projects and networks, encouragement of transnational research and doctoral mobilities, reinforcing international visibility measures, invitations to international experts, and developing skills for the global market. In all these realms, the Doctoral School has reached valuable outcomes, which were properly alluded to during the interviews. It is worth noting that during the interview with the Council of the Doctoral School the improvement of internationalisation actions was identified as an objective for further development. On the basis of a clear diagnosis of the situation within the Doctoral School, suitable mechanisms to enhance international activities in some areas that are behind the general standards were indicated, which reveals a mature scheme of quality assurance oriented to internationalisation processes.

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.*

On the basis of a clear internationalisation strategy, 64% of the PhD students had some international experience. During the interviews, many students and graduates confirm the availability of opportunities and support to conduct international experiences.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is 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.*

The Doctoral School includes the promotion of joint-supervision amongst its priorities and have already positive results in this domain reflected in cases of joint-supervision and a growing number of doctoral dissertations in international languages.

Recommendations: Reinforce the promotion of international joint-supervision according to the current measures.

The indicator is 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.).*

The internal evaluation report offers several instances of suitable measures oriented to reinforce international activities, including participation in international associations and activities to gain visibility. During the interview with the directors of the research centres, innovative strategies for disseminating academic outcomes with full involvement of doctoral students were properly described.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong tradition of the philosophy studies at the University - Outstanding capacities of the academic staff - Solid training programme - High-quality research results - Mature procedures for quality assurance 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although the measures for ensure circulation of significant information are available and overall adequate, the dimation of the Doctoral School is a challenge and could be reinforced to ensure that the relevant data reaches its target audiences.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The solid grounds and the current strategies are able to produce a leap ahead in the realm of internationalisation and global impact. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The budget restrictions that often affect Humanities in particular could hinder results, which is why institutional support to accompany the Doctoral School initiatives is important.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>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:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	Fulfilled	-
2.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	-
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	Fulfilled	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
4.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
5.	IP	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.	Fulfilled	-
6.	PI *	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%.	Fulfilled	<i>Actions to improve the number of doctoral students with funding could be enhanced.</i>
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. 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.).	Partially fulfilled	<i>Enhance the budget allocated to professional training expenses of doctoral students.</i>
8.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
9.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	-
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	-
11.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
12.	PI *	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 does not exceed 20%.	Fulfilled	Keep the number of coordinated theses per supervisor at an adequate levels.
13.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>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 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.</p>		
14.	PI *	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled	-
15.	PI *	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	-
16.	PI *	<p>B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional</p>	Fulfilled	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	-
18.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
19.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
20.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
21.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
22.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	-
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
24.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
25.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
26.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
27.	PI	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;	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
28.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
29.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	<i>Offer a complete version in an international language to reinforce visibility. Taking into account that the institutional dimension could threaten the measures for effective communication, it could be helpful to reinforce the current measures to ensure that information reaches its target audiences.</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
30.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
31.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
32.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	-
33.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	-
34.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	<i>Reinforce the promotion of international joint-supervision according to the current measures.</i>
35.	PI	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.).	Fulfilled	



VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The doctoral programme in philosophy at the University of Bucharest is outstanding and shows mature standards regarding regulations, strategies, research infrastructure, quality assurance measures and internationalisation outcomes. The academic staff is excellent and the structure and contents of the doctoral studies meet all the requirements.

VII. Annexes

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit.*

Prof. Dr Claudia Marsico
University of Buenos Aires
Faculty of Philosophy and Literature



Detailed schedule of the evaluation visit

Nov. 17, 2021

17:00-19:00 Online preliminary meeting for discussing main methodological aspects related to the evaluation of doctoral studies

Nov. 22, 2021

9:00-9:50 Online preliminary meeting for the preparation and harmonisation of evaluation steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD

10:00-10:50 Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)

12:00-12:50 Online meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report

16:00-16:50 Online meeting with graduates for the respective doctoral study domain

17:00-18:00 Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance members / Quality Assurance Department

Nov. 23, 2021

9:00-9:50 Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission

12:00-12:50 Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain

14:00-14:50 Online meeting with PhD students

16:00-16:50 Online technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit

Nov. 24, 2021

11:00-11:50 Online meeting with the Directors of the research centers within the doctoral study domain

14:00-14:50 Online meeting with Doctoral Schools Council

16:00-16:50 Online meeting with employers of Doctoral graduates in the domain

Nov. 25, 2021

9:00-18:00 Continuation of the doctoral study domain evaluation activities

Nov. 26, 2021

9:00-11:30 Continuation of the doctoral study domain evaluation activities

13:00-14:20 Online meeting for conclusions

14:30-15:30 Meeting with the representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations