

# **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain Visual Arts - West University of Timișoara**

Evaluation done from October 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, via zoom.

## **I. Introduction**

The field of doctoral studies in Visual Arts is offered within the Doctoral School of Arts (DSA/ŞDA), administered by the Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD) of the West University of Timișoara (WUT/UVT). As a departmental structure, the Doctoral School of Arts (ŞDA) functioned within IOSUD-UVT, within the Faculty of Arts and Design of WUT, from the academic year 2002-2003, being accredited based on HG 567/2005 regarding the organization and development of doctoral university studies. Like the other doctoral schools in IOSUD-UVT, DSA and the doctoral field Visual Arts are confirmed by a series of legislative documents: Ministerial Order no. 5037 / 13.09.2013. The Visual Arts field is a unique field of doctoral university studies within DSA, a department that shows a constant concern for ensuring the quality of doctoral studies and the preparation of doctoral students at internationally competitive professional parameters, in the conditions of adopting the ethical conduct of academic research and professional deontology. The activity of artistic creation and scientific research with international visibility of both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students attests to this fact. The human resource is currently provided by a number of (14) doctoral supervisors specialized in the field, of which (9) teachers are full-time at WUT and (5) teachers are external, affiliated to the DSA. Among the external doctoral supervisors, (3) are retired from WUT-FAD, (1) a teacher is a full professor at Babeş Bolyai University in Cluj - Napoca and (1) teacher is the director of the Art Museum in Oradea. The quality of the university service also lies in the quality of the doctoral theses that were defended publicly within the Doctoral School of Arts. These amount to a total of 277 works since its establishment (2004-2020). 276 were validated and 1 thesis was invalidated with the right to redo (in 2010 - Dr. Carmen Matei - coordinated by Prof. Dr. Rodica Vântaciu, when the doctoral student refused to reopen the research of the thesis). The percentage of theses validated so far at the DSA is: 99.63%. Between 2015-2020, 100% of doctoral theses were publicly defended, validated by CNATDCU 100%. In line with the mission and objectives of the UVT, the mission of the Doctoral School of Arts is to enable students to acquire a Level 8 qualification from the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework. The scientific research and artistic creation carried out by doctoral students under the guidance of PhD teachers, contributes to the affirmation of the West University of Timișoara, both nationally and internationally, through the visibility of the results of research and artistic creation of high quality. doctoral degree. The main objectives are: a) ensuring a frame of reference for the practices of organizing doctoral university study programs within the West University of Timișoara;b) promoting common

principles for quality assurance in the organization and development of doctoral university study programs within the West University of Timisoara; c) training of doctoral students in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary thematic area that is located at a higher training level in the hierarchy of professional training internships, with the possibility to choose between a form of scientific or professional doctorate, depending on their training and professional performance in the area of research - theoretical or artistic creation and to generate internationally relevant research and creative skills. Within the Faculty of Arts and Design, three research centers are accredited, which provide, through its members -teachers of the faculty-, a part of the activities of guiding projects and doctoral theses and mentoring in the artistic creation activities of the students in the doctoral field: 1. Center of Creation of Contemporary Visual Arts 2. Center for Scientific Research and Artistic Creation in Decorative Arts and Design 3. Regional Center for Research and Expertise in the Field of Conservation-Restoration of Material Cultural Heritage.

## **II. Methods used**

The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes was done using the following methods;

- the analysis of documents, and different zoom-meetings
- 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).

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

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

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

The West University of Timișoara was founded through Royal Decree-Law no. 660 of December 30, 1944. Pursuant to the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 999 of September 27, 1962, reinforced by Government Decision no. 458 of July 29, 1994, it has functioned without interruption, and it is a landmark higher education and research institution for the western region of Romania. The West University of Timișoara is an Institution that organises Doctoral Studies (Instituție Organizatoare de Studii Universitare de Doctorat: IOSUD) and functions as such on the basis of the National Education Law (1/2011) and HG 681/2011 –The Code of Doctoral Studies. Moreover, it is defined as such in the Carta of the West University of Timișoara, which states: “WUT is an Institution that organises Doctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as IOSUD-UVT). IOSUD-UVT operates based on the institutional regulations regarding the organizing of doctoral studies at WUT, approved by the WUT Senate, in compliance with relevant legislation and The Code of Doctoral Studies”. The West University of Timișoara is directly responsible for the successful development, in the 1970s, of the first generation of University professors in the fields of Philology (Literature, and Language and Linguistics respectively), Mathematics, and Physics. After the 1990s, following the reorganization of the higher education system in Romania and in the context of an unprecedented development of the university, new fields of studies were opened and, consequently, new faculties and new doctoral fields. The fields of economics (Finance, Economics, Accounting), Chemistry, Computer Science, Visual Arts, and History were added to the old doctoral fields, and then Philosophy, Sociology, Management, Marketing, and Geography. Following legislation defining the concept of doctoral schools in Romania (HG 567/2005 regarding the organization of doctoral studies) and the implementation of the Bologna Convention framework, these departmental structures were established at the West University of Timișoara as well.

*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.*

***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 proper functioning of doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is regulated by a series of methodologies and regulations, which elaborate on and explain the institutional regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies. These all are publicly available.

A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their implementation in the doctoral school to which the doctoral field belongs: a) doctoral school regulations; The Doctoral School of Arts has adopted and implemented the IOSUD-UVT framework regulations, in addition, it has its own DSA regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies, which contains specific details for the Visual Arts doctoral field, meeting normative legislative and institutional requirements. The Regulation contains 7 chapters, 3 annexes, and various forms necessary for the training doctoral student between the admission stage and the completion and defense of the doctoral thesis: Chapter I - General provisions. Mission and objectives, Chapter II - The institutional framework for organizing doctoral studies at the Doctoral School of Arts, Chapter III - Organizing, managing, and funding the doctoral studies, Chapter IV - Evaluating the doctoral school and the doctoral supervisors, Chapter V - Content and completion of the doctoral programs, Chapter VI - Rights and responsibilities of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor, Chapter VII - Transitional and final provisions. The annexes contain: The national minimum standards for awarding the title of doctor in the field of Visual Arts, according to O.M. No. 5110/2018 and The DSA's minimum standards for awarding the title of doctor in the field of Visual Arts and for awarding the "excellent" grade, as well as doctoral thesis writing norms and structure. The regulations are updated periodically in accordance to current legislative acts and norms. Within IOSUD-UVT, appointment to the position of director of a doctoral school council is done in accordance with the Institutional regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies. Art. 2.13. (1) states: "The doctoral school is governed by a doctoral school director and the doctoral school council. The doctoral school director is the equivalent of a department head. The doctoral school director is appointed by CSUD and must meet the specific criteria applicable in the doctoral studies field in which they supervise doctoral theses. Within the Doctoral School of Arts, in accordance with the framework regulations and the WUT Carta, the doctoral school director is named by WUT's Doctoral Studies Council from among the doctoral supervisors assigned to the doctoral school and is a rightful member of the doctoral school council. The other members of the doctoral school council are elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the doctoral supervisors belonging to the DSA. The election of students in CSUD's governing bodies, and in doctoral school councils respectively, is regulated by means of specific documents, designed for organizing student elections within WUT in accordance with the Regulations for electing WUT student representatives. The proper organization and functioning of doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is regulated by a series of methodologies and regulations, which elaborate on and explain the institutional regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies. These are publicly available. Thus, annually, CSUD discusses the framework for the admission of doctoral students, by proposing specific admission methodologies, in accordance with the national methodology of the Ministry of National Education, and the admission methodology for Romanians from abroad respectively. On the basis of the general admission methodology discussed by CSUD, endorsed by the WUT Management Board and approved by the

university Senate, doctoral schools establish their own admission methodology according to the characteristics of the doctoral studies field. Admission to doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is done transparently, by disseminating information useful for enrolment. Thus, the website lists available places, their type (full-time / part-time; subsidised with scholarship / subsidised without scholarship / self-funded), as well as their allocation by doctoral school and doctoral field. Regarding the places allocated to Romanian candidates from abroad, and, respectively, the places reserved for Roma candidates for the 2017 / 2018 and 2018 / 2019 admission sessions, candidates were classified according to the admission exam results. In order to avoid situations of identical ranking, the IOSUD Admission Methodology has provided clear and tiered tie-breaking criteria. IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for the completion of doctoral studies. On the basis of the national legislation and in accordance with the national platforms for validation of doctoral degrees (the Integrated Education Register and the Unique Matriculation Register), these include information about preliminary steps for the doctoral thesis and the requirements for its defense. The procedures are meant to ensure high standards and transparency regarding doctoral theses. Thus, IOSUD-UVT follows sequentially the steps for checking the similarity of doctoral theses, without making this technical process a substitute for discussions between the doctoral supervisor and the student. Each similarity report obtained using the iThenticate software is accompanied by the doctoral supervisor's written notice, confirming the eligibility of the thesis. The methodology for the public defense of the doctoral thesis also specifies the instances in which the abstract or the full thesis are made public and are accessible before the public defense. Thus, the doctoral thesis (hard copy) is available at the "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library 20 days prior to the public defense, while the abstract is available online. The Doctoral School of Arts, in accordance with the IOSUD-UVT admission framework, has developed its own admission methodology and regulations, regularly updated in accordance with legislative changes and additions. These include aspects regarding the organization and the actual procedure of admission to doctoral studies, as well as details related to the specific content of the doctoral admission exam to the field of Visual Arts. The latest version of the Methodology for organizing the doctoral studies admission examination for the academic year of 2019/2020, updated for the academic year of 2020/2021, contains provisions regarding the online admission examination. Doctoral studies are funded by state subsidies, by tuition fees, or other legally acquired funds. Registration and tuition fees are approved annually by the WUT Senate. The allocation of subsidised places to DSA doctoral supervisors, as a result of the number of places assigned by CSUD-UVT to the Doctoral School of Arts, is done by CDSA, taking into account the limit of 8 current doctoral students /doctoral supervisor, the occupancy rate of subsidised places previously assigned to each supervisor, and the institutional, academic development strategy of the Faculty of Arts and Design. The selection of candidates is done by a committee nominated by each doctoral supervisor, which will consist of the supervisor who offered the doctoral student the place and two experts from the Faculty of Arts and Design who have the

minimum rank of associate professor. The admission committees are approved by the Doctoral School of Arts Council, according to Art. 21. (2)-p.10. of the Methodology for organizing the doctoral studies. Specific and detailed aspects regarding the steps, content and method for completing doctoral studies in the Visual Arts field and for the public doctoral thesis defense, including regulatory documents, administrative steps, doctoral thesis writing guidelines, the minimum standards for doctoral thesis defense and for grading in the Visual Arts field, plagiarism prevention methods, etc. can be found in a separate chapter, entitled: The content and completion of doctoral studies, from the DSA regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies and its annexes. The terms of the relationship between doctoral student, doctoral supervisor, and IOSUD-UVT are established and endorsed through the Doctoral studies contract. This document lists the rights and responsibilities of each party, charting the doctoral student's path during the years of study. All changes made in the process (interruption or extension of studies) are stipulated by means of additional documents to the Doctoral Studies Contract. The thematic content of the doctoral studies in the field of Visual Arts is established in accordance with legislative norms. The aim is to diversify the research and artistic creation area with topics adapted to contemporary research directions in the field, leading to a qualitative growth of the training for enrolled doctoral students. The topic proposals of each doctoral supervisor are discussed and approved by the Doctoral School of Arts Council.

*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.***

Regulations of the doctoral school include mandatory criteria, procedures, and standards for aspects specified in art. 17 par. (5) of the Doctoral Studies Code, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, as amended and supplemented based on advanced university studies. According to art. 17 of the Doctoral Studies Code (HG 681.2011), the regulations of doctoral schools within IOSUD-UVT specify these procedures for each doctoral field. The admission of new doctoral school members is approved by the doctoral school Councils, based on an opportunity analysis and taking into account the fulfillment of scientific criteria and the scientific and professional integrity criteria. The Doctoral School Councils also discuss and validate the competences that doctoral students acquire by following the advanced study program relevant for the field and establish the subjects in the program structure and the number of credits for each subject. Furthermore, particular cases are approved in which the doctoral student, based on discussions with

the doctoral supervisor and in order to prepare their research topic, chooses to follow subjects other than those offered by the doctoral school in which they are enrolled, including courses in some of the WUT's master programs. The doctoral schools follow the applicable Romanian legislation as well as the Institutional regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies in order to handle potential incompatibility or even conflict between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student by mediation or, when necessary, replacing the doctoral supervisor. Procedures concerning the prevention of intellectual fraud, plagiarism included, or issues related to student attendance, also follow these general procedures. The Doctoral School of Arts has elaborated and adopted the Doctoral School of Arts regulations, based on the legislative acts in force and on the WUT framework regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies, which state general and specific aspects for the Visual Arts doctoral field, as well as the mission, objectives, mandatory criteria and all of the standards.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

***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.***

Within IOSUD-UVT, The Doctoral School of Arts uses simultaneously a number of convergent platforms meant to keep track of doctoral students during their studies:

- The University Management System (UMS) enables the management of studies for the IOSUD-UVT doctoral students (personal data, matriculation number, information regarding the status of the student, study duration, potential interruptions or extensions)
- The Unique Matriculation Register (Registrul Matricol Unic: RMU) includes the information stored in a single national system of university studies;
- The Integrated Education Register (Registrul Educațional Integrat: REI), after the public defense of doctoral theses, compiles the documents for doctoral training, the student's complete file, as well as the doctoral thesis, in view of it being approved by the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (Consiliul Național de Atestare a Titlurilor, Diplomelor și Certificatelor Universitare: CNATDCU).

*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.***

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 1, art. 4, pt. b) of Order 3897/16.05.2017 for modifying the Regulations for the organization and functioning of the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates of 24.03.2016, IOSUD-UVT uses the online software iThenticate (available at <http://www.ithenticate.com>) as a support tool for academic writing instruction and for checking the similarity percentage. With the help of the software, all doctoral theses are analysed in accordance with internal procedures before their defense in front of the advising committee and before their public defense. The resulting reports are uploaded in full on the national REI platform, so that CNATDCU can check and approve the doctoral files and propose to award the title of doctor. Additionally, the similarity report is accompanied by a statement from the doctoral supervisor assessing the instances of similarity identified by the software. This procedure is considered essential in IOSUD-UVT, as the supervisor confirms that the similarity is purely mechanical (extensive titles, names of institutions, titles of documents and normative acts, phrases that have entered the common usage of a certain field etc.) and there is no question of fraudulent use of ideas or comments belonging to other authors; in other words, there is no question of plagiarism. The similarity report for each doctoral thesis accompanies its public defense file, in accordance with the CSUD-UVT methodology for organizing the doctoral thesis defense and with Chap. V. of the DSA regulations regarding organizing doctoral studies.

*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.*

***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.***

Within IOSUD-UVT, projects won through competition have been conducted, through which scientific research projects were funded to the benefit of the doctoral students, such as: Competitive Researchers in Europe in the Field of Humanities and Socio-Economic Sciences. A Multi-Regional Research Network (Cercetători competitivi pe plan european în domeniul Științelor umaniste și socio-economice. Rețea de cercetare multiregională:



CCPE). Contract POSDRU U/159/1.5/S/140863; Competitive multidisciplinary doctoral research at European level (Cercetări doctorale multidisciplinare competitive pe plan European: CdocMD). The number of institutional grants awarded to 20 doctoral students in the Visual Arts field within DSA in the past 5 years is 4. Within the Faculty of Arts and Design of the West University of Timișoara, projects specific to the Visual Arts field have also been funded, having been won through project competition by part of the doctoral supervisors. These were financed by the Local Council of Timișoara Municipality. The biannual projects had the goal of organizing international art and/or design exhibitions, in which students of the Doctoral School of Arts also participated.

*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%.*

Currently, at the Doctoral School of Arts, there is a number of (72) students whose studies are subsidised and tuition paying. The percentage of current doctoral students who benefit for at least 6 months from additional sources of funding other than the Government and who are financially supported through research or institutional development/human resources grants is 27,77%. The number of doctoral students in the Visual Arts field within DSA receiving additional funding obtained by selection from the following grants awarded in the past 5 years is 20.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*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.).*

Regarding the sum of WUT funds allocated to doctoral students for conducting mobilities, they make the following statements: 1. In the economy and finance department, there is no breakdown analysis of the sums allocated to doctoral student mobilities from sources of funding, as the legislative provisions impose no such measure; 2. The institutional travel

expenses analysis of 2018 yielded the following results: the sums allocated to doctoral student mobilities amount to approx. 105.956,60 lei, comprised of: per diem expenses 21.373,54 lei, internal travel expenses 13.430,82 lei, external travel expenses 50.717,31 lei, various tax expenses 20.434,93 lei; 3. In the table of doctoral students, the value of mobility grants, extracted from the expense claims submitted to the economy and finance department, was entered under those who have benefitted from them. To support the doctoral students of the Doctoral School of Arts, out of the 93 students enrolled at DSA in year I in the evaluated period, a number of 13 students were granted, upon request, tuition fee reductions between the years 2015-2020, which allowed them to continue and complete their doctoral studies, representing a percentage of 13,97%. Starting with the year 2021, IOSUD-UVT will implement the Methodology regarding doctoral students accessing institutional resources for career training, approved by the WUT Senate. Chapter III. Institutional support of career training activities for doctoral students, Art. 7, states: "Doctoral students operating exclusively within IOSUD-UVT or under national co-supervision may, in the 3-year training period, benefit annually from financial support for training activities amounting to 10% of the value of a yearly doctoral grant."

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

***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.***

Doctoral students have access to the premises and facilities available at the Faculty of Arts and Design of DSA, at Oituz Street no. 4 in Timișoara. Given the particularities of the Visual Arts field, of artistic creation projects and, at the same time, the vocational and applied character of doctorates, doctoral students may, upon request, use the existing spaces arranged as artistic creation workshops, and all associated facilities. A total number of 45 spaces are available in the aforementioned building. Among them, 35 are artistic creation studios and 10 are laboratories for technical processing. Additionally, the Faculty of Arts and Design has put room 113 B Doctoral Hall at the disposal of the doctoral

school for council meetings, DSA general assemblies, for members of the advising committees, for the defense of annual reports and for other activities relevant to the school. For events and exhibitions, the faculty has a large exhibition space - the Mansarda Gallery, part of the cultural tour of the city, which is also home to some of the exhibitions that promote the results of scientific research and artistic creation of DSA doctoral students. Concurrently, the Faculty of Arts and Design is included in the expansion project of the West University of Timișoara through the Regional Operational Program - ROP (Programul Operațional Regional: POR), Axis 10 - Improving the educational infrastructure, through which the West University of Timișoara has managed to raise 7,83 million euros. The project also includes creation spaces for the Doctoral School of Arts. Using a card, doctoral students enrolled at DSA have access to the "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library, which has a branch at the Faculty of Arts and Design, providing doctoral students with 1002603 documents, a collection consisting of 672121 books, 6.685 titles of serial publications (260969 issues) and 69.553 other bibliographic units (CDs, DVDs, maps, etc.). In terms of material, informational and documentation resources, the offer available to doctoral students is considerable, benefiting from the entire WUT infrastructure. At the same time, in order to provide students with the latest specialised information, since 2018, FAD owns the PAVILION Library, which manages a collection of recent specialised books and magazines, built from donations from international event organisers in the country, from foundations and from other national and international publishing houses specialised in art books. Donors include: Beral Madra Contemporary Art Centre - Istanbul, Turkey; JRP-Ringier-Zurich Publishing House, Switzerland; Vellant Publishing House - Bucharest; Calina Foundation, Timișoara. By July 2018, a total of 1798 titles had been indexed, of which, by category: art theory (192), New Media (112), political science (165), anthropology (185), architecture, design, public space (49), magazines/journals (538), catalogues (250), art albums (167), CD-DVD (140). Library access is free of charge. The West University of Timișoara allows students access to the numerous database platforms via the integrated e-learning system. Doctoral students are also involved in the work of the research and artistic creation centres, depending on the content of the research and artistic creation theses developed during their doctoral studies at DSA. Like all students of the West University of Timișoara, doctoral students have access to a series of online support services offered by the IT&C Department of WUT:

- e-uvt Mail Services. The West University of Timișoara provides all students, doctoral students, professors and administrative staff with institutional email accounts. Students benefit from the full list of Gmail features via G Suite Email, with unlimited storage capacity, the ability to add filters and labels, access from any mobile or desktop device, and the offline function (messages can be read, written and sent as soon as the internet connection is restored). It is compatible with Microsoft Outlook and any other email client, on any phone, tablet or operating system.

-GSTS - Google Suites for Education. A suite of cloud applications from Google that allows team connectivity and access from anywhere and on any device (desktop, laptop, smartphone or tablet). The G Suite for Education is accessible via the institutional email account.

- The EDUROAM Wi-Fi network. EduRoam is a federation of authentication systems available worldwide. All affiliated institutions allow the secure exchange of authentication data between each other in order to connect users to the Wi-Fi networks available in their respective institutions.

The West University of Timișoara is a member of this federation and offers access to all of its facilities. In order to access EduRoam services offered by the West University of Timișoara, all students, master students, doctoral students, professors, and administrative staff have accounts on the e-uvt.ro platform. The available networks are:

- EduRoam - The Wi-Fi network for visitors, offering free internet access with no authentication. Connection lasts one hour per session. - Intranet. A private network that provides users on a local network with Internet-type services, such as access to web pages, web applications etc. All students of the West University of Timișoara have access to the Intranet page, being able to access the services intended for them. The e-UVT platform is integrated into the IT system of the West University of Timișoara via automatic synchronization of the accounts on the platform with the academic management system, ACADEMIS, along with automatically generating accounts and e-uvt.ro email addresses, and automatic inclusion in all institutional communication groups. The platform provides single sign-on with the email account for several Intranet services: email access, communication in student/professor groups, access to online platforms for distance learning (ID) and the ALUMNI platform for the management of communication with graduates and the socio-economic field.

- Microsoft Dreamspark. A Microsoft program that offers students free access to Microsoft technology. The program is aimed at undergraduate, masters and doctoral students in the collaborating faculties. Among the Microsoft products offered for free are: operating systems (Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista), development tools (Visual Studio 2012, SQL Server 2012), and others.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

***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 staff of the Doctoral School of Arts is qualified and has the experience necessary for the conduct of the doctoral studies program in the Visual Arts field, certified by the results of artistic creation and scientific research activities. Currently, a number of (14) doctoral supervisors (experts in the evaluated field, visual artists or art theorists) are active. Among them, (10) hold the didactic title of professor and (4) hold didactic title of lecturer: Prof. Stelian Acea, PhD, Habil, Prof. Vică Adorian, PhD, Habil, Prof. Aurel Chiriac, PhD, Habil, Prof. Alexandru Jakabhazi, PhD, Prof. Adriana Lucaciu, PhD, Habil, Prof. Doina Mihăilescu, Habil, Prof. Marcel Muntean, PhD, Habil, Prof. Ileana Teleagă, PhD, Habil, Assoc. Prof. Rudolf Kocsis, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Iosif Mihailo, PhD, Habil, Assoc. Prof. Ioan Pop, PhD, Habil. Doctoral supervisors are highly professionally active and receive national and international recognition, many of them having been awarded in important competitions and events in the country and abroad, their work experience positively influencing the collaboration with the supervised doctoral students. According to the CNATDCU Verification Form for Minimum and Mandatory Standards required to obtain the title of professor and the habilitation, all 14 doctoral supervisors meet 100% of the criteria and indicators established for the Visual Arts field.

*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.***

Within the Doctoral School of Arts, out of the total (14) doctoral supervisors, (9) are full-time professors at WUT and (5) are part-time affiliated to the DSA. Of the part-time affiliated doctoral supervisors, (3) are retired from WUT-FAD, (1) is a full-time professor at Babes Bolyai University in Cluj – Napoca and (1) professor is the director of the Art Museum in Oradea.

*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 subjects in the advanced study program relevant for the Visual Arts Doctoral Studies field have been and are taught by professors who have the quality of a doctoral supervisor or habilitated professor. In the academic year of 2020-2021, the subjects covered are as follows: the subjects "Ethics and academic integrity" and "Research and Academic Writing", by Prof. Marcel Muntean (BA and PhD in the Visual Arts Field) and the subject "Context and interactive space in contemporary art" by Assoc. Prof. Ioan Pop, PhD, Habil. Both professors have a BA and doctoral training in the field of Visual Arts.

*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 does not exceed 20%.*

In the Doctoral School of Arts, there is currently two doctoral supervisors simultaneously coordinating (11) students - Prof. Adriana Lucaciu, PhD., respectively (9)-Prof. Stelian Acea PhD. The 2 students who exceed the number of 9 are extending their studies and they were taken over as a result of the death of Prof. Alexandra Titu, PhD, and the withdrawal from the DSA of Prof. Elena Tulcan, PhD). The share is 14,28 % of the total of doctoral supervisors.

*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.*

***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.*

Of the (14) doctoral supervisors, 12 prove international visibility over the last 5 years through professional achievements relevant to the field of Visual Arts. The professors are visual artists or active theoreticians and art critics with vast experience in the field of artistic education and with prestigious results in the field of artistic creation, being present in numerous international events relevant to the field. International activities are marked in blue in the CNATDCU minimum and mandatory standards verification sheets established for the period of 2016-2020 and are presented in the Annexes. The percentage of doctoral supervisors that have presented at least 5 relevant achievements over the last 5 years is 85,71%.

*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.*

On the date the report was issued, (13) doctoral supervisors scored more than 100% of the minimum score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards and one doctoral supervisor scored 69% of the score. The indexes are 100% met. For the field of Visual Arts, the minimum score is 650 points for obtaining the title of professor and the habilitation.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## ***Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS***

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

*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.*

**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.*

In the last years, the competition for admission to the doctoral School of Arts has been significant as compared to other doctoral fields in the UVT, which proves an appreciation of the Visual Arts field, increasingly better rated, but also the ability of the DSA to attract a number of candidates higher than the number of available places. In the first year of study during the assessed period, the DSA registered, a total of (93) doctoral students, of which (35) students whose studies are funded and (58) students on a fee-paying basis. Among them, (16) PhD students have had subsidized studies with scholarship. The foreign students enrolled at DSA were 4 (2 Iraq, 1 Germany, 1 Hungary), 3 Romanian candidates from abroad (2 Serbia, 1 Moldova) and 1 ethnic Romanian student (Germany). For the field of Visual Arts, the value of the ratio between the number of Master's graduates of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad enrolled in the Doctoral School of Arts for the period of 2015-2020 and the number of subsidized places open to competition is: 0,74.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

**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.*

Within the DSA the admission has two components:

a) an interview on the research/artistic creation project proposed by the candidate. The research project must be submitted in written form of at least five pages and shall be defended before the entrance exam committee b) presentation of a portfolio of professional activity. The portfolio of professional activity will contain a curriculum vitae



(personal data and professional activity relevant for the doctoral field of Visual Arts), images that attest the candidate's achievements in the field and other documents/materials supporting the interests in the field, according to Art.21 (4) - pp. 10-11: The evaluation and grading of candidates is based on the following aspects: "For the scientific doctorate: - The actuality and originality of the research topic, - The clarity of the project structure, - The quality of the thesis submitted for defense reflecting the theoretical grounding of the candidate and the potential for developing the doctoral thesis,- The quality of the bibliography consulted and proposed for consultation - The contents of the professional activity file. For the professional doctorate: - The actuality and originality of the research/ artistic creation topic, - The clarity of project structure, - The design of the development stages of the research/artistic creation and its applicative component, - The quality of the bibliography consulted and proposed for consultation, - The contents of the professional activity file." According to Art. 21 (5) - pp. 11 The selection of candidates is made by a commission proposed by each doctoralsupervisor, consisting of the doctoral supervisor who has offered the place to the doctoral student and two experts from the Faculty of Arts and Design who have at least the rank of associate professor. The entrance exam committees are approved by the Doctoral Studies Council in accordance with Article 4. 21. (2)-p.10. of the Methodology for organizing and conducting the doctoral studies entrance exam. The occupancy of the places open to competition by each doctoral supervisor is carried out in the descending order of the average obtained at the entrance exam.

*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 does not exceed 30%.***

Candidates that take the entrance exam for the Doctoral School of Arts to pursue doctoral studies program in the field of Visual Arts are generally motivated and active. Between 2015-2020, the Doctoral School of Arts enrolled number of (93) doctoral students, of whom only (9) students dropped out. The rate of dropout /expulsions over the assessed period is 9,67%. The situation of dropout doctoral students who have given up their doctoral studies, 3 and 4 years after admission, with reference to the year of registration, is presented as follows:

2015 – 2016: students enrolled: 18 out of which dropped out: 4 students; share 22.22%  
2016 –2017: students enrolled: 15 out of which dropped out: 2 students; share 13.33%  
2017 – 2018: students enrolled: 17 out of which dropped out: 2 students; share 11.76%  
2018 – 2019: students enrolled: 19 out of which dropped out: 1 student; share 5.26%  
2019 – 2020: students enrolled: 24 out of which dropped out: 0 students; share 0%

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*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.*

***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 peculiarities of the field of Visual Arts, through the thematic diversity of research and artistic creation areas, which have a deeply personal and original character, requires a special research, under the direct guidance of the doctoral supervisor. The subjects offered during the advanced training period cover the necessity of accumulating general knowledge, oriented towards the socio-cultural and political context in which contemporary art forms are generated, as well as the context in which they manifest. Generally, along with the subjects that elaborate on methods of scientific research and artistic creation and those that familiarize the doctoral student with the rules of ethical conduct and academic writing, the curriculum comprises 1 interdisciplinary subject. At the same time, the doctoral student, together with the doctoral supervisor, establish, on the basis of the content of the artistic creation project, respectively the basis of scientific research, the individual research plan and the stages of its conduct. The Doctoral School of Arts curriculum offers three subjects for students in the advanced training stage, including a general course on universal and Romanian contemporary art, namely: Context and interactive space in contemporary art, useful in the knowledge of the topical issues and trends of the field, a subject on research methodology: Scientific Research and Academic Writing and an ethics course in scientific research.

*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 curriculum of the Doctoral School of Arts contains a subject dedicated to research ethics named: Ethics and Academic Integrity.

*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.*

The advanced training program involves several guidelines that lead to a practical finality, which benefits doctoral students during the 3 years of study. Each doctoral school establishes its own mechanisms in accordance with the framework of IOSUD-UVT, which aims at the learning outcomes of research through covering the subjects. Learning outcomes are the set of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and/or competences that the doctoral student acquires or is able to demonstrate after completing the learning process. The subjects in the curriculum describe the competences, skills and the assessment methods of each subject.

*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 advising committees within the field of Visual Arts function throughout the training of doctoral students. Doctoral students receive effective guidance, advice and communication through regular meetings, or whenever necessary and requested. The doctoral research program is established at the beginning of the first year of studies and is validated by the CDSA.

*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.*

In the Visual Arts Doctoral Studies field, a number of (93) doctoral students were enrolled in the reported period, with the first year of study as a reference. A number of (46) professors/researchers provided guidance in the guidance committees, together with those (14) doctoral supervisors. The ratio is 1.55:1.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

***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.*

In the Visual Arts Doctoral Studies field, results of artistic research and creation relevant to the professional doctorate (in the case of visual artists) or scientific doctorate (in the case of art theorists) are valued through the production of personal exhibitions and/or curating activities by participating in group or collective events of a national or international nature, including through the publication of articles in specialised journals or volumes. In 2015-2020, the number of doctoral students who have obtained the doctoral title is (57). The activity of doctoral students who have obtained the doctoral title in the last 5 years and who have responded to the request of the DSA to provide evidence of their activity is presented in the annexes.

*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.*

Between 2015 - 2020, a number of (57) students completed their doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of Arts. The number of scientific research and creative activities with international visibility conducted by them in the field of Visual Arts is (124), therefore the ratio between the number of prestigious presentations/exhibitions (held in the country or

abroad) to the number of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the last five years at the Doctoral School of Arts is 2,17 [124:57].

*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.*

***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.***

DSA has a very good collaboration with all the universities and faculties in the assessed field from comprehensive universities in the country, so that the affiliated scientific reviewers can evaluate a wide range of research topics in the field of Visual Arts. At the time the self-assessment report was issued, the situation regarding the number of theses evaluated by the evaluators that are external to the IOSUD-UVT, as reviewers in the public defense committees of doctoral theses elaborated and completed within the Doctoral School of Arts in the last 5 years, is as follows: out of 35 external reviewers, only 3 reviewers have exceeded the number of 2 evaluated theses / doctoral supervisor: - 2015-2016 reviewer Prof. Nicolae Suciu-Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, North of Baia Mare University Centre: (4) theses evaluated/doctoral supervisor Prof. Carol David, PhD); reviewer Prof. Ioan Horvath Bugnariu, PhD - University of Arts and Design Cluj Napoca (4 theses evaluated/doctoral supervisor Prof. Carol David, PhD); - 2016-2017 reviewer Prof. Picu-Nelu Ocoleanu, PhD, University of Craiova: (3) theses evaluated/doctoral supervisor Prof. Doina Mihăilescu, PhD). It is to be noted that this aspect has been rectified since the academic year of 2017-2018, all reviewers external to UVT evaluate at most 2 doctoral theses per coordinator in one academic year. In the future, strict compliance with normative provisions will be considered. The detailed situation can be found in the annex.

*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.*

During 2015-2020, at the Doctoral School of Arts, a number of (57) doctoral theses have been defended, with the participation of 35 reviewers external to the IOSUD-UVT. The ratio between the number of doctoral theses assigned to a scientific reviewer from a higher education institution other than IOSUD-UVT and doctoral theses defended in the field of Visual Arts in the last five years is between (0.01) and (0.28). The detailed situation is presented in the annexes.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

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

*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.*

***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.*

In order to optimize all components of doctoral activity, a series of audit and internal control procedures have been initiated within the university. Thus, through the provision of service order no. 9132 of 19.03.2019, the Rector of the West University of Timișoara, at the proposal of the Director of CSUD, appointed a committee to audit the teaching activities conducted by doctoral students within the university departments. In order to facilitate this reporting, a process of digitalizing the records of individual CNATDCU criteria and Annex 5 of the CNFIS reports based on a URAP online system. In terms of scientific

output, 86 doctoral supervisors have a number of mentions with UVT affiliation in the Web of Science (Core) of 2858 out of 5265 UVT-affiliated mentions, which represents 54% of the number of UVT-affiliated mentions in WoS. There have been 1021 UVT-affiliated mentions in the last 5 years (2016-2020), which represents 36% of the number of Web of Science doctoral supervisors mentions. Doctoral students conduct their research activities in laboratories and research centres whose infrastructure and logistics are managed by the faculties in the field. IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for the completion of university doctoral studies. Written on the basis of national legislation and in accordance with national platform for the validation of doctoral degrees (Integrated Educational Register and the Unique Matriculation Register), these procedures include information on the steps leading up to the doctoral thesis as well as on the conditions for its defense. All these procedures are intended to ensure conditions of total exigency and transparency regarding the doctoral theses. The scientific and artistic activity of doctoral students is closely supervised by the doctoral supervisors and the advising committees. A list of their own papers accompanies each doctoral thesis submitted for analysis. At WUT, a periodically updated record of WUT-affiliated publications is maintained through the Department of Scientific Research and Artistic Creation. At IOSUD, an analysis of the scientific production of doctoral students in the period of 2016-2021 conducted in March, 2021 showed that the 456 graduates of the doctoral students have 264 presences in the Web of Science (Core)

*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.***

During the doctoral training period, IOSUD-UVT provides the doctoral students with an anonymous questionnaire to evaluate the work of doctoral schools in order to identify the degree of satisfaction of doctoral students necessary for the continuous improvement of academic and administrative services offered by the West University of Timișoara.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

**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 is published on the web-site.

*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.*

**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 West University of Timișoara allows students access to the following database platforms through the integrated e-learning system, including:

- ANELIS - <https://portal.anelisplus.ro/>;
- Science Direct - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>;
- Springer Link - <https://link.springer.com/>;
- Wiley Blackwell - <https://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Brand/id-35.html>;
- ProQuestCentral  
[https://www.proquest.com/libraries/academic/databases/ProQuest\\_Central.html](https://www.proquest.com/libraries/academic/databases/ProQuest_Central.html);
- Oxford Academic - <https://academic.oup.com/journals/>;



- Emerald Publishing <http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/collections/>;
- Taylor and Francus Group - <https://taylorandfrancis.com/>;
- Clarivate analytics - <https://clarivate.com/products/web-of-science>.

*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.*

In order to avoid, prevent and detect plagiarism fraud, the DSA, through the Office of Doctoral Studies of the CSUD-UVT, uses the iThenticate electronic system. Doctoral students within the Doctoral School have access, upon request and with the consent of the doctoral supervisor, to the electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing doctoral thesis or artistic creations. The software marks the percentage of similarity and indicates sources and referenced paragraphs. The similarity report of each doctoral thesis accompanies the file for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, according to the Methodology for the organization of the doctoral thesis defense process of CSUD-UVT and according to Chap. V. of the DSA regulations regarding organizing doctoral studies.

*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.*

Doctoral students have access to the spaces and facilities available in the Faculty of Arts and Design, where the Doctoral School of Arts operates, including the “Eugen Todoran” Central University Library, which has a branch on the faculty premises (FAD), as well as a room (113 B) dedicated to doctoral studies, at the faculty headquarters located on Oituz Street no. 4 in Timișoara. Given the peculiarities of the field of Visual Arts, of the particularity of the realisation of artistic creation projects, which is specific to professional doctorates, doctoral students may use, upon request, the existing spaces and facilities for artistic creation workshops. It is to be noted that the Faculty of Arts and Design is included in the expansion project of the West University of Timișoara, through the Regional Operational Program - ROP (Programul Operațional Regional: POR), Axis 10 - Improving the educational infrastructure (as found on their website), through which the West University of Timișoara has managed to attract 7.83 million euros. The project also

includes creative spaces for the Doctoral School of Arts. (See also previous indicator A.2.1.1). Throughout 2018, UVT conducted an institutional development project through which it proceeded to the evaluation of the research centres within the university, including accreditation by visits of external experts to the functioning centres. These are currently operating as a special research structure within UVT with a division into three main areas: the exact sciences field, the socio-economic sciences field, respectively, the humanities field. The resources and services offered to UVT students are adequate and relevant to facilitating learning and ensuring the quality of student life. The West University of Timișoara owns a publishing and printing centre and dormitories, which are at the disposal of students and professors. The "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library (Biblioteca Centrală Universitară: B.C.U.) is, according to the Library Law 334/2002, a library governed by public law, of national importance, with legal personality, being, amongst the "Carol I" Central University Library of Bucharest, "M. Eminescu" Central University Library in Iași and the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca, in the top four university libraries in Romania. At present, "Eugen Todoran" C.U.L. (B.C.U. "Eugen Todoran": BCUT) serves the West University of Timișoara and has 1,002,603 documents, of which 672,121 books, 6,685 serial titles (260,929 fascicles) and 69,553 other library units. Over the last 15 years, the book stock has increased by 286,192 volumes and the periodicals stock has increased by 300%. The "Eugen Todoran" B.C.U. is fully computerised, using one of the most advanced library softwares (ALEPH-500), as well as 99 computers, 38 of which are available to users. The electronic catalogue (OPAC) of the "Eugen Todoran" B.C.U. "Eugen Todoran" contains 334,656 bibliographic units, which represents more than 90% of the usual collection of documents. The "Eugen Todoran" University Library is connected to the INTERNET through the national ROEDUNET system. In order to facilitate the teaching process, doctoral students have access, through BCUT, to books and specialised journals in the relevant fields. Doctoral students also have the possibility to consult the specialised volumes associated with the fields in the library of the doctoral school (CSUD headquarters) Also, through Anelis, free access to all important databases is offered (e.g. Ebsco Academic Search, Premier and Proquest Central, ScienceDirect, Scopus, SpringerLink e-journals and Thomson ISI- Web of Science), including ISI journals, book chapters, books, reference doctoral theses relevant to research work in the fields of philosophy, sociology, and political science. UVT has equipped the building on Oituz Street no. 4, as well as Room 303 in the main building on Blvd. V. Pârvan, no. 4 for doctoral research specifically. Research infrastructure is significant. Therefore, all doctoral students benefit from the Inquisit Web - Departmental License, as well as other research facilities presented in Erris. Since 2018, FAD has its own art library - the Pavilion Library, with a collection of books and specialised journals, established through donations from international event organisers in the country as well as national and international publishers specialised in art book publishing. For events and exhibitions, the faculty has a large exhibition space - the Mansarda Gallery, part of the city's cultural circuit, which

also hosts a part of the exhibitions promoting the results of scientific research and artistic creation of DSA doctoral students.

*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.*

***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.*

The full list of partnership agreements primarily includes partner universities in international programs such as Erasmus and Erasmus +. Via the Department of International Relations, but also through the Erasmus+ coordinators within the faculties, partnership agreements have been signed with a number of universities abroad, both in Europe and in partner countries. The number of doctoral students who have undertaken Erasmus+ mobilities is: 2015-2016: 19 doctoral students in mobility, 2016-2017: 25 doctoral students in mobility, 2017-2018: 27 doctoral students in mobility, 2018-2019: 10 doctoral students in mobility, 2019-2020: 13 doctoral students in mobility. In the same regard, within the POSDRU doctoral research scholarships projects, 177 doctoral students were required to participate in external mobilities for research and in at least one international conference held abroad. In addition, doctoral students participated in more than 250 national and international conferences during the reported period. The Visual Arts Doctoral Studies field, through the Doctoral School to which it belongs and through IOSUD-UVT, has concluded a number of (26) mobility agreements with universities abroad through the ERASMUS program with the participating countries. IOSUD-UVT develops policies on increasing the internationalisation degree of doctoral programs and student mobilities at a European level. The managerial project for organizing doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT in 2020-2024 by the CSUD Director, Prof. Dana Petcu, PhD, has the main objective of increasing the International Visibility of UVT doctoral schools through

a series of concrete measures, structured in the following categories: Institutional policies; Advertising; Mobility; Agreements; Projects; Study programs; Coordinators.

*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.*

Within IOSUD-UVT, the joint doctorate is regulated on the basis of the Methodology of joint or European doctorate and the Methodology regarding doctoral students' access to the institutional resources for professional training. The Faculty of Arts and Design, in partnership with associations, foundations, culture and art institutions, has conducted a series of actions and lectures in the field of visual arts studies, with guest artists, curators, people of culture recognized in the field, of which the doctoral students enrolled at the Doctoral School of Arts have benefited from. The planning of these activities is presented in Annex.

*Recommendations:*

***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.).*

In terms of advertising the offer to international students, IOSUD- UVT uses:

- UVT websites
- the Study in Romania national platform.

UVT participated in a number of international fairs and conferences, where the educational offer of IOSUD-UVT was also presented: International Education Annual Conference all around the world. The Doctoral School of Arts is an active department within IOSUD-UVT through the events it conducts, the quality of its human resources, the research and artistic creation topics approached and, last but not least, the results obtained by doctoral students. The concern of the DSA is to maintain a high level of scientific research and artistic creation, to revitalise the school by encouraging younger professors who meet the requirements for habilitation to become doctoral supervisors, considering the prospect of the retirement of 3 full professors in the next 5 years. At the same time, it is intended to increase the number of doctoral students who pursue doctoral

studies in the field of Visual Arts by attracting and recruiting graduates from within the country and abroad and, last but not least, increasing the degree of internationalisation by organizing joint doctoral programs and through the participation of students in mobilities offered under ERASMUS agreements.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintaining existing collaborations that add value to the doctoral school for the benefit of the PhD students.</li> <li>2. Extending the partners from the socio-economic environment for the fields of applied research to capitalized products / results of the doctoral research.</li> <li>3. The interest of the partners to organize and support events organized by the Doctoral School of Arts and the stimulation of the PhD students offering prizes which attest recognition of the results of their research and artistic creation.</li> <li>4. Collaboration with the Doctoral Schools in the field of Visual Arts in the country and similar from abroad in order to increase the quality of research and artistic creation in the field.</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <p>Too much shyness and tolerance towards the fluctuating and formal policies regarding the doctorate profession, especially in the situation when they are operated by third parties with too little experience, knowledge and real mastery of the phenomenon; suspicion towards the collaboration with the other Romanian and international doctoral entities in perspective projects (co-supervision, partnership, etc.); reduced cooperation between the university fields of doctoral study within the Doctoral School; defining a strategy for university action and cooperation on a European and international scale.</p>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing the number of doctoral coordinators at the Doctoral School of Arts, through encouraging teachers within the Faculty of Arts and Design to obtain the qualification, in order to cover as many sub-domains of Visual Arts as possible.</li> <li>2. Attracting doctoral coordinators with a high level of</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <p>The stress caused by the frequent and aggressive changes in the sphere of the legislation regarding the Romanian university education; more and more young individuals fail to complete their baccalaureate studies; the dropout rate and school disinterest is increasing,</p>

<p>performance in the field of scientific research and / or artistic creation, with international visibility, from the country and / or abroad, in the perspective of guiding doctorates in co-supervision.</p> <p>4. Co-optation of specialists and art creators representative for the field of Visual Arts in the steering commissions.</p> <p>5. Attracting references with professional and academic prestige in the commissions for the final evaluation of doctoral theses</p> <p>5. Increasing international visibility through the participation of doctoral students in prestigious international artistic events.</p> <p>6. Increasing the mobility of doctoral students through inter-institutional cooperation programs (internships in the country and abroad, ERASMUS scholarships) by encouraging and supporting doctoral coordinators and students to apply for selection.</p> <p>7. Creating a site with a better visibility of the activity of the Doctoral School of Arts.</p> <p>8. Establishing contacts with universities in the field abroad in order to organize co-supervised doctorates.</p> <p>9. Organizing events by the SDA with international participation (conferences, exhibitions, workshops, round tables).</p>	<p>which jeopardizes the investment in the university and doctoral system; chronic underfunding of the Romanian university system;</p> <p>regarding the doctorate, they signal the fact that the wave of habilitations, from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, does not replace the wave of retirements - a lack of experience and expertise of doctoral management; competition from new doctoral study centers in Romania.</p>
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**V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations**

**All fulfilled.**

No.	Type of indicator or (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.		A 1.1.1.	fulfilled	
2.		A 1.1.2.	fulfilled	
3.		A 1.2.1.	fulfilled	Integration of students coming not from the field of arts should be considered, especially in a sense that specific generic knowledges are demanded on the entry exam or interview, or there should be a correlation with different MA programs that can be a platform for this PhD enrollment (s. a. differential exams etc.).
4.		A 1.2.2.	fulfilled	There should be more workshops on how to process and interpret plagiarism software results.
5.		A 1.3.1.	fulfilled	
6.	*	A 1.3.2.	fulfilled	
7.	*	A 1.3.3.	fulfilled	
8.	C	A 2.1.1.	fulfilled	A network of competences should be created for students not coming from art MA studies.
9.	C	A 3.1.1.	fulfilled	
10.	*	A 3.1.2.	fulfilled	Cotoutelage can be encouraged by creating specific workshops on how to write in different languages, other than Romanian.
11.		A 3.1.3.	fulfilled	
12.	*	A 3.1.4.	fulfilled	
13.	C	A 3.2.1.	fulfilled	
14.	*	A 3.2.2.	fulfilled	

15.	*	B 1.1.1.	fulfilled	
16.	*	B 1.2.1.	fulfilled	Opening towards other disciplines' generic knowledge is recommended, especially to IT, STEM and STEAM concepts.
17.		B 1.2.2.	fulfilled	
18.		B 2.1.1.	fulfilled	
19.		B 2.1.2.	fulfilled	
20.		B 2.1.3.	fulfilled	
21.		B 2.1.4.	fulfilled	
22.	C	B 2.1.5.	fulfilled	
23.	C	B 3.1.1.	fulfilled	
24.	*	B 3.1.2.	fulfilled	
25.	*	B 3.2.1.	fulfilled	
26.	*	B 3.2.2.	fulfilled	
27.		C 1.1.1.	fulfilled	Journal should be considered, more research visibility is necessary.
28.	*	C 1.1.2.	fulfilled	
29.	C	C 2.1.1.	fulfilled	
30.		C 2.2.1.	fulfilled	
31.		C 2.2.2.	fulfilled	
32.		C 2.2.3.	fulfilled	More databases should be included in the list. Students feel they are missing important access to journals.
33.	*	C 3.1.1.	fulfilled	
34.		C 3.1.2.	fulfilled	
35.		C 3.1.3.	fulfilled	



## **VI. Conclusions and general recommendations**

### **The overall recommendations:**

1. Students are not aware of the benefits they can have when participating in different institutional committees, They should be acquainted with this, especially in regard to their own projects, finances, etc.
2. Most of the students are not aware of the benefits of the anti-plagiarism software.
3. There should be more attention given to training of the ethical committee and mentors in different specific issues, such as plagiarism, integrity, breaking of different academic standards and norms, etc.
4. Encouragement for international publishing activity should be set as a priority.
5. Coutoutelage should be encouraged.
6. School provides doctoral students with an advanced training program that includes disciplines likely to provide high-performance knowledge skills in their own research directions, on the principle of Arts Based Research. This is visible. Openness towards interdisciplinarity should be encouraged even more, towards STEAM, STEM, IT etc.
7. In project teams, committees etc., there should be more younger experts included.
8. Students should convey the evaluation of the teachers in a written and well documented format.
9. Professional and scientific PhD standards are not so clear, and it should be elaborated.
10. Activities of the research centres are not so international and program and grants oriented. This should be improved. Even the employers state this.
11. The finances of the School are not independent. It is not a big minus but their own disposition of finances should be encouraged.
12. 10% criterium is partially fulfilled.



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